

CHILMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

MEDITATION

“Bethlehem’s manger crib became the link that bound a lost world to a loving God.” - Billy Graham

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Quiet

Introit *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 7)* #211

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE (insert)

*Call to Worship (*please stand as you are able)

One: Come, let us be about preparations for a new advent of love among us. We hear again the promise of peace, coming in the one who lived Peace among all people.

All: **We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness. We feel again the joy that comes through partnership in the gospel. Let us open ourselves to the Spirit of new birth!**

One: Let us worship God!

*Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #218

CELEBRATION OF HOLY BAPTISM (insert)

Song: *Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own. In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.*

Prayer of Invocation and Lord’s Prayer (together, seated)

O God, as Christmas trees are lighted, people rush to shop and send their gifts, Christmas songs are heard everywhere, keep us close to you, that the One whose coming we celebrate is honored by all our activity. May all that we say

and do in this season shine forth with your love. Love through us this morning and our Christ light be seen now and always. We pray together: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scriptures Micah 6:6-8
Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Mary’s Song Rev. Dr. Wright
Interlude (seated)
Pastoral and Silent Prayer
Prayer Response

THANKSGIVING

The Offering
*Doxology #95
*Unison Offering Prayer
Dear God, receive these offerings we bring this morning, even if we are slow to part with them. As you stretch them to use in your good purposes, so stretch our hearts and spirits in that same service of Christ, who came as servant to all, and who commissions us to go and do likewise. Amen.

*Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High* #238

Benediction
Postlude

Please join us for Fellowship and Coffee in the parish hall after the service
Rev. Dr. Charlotte Wright, Pastor
Sean McMahan, Music Minister

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Reader 1: Every Sunday morning, we've woven Advent into our worship life at the Chilmark Church. "Advent" comes from the Latin verb *advenire*, which means "to draw near." By lighting one more candle on our Advent wreath each week, we make visible our spirit of waiting, of expectation.

ALL: The first candle we lit in the name of hope: not just what we long for, but our trust for the best within us to rise, and to grace the many endings and beginnings in our lives.

Reader 2: We lit the second candle in the name of peace: the courage to soften, and to cultivate our ability to stay present in difficult moments.

ALL: We lit the third candle in the name of joy: the abiding faith that joy unfolds whenever we're able to enter and consent to the practice of opening to possibility.

Reader 1: This morning, we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath in the name of love, as an invitation for the Holy to dwell within us, deepening our capacity to love, and to be watchful of Love's presence among us. May we be open to the love that awaits us in the weeks to come.

ALL: Emmanuel, God-in-us, be with us as we prepare to bring new possibilities to life. May your light guide us and your love be a creating force in our lives. As we wait, Amen.

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