First United Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024

**GATHERING**

**CHIMES** Set your heart for worship, if you must whisper, let it be in prayer.

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT**

**OPENING WORDS**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** Amy McIntyre and family

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: It's Christmas Eve Morning! How quickly this time has come upon us!
**All: We are breathless. Still so much to be done.**One: Calm your spirits. Take time to hear the wondrous news.
**All: Open our ears to hear Mary's Story**One: Believe in the good news!
**All: We believe and rejoice! God's love is here with us! AMEN.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN**  #5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord we are so excited for Christmas Day to be here. We want to jump ahead to the excitement of gifts and food. We want the worries of this world to stand still, and we want it now. Help us Lord to be patient and slow us down. Teach us to fully engage in what it means that you have sent Jesus to this world. Help us to honor what this season and this day means to us and to the rest of your world. And help us to be ambassadors of your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*RESPONSE TO PARDON** #570 Gloria Patri

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**All: And, also with you!**

One: Please pass the peace to those around you.

**\*GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE** “While We Are Waiting, Come”

While we are waiting, come. While we are waiting, come.

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

While we are waiting, Love. While we are waiting, Love.

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, Love.

**PROCLAMATION**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**ANTHEM**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 1:39-55

**SERMON**  “Love” Rev. Greg Menssen

**RESPONDING**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**  #9 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORDS PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY** #592

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #12 People Look East

People, look east. The time is near  Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**