

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA  
MORNING WORSHIP  
December 19th, 2021 4th Sunday of Advent - LOVE

**CALL TO WORSHIP \*\***

L: We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

**P: God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.**

L: Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

**P: God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.**

L: Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

**P: God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – LOVE**

**Response** (*Sung to the Tune of Away In A Manger*)

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above,  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

Every notion we have about power, success, wealth and achievement, God takes and tosses out the window. More importantly, God comes to us, to upset our idea that we have to save ourselves. In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin, our failures, our expectations, so we might have life. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\***

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor? All too often, we ignore them, or worse, fill them with ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals? We continue to admire them, seeking to emulate their ways. The drumbeat for more and more?**

**We live into that rhythm so easily, we risk being sent away empty.**

**Forgive us, Mighty God who comes in the weakness of a baby. Look with grace upon us, so we might see your love shining down. We could live secure in your hope, we could be the ones of peace for our world, we could learn to do your will, if we but welcome Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into our hearts and into our lives.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: God passes the heirloom of mercy down from generation to generation, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

**P: As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at the Birth, with the Hope that walked among us, with the Grace which is always with us.**

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

**GLORIA PATRI**

**#623**

**CHURCH NEWS**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*(Please greet your neighbor with a virtual hug or handshake or wave saying "The peace of Christ be with you")*

**REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

**Offertory**

**Doxology**

**#625**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Old Testament Lesson Micah 5: 2-5a p.805**

**New Testament Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10 p.1049**

**Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-55 p.888**

**MESSAGE**

**Denise Ann Todero, CP**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**HYMN** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #124

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: Hear our prayers, O Lord. **P: And let our cry come unto Thee.**

L: Let us bless the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #133

**BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

L: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge  
That God is always coming into the world.

**P: We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,  
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

L: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;  
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

**P: We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.  
We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.  
We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 #123

\*\* © *Rev. Thom Shuman*

**ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger**

**COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero**

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

