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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ENGLISH AND JAPANESE JOINT WORSHIP
DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 10:00 am**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please be sure to silence your cell phones. Thank you!)

PRELUDE 前奏: – Shane Cantanho

WELCOME 歓迎: — Mark Teagle, Director of Spiritual
Formation, Community Engagement, and Music

VIDEO: “Advent at Wesley” – Hikaru Bakoshi,
Media and Technology Coordinator

***CALL TO WORSHIP** 招きの言葉: – Lori Longmire

Leader: Beloved, let us gather in the light of God’s love.

People: For love begins not with us, but with God.

Leader: In this the final week of Advent, we wait for the One who comes as pure gift.

People: We come ready to receive what we could

never earn.

All: Let us worship God who loves us first, loves us fully, and loves us forever.

***OPENING PRAYER 祈祷:** – Lori Longmire

God of love, we come to you exactly as we are, tired, distracted, grateful and everything in between. We confess that we often try to earn what you freely give. Today, help us rest in the truth that your love is our starting place, not our reward. Teach us to receive your love so that we might share it with the world. Amen.

***SONG: “He Is Born (Il Est Né)” UMH #228**

– Wesley Praise Band

Traditional French Carol. Public Domain

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we now of the Savior mild.

Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!

He is born, the holy Child,
sing we now of the Savior mild.

O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind.

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we now of the Savior mild.

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heavenly peace.

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we now of the Savior mild.

***SONG: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240**

– Wesley Praise Band

Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain

Hark! the Herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’incarnate Deity,
please with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

– Dr. Nathan & Kara Tanoue and family

Reader 1: Welcome to Advent: An Advent of Renewal. As Christmas draws near, we remember God’s renewal is personal, close, and real.

Reader 2: The good news is that God comes near in Jesus—not distant, not abstract—but present with us in embodied life.

Reader 1: Love restores what’s scattered. Love makes us whole. Love is Christ among us.

Reader 2: We light the candle of love, giving thanks that God’s love renews our whole lives—body, mind, and spirit.

Reader 1: Love makes us whole. Love restores what is weary. Love is Christ among us.

Reader 2: We light this candle of love, giving thanks that God’s love renews us—inside and out.

(Light the 4th candle.)

Children and Youth dismissed to their classes.

ANTHEM:

“No Room, No Room” — Chancel Choir

Words and Music by Ruth Morris Gray

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SCRIPTURE 聖書: — Lori Longmire

1 John 4:7-12

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

JAPANESE SCRIPTURE 聖書: — Azusa Kitamura 北村梓

ヨハネの手紙一 4章7節-12節(新共同訳)

⁷愛する者たち、互いに愛し合いましょう。愛は神から出るもので、愛する者は皆、神から生まれ、神を知っているからです。⁸愛することのない者は神を知りません。神は愛だからです。⁹神は、独り子を世にお遣わしになりました。その方によって、わたしたちが生きるようになるためです。ここに、神の愛がわたしたちの内に示されました。

¹⁰わたしたちが神を愛したのではなく、神がわたしたちを愛して、わたしたちの罪を償ういけにえとして、御子をお遣わしになりました。ここに愛があります。¹¹愛する者たち、神がこのようにわたしたちを愛されたのですから、わたしたちも互いに愛し合うべきです。¹²いまだかつて神を見た者はいません。わたしたちが互いに愛し合うならば、神はわたしたちの内にとどまってくださり、神の愛がわたしたちの内ですべて全うされているのです。

MESSAGE 説教:

“God Is Love” — Rev. John Oda, Senior Pastor

SONG: “Love Came Down at Christmas” UMH #242

— Wesley Praise Band

Words by Christina G. Rossetti, Music Traditional Irish Melody

Public Domain

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;

love to God and neighbor,
love for plea and gift and sign.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERING 献金: — Lori Longmire

OFFERTORY MUSIC: — Ivan Vielma
with Shane Cantanho

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Words and Music by Mugh Martin and Ralph Blane

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Thank you to everyone who donated toward
the poinsettias for Christmas Sunday.

***DOXOLOGY** 頌栄: — Wesley Praise Band

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Words by Thomas Ken, Music by Luis Bourgeois

Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

In Japanese:

A-me-tsu-chi ko-zo-ri-te

Ka-shi-ko-mi ta-ta-e-yo

Mi-me-gu-mi a-fu-ru-ru

Chi-chi mi-ko mi-ta-ma wo. Amen

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** 祈祷: — Lori Longmire

Loving God, every good gift comes from you. You love us first, and everything we give is simply a response to that love. Take these offerings - our resources, our hearts, our lives, and use them to spread compassion, healing, and hope in our community. Let our giving reflect the generosity we've already received. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER 牧会祈祷: — Rev. John Oda

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Creator, 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.

***HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

UMH #218 – Wesley Praise Band

Words by Edmund H. Sears, Music by Richard Storrs Willis

Public Domain

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,

to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever circling years

shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

***BENEDICTION 祝禱:** – Rev. John Oda

***RESPONSE 応答:** – “Go Now In Peace”

– Wesley Praise Band

Words and Music: Don Besig OneLicense 735877-A.

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE MUSIC 後奏: — Shane Cantanho

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*Please stand if you are able.