

## Worship Service on December 24, 2023

**Welcome and Announcements** ~ Linell Pike

**Tonight** ~ You are invited to our Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm.

It will have lessons and carols and concludes with “*Silent Night*”  
by candlelight

**Monday** ~ Merry Christmas!

**Wednesday** ~ Women Who Pray will meet at the Sommons home  
at 2 pm and discuss the stories of Ruth and Hannah.

**Thursday** ~ There is a choir practice planned for 7 pm at the church.

### ***Poinsettia Dedications***

<i><u>From:</u></i>	<i><u>in loving memory of:</u></i>
<i>Russ and Glenna Taxter</i>	<i>Russell Sr. and Dorothy Taxter</i>
	<i>Everett and Grace R. Hazelton</i>
<i>Linell and Jerry Pike</i>	<i>Paul and Nellie Pike</i>
	<i>Nelson and Erna Caron</i>
<i>Alvie McKinstry</i>	<i>Alvie and Janet McKinstry</i>
<i>Barb and Jim West</i>	<i>Cora and Lewis West</i>
	<i>Miriam and Paul Wertman</i>
	<i>Mark George</i>
<i>Martha Thompson</i>	<i>Matt Thompson</i>
<i>Jim and Cathy Comar</i>	<i>Ken and Mary Jean Pierce</i>
	<i>Pete, Bev, and Judy Comar</i>



## Lighting the Candle of Love



**Choir Song** ~ “*Celebration of Light ~ Arise and Shine*”

**Call to Worship** ~ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)** read by Linell Pike.

Please join in reading the bold lines.

**<sup>4</sup> Love is patient,**

love is kind.

**It does not envy,**

it does not boast,

**it is not proud.**

<sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others,

**it is not self-seeking,**

it is not easily angered,

**it keeps no record of wrongs.**

<sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

**<sup>7</sup> It always protects,**

always trusts,

**always hopes,**

always perseveres.

**<sup>8</sup> Love never fails.**

Song ~

***“Midnight Clear ~ Love Song”***

*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 men  
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  
Through all the weary world  
And man at war with man hears not  
The love song which they bring  
O hush the noise and cease the strife  
And hear the angels sing*

**Chorus**

***(Oh) Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God evermore  
Good news great joy for all  
Melody breaks through the silence  
Christ the Savior is born  
Jesus the love song of God [repeat chours]  
(Jesus the love song of God)  
It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold***

CCLI Song # 7050418      Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jonas Myrin  
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Praying 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 debts as we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory forever,  
Amen**

Song ~ ***“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (#134 in the blue hymnal)***

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmaunel  
[repeat]*

Words and Music ~ Bob McGee, 1976

**Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca**

**Scripture Text ~ Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV) read by Linell Pike**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:  
His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,  
but before they came together,  
she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law,  
and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace,  
he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
“Joseph son of David,

do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,  
because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the name Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill  
what the Lord had said through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel”  
(which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up,  
he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took Mary home as his wife.

<sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage  
until she gave birth to a son.

And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Sermon~ “True Love” ~ Rev. Rebecca Sommons**

**Song ~**

**“Adore”**

*You stepped down from heaven ~ Humbly You came  
God of all creation here with us  
In a starlit manger ~ Emmanuel  
Light of the world here to save*

**Chorus**

***Adore ~ Come let us adore***

***O come let us adore Him***

***The Lord ~ Worship Christ the Lord***

***Let all that is within us adore***

*Wise men bring their treasures. Shepherds bow low  
Angel voices sing of peace on earth  
What have I to offer to heaven's King  
I will bring my life, my love, my all*

**Chorus**

*Angels sing, praises ring, to the newborn King  
Peace on earth, here with us, joy awakening  
At Your feet we fall*

[repeat]

**Chorus**

CCLI Song # 7050417      Graham Kendrick | Martin Chalk  
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**Benediction ~ 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NET)**

May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all...  
so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness  
to be blameless before our God and Father  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus...