

Worship Service for December 21, 2025

Welcome and AnnouncementsAnnie Crumb

Ken and Theresa would like to extend to each of you and your family, the Happiest of Christmas blessings. May you see the wonder and love of Christ all around you and may this extend into the new year!

Upcoming Events

Office hours will resume on January 5th. Pastor Theresa is available by email, phone, or text. Revtheresa67@gmail.com (802)535-7710

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

Chris Towslee Today

Thank you to Jim West for the Poinsettias in Loving memory of Barb West; Miriam Wertman; Mark George; & Paul Wertman

Lighting the Candle of Love:

Pastor Theresa: Each week until Christmas, we have been lighting a new candle on the Advent wreath, symbols of hope, peace, joy, and love. As the season reaches its completion, we prepare for new life to dawn. Our hearts soften and our arms open to embrace its brightness.

This morning we light the fourth candle. We light this candle as a reminder that there is no greater power in the world than love. Through this community, we can become a blessing to one another: our love is magnified, and lives are changed. We can hardly wait any longer for the wonder of love to be revealed. May

we risk enough to become vulnerable and welcome holy tenderness.

Reader: O Holy One, we light this fourth candle,
And marvel at your desire to be one with us.
Let its flame summon hearts grown cold
Into the warmth of a people living in
The Light of Love.
Fill our lives with Love,
making room there for friends and strangers,
all who desire to know you, God with us,
As we work for justice and peace in the service of Hope.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Pastor Theresa: Holy One, as we near the end of this advent journey remained with us. In a world filled with fear and division, you bring healing and unity. As we prepare to kneel: before the manger in Bethlehem once again, remove the layers of apathy, ambivalence, and cynicism that we have picked up throughout the year. We remember your promises of love and forgiveness – good news and joy. Grant us the courage to follow you all the way to the Christ Child, who waits for us in a lowly stable. We think of Mary's words of praise and wonder, if our spirits might rejoice in you. She, in a moment of wisdom, trusted you. May, we too, live in that trust in your son's name amen

Prelude ~ Please reflect & listen on the words to "Breathe of Heaven" (Mary's Song)

Verse 1

I have traveled many moonless nights,
Cold and weary, with a Babe inside.
And I wonder what I've done.
Holy Father, You have come.

And chosen me, now to carry Your Son.

Verse 2

I am waiting in a silent prayer.

I am frightened by the load I bear.

In a world as cold as stone,

Must I walk this path alone?

Be with me now, be with me now.

Chorus

Breath of Heaven, hold me together.

Be forever near me.

Breath of Heaven,

Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness

Pour over me Your holiness,

For You are holy. Breath of Heaven.

Verse 3

Do You wonder, as You watch my face,

If a wiser one, should have had my place?

But I offer all I am,

For the mercy of Your plan.

Help me be strong, help me be, help me.

Amy Grant, Chris Eaton

CCLI Song #1128784

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Call to Worship ~

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb,
preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will

transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns,

fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world
calls lowly.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our
Savior!

**We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that
transforms us! Amen.**

Hymn: #128 Blue Hymnal - One Candle Is Lit

Verse 1

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,

Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.

Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.

One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Verse 2

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare

For a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.

One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Verse 3

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,

Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.

One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Verse 4

Come wander where lion and lamb gently play,

Where evil is banished and faith takes the day.

A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.

One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

Verse 5

Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,
And signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

Mary Anne Parrott, William James Kirkpatrick
CCLI Song #1604923

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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: Deck The Halls

Verse 1

Deck the halls with boughs of holly.
Fa la la la la la la la
'Tis the season to be jolly.
Fa la la la la la la la
Don we now our gay apparel.
Fa la la la la la la la
Troll the ancient yule tide carol.
Fa la la la la la la la

Verse 2

See the blazing yule before us

Fa la la la la la la la
Strike the harp and join the chorus.
Fa la la la la la la la
Follow me in merry measure.
Fa la la la la la la la
While I tell of yule tide treasure.
Fa la la la la la la la

Verse 3

Fast away the old year passes
Fa la la la la la la la
Hail the new ye lads and lasses
Fa la la la la la la la
Sing we joyous all together
Fa la la la la la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la la la la

Ryan Dahl, Unknown
CCLI Song #4825551

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Intro to sermon - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Scripture text - Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said:

“My soul [a]magnifies the Lord,

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.

And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones,
And exalted *the* lowly.

He has filled *the* hungry with good things,
And *the* rich He has sent away empty.

He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of *His* mercy,

As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Sermon - "The Wonder of Love." - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Hymn: #148 Blue hymnal: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verse 1
O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;

Chorus
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

Verse 2
Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest; Chorus

Verse 3
Child, for us, sinners, poor, and in the manger,
we would embrace thee,
with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly? Chorus

Verse 4
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born for our salvation.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;. Chorus

Benediction -

Beloved, the wait for the Messiah is almost over and has only just begun. Go from this space carrying the love that transforms us in your hearts, that your lives may give birth to hope, peace, joy, and love wherever you go. Amen.