



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

December 19, 2021 10:30 am Order of Worship

Prelude: *The First Noel*, K. Malixi

Dr. Larisa Soboleva, Music Director

Greeting

Call to Worship/Advent Candle Lighting

Worship Leader

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Isaiah 9:2

People: Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose; we wait for Christ to come again.

Leader: From Bethlehem shall come forth the one who will rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Micah 5:2-5

People: He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They shall live secure, for he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
(Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love)

Luke 1:46-55

All: God has helped us, according to the promise God made. The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

Prayer of Confession

Worship Leader

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer; stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season. We are easily distracted by business. In this time of pandemic, we seem endlessly caught in a cycle of fear, worry and "dis-ease". Our

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holiday celebrations are mixed with sadness over losses, disasters and so many tragedies. Remind us that you left the realms of glory to enter a world such as ours to save and redeem your fallen children and creation. Help us join with Mary, the prophets and New Testament writers in anticipation of your coming in final victory to reorder the world, where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace and infinite love. Amen. (continue in silent prayer)

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #230 congregation sings if comfortable

Scripture: Philippians 2: 5-11; John 1:1-14 Worship Leader

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn: Joy to the World #246 congregation sings if comfortable

Sermon: *The Ultimate Sacrifice* Rev. Stephen K. Perrine

Offertory Music: *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, H. Martin

Doxology Hymnal #95 congregation sings if comfortable

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* #206 congregation sings if comfortable

Announcements

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*, G. Holst

Announcements

Tonight! December 19, 2021 6-7 pm Christmas Caroling outdoors at Hubbard Manor West, 22077 Beech Street. Come sing Christmas carols as we stroll around the apartment building near the church. Bring a mask for possible indoor singing.

December Food Pantry needs donations of fruit juice, Tide Simply 31 oz laundry detergent, toilet paper and your paper shopping bags. We have a surplus of pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, so please save those donations for another time. We are always thankful for your participation in this community mission.

New Bible Study starts in the new year on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 4:00 pm led by Rev. Steve Perrine in person and on Zoom. Request the link if you are joining online.