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December 21, 2014

Baptism

Advent 4

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.
All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Gathering Carol – Hymn VU #69 – *“Away in a Manger”*

Call to Worship

One: The season of waiting is almost over.

All: The family of faith is ready to celebrate.

One: From our homes to this place, from the world to the font.

All: We have come to worship!

Prayer of Approach and Confession

This is our sacred space, loving God. We have made it so that your people could gather in community and with safety. It is the place where we mark the milestones in our lives. Here we can lay down the burdens of our busy lives and find peace. This is a holy place.

Too often we forget the lessons of those who came before us and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us. We overlook the destructiveness of our actions as if others will be hurt less.

Shape us, forgiving One, into people of faith and substance. Keep us open and responsive to the Spirit’s call in our daily living. We pray in Christ’s name. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem – *“Christmastime”*

Advent Adventure Continues

Celebration of Baptism (see insert)

(children leave for Bible Adventures)

Response – (VU #647 vs. 4)

**In the kingdom of heaven is our end and our beginning,
The road that we must travel every day.
Travel on, travel on, to the kingdom that is coming,
The kingdom will be with us all the way.
Travel on, travel on, to the kingdom that is coming,
The kingdom will be with us all the way.**

The Word

📖 Scripture Readings – Luke 1: 50-55
Luke 1: 26-38

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

* Hymn VU #16 – *“Mary, Woman of the Promise”*

Meditation

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – *“Born in Bethlehem”*

The Response

Announcements

* Offering / Response (tune VU #84)

**O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
Our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
As stars once led the way to you.**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

* Hymn VU #36 – *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

Candle Lighting / Benediction

Benediction / Response

**Love is a candle on our journey.
Love is the holding and the flight.
All round this aching earth of winter,
This tender flame of Love we’ll light.
For we are a people of a Story,
Of stars that sing and Love that cries.
And though these nights are getting longer,
The path is lit before our eyes.
For love...**

Rev. Dr. Sharon Wilson, Minister
Luci Toews, Church Administrator
Myrna Hagues, Organist
Anne Thoroughgood, Liturgist

Patrick Woodbeck, Associate Minister
Laura Steidl, Music Director
Jessica Steidl, Joyful Noise Director
Gina Grant, Custodian

Douglas Gauthier & Gloria Waldron, Nursery Care Givers

Ushers: Cal & Maxine Pattle
Greeters: Bruce & Alana Davis