

Here in the love of Christ I stand
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: We thank you, God, that from this table,
fed by your own hand, with Christ's own
body, by the power of the Spirit, we go with
the blessing of Christmas making us a
blessing to others to restore hope, rebuild
peace, reawaken joy, revitalize love, and
reclaim Christ for these days and every
day. Amen.

CONG. SONG: VU67 - Silent Night

CANDLE LIGHTING

BENEDICTION

L: And now into the world, to continue the
celebrations of Christmas we go. May our
night's rest be full and restorative, may our
day's activities bring us the joy of Christmas
and may we know and share the deep
meaning of Christmas, tonight, tomorrow
and every day of our lives that Christ came
for all and is available to all. Christ is born!
Thanks be to God! Amen

Our Thanks to:

- * All who worshipped with us today
- * Emmanuel United Church Choir
- * Our Candle lighters this week!
- * Liturgical Dancers

Liturgy and prayers adapted from the Gathering,
Advent (2017-2018). Used with permission



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY
BLESSING

If you have not already signed up for
our birthday or anniversary club yet,
please complete a form at the back of
the church and return it to the office.
Your special day will be blessed on the
first Sunday of your event month.



OFFERING ENVELOPES 2018

Please take a moment to pick up your
2018 Offering Envelopes at the back
of the church.

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EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
ADVENT IV "Love"
8:00 pm
December 24, 2017

(Light fourth candle)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God comes to in the cry of a child

P: Let every heart prepare.

L: God comes to in the whisper of a loving mother

P: Let every heart prepare.

L: God comes to us, abides in us.

P: Let every heart prepare to receive the Christ.

L: Let us worship the God who has come, is coming, will come.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: VU 60 O
Come, All Ye Faithful (1, 3, 5)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgical Dance: "Mary Did You Know"

4th ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* verse 4

L: Today we light the candle of Love.

P: Shepherds, where are you going? Can we go too?

***FAMILY:** We are rushing off to Bethlehem. The angels came and told us that a baby was born. Not just any baby, but God's baby, Jesus. This baby is God's gift of hope, peace, joy, and love for the whole wide world. The angels will watch the sleep, but we've got to go. There is no time to waste. We are so excited. We are filled with joy! We must see this child, this baby Jesus. Yes, you can come with us, but you must hurry.*

P: Thank you, shepherds, for your faith and gift of love. We will join you on this Advent adventure.

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* refrain

CONG. HYMN: VU 48 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LORD'S PRAYER

Reading– Journey to Bethlehem

HYMN: VU 62 Once in Royal David's City (v1-2)

Reading: Arrival, Announcement, Amazement

HYMN: VU38 Angels We Have Heard On High (, v1, 2, 4)

Reading: The Search

CHOIR: "Listen to the Joyful Song" by Joel Raney

Reading: The Gifts

CHOIR: An Advent Garden" by Joseph M. Martin

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: VU30 Hail to God's Own Anointed (v1-2)

L: God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love.

P: As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears.

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope.

L: We remember the places/events in the world, where is tragedy and suffering, and we pray for your courage to act and peace to reign

P: Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now.

L: My prayer is...

L: Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, gracious and compassionate, May we send back the angels' song of peace and joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ

ALL: AMEN

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU 59 Joy to the world

OFFERTORY DEDICATION

ALL: O God who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son with gifts in hand. We offer these gifts, as a symbol of our commitment to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all humanity.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymn: VU 501 Break Now the Bread of Life (v1)

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: O God, you are the midwife of our lives, who births us into life and breathes Spirit into us. Jesus, Holy Child of Mary's womb, you were born into poverty and exile, to proclaim the good news to the poor, and freedom to all who are oppressed.

Holy Spirit, through you, we celebrate the Life that was born at Bethlehem, and shared among community through the centuries, and shared with us now. And so, with the woman who birthed you, the man who raised you as his own, the shepherds at the manger with the animals; with all the angels and archangels, with all the saints before us and around us, with all people, east and west, north and south, we join in unending praise.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

L: O God, send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh, Jesus, the Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may reclaim Christ and faithfully follow into the future you have for us. We pray this, O God who gives all Good Gifts, Christ who is here and always Coming, Spirit who strengthens and sustains. Amen

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

VU 345 Come, Children Join to Sing
SONG In Christ Alone
(Getty, Julian Keith; Townend, Stuart Richard)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace. When fears are stilled, when strivings cease; My Comforter, my All in All.