

HOPE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Church at Worship

Prelude

To the World, Joy! SMITH/CARLSON Arr. JOEL RANEY
The Hope Valley Baptist Church Handbell Choir

Introit

In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM
Mary Summerlin

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but His mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Moment of Silence and Invocation

Lighting the Candle of Love

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

We prepare to welcome the beautiful and radical love of God, as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.

The Scriptures tell us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

We gather to be reminded of and to embrace our identity as beloved children of God and to let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

We commit to offering love and warm hospitality in our homes and church by welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.

As we discover the extravagant generosity of God's love in our own lives,

We are called to love God, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.

Today we light the candle of love. May our lives make God's extravagant love visible in word and deed.

Response to Lighting the Candle

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
Georgia Summerlin

BAUGH

Hope, peace, joy, and love! These are gifts You bring from above.
Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of Your love, reflected in me.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Julie and Emma Stoops

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Message

A Christmas Dream

Benediction

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

