



WORSHIP SERVICE 12-20-2020
4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The Christmas spirit is not a warm fuzzy feeling of goodwill around Christmas.

The Christmas spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings

to the hearts of the faithful,

and announces in the face of any Herod the world can produce,

and all the inn doors slammed in our faces,

and all the dark nights of our souls,

that with God all things are possible,

that even now, unto us a child is born!

And all God's people say a joyful loud...

PEOPLE: Amen!

PRAYER

HYMN # 271 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of light;

Angels lifting praise before You sing throughout this holy night.

In a manger lies a Baby- Child of Mary, Son of God.

Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory; all creation joins to sing.

Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ, the King.

Shepherds kneel before the Infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise.

As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

LEADER: Today we relight the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy... and we light the candle of Love. During this season, divine love approaches us in the form of a baby. It reminds us of love's willingness to be vulnerable, its soft embrace, and tender patience. God's love is strong enough to be vulnerable, caring enough to draw us close, and courageous enough to die to be our Savior. All this love wrapped up in one small child.

PEOPLE: **"We love because God first loved us." I John 4: 19**

HYMN # 280 One Small Child

One small child in a land of a thousand; one small dream in a people of might.

One small hand reaching out to the starlight; one small Savior of life...O!

See him lying, a cradle beneath him; see him smiling in the stall.

See his mother praising his Father, see his tiny eyelids fall.

One small light from the flame of a candle; one small light from a city of might.

One small light from the stars in the endless night; one small light from his face.

GIVING OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

PRAYER AND PRAISE

HYMN # I Love You, Lord

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You, O my soul, rejoice;

Take joy, my King, in what You hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1: 18- 25

⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth

to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

REFLECTION

Forgotten Joseph

HYMN

Lord, Be Glorified

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In Your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in Your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In Your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in Your world, Lord, be glorified today.

BENEDICTION