



The Chosen Advent Sermon Series:  
"For All the People"  
December 21, 2025

Scan to check out our website.



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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN  
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS  
WELCOME OF GUEST  
PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Kerry Foote

CALL TO WORSHIP / LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Liturgist

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (v. 1-4)

UMH #384

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christmas Affirmation

Liturgist

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

\*Please stand as you are able

## GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-18 (NKJV)

Liturgist

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

*Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to us. Help us to share Your love with everyone we meet, just like the shepherds did. Let our hearts be full of hope, peace, joy, and love this Christmas. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

*Prayer cards are on the information table. If you have a prayer request that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect them during the hymn and pray over cards at the chancel rail.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*My Jesus, I Love Thee (v. 1-3)*

UMH #172

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

SERMON ANTHEM

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Choir

SERMON

Title: The Chosen Advent Sermon Series

Theme: "For All the People"

Dominant Thought: He came; we go.

Pastor

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating our Gifts)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings*

UMH #95

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION

*Love Came Down at Christmas* (v. 1-3)

UMH #242

\*COMMISION / BENEDICTION

Go, now, in the blessing of God's promise and in the assurance that our expectant joy will find its fulfillment in the God who was, who is, and who will be with us always...and all of God's children said... Amen.

Pastor

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Love and Fellowship*

See screen

POSTLUDE