**Worship Bulletin for December 18, 2021**

**Welcome and Announcements ~** Cheryl Hess

If you are giving a gift to the children we are sponsoring in our

community, please have them to church today

or to Bill Drunsic’s office tomorrow.

Tuesday ~ Holiday Project Food Distribution beginning at 9 am

at the Catholic Church and continuing until 3 pm. You can come and help for any amount of time you’re available.

 Prayer Group and Book Discussion at 7 pm via zoom.

Thursday ~ Choir Practice at 7 pm in the vestry.

Friday ~ Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm in the sanctuary & via zoom.

Saturday ~ **Merry Christmas!**

*The poinsettias in the front of the church are from ~*

*Paul Bauers in loving memory of Susan Walk Bauers,*

*Rev. Robert and wife Grace Walk and*

*Rev. Dr. J. Elwood and wife Elsie Bauers*

*Martha Thompson in loving memory of her son, Matt Thompson*

*Barb and Jim West in loving memory of Miriam and Paul Wertman,*

 *Mark George, and Cora and Lewis West.*

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**Lighting the Advent Candle for Love ~** Cheryl and John Hess

**Song ~ *“When God is a Child”* #132 v. 4**(blue hymnal)

*Love is a flame that burns in our hearts*

*Jesus has come and will never depart*

*When God is a child, there’s joy in our song*

*The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong*

*And none shall be afraid*

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**Prelude ~ *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* (#160 blue)**

You may remain seated and either sing or listen

while we prepare our hearts to worship.

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung
It came a flow'r et bright amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night*

*Isaiah 'twas fore told it, the rose I have in mind
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior
When half-spent was the night*

**Call to Worship ~ “Advent Antiphons”**

 (Please join in reading the bold lines.)

O Emmanuel, our King and giver of the law,

 the people wait for you, their Savior:

**Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

O Wisdom, you came from the lips of God most high,

and you reach from one end of the universe to the other,

powerfully and gently ordering all things:

**Come to teach us the way of prudence.**

O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel,

you appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush

and at Sinai you gave him the law:

**Come with your outstretched arm to save us.**

O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign to the peoples;

before you kings are silent and Gentiles pray with longing:

**Come now and set us free.**

O Morning Star, you are the splendor of eternal life;

You are the dawning sun, the Sun of justice:

**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness**

**and in the shadow of death.**

O Kind of the nations and the fulfillment of their longing,

You are the Cornerstone and you make all one;

**Come and unite us in your salvation.**

**Song ~ *“All Earth is Waiting”* (#139 in the blue hymnal)**

*All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,*

*And open furrows the sowing of our God.*

*All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;*

*It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

*Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,*

 *'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'*

*One whose name is 'God with us', our Savior shall be,*

 *through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.*

*Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,*

*Open new highways, new highways for our God,*

*Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,*

*and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.*

 *In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.*

*Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,*

*For Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;*

*Again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.*

Words and Music ~ Alberto Taule, 1972

**Praying Together ~**

*Space for requests*

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 debts as we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen

**Choir Song ~ *“The Winter Rose”***

**Song ~ *“For unto Us a Child is Born / Open the Eyes of My Heart”***

*For unto us a child is born
A Son is given a Son is given
For unto us a child is born
A Son is given a Son is given
The Messiah oh to see Him*

***Chorus***

***To see Him high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy***

*Bridge*

*You are high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy*

*Ending*

*For unto us a child is born
Holy, holy, holy*

CCLI Song # 7100943 George Frideric Handel | Michael Rossback | Paul Baloche

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**Introducing the Sermon ~** Pastor Rebecca Sommons

**Scripture Text ~ Isaiah 9:1-7 NLT** read by Cheryl Hess

Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair

will not go on forever.

The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled,

 but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

2The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.
3You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice.
They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest
    and like warriors dividing the plunder.
4For you will break the yoke of their slavery

and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.
You will break the oppressor’s rod,
    just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.
5The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war
will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

6For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
    And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7His government and its peace will never end.
He will rule with fairness and justice

from the throne of his ancestor David
    for all eternity.
The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies
    will make this happen!

**Sermon ~** Rev. Rebecca Sommons  **~**

 ***“The Glory-light of God’s Word”***

**Song ~** The worship team will lead us in singing **“*Adore”***

*You stepped down from heaven.
Humbly You came
God of all creation, here with us
In a starlit manger Emmanuel
Light of the world here to save*

***Chorus***

***Adore
Come let us adore
O come let us adore Him
The Lord
Worship Christ the Lord
Let all that is within us adore***

*Wise men bring their treasures
Shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing of peace on earth
What have I to offer to heaven's King
I will bring my life my love my all*

***Chorus***

*Angels sing praises ring, to the newborn King
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening
At Your feet we fall*

*(repeat)*

***Chorus***

CCLI Song # 7050417 Graham Kendrick | Martin Chalk

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**Benediction ~ from Psalm 103:11b & 1 (TPT)**

*Greater than the grandeur of heaven above
    is the greatness of your loyal love,*

 *towering over all who fear you and bow down before you!*

*With my whole heart, with my whole life,*

*and with my innermost being,
    I bow in wonder and love before you, the holy God!*