

Order for Sunday, December 20, 2020

*Song: Your Great Name*

Welcome

Call to Worship:

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

**And our spirits rejoice in you.**

We will praise you as long as we live.

**We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.**

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

**But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,**

the One who gives food to the hungry,

**the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.**

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

**As we worship you in this place,**

**As we light these candles in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

God's Greeting and We Greet Each Other

*Song: Angels We Have Heard on High (Irene Reitsma BDay Song)*

Candle Lighting by Justin Vande Kraats:

This fourth Sunday of Advent we admit that we do not always recognize the mystery of God's presence among us. As we journey with David, we experience with him the God who used to turn up and then seems hard to find, who sometimes feels more like a stranger. We remember the hard words of many of King David's psalms, and they have occasionally become our words. Yet with David, we encounter a God who indeed makes room for us to express our worst and darkest feelings and then invites us into his love story.

A candle of love burns to remind us  
that God's love never ends.

Even when we have more questions than answers,  
God's unpredictable, unfathomable,  
uncontainable and awesome love  
will never end.

And his love comes to us in Jesus.

Today we light the candle of LOVE.

PRAYER: (Congregation)

**Dear Jesus,**

**We seek to become a community of love  
in this complex and broken world,**

**as we wait for the mystery and strangeness of your appearing.**

**Amen.** *Song: What Child Is This (Chris Tomlin)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

Good Shepherd, we come weary, crippled by life, unsure of how we will take the next step or maybe even, our next breath. And like David, we too wonder when will you rescue us? For some, we are exhausted with weeping, our throat is dry, our eyes swollen from our tears. We wait in desperation for you to come through for us. Forgive us for those days in which life overwhelms us and we long to give up! Forgive us for the evil thoughts that creep into our mind during dark days. Forgive us for hurling words at you that reflect our brokenness and pain.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The good news of Advent is that you are our Redeemer. You redeem and restore our brokenness. You use our pain and struggles for your good and for your glory. You are a God who sees our weariness and longs for us to come, just as we are. You invite us to come and find rest for our souls, rest for our heart, rest for our bodies. Thank you for being a God who restores and redeems!

**We thank you for choosing people like us to further your kingdom.  
During this Advent season we wait longingly and expectantly. We  
wait for God the stranger, Immanuel, God is with us**

Song: Christ Shall Have Dominion (George Weenink BDay Song)

Congregational Prayer

Children's Blessing

Scripture: Psalm 69

Sermon: **Estranged: A Heart Full of Empty** - Pastor Cecil Van Neijenhuis

Time of Praise:

*Song: Mary Did You Know?*

*Song: Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*

Parting Blessing

*Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Offerings:

1. Woody Nook Ministries
2. Neighborhood Life