

Order of Service, December 19, 2021

Welcome

Call to Worship

As we step into this Advent  
we pause, we prepare, we will listen  
to timeless stories rooted and connected not somewhere far away  
but right here and right now that will shape our Christmas season

**In this Advent journey,  
we seek to enter the stories,  
God's living breathing Word  
and become a part of it.**

The family tree of Jesus includes  
men and women  
voiceless and powerful  
victim and perpetrator  
ALL who were imperfect people – just like us.

**Through imperfect people,  
God works to fulfill the promise to be our God  
To redeem our world  
and claim us as God's people**

Ultimately gifting this world and God's people  
with a Messiah, a Redeemer, a newborn in a manger.

Help us Lord to be open to  
listening,  
looking,  
talking,  
and experiencing you this Advent Season.

**Let Us Worship Immanuel together.**

Song: *Emmanuel Hallowed Manger Ground*

God's Greeting

We Greet Each Other

Song: *Offering*

Advent Candle Lighting (Sharon Doornbos)

Bathsheba was with child and bore a son. Before her son was born, Bathsheba grieved for the deaths of her husband and another son, who were all victims of a powerful man's desire for her. Bathsheba, though victimized in her own lifetime, was a foremother of Jesus.

**We wait for justice, but justice is far from us. Righteousness does not reach us. We wait for new life, and lo, there is death; and for hope, but we walk in gloom.**

Hear then, O house of David!  
The Lord will give you a sign.  
A young woman shall bear a son,  
And shall call his name Immanuel,  
which means "God is with us."  
(Light the Candle of Love)

Song: *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

#### Confession

Mighty and powerful God, your word says, "Rejoice always."  
But we would rather sulk about the things that don't go right.  
Your word says, "Pray without ceasing."  
But we go for days without even thinking about You.  
Your word says, "Give thanks in all circumstances."  
But our thankfulness is fleeting, because we think we deserve blessings.  
Your word says "Hold fast to what is good,"  
And yet we continue to hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting.  
Lord of this Advent Season forgive our sins and dwell here among this  
Christmas.

Song: *As with Gladness Men of Old (Irene Reitsma BDay)*

#### Assurance

On this bright morning we remember God's gifts to us:

**The gift of a child,**

The gift of comfort,

**The gift of presence,**

And the gift of love.

**On this fourth Sunday in Advent,**

**we give thanks to God for the gift of the Christ Child.**

Song: *O Jesus I Have Promised (George Weenink BDay)*

#### Congregational Prayer

##### Children's Blessing

*(Children Ages 3-Pre-K are dismissed)*

#### Prayer of Illumination

Scripture - 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Sermon - Lineage of Grace - Bathsheba

Song: *Lord I Need You*

Song: *Noel*

#### Parting Blessing

Song: *Silent Night*

Offerings: 1. Woody Nook Ministries      2. BC Flood Relief