



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"What Child is This?"*

December 21, 2025

10:00 am

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\*please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**Christmas Joy Offering**

INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE – Joe and Kay Hunnings

*We light this candle of Love for those who need it most.*  
**For all who feel they are on the outskirts of love.**

*For all who know the loss of a love.*  
**For all who are rejected because of who they are.**

*Our question for today is this: "How will we make  
sacrificial love our aim in our time?" What child IS this?*

**This, this, is the babe who was swaddled in love  
and wraps us all in love forever.**

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

*(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings)*

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high.  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

CONFESSION OF SIN *(Unison)*

**Good Shepherd, we have turned away from you,  
ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the  
creation you have made, taking from Earth what we  
cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors  
in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the  
vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us  
and lead us to a more loving life. Amen.**

*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*  
**And also with you.**

*[You are invited to exchange signs of peace with one another.]*

RESPONSE TO PARDON\*

121, v. 4

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 7:10-16      Rosemary Cole

OFFERING OF MUSIC      Adult Choir  
*“Mary, Did You Know?”*

GOSPEL\* – Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON      *“Being Dad (Love)”*      Linda Dickerson

HYMN\*      *“Joseph Heard the Troubling News”*  
by Caryolyn Winfrey Gillette,  
tune of “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

**Joseph heard the troubling news: Mary was expecting!  
What should he, a just man, do? He sought God's directing.  
Joseph thought to send her home- leave her, without blaming;  
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy, proclaiming:**

**"Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph, don't you fear it —  
God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!  
Mary soon will bear a son; you shall name him Jesus.  
When the prophet spoke of him, he said, "God is with us!"**

**God of love, we too may face times of doubt and trouble.  
May we know your daily grace, even when we struggle.  
Just as Joseph answered, "Yes!" with new dedication,  
We rejoice, for we've been blessed by your incarnation.**

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE (*from Romans 1*)

**God promised this good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. His Son was descended from David. He was publicly identified as God's Son with power through his resurrection from the dead, which was based on the Spirit of holiness. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

HYMN\*      *“Love Has Come”*      110

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION\*

CHORAL RESPONSE, #92, v. 1\*      *Congregation and Choir*

**While we are waiting, come;  
While we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
While we are waiting, come.**