

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*
<https://youtu.be/aizsMBcT2GI> - Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills,

WAITING

While we are waiting come
While we are waiting come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

With power and glory come
With power and glory come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

Come Savior quickly come
Come Savior quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of love.
Before we do that, let us remember the previous gifts of hope, peace, and joy.
(light two purple candles and the rose candle)

This fourth candle reminds us that God is love, and we are never more like God than when we live out this most holy of gifts. **(light the last purple candle)**

According to the Bible, the greatest blessing is love. It is because of love that God refused to abandon humankind to death and ignorance, instead coming down to us in the person of Jesus Christ to teach us how to live lives of love.

Love is more than an emotion. It is more than a Valentine's Day flirtation. Love is divine. Love comes from God and is holy. It is because God first loved us that we love God and others. Love is what binds the whole world together and it is love which will lead us all the way home when it is our time to pass from this life to the next.

Let us pray: Source of Love, thank you for showing us the depth and importance of love by coming to earth to dwell among us. Teach us to love those whom the world says we should hate. Teach us to love deeply and freely, even when we are afraid to do so. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Worship:

In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.

Thanks be to the God of light.

In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.

Thanks be to the God of peace.

In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.
Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life.

Hymn of Praise # 110 *Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

<https://youtu.be/Uy9WXwYYcW4> - First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska

**Love has come--a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.**

**Love has come--He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us;
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!**

Call to Confession:

Every moment of living is an opportunity to do something differently, to face the truth of our lives, to turn toward God in hope. Every confession of those things which lie in hearts is an opportunity to come closer to God. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas. It's only a week away and we still have so much to do. Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to jump onto this "slippery slide" into Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us--not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child (moment of silent confession). In the name of Christ, Love Divine, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is given for us! Rejoice!
We are loved by God, now and forever. Alleluia! Amen!

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-17:

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child

knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

Special Music: *Look to the Light*

words and music by Joseph M. Martin

<https://youtu.be/m9imUdRHSZ8>

Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon: “A Change in Plans” (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of Meditation # 134 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

<https://youtu.be/8mnC8zMiwaQ> - Acapeldridge

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,**

**while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Prayers of the People

Great God,
We need to remember
that how things are now is not how they've always been;
and it's not how they always will be.

We need to remember
that your kingdom has come,
that it is growing among us now,
and that the time will come
when it fills the world with justice and love.

And so we pray for your coming,
to those around the world
whose poverty, pain, trauma, and grief
make your kingdom feel like a pipe dream;
to those in our community
who long to see your love and justice
expressed through your followers;
to those in your Church
who seek to be faithful and to make a difference
while juggling the needs of themselves and their families;
and to us,
who long to know you more,
and to live as citizens of your kingdom
in this place and time.

May your coming be something we hope for,
but also be something we experience
moment by moment.

In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel,
who taught his disciples to pray: Our Father...Amen.
(prayer by John van de Laar)

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

God loves us into life as we know it and life eternal. We share our gratitude for the very life and love God gives us in Christ through the gift of our time, our talents, and our money. What will you bring before God to bless so that others may experience Divine life and love? Let us receive this morning's offering.

Doxology # 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

<https://youtu.be/qZfWUsFcaCA> - River Road Presbyterian Church

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the building up of the beloved community. Let these gifts bring about peace and justice in the world so that all may know they are loved by God. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

<https://youtu.be/9Bwn0k0k8xl>- Kings College Choir

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]**

Charge and Benediction:

Be people of love.

Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet.

Share love by loving those you see regularly.

Start by loving your community.
Share love by loving those you do not know.
Share love by praying for our world.
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love.
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations,
share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

**God send us an angel,
because in this season
we read the stories which tell us
that you have done it before;
because we - in different ways -
still deal with hope and disappointment,
faith and fear,
God, send us an angel, give us a dream.**

**When the world wearies us,
when we seem to walk on a treadmill
but really need to dance on a trampoline,
God, send us an angel, give us a dream.**

**When life seems to throw at us the opposite of what we want;
when we find ourselves asking how will I cope?
how will we manage?**

God, send us an angel, give us a dream.

**When we cannot see beyond the hurdles in our way;
and the past seems a safer place than the future,
God, send us an angel, give us a dream.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

~written by John van de Laar

