

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor Dave Wright

Announcements

Mike Orleski

Minute for Mission

Carlos Wampler

Linn Winchowski ~ Ruth's Harvest

Preparation for Worship *Away in a Manger* arr. Labenske

Call to Worship

Mike

Behold, we are a people who dwell in darkness.

Our understanding is dim, a mere shadow of truth.

In a land of deep darkness we await a light from our God.

In faith we see but a faint reflection of God's glory.

Illumine our darkness by the light of your Christ.

Then we shall see and be radiant,

When the true Light which enlightens everyone has come into the world.

Amen, let it be so.

Opening Prayer

Mike

Lighting of the Advent Candles, Week Four: Love

Linda Lapp and Lauren Neely

May the fire from this candle of Love burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us. Friends, God loves you. We light the candle of Love.

***Hymn #185 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, you kept your promise to bring light into the world and to guide our steps into the paths of peace. You sent us Jesus and from him we receive salvation.

Yet we confess to being less than faithful in our response. We have been tentative and cautious rather than bold and generous; we have feared what people will think rather than speak a prophetic word like John the Baptist; we have packed our calendars with business and neglected your wisdom to “be still.” We look to material things and work to bring meaning to our lives. We forget that our worth lies in being beloved children of God.

Redeeming God, may your coming once again reorder our priorities, renew our commitments and refashion our witness. Cast out our sin and enter in; remake us in your grace. Amen.

(A time of silent prayer will be kept.)

***Assurance of Forgiveness: John 3:16-17**

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven

Thanks be to God

***Hymn #180 O Little Town of Bethlehem, v.4**

(See screen)

Responsive Scripture Lesson:

Lanny

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

(See screen.)

Musical Offering *Advent Joy* arr. Young

Faithful Voices

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon: “The Longest Journey: From Heaven to Earth”

***Hymn #184 What Child is This?**

***Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed**

(See screen.)

Offering: *Your continuing, generous support of our Church is greatly appreciated. Please use the Offering plate at the back of the sanctuary for your gifts, or please mail your offering and tithes to the Church office.*

***Doxology #34**

*Prayer of Dedication

Mike

Prayers of the People

Sharing Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #183 Once in Royal David's City**

*Benediction

*Closing Song: *Sanctuary*

Postlude *Christmas Carol Medley* arr. Hughes

(*Those who are able, please stand.)

Leading Worship: Pastor David C. Wright

Organist / Choir Director: Deb Wolf

Duty Elder: Mike Orleski

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Linda Lapp and Lauren Neely

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