**Worship Plan for Advent, December 23, 2018 - CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. (Light 3 candles.) Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us, “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God’s love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God’s love is there.

We light this candle in Love. (Light candle).

**On this day, we remember God is love.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 723, Vs 1, 2, 3, 4)*

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,

the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,

the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

**we lift up our souls.**

**You know us through and through;**

**we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins;**

**remember us with your steadfast love.**

**Show us your ways;**

**teach us your paths;**

**and lead us in justice and truth,**

**for the sake of your goodness**

**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy

and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism;

your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus;

you belong to Christ;

you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads!

The reign of God is near.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM** *Unexpected and Mysterious*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending; the lay assistant reads the petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming for Christ, we pray in hope

for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful Lord, you keep your promi9ses. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. Teach us to sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all. Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have them serve. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick (*especially…* and all those for whom we pray, either aloud or silently at this time….*).*

Send us in haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Ever-living God, you are the Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,

we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken,

in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One,   
the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,   
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;   
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word   
dwelling among us full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in Jesus’ death and resurrection.  
And we look with hope for your coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

And teach us to pray…

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.   
Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Share in the feast of salvation.

**Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we give you thanks

that in this bread and cup we have feasted again

on your endless love.

Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,

that we may be messengers to prepare you way,

harvesters of justice and righteousness,

and bearers of your eternal Word,

Our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**Blessing**

May God direct your ways in peace,

make you abound in love for one another and for all,

and strengthen your hearts

until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)*

vs. 1, 2 7

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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