

**\*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message of God's grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.*

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

*"What Can I Give Him"*

Altar Choir

Don Cason

**THE POSTLUDE**

*"God Rest Ye Merry"*

setting by Wilbur Held



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

December 21, 2008  
9:25 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent  
Liturgical Color: Blue

Gracious God, once again, we stand amazed at the miracle of the Incarnation – Immanuel, God with us. By the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed the love You bear for Your creation. Let us continue the celebration of Your love. Let us fill the sanctuary with praise. "Glory to God in the Highest!"

*The asterisk (\*) designates when the congregation will please stand.  
Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.*

*Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.  
**Bold print** is read or sung by the congregation.*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP**

**THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.*

*When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.*

*Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise*

*for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.*

**THE PRELUDE**

*"Rise Up Shepherds, and Follow"*

setting by Anna Laura Page

**WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP**

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

All: **We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!**

**\*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.*

*The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God's Holy Spirit.*

*The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.*

**WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**"Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs 1**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs 1**

**"What Child is This" vs 1**

Hymn 220

Hymn 240

Hymn 219

**Grace United Methodist Church**

**Ministers**

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

**Pastors**

Stephen A. Beutler

Chris Roberts

Larry Newberg

**Our Missionaries**

Rev. Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries

Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone

Rev. Ken Vance, Missionary, Ndola, Town Center, Kafakumba Pastor's School, Africa

**Specialized Ministries**

Randy Manning, Director of Music

Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director

Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse

Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider

Tina Browning, Childcare Provider

Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator

TJ Knowland, Youth Director

Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager

Phill Montgomery, Counselor

Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider

Childcare Provider

TJ Knowland, Youth Director

The Acolyte is Chris Pinto.

Lighting the Advent Candle today is the Wall Family.

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

(Light the first, second and third candle of the Advent wreath)

Leader: If Jesus comes to us again at Christmas this year, and if Jesus dwells within each of us, shouldn't that make a difference in who we are and how we live our lives? Hear these words:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of the prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Love one another, as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.

This contemporary symbol consists of four hearts, representing love, converging into a circle, which represents the world. It beautifully symbolizes the familiar words of Jesus as recorded in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". God loves you and sent Jesus so that you might believe in Him and not be destroyed, but experience everlasting life.

If we seek Jesus who is born in the manger, shouldn't we:

- ...be at peace among ourselves?
- ...help the weak and the poor?
- ...not repay evil for evil, but always do good to one another and love one another?
- ...in all circumstances, give thanks?

(Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath)

As we light this fourth candle, let us remember that this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, who comes to us, that we love so that the world may know that Jesus is Lord.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

*Those desiring to come to the altar for a time of intercessory prayer are welcome to come and kneel or stand.*

*All are invited to spend these moments in silent prayer seated at your pew.*

The Pastoral Prayer

The 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. Amen.**

## THE ANTHEM

"The Little Drummer Boy

Oboe played by Christopher Hartzog, Drums by Kyle Hartzog

*During the playing of the hymn, "Jesus Loves Me" children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children's Church in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones.*

## WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

### \*THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

John 15:1-11

### SPECIAL MUSIC

"Behold the Lamb of God"

Sung by Dan Stout; Linda White and Jason Kelly  
Andrew Peterson

### THE PROCLAMATION

**DON'T MISS THE JOY**

Pastor Steve Beutler

## WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

### OFFERING GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

*If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today's loose coin offering is dedicated to CAM.*

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

A Rossetti Christmas

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

\*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

setting by Mark Hayes

\*HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Hymn 242