

**First United Methodist Church of Toms River
Sanctuary Worship ~ December 19, 2021**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Candle of Love

PRELUDE *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* Joel Raney

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 72:1-7; 12-14; 18-19

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

Ministers: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN No. 220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (MDPC)

Gracious God, we are called to be a loving people, giving thanks for you and your good gifts. There are times, however, when sin and sorrow grow, pushing love to the side. We lose sight of your grace, and instead fall into despair. We are consumed by loss, distracted by stuff, and crippled with fear. We focus on our lack, rather than your love forgive us. Lift our eyes, Lord, and renew our love for you. Remind us that: in your sacrifice is our hope, in your death & resurrection is our peace, in your advent is our joy, and in your presence is perfect love! We pray all this in Jesus' name...

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

*RESPONSIVE READING

Pastor: On this fourth Sunday of Advent...

People: ...we celebrate the God of Hope, Peace, Joy, and LOVE!

Pastor: In a world filled with hatred of anything different...

People: ...God calls us to welcome the stranger and those who are vulnerable.

Pastor: The Babe of Christmas is true LOVE in the flesh.

People: Let that same LOVE be our gift to this community!

*PRAISE RESPONSE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen

*AFFIRMATION FROM FIRST TIMOTHY No. 889

Pastor: There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

Ministers: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the Gospel. Amen

BELL CHOIR *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Sandra Eithun

*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE No. 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel (2x)**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* Jay Rouse

PRESENTATION OF OUR TRUST, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*HYMN No. 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

MESSAGE

A Perplexing Predicament

Luke 1:26-38

*HYMN No. 238 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella* Keith Chapman

*Indicates that those who are able, please stand

