

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.

# LOYD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2017

9:00 a.m. Worship

## GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

\*HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep, Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

\*Stand if you are able.



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever!

**People: You have promised to bless the generations!**

Minister: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord!

**People: You rule the world with strength and justice!**

Minister: O Lord, none shall ever surpass you!

**People: You guide us in your ways and teach us your law!**

Minister: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever!

**People: Blessed be the Lord!**

\*HYMN

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around. And Glory shone around.

Fear not, said he, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and human kind. To you and human kind.

To you, in David's town this day, Is born of David's line  
The Savior who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign,

The heav'nly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed,  
All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid. And in a manger laid.

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed their joyful song,  
Addressed their joyful song:

**All glory be to God on high And on the earth be peace.  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven Begin and never cease!  
Begin and never cease!**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**\*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**GREETING, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, help us to look to you for direction in our lives. Too often we chase after  
idols and distractions instead of holding to the example of our sister, Mary: service  
and devotion even in the face of uncertainty and fear. We long to entrust our lives  
to you, and yet we struggle to do so, falling short time and time again despite our  
best intentions. Help us to rise up when we stumble, trusting in your mercy and  
promise of redeeming love. We pray this thankfully, knowing that you hear and  
forgive us, and that we are blessedly cherished by you. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

***O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT/LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**HYMN**

**"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"  
*(see insert)***

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 1: 67-79**

**SERMON**

**Dr. Rix Threadgill**

**"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY/ANTHEM**

**\*RESPONSE**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**You are the source of all, most wondrous God, and to you belongs everything  
that we dare to claim as our own. All that we have is truly yours. We praise you for  
your generous blessings and the opportunity to use them toward the betterment of  
this world. Guide us in our daily lives as we strive to live in ways which honor the  
potential you have placed within us. We pray this, trusting in you and your desire to  
guide us in ways of compassion and generosity. Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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;**