

# Covenant Congregational Church

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of Worship      December 18, 2011      10:30 a.m.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*  
-John M. Neale

PRELUDE      *A Christmas Medley*      arr. Purifoy

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE      The Zelinski Family

Love's memory is long. As we come to the last Sunday of Advent, we recall the many times we have been here before with still so much to do and so much love left unexpressed. The scripture lesson today recalls a promise to King David, which Christians have understood to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Love's promise is often kept in unexpected ways.

**God's love endures forever. In a world where even evergreens turn dry and brittle, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely. Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for the Word in the words.**

*The Word of God - 2 Samuel 7:8-11, 16*

God's love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept.

**It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate this day. It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night. So, as we light the fourth candle in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled, what else can we do but name this candle Love?**

*The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle*

***O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid now our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

ADVENT PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN      *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!*      136

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory      *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*      arr. Keveren

\*Advent Doxology

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful song of thankful praise. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer (sins/sin)

## ALPHABET ADVENT

The Words of Christmas...Tobiah Agurkis

Congregational Hymn      *Angels We Have Heard on High*      162

A is for Angels...Ava Anderson

B is for Baby...Jacqueline Prew

C is for Christ child...Gage Fritchman

Congregational Hymn      *Come, Lord Jesus*      141

D is for David...Lucy Agurkis

E is for Evangel...Karl-Erik Nelson

F is for Fields...William Evans

G is for Gladness...Naaman Wheeler

Sunday School Children      *Glory to God*

H is for Hope...Sophia Cox

I is for Innocent...Wyatt Fritchman

Congregational Hymn      *The First Noel*      167

J is for Jubilation...Lucy Agurkis

K is for Kingly...Elsie Agurkis

L is for Love...Anthony DeCosta

M is for Mary...Lyla Ingalls

Congregational Hymn      *Away in a Manger (v.1 - SS)*      164

N is for Nativity...Christina Prew

O is for Observers...Rebecca Abreu

P is for Prophecies...Ethan Graney

Q is for Quest...Natalie Fredericksen

R is for Rose of Sharon...Kaitlyn Abreu

S is for Shepherds...Meredith Whitelaw

T is for Tidings...Benjamin Graney

Sunday School Children      *Born in Bethlehem*

U is for Universal...Kaitlyn Abreu

V is for Vision...Callie Caylor

W is for Wisemen...Sophia Cox

X is X...Christina Prew

Y is for Yuletide...Claudia Cox

Z is for Zest...Jacqueline Prew

The Words of Christmas...Tobiah Agurkis

Congregational Carol      *Joy to the World*      146

\*BENEDICTION

