

**SLATE RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**December 22, 2024 11:00am**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE**

“The Joy of Christmas”

Smith

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL**

**\*INTROIT #243**

“Emmanuel”

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Pat Kefauver, reading

Dave Stewart, lighting the candles

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(from Psalm 80)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Let us worship God!

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**(ALL)**

**O Shepherd of Israel, from whom comes forth one who shall feed your flock, we gather as those who dwell in the folds of your embrace and care. Your love envelopes us like swaddling cloths wrapped around a babe in a manger. Your countenance shines like a star that led the wise men one night. We behold**

**your radiance as we enter your sanctuary and praise your name for the Christ who brings us salvation.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #249**

**“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember, that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God’s grace, let us pray.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**(ALL) Lord, you are compassionate and gracious. You are slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our errant ways. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is your understanding and forgiveness toward us. We stray from your ways. Hear our prayers today and, even though we are not worthy, forgive us for our transgressions.**

*Moment for silent prayer and reflection*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**(Romans 8:34)**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI #812**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (ALL)**

**Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Psalm 36: 5-9

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**CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Have You Heard?”

Althouse

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

1 John 4: 9-12

Page 1902

**SERMON**

“Unfailing Love”

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH** hymnal, back cover

**\*HYMN #256**

“Love Has Come!”

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND  
THE LORD'S PRAYER  
RESPONSE TO PRAYERS #641**

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

**PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS  
OFFERTORY**

“Offertory on “Silent Night””

Paxton

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #265 (Vs. 1, 2, 6)**

“The First Noel”

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**SEE SCREEN**

“Go Now in Peace”

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Anthem for Christmas”

arr. Doran

\*Please stand, if you are able.

Flowers on the organ were given by Mary Gerlach in memory of Bill and Henry Gerlach and their loved ones.