# Message "The Servant Love of Jesus" Pastor Peter Choi

Hymn "Away in a Manger" UMH#217

# **Joys and Concerns**

Happy Birthday to Denny Lange & Jodi Boudreau.

Happy Anniversary to Steve & Aleda Younkin—44 years.

Prayer List: Joe Hultquist, Marjorie Hultquist,

Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, Kent Verbeck, and

Peggy Rasmussen.

# Pastoral Prayer—The Lord's Prayer

Special Music sung by Chloe Choi "He is Born the Divine Christ Child" "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

"Doxology "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

#### **Offertory Prayer**

Blessed God, we stand before you as your people, offering to you what we can in anticipation of your coming again to earth. You give us much, and we give you little. Yet you are gracious to bless what we give. Please accept these small gifts and transform them into the work of your reign on this earth as we make ready for the newborn Christ. Amen.

# Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" UMH#246 Sending Forth

Beloved, the wait for the Messiah is almost over and has only just begun. Go from this space carrying the love that transforms us in your hearts, that your lives may give birth to hope, peace, joy, and love wherever you go. Amen.

Postlude Glen Haselbarth

Merry Christmas



# Prelude Glen Haselbarth

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

- 1. Christmas Eve Service will be today at 7:00 pm. Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus with carols, prayers, communion, and candles. We look forward to sharing these moments of worship and fellowship with you.
- 2. New Year's worship service will take place on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We invite everyone to join us as we come together to usher in the year 2024 in worship and fellowship.
- 3. If you'd like to volunteer as a scripture reader, usher, greeter, or refreshment host, please write your name on the clipboard in the back.
- 4. Join us for refreshments in room 300 following worship.

#### Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love TFWS#2071 "Jesus Above All Names"

# Call to Worship

L: Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

P: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

L: The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

P: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

L: We long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

P: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

L: Let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

P: We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

# **Opening Prayer**

In the rush of preparation for the holiday celebration, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the hope. peace, joy, and love that this season represents. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed, and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

# **Silent Prayer of Confession**

**Opening Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" UMH#229 Passing the Peace of Christ** 

Children's Time

The Apostles' Creed

**UMH#882** 

#### **Scriptures** Luke 2:1-7

Julie Ratka

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

# Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage:

rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.