

December 16, 2018

Expect the Messiah - LUKE 3:7–18/3:12–25 IV

Prelude

Gathering with Hymns of the Season

“Joseph, Kind Joseph” CCS 414

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” CCS 436

Welcome

* Hymn of Advent: “God’s Love Made Visible!” CCS 411

* Opening Prayer

* Response

Focus Moment and Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Chrismon symbol: heart

Reader: The heart is a widely-used symbol of love. For Christians, it is a reminder of God’s gift to us of mercy and divine love. As this heart is added to our Advent Worship Center, we light the third Advent candle—the candle of love—and we proclaim GOD IS LOVE!

—based on www.chrismon.org/chrismons-ministry.html

Hang the symbol on the tree or wreath and light the third purple Advent candle.

Advent Hymn: “Hope Is a Light” (stanza 4) CCS 398

Confession

Two readers alternate reading stanzas of “When the Present Holds No Promise” CCS 430, ending the reading with “Amen.”

Prayer for Peace

Light the peace candle.

Prayer for the Spirit of Peace

In this Advent season, open our hearts so that we more clearly recognize the way to peace in our everyday lives. Guide us on the pathway to a world where your love takes shape in justice. Make our homes places of sanctuary and foundations of strength where we support and encourage one another. Help us to reduce poverty, prejudice, and oppression.

May your peace embrace our differences allowing peace to prevail, preserving us in unity in the hearts of all people, as one body. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Disciples’ Generous Response.

Hymn of Ministry: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” CCS 391

The Advent Message - Based on Luke 3:7–18

* Hymn of Sending Forth: “Canticle of the Turning” CCS 404

* Sending Forth

Rejoice and exult with all your heart. Do not fear. On that day it shall be said that the Lord, your God, is in your midst. God will rejoice over you with gladness. God will renew you in love. God will gather us home. —based on Zephaniah 3:14–20

* Response

* Postlude