



Burlington

Baptist Church

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Sunday, December 18, 2022

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Welcome to Burlington Baptist Church today!

* You are invited to stand.

WE APPROACH GOD

We are waiting:

as Elizabeth waited for the birth of a child until John was born;

as Mary waited, pondering all these things in her heart

until the truth was revealed;

as Joseph waited, and dreamed;

as shepherds waited on the hillside until the heavens opened;

as wise men journeyed in waiting

until a stable door swung open.

And we are waiting, until...

until God gives the Gift of Love.

Amen.

Prelude

"My Lord, He Is a Comin' Soon"

(Laura Winnen and Jeff Cothran; setting Patti Drennan)

Allison, Lisa, Gina, Sharyn, Malcolm

Welcome and Announcements

Dave

Prayer and Preparation

WE PRAISE GOD

Invitation to Worship

* Hymn of Praise "People, Look East" 105 - GG

1. *People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.*

Make your house fair as you are able;

trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,*

one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,

that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.*

4. *Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

* Prayer of Approach

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle



READER: Anticipating God's redemption,
the prophet Isaiah writes:
*Once more God spoke to Ahaz, and said,
"Ask for a sign from Yahweh your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky."*

READER: *But Ahaz answered,
"I will not ask! I will not put God to the test."*

READER: *Then Isaiah said: "Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary those around you,
must you also weary my God?"*

READER: *Therefore, the Holy One will give you a sign.
This young woman will become pregnant
and will give birth.
You will name the child Immanuel. (Isaiah 7: selected)*

READER: God is making the final preparations
for an amazing thing!
Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah,
our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace,
our joy to the world, our leader of love.

PEOPLE: We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

READER: At first there was the frail light of a single candle,
a candle of **HOPE**, daring to pierce
through the darkness of despair and sin.

PEOPLE: Then there was the candle of **PEACE**,
the gentle and persistent fire,
the one that calls out the violent forces
and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.

READER: Next the candle of **JOY** burned with a warmth
that fills our hearts in this special season.

PEOPLE: Today we light the candle of **LOVE**.
No other word so adequately captures
the spirit and goal of our faith.
No other word so completely describes
what we know of our God.

READER: For God so loved the world that a child was given.
A Saviour was made in the form of love Incarnate.
And Love was allowed to live on...

PEOPLE: We gather, then, in Christian love.
We give thanks for a love that is undeserved,
and we await the dawning of God's
pervasive and enduring love
once more this Advent season.

[The third blue candle is lit as the congregation sings verses 1 - 4 of
"We Are Walking a Path of Peace," by Janet Bauman Tissandier]

- 1. We are walking a path of HOPE, (x3)
lead us home, lead us home.*
- 2. We are walking a path of PEACE, (x3)
lead us home, lead us home.*

3. *We are walking a path of JOY, (x3)*
lead us home, lead us home.

4. *We are walking a path of LOVE, (x3)*
lead us home, lead us home.

A Gift of Song "The Hands That Cradled Mary's Child"
(Thomas Troeger/Richard Jeffrey)

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD

Prayers of the People of God

Offering Invitation

A Gift of Music "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Linda
(Traditional German carol; arr. Mark Hayes)

* Offertory Prayer "In the Bleak Midwinter" (verse 4) 144 - GG

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart. Amen.*

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Scriptures Julie

Epistle Lesson: Romans 1: 1 - 7

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Sermon: "Love Dreams"

GOD SENDS US FORTH

* Hymn of Response "Love Has Come" 110 - GG

1. *Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.*

*See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Saviour!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!*

2. *Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

3. *Love has come, and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

* Benediction

Postlude "Unexpected Grace" (Herb Frombach/David Lantz III)

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**The Sanctuary flowers today
are placed in loving memory of
Lydia Stockwell,
a beloved sister-in-law and aunt,
by Sylvia & Al, and John Stockwell & Robert Hosking.**

The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

Circle - God, who has no beginning or end

Evergreen - Hope, and everlasting life.

Candles - Jesus, the light of the world.

Blue - The colour of Expectation.

Pink - The colour of Joy

White Candle - Christ Candle.

It represents the purity of Christ and is placed in the centre of the wreath to signify the centrality of Christ in our Christmas and in our lives.

