11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

\*Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Trinity

Joe Hartung

Prelude He Shall Feed His Flock Handel

Rhonda McGinnis, flute and Joyce Nickles, piano

\*Call to Worship Larry Moore, Director of Music Ministries

Leader: In the darkest time of the year,

People: God calls us to come and seek the light.

Leader: In a world where hardship is real,

People: God calls us to come and hear words of promise.

Leader: As we prepare for the coming of the baby, **People:** God calls us to come and worship together.

\*Hymn No. 250

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

\*Invocation

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

God who brings new life into existence, we await the birth of hope in our lives. In our time of prayer and song and listening, open our hearts and minds to the promises of Christmas. Move within and among us during this hour. Filling us with hope, reminding us to look forward to a new future, calling us to embrace the possibility of new life. We pray in the name of the baby who is coming, Amen.

## \*Affirmation of Faith No. 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*Gloria Patri No. 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** 

Hazel Bennett and Bob Bennett

All: O God, come, travel with us through Advent. Give us courage to spread love in the world, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Candle Hymn A Candle is Burning See Insert

Anthem Love Came Down at Christmas Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir with Rhonda McGinnis, flute

Pastoral Prayer The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Meditation on a German Carol Roger Wilson

\*Doxology 238 (refrain only) Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Children's Message Jessica Morris

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

\*Hymn No. 220 Angels From the Realms of Glory Regent Square

†\*Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Page 1 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** "Joseph's Song" The Reverend Terry C. Martin

\*Hymn No. 240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

\*Benediction The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Leader: The old story has been told, the carols have been sung.

People: And we go back out into a world of birth and life and death. Leader: But now we can go with the song of hope ringing in our heart.

People: Now we go out ready to remind the world that new beginnings are possible.

Leader And as we go we do not go alone.

People: No, we walk together with all people whose hearts ring with the songs of hope.

Leader: And may God, made known in a tiny baby in a stable, go with us through all the seasons of

our lives.

People: Amen.

\*Benediction Response No. 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

## \*Postlude

†Sermon Text

\*Please stand if you are able

Nursery Provided