



*Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
LOVE*

*December 22, 2024  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Ga 30605  
[www.coupresathens.org](http://www.coupresathens.org)*

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: PURPLE

11:00am Worship

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*Mary Did You Know?*

Mark Lowry, Buddy Greene  
arr., Jack Schrader

\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Katy McGill and Naveen

The prophet spoke to a people called chosen,  
to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

**Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,  
to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.**

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,  
to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

**As we light our fourth Advent candle,  
we rejoice with Mary, for Love takes flesh.**

*(The Advent Candle of Love is lit)*

Come now, O Child of Mary.

**Come now, O Prince of Love.**

\*HYMN 126      "Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"      WONDERFUL CHILD  
**Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and  
mild; new life, new LOVE the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing:  
"Glory, glory, glory!" Let the heavens ring.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*



PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

You call us each by name, O God, and invite us to follow you. You claim us for service and assure us we have nothing to fear. But we are timid disciples who discount dreams and discredit messengers, and we often can't imagine you coming to people like us. And yet, you do come to us, yet again. As we await the Child of Bethlehem, give us the defiant Hope of Mary that we too may journey to the stable, and there be surprised by Joy and enfolded by your Love. In the name of the one who is coming, Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

Don't be afraid,

**For God is at work and is with us in ways we cannot see.**

My friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*GLORIA 582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me" GLORY TO GOD  
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has  
pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and  
ever shall be. Amen.

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5: 2-5

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 39-55

PROCLAMATION

*It Will Not Always Be So*

Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 97

"Watchmen, Tell Us the Night"

ABERYSTWYTH

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people. We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well. We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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

\*DOXOLOGY 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

### \*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN 384 "Soon and Very Soon" Andrae Crouch

*Verse 1:* **Soon and very soon, we are gonna see the King (3x)**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King!**

*Verse 2:* **No more cryin' there, we are gonna see the King (3x)**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King! (repeat Verse 1)**

### \*POSTLUDE

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\*denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGISTS: Stephanie Cahill, Lila McMaster

ADULT CHOIR