



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## December 21, 2025

**Preaching**  
Carrie Mast

**Worship Leader**  
Carrie Phillips

**Pianist/Organist**  
Laura Hartzler

### Gathering

Music Calls Us to Worship      *Carol of the Bells*      arr. Arnold B. Sherman  
   *Adult Bells, Ray Raeburn, director*

Welcome, Announcements, Centering

Advent Candle Lighting and Litany      John & Marge Jantzen  
One: We have been wandering in the long, dark night, looking into the vastness,  
looking for even a glimmer of light, to usher in your love.  
**Many: Come, Love of the world. Come amaze us.**  
**All: May your love dispel the darkness and reveal your path of grace and mercy, inviting us to journey with you.**

Prelude      *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus/Angels We Have Heard On High*      Jay Rouse

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn      *Creator of the Stars of Night v. 1-3*      VT 236

\*Responsive Reading – Based on John 1:1-18  
One: In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.  
**Many: We gather in awe and amazement, watching and waiting for Love to come down.**  
One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
**Many: We wait with hope, longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.**  
One: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.  
**Many: We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.**  
One: Come, let us worship the God who moves among us, the Christ who draws near, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.  
**All: The Light is coming! We tremble in excitement and uncertainty. Watching, waiting, for Love to be born.**

### Telling God’s Story

Conversation with Children      Tim Byers  
   *Love Is a Candle*      VT 211  
   v. 3 Coming forward and returning to seats

Chancel Choir      *Star-Led and Wonder Bound*      M.K. Beall  
   LuAnn Stuckey, director; Anne Marie Spelman, piano

Community Prayer      Kathy Dickson  
   *The Lord’s Prayer*      James W. Bixel  
   back cover of HWB

Scripture      Isaiah 9:2, 6      Amber Steiner &  
   John 1:1-18      Ellie Hartzler

Message      *Love Comes Down*

### Living God’s Story

\*Hymn of Response      *In the Beginning*      VT 270

Offering  
Invitation  
Offertory      *The First Nowell*      arr. John Carter  
Prayer of Dedication

### Sending

\*Hymn of Sending      *Love Has Come*      VT 258

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*  
   VT: Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)  
  
*Parents of young children: God put the wiggle in children, so no need to suppress those wiggles.*  
   *Sitting closer to the front makes it easier for your little ones to engage.*  
*Also, children learn their behavior by mimicking you. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses.*  
   *Feel free to leave the sanctuary with your child, but you’re welcome to come back.*  
   *As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”*