



How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in Luke's Gospel

Thursday, December 21
6:00 PM

Gathering Music

Christian McIvor

Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Reading

April Alston

Advent Candle Lighting

Christian McIvor, Anna Beth Cross
Steve Rose, April Alston

One: Friends, in the Advent season, we light the candle of hope.

Tonight, we light it for all who feel hopeless. Tonight, this light shines bright for prisoners, for patients with chronic illness, for individuals fighting to get out of debt, for refugees waiting for a safe place to rest, and for relationships that have no clear way forward. Tonight, we light this candle for the hopeless.

All: May God's hope find them now.

One: In this season, we light the candle of peace.

Tonight, we light the candle of peace again for all who need peace. This light shines bright for the anxious and unsettled—for those in seasons of transition and discernment, for all who struggle with mental health, and for people navigating rocky, new beginnings.

All: May God's peace find them now.

One: In this season, we light the candle of joy.

Tonight, we light the candle of joy for all who need it. May this light shine for those who are overburdened, overstretched, worn out, and worn down. May this candle shine for those who need a good laugh, even in seasons of grief.

All: May God's joy find them now.

One: In this season, we light the candle of love.

Tonight, we light the candle of love again for all who need it. May this light shine for loved ones lost, for love that has been betrayed, for love that has been neglected or forgotten, and for all who long for love and find themselves lonely.

All: May God's love find them now.

One: Thanks be to God.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn 245

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Prayer for Illumination

Anna Beth Cross

Reflection with Scripture

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Where do you need comfort in your life?

What does weariness feel like for you this season? What does joy feel like?

Who or what are you praying for this night?

Response

Prayer of Gratitude

Steve Rose

Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**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.**

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

*The sanctuary will remain open for prayer and private reflection.
Light refreshments, provided by the Bereavement Team, will be available in the Gathering Room.*

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