



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

Love

Welcome

Prelude

Greensleeves Medley

Gail Leven Pollock

Greensleeves Medley by Gail Leven Pollock

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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Lighting the Advent Candles

Carol Penner, Conrad Grebel College

One: Today we mark the fourth Sunday of Advent, and today we light the candle of love.

Many: Advent is the season of love. We long for love, fresh and newborn, a Messiah who will tell us of God's love that will not let us go. In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world. We wait in love as we light this candle of love.

* Opening Prayer

Bruce Prewer

Holy Light, God of faithful witnesses, please shine in our hearts with all the joys of your coming Son. May we be delivered from

trusting the artificial lights of our generation, and from the ephemeral, decorative lights of this season. Bring us into the open place where, dazed yet not afraid, we may praise you with wonder and adore you with profound joyfulness. Through Jesus of Nazareth, our Christ and Saviour. Amen.

*** Carol**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#252 VT

Refrain:

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Verse 1:

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

Verse 2:

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Children's Pageant

"The Birth of Jesus"

Cast and Crew

Joseph.....	Josiah Johnson
Mary.....	Bethel Etiendem
Lead Angel.....	Savannah Lipato
Supporting Angel.....	Ava Hartman

Shepherds and Kings	Isaiah Lipato Jaylen Johnson Ben Mbecha Susan Mbeboh
Sheep	Brianna Etiendem Bensen Etiendem
Narrators	Javari Johnson Zherina Whitten
Director	Ann Andrus
Assistants	Sarah Hartman Shontell Giles Roshell Johnson

LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture

John 1:1-18 NRSVUE

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

"The Embodied Word"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Carol**

Joy to the World

#240 VT

Verse 1:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2:

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4:

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.









*** Benediction**

Postlude

The Wassail Song

arr. John Stainer

* Please stand as able and led

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- Ministers** **All Members**
Pastor **David Whitten**
Minister of Music **Vanessa Morton**
Flautist **Sarah Hartman**
Guitarist **David Whitten**
Dir. of Media & Tech. **Kevin Beers**