



ORDER OF WORSHIP

11:00am

DEC 8TH, 2024

Mission: To be a church where faith is fostered, community is cherished, and Christ's love thrives.

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE Rejoice Soloist, Sam Cordasco

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP* Liturgist, Carlisle Parsons

Liturgist: In a world that is lonely,

P: We will save a seat for you.

L: In a world that is anxious,

P: We will light candles against the gloom.

L: In a world that is weary,

P: We will sing songs of joy and truth

L: I am not alone.

P: We are not alone.

All: For here in this place, God is weaving us together. For we are a three-cord strand, not easily broken, amen!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Katie, Alex, and Josie Phillips

HYMN OF PRAISE*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 210

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Liturgist, Skyes Parsons

During the Congregational Prayer, you will be prompted to respond:

PETITIONS: Liturgist: Lord, in your mercy. **People: Hear our prayer.**

PRAISES: Liturgist: Lord, we give you praise. **People: Thanks be to God.**

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

SONG OF REFLECTION

A Proclamation for Advent

Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1:6-18

Liturgist, Carlisle Parsons

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

L: This is the Word of God for the Children of God

P: Thanks be to God

**At this time, children can stay with their families for the remainder of worship or join a Family Ministries Team member for children's time and worship.*

SERMON

Words for the Beginning: Not Solo

Rev. Amy Beth Coleman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

New Members: Drew Carroll, Dawn Meadows

THANKSGIVING

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Amy Beth Coleman

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING FORTH

HYMN OF COMMITMENT*

To Be Known

Words by Sarah (Are) Speed

1. Recall the truth that we once knew: We were not made for solitude, We need communities of faith, Where we can feel God's warm embrace.
2. For in the garden God declared, That our brief lives on earth be shared, With partners, friends, and family Who hold us in our joy and grief.
4. Both you and I are intertwined, The warp and weft of humankind, So please don't try to go alone, Your human heart needs to be known

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

We believe in a with-us God: a God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop, sings with us through the night and rejoices in the morning. We believe that this with-us God wired us for relationship, saying to creation on the very first week, "Humans should not be alone." Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be, we strive to live like the Trinity— connected, united, and centered. We believe in the power of community. We commit to learning each other's names. We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi. And we remember that no one can go through life alone. Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Response to the Word:

Focus Verse: "And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken." -Ecclesiastes 4.12

The season of flickering candles and twinkling lights can have a shadow side filled with loneliness and grief. For many, it feels like anything but the happiest time of the year. And yet, this season offers ample opportunity for kinship and connection - to reach out to the grieving, to invite the lonely into our homes and hearts, and to show that in God's family, no one has to face their sorrows alone. - Hannah Garrity

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Rev. Amy Beth Coleman, Lead Pastor
Beth Posey, Family Ministries Director
Evan Shively, Church Admin/Communications Director
Dennis Thorp, Organist

Rev. Jan Phillips, Associate Pastor/ Interim Music Director
Lisa Reppert, Financial Admin
Christy Harvey, Nursery Supervisor/Youth Assistant
Charlie Crouch, Facilities Maintenance

