

December 21, 2014 — Fourth Sunday of Advent: “Love”

We Come Together as God’s People

Prelude *La Nativité* Jean Langlais
Dr. John Allegar, organ (1907-1991)

Call to Worship *Be Still and Know that I am God* John L. Bell

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

Music: John L. Bell. ©1989 GIA/Iona Community/WGRG. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-715008.

Rev. Karen L. Lang

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.
We celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ
as a baby born in Bethlehem;
as the Holy Spirit coming to waiting hearts;
and as the Risen Lord coming again in glory.

*+ **Processional Hymn #22** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We light the pink candle, which symbolizes the gift of God’s love in Jesus Christ.
People: **As John has written, “For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” As we light this candle, may the power of Christ’s love transform our lives.**

Call to Confession
Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

* **Response of Praise** *Gloria in excelsis Deo* GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

* **Passing of the Peace**

* Those who are able may stand. + Latecomers may be seated.



Welcome! We are so glad to have you with us in worship this morning. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out one of the “welcome” cards in the pew rack so we may greet you and respond to any questions you might have.

PRELUDE NOTE

French composer Jean Langlais depicts Christ’s Nativity in four distinct yet continuous sections in this piece. The musical journey begins at the manger, then depicts the angels and the journey of the wise men. Finally, the scene returns to the holy family. Each section employs different stops (sounds) of the organ.

CARRYING IN THE ELEMENTS TODAY

Baptismal Water: Ron Westrate

Bread & Wine:

9:30 - Walt, Jodi and Kaylie Virkus

11:00 - Sally and Bob Anderson

HYMN #22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory is a Christmas and Epiphany text written by James Montgomery in 1815. Originally entitled *Good Tidings of Great Joy to All People*, the hymn was based in part on the French carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” and it was sung to that tune for most of the 19th century. Montgomery expresses a cosmic sense in this text: he reaches from Christ’s incarnation to the final great day. The text successively incorporates all creatures – the angels, the shepherds, the wise men and all creation – in the call to “come and worship Christ, the newborn King!”

Lighting the Advent Candle

9:30 - Mallory Young, Lauren Kaltenmark

11:00 - Kelsey Steiner, Katherine Sabens

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014:

Brian and Kristen Christenberry, and children: Elizabeth and Tyse; Charles Haywood and Ali Murphy, and children: James, Isabella, Evelyn, Henry and Oliver; Jesse Moser and Marka Shaw-Moser; Greg and Mabe Smith

HYMN

The Canticle of the Turning is one of several popular hymns by Catholic musician and liturgist Rory Cooney. Written in 1990, it is much more than a paraphrase of Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). It is a prophetic pronouncement of what God can do if we, as humble servants, listen to God's prodding and act. For truly "though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me" and the world will indeed turn. The rugged Irish folk tune Star of County Down is a perfect match to the simple power of the text.

PARENTS: TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Following the Time with Children, Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders are invited to remain in worship with their parents.

Children ages 2nd Grade and younger may depart for Children's Chapel and Child Care.

Infants, Room 240
 Toddlers, Room 233
 Three's to 2nd Grade, Children's Chapel, Room 208

BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD OUT FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE FILL OUT A NAME TAG (IN PEW RACKS). PLACE HALF ON YOUR CHILD'S BACK AND BRING THE OTHER HALF WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR CHILD.

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
 Love all lovely, love divine;
 Love was born at Christmas,
 Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
 Love incarnate, love divine;
 Worship we our Jesus:
 But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
 Love be yours and love be mine,
 Love on earth and heaven,
 Love the universal sign.
 Love came down at Christmastime.

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

News Within the Church Family

Hospitalized:

Allison Berlier, George Charbonneau,
 Fran Gharrett, Dick McFarland,
 Phylliss Ponder, Avis Skinner

* Hymn

The Canticle of the Turning



1. My soul cries out with a joy-ful shout that the God of my heart is great,
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
 3. From the halls of power to the for-tress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
 4. Though the na-tions rage from age to age, we re-mem-ber who holds us fast:



and my spir-it sings of the won-drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 and your mer-cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Let the king be-ware for your jus-tice tears ev-'ry ty-rant from his throne.
 God's mer-cy must de-liv-er us from the con-quer-or's crush-ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser-vant's plight, and my weak-ness you did not spurn,
 Your ver-y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
 The hun-gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can ne-ver earn;
 This sav-ing word that our fore-bears heard is the pro-mise which holds us bound,



so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a-bout to turn?
 you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a-bout to turn.
 there are ta-bles spread, ev-'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a-bout to turn.
 'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn-ing the world a-round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn. Wipe a-
way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Words: Rory Cooney. ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under CCLI License #719352

+ Ritual of Friendship and Concerns of the Church

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway

We Experience God's Word

Time with the Children (11:00)

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

Prayer of Illumination

Elder Diana Yates (9:30)
 Elder Fred Kortepeter (11:00)

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4

(p. 678)

Anthem

Love Came Down at Christmas

Alan Bullard
 (b. 1947)

* Those who are able may stand. + Latecomers may be seated.

Second Lesson Luke 1:39-56 (p. 932)

Response

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
 People: **Glory be to God.**

Sermon Dr. Lewis F. Galloway

“Embrace Love”

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”
 (LUKE 1:45)

Choral Sermon Response *Love Has Come* BRING A TORCH

We Give Thanks to God

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Dr. John R. Koppitch

* **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional) (Hymnal p. 14)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (Hymnal p. 16)

Offertory *The Little Drummer* Douglas E. Wagner
 Handbell Ensemble (b. 1952)
 Hannah Dennis, snare drum
 Rebeccas Holt, director

Doxology and the Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymn #592)

We Go Forth to Serve

* **Closing Hymn #29** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

* **Charge and Benediction**

* **Benediction Response** *Peace I Leave with You* Mabel Brickel

Peace, peace I leave with you,
 My peace I give unto you.

* **Postlude** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Richard Elliott
 (b. 1957)

THE GRATEFUL COMMUNITY

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (Ps. 136:1)

Visit SecondChurch.org/give and explore what it means to be part of a grateful community. One tangible expression of thankfulness is a commitment to support God’s work in the world, through the ministries of this church. You can pledge your support on-line, or by returning a gratitude card by mail or in the offering. Cards are available in the pew racks.

Through last Wednesday, we have received 746 pledges totaling \$2,731,922 which is over 88% of the way toward our goal! Thanks to all of you who have brought us so close to our goal! But it will take every household’s pledge for our ministries to thrive in the new year. Please try to make your commitment this week.

CHORAL SERMON RESPONSE

Love has Come

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 Hear how their song of joy arises:
 Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us!
 Love is life everlasting and free.
 Love is Jesus within and among us.
 Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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HYMN #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain is an African-American carol that directly calls us to spread the “good news,” suggesting the social implications of the birth of Jesus Christ. The refrain theme comes from Old Testament passages in which praise to God for acts of divine deliverance was often shouted, both literally and metaphorically, from the mountaintops (as in Isaiah 42:11). While the three stanzas tell the essence of the Christmas story, the refrain underscores the missionary impetus of the Christian church: “go and make disciples of all nations.”

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND WHOLENESS

10:35 a.m. in Milner Chapel
 Rev. Robert L. Hunter