



Mt Vernon UMC

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

GREETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

230. O Little Town of Bethlehem, v1

John 15:12: "My command is this:
Love each other as I have loved you"

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

ADVENT CANDLE¹

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O [fill in name of church or community], from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Love, love, love,

May Earth be filled with love.

The love of God that knows no ending,

Blessings of love that God is bringing.

Love, love, love,

May Earth be filled with love.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a

¹ Text by Dr. Lisa Hancock. Copyright Discipleship Ministries.
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promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Light four candles of the Advent wreath.

HYMN

246. Joy to the World

239. Silent Night

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"

CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:16-20 (NIV)

23. O Little Town of Bethlehem

Refrain:

The first Nowell the angel did say

was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Refrain:

in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,

born is the King of Israel.

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-55

Blessed are you among women

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor
on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

MESSAGE

PEACE & OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

**Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

*1 John 4:19: "We love
because he first loved us"*

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks
for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*1 Peter 4:8: "Above all, love each
other deeply, because love covers
over a multitude of sins"*

SENDING FORTH

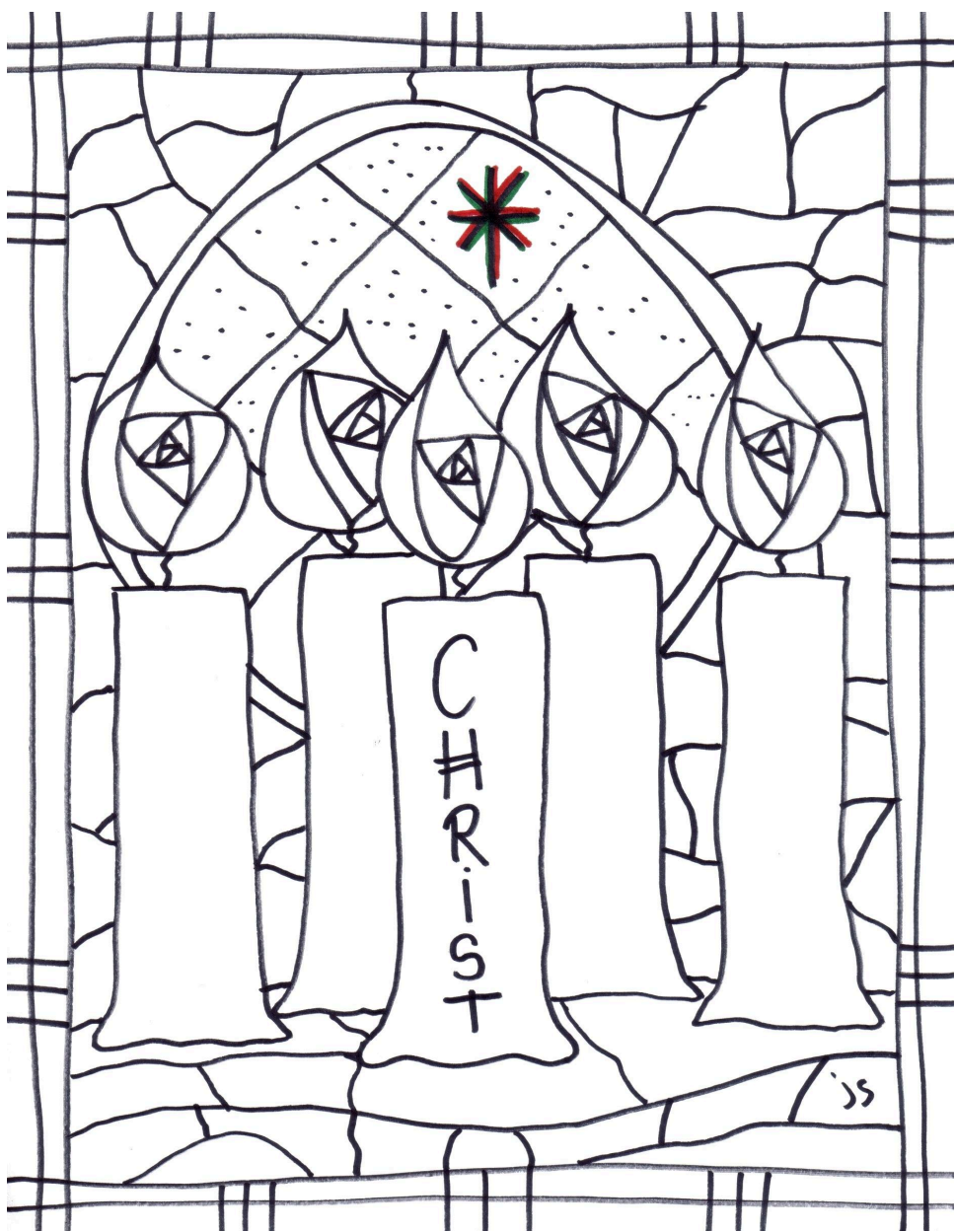
BLESSING

Love is patient and kind; God is love.
Love does not envy or boast; God is love.
it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the
truth; God is love.
God with God. Go with love.

CANDLES

**Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

1 John 4:7-9: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love"



Every Day With Jesus

This year we follow a Bible reading plan called “Every Day With Jesus”. With four short readings each day, we will have read the entire Bible by the end of the year.

12/22/24	Joel 3:1- Amos 2:16	Psalms 143:1-6	Proverbs 30:21-23	Revelation 7:1-17
12/23/24	Amos 3:1-5:27	Psalms 143:7-12	Proverbs 30:24-28	Revelation 8:1-9:12
12/24/24	Amos 6:1-8:14	Psalms 144:1-8	Proverbs 30:29-33	Revelation 9:13-10:11
12/25/24	Amos 9:1- Obadiah 21	Psalms 144:9-15	Proverbs 31:1-3	Revelation 11:1-19
12/26/24	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Psalms 145:1-7	Proverbs 31:4-7	Revelation 12:1-18
12/27/24	Micah 1:1-4:13	Psalms 145:8-13	Proverbs 31:8-9	Revelation 13:1-18
12/28/24	Micah 5:1-7:20	Psalms 145:14-21	Proverbs 31:10-12	Revelation 14:1-20
12/29/24	Nahum 1:1-3:19	Psalms 146:1-10	Proverbs 31:13-14	Revelation 15:1-16:11
12/30/24	Habakkuk 1:1-3:19	Psalms 147:1-6	Proverbs 31:15-17	Revelation 16:12-17:8
12/31/24	Zephaniah 1:1-3:20	Psalms 147:7-14	Proverbs 31:18-19	Revelation 17:9-18:8
01/01/25	Haggai 1:1- Zechariah 1:21	Psalms 147:15-20	Proverbs 31:20-22	Revelation 18:9-24
01/02/25	Zechariah 2:1-6:15	Psalms 148:1-6	Proverbs 31:23-25	Revelation 19:1-21
01/03/25	Zechariah 7:1-10:12	Psalms 148:7-14	Proverbs 31:26-27	Revelation 20:1-21:4
01/04/25	Zechariah 11:1-14:21	Psalms 149:1-9	Proverbs 31:28-29	Revelation 21:5-27

Ministry & Discipleship Opportunities

Helping Hands: Soup, Crackers, TP, \$\$	Today!
Play practice during Sunday School and after church	Today!
Christmas Caroling	Today!
Children's Program	12/21
Christmas Eve Worship	5pm, 12/24

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Travis Sherman, Mason Drollinger, Tracy Bailen
Tom & Cheryl Blackburn

For more information about these and other activities, check your email for *This Week at Mt. Vernon*. If you don't receive *This Week at Mt. Vernon*, please let us know:

Do you prefer using an electronic version of the bulletin? You can view this week's bulletin at <https://tinyurl.com/4h8tzuyp>. If you use the electronic version, please let Pastor Rob know:



God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught

Learn together of God's love and grace

Serve others by using our God-given gifts and talents

Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.

To learn more, visit facebook.com/MtVChamp

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob ([217-751-4400](tel:217-751-4400), pastor@mtvernon-umc.org).