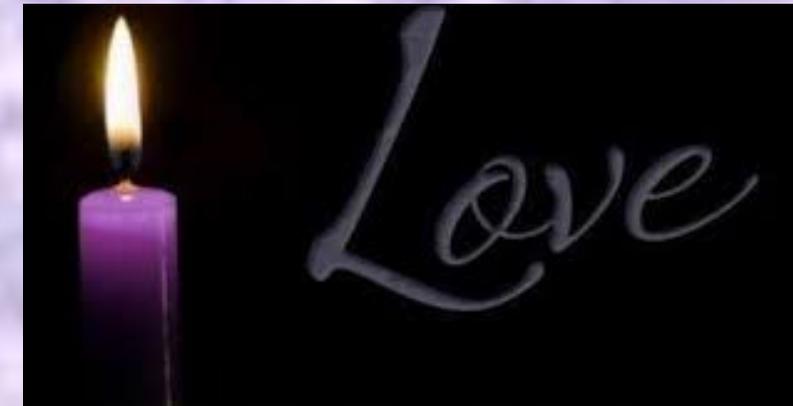
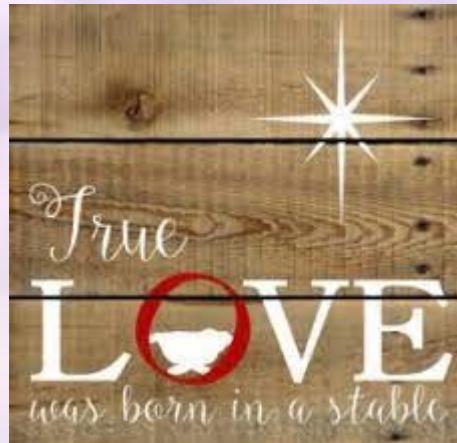


“Elizabeth and Mary”



Mary Hurley, *Pastor*
Katie Maurer, *Director of Music Ministry*
Jenny Hammer, *Office Manager*
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2227 West Michigan Street, Evansville, IN 47712

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 19, 2021
10:00 a.m.

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

WELCOME Pastor Mary

PRELUDE Katie Maurer

RINGING OF THE BELLS

*OPENING HYMN # 110 (vs 1,2)
"What Child is This"

*CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Mary

Leader: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship; in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

People: This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted. Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.

Leader: Before God's strength and power, we bow down; in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's judgment.

People: This is our home, where our lives are redirected. Surely God will show us new ways to live.

Leader: Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts; In humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.

People: This day God is present with us; we feel it. Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.

*INVOCATION (in unison)

Let your face shine on us, mighty God. Break through the obstacles that keep us from seeing your way. Melt down the barriers that keep us from knowing the embrace of your love. Remove from us the low self-esteem that keeps us from valuing the overwhelming gift of life that you entrust to us. Speak to us here in life-changing accents. Amen.

*RESPONSE– Gloria Patri # 614

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Mary

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

CONTEMPORARY SONG "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

SCRIPTURE Luke 1: 39-55 (NRSV) Pastor Mary

SERMON "Elizabeth and Mary" Pastor Mary

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Pastor Mary

In this season, we remember the greatest offering of all time, God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The only appropriate response is our giving of ourselves. What we place on the altar today symbolizes the depth of our commitment. May we show how thankful we are.

OFFERTORY "Magnificat Mary" Katie Maurer
(Agnew)

*RESPONSE "Doxology" # 621

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May these offerings do far more than support our church. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. Amen.

*CLOSING CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" # 99

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE