

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 2020

*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and
Inclusive Community*

ADVENT SERIES

'I Believe Even When.....'

"Raise your voice... do not be afraid." — The Messenger

Advent 2
"I Believe in Love Even When"

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Crossing the Threshold

Soloist (Ruth Cross)

I believe in love, I believe in love
even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in love, I believe in love,
even when, even when I don't feel it.

Lay Leader (Mike Trew)

Leader: Advent -- waiting for the light to brighten
the dimly lit areas of life

**All: Waiting for the light to brighten
the dimly lit areas of life**

The emptiness of loneliness

The emptiness of loneliness

The wounds inflicted

The wounds inflicted
The fear of the “other.”
The fear of the “other”.

You are invited to light your Advent candle of Love during the prayer,
at the same time as we light the candle.

Prayer of Opening

Lay Leader:

Holy One,

we thank you for the glimpses we catch

of your gift of daring love.

Even in the midst of fear,

of challenge, of struggle—

even when we cannot yet see a better day,

ignite the flame of love within us, (*candle is lit*)

People: ... **that we might glow with its brilliance**
from the inside out.

[Congregation joins soloist in unison]

I believe in love,

I believe in love,

even when... even when... I don't feel it.

Lay Leader: God of Life, may the light of this Candle of Love
lighten our way to see what love can do to break down barriers
caused by fear and invite acceptance.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU #1

(Lyrics - Richard Bott – slightly adapted)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

into this world of brokenness to dwell;

with hope, with peace, with joy, with love,

save us from all that we fall short of.

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,

to set God's people free!

O come, thou, Dayspring, come and cheer,

all people by your advent, here;

in front of all our plagues to stand,

that we might reach out, offering our hand.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
to set God's people free!

Passing the Peace

WE PROCLAIM

Our Time to Shine

Advent is a season of waiting for the rebirth of the great light of love to shine its healing and transformative light into all our dark places. Throughout Advent we are encouraged to find ways to let our light shine every day in ways that bring light to the hearts of others.....

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

Everywhere I go, Lord,
I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, Lord,
I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, Lord,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Prophetic Reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 7:1-14

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-24a

Sung Response to Readings

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU #1
(Lyrics – Richard Bott – slightly adapted)

Where fear, or hate, or bigotry, our blight,
shine forth your justice' healing light;
that equity, in place, would grow,
as on your Way of Love we go.

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
to set God's people free!

O come, O come, our God with loving might,
our fears and chaos put to flight;
that, through your grace's healing power,
the world's true self be brought to flow'r.

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
to set God's people free.

The Witness of Music

Documentary: *Girls on the Wall* Video

Song

Love has Broken Down the Walls

Video Reflection: A Story of Love in Action

Guest speaker: Brenda McQueen

WE RESPOND

Litany of Belief

In times when humanity disappoints,
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint,
it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the consequences
of our wrongs.

And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out,
name and claim, our belief in love that can change the world.

Hear these statements of belief:

***[Congregants are invited to write a couplet such as the following
and send via email to the minister to use in the services]***

***"I believe that _____
[fill in the blank with a lament, a sorrow, a
confession]_____ " AND***

“I believe that [fill in the blank with a prophetic word of change]. ”

Leader: I believe that we have been taught to fear one another AND
***People:* I believe that we are capable of learning to love.**

I believe that this time of physical and ideological division will end
AND
we will laugh and sing and celebrate together again.

I believe that our society is built on a foundation of oppression of
some over others AND
**I believe that we can speak this truth and move to act in ways
that balance this inequity.**

I believe that we are afraid AND
**I believe that we can lean on each other and God for courage to
face anything.**

We believe, even when we are discouraged.
**We believe, that when we are discouraged,
raising our voices of love will offer us hope!**

Prayers in the Stillness

I invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest.
I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can.
I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps
eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as we prepare for a time of prayer.

“Stillness” Song

The gentle pull of God
is often lost amidst the rush
of all the obligations which lay a claim on us.

Yet just beyond the frantic pace
our restless feet have trod
lie deep still pools of quietness—
the dwelling place of God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Prayers of the People

Sung Coda: Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive, to receive.

Offering

Thank you for your continued financial support to St. David's.

Announcement

Vera Moir turns 75 on Friday
Happy Birthday Vera

Opportunities to "Fill Hearts" with Love (Giving Tree)

Information about the programs we are supporting can be found in
the Newsletter.

WE GO FORTH

Carol of Resistance

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear VU #44

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels, sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come

with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife,
and hear the angels sing.

Benediction

You are invited to pick up this week's candle and prepare to take it to
reside in the wreath you have made if that is situated somewhere
else from where you are seated.

We wait for justice
but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health
but we do not wait to work to heal;
We wait for wholeness
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;
We wait for peace
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news
that God is with us, Emmanuel.

And continue to fill the night left by sadness with messages of love.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.

Raise your voices and repeat after me...

"do not be afraid!"

"do not be afraid!"

We will not be afraid.

We will not be afraid.

Amen!

CLOSING BLESSING VU #964

Go now with love, go now with love,
May God's grace and peace surround us
Everywhere, everywhere, we may go.

Postlude

Worship Notes

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