

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: All through this season of Advent we have journeyed looking for Emmanuel – God with us. Along the way we have encountered God in Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Many: We are waiting on You, God. We are still waiting.

One: The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine. The Everlasting light is edging closer.

Many: Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tip of our tongues.

One: Love is coming! Love divine! Excelling all love!

Many: We are waiting on love. And love is waiting on us.

ALL: Let us open our very hearts as we worship our loving Lord!

*OPENING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* #117

ADVENT WREATH

Readings and lighting the Candle of Love.

God of compassion, you bless us with hope.

You call us to peace.

You awaken us to joy.

**You share your love in the birth of Christ,
in the kindness of a stranger, in community.**

May we be your love, reaching out our hands, caring for our world. Amen

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, our lists are so long and the days are so short. It is hard to settle our thoughts even to spend this one hour with You. We really did intend to approach Bethlehem in prayer and reflection, but we have allowed ourselves to be carried away by the noise and chaos of the season.. We struggle to remember that Christmas is not on our shoulders but Yours. You are the only one who really makes Christmas, Christmas. Help us turn once more to You and receive the hope, peace, joy and love that only You can give. We don't deserve it, but we receive it with joy. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone. In Christ, we are accepted and loved. We are set free of the past and loved. We are given to the future in love. Thanks be to God. AMEN

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

PASSING THE PEACE

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, it is now,
and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.*

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 1:39-45, Luke 46b-55*

SERMON *Transforming Love*

Rev. Dr. Janet Peck

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord's Prayer

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from who all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN OF SENDING *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem* #133

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Pianist Joseph Cough, Jr.

**Please stand if you are able*

We remember in our prayers: Grace and Susan Greene, Don Gage, George Greene, Sammy Soule, Tom Boudin, Margaret Ellsworth, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgcomb Green.

Acknowledgements: Except where otherwise noted, music in today's bulletin that is not in the public domain is reprinted/podcast/ streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-739201. All rights reserved.

Edgcomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

15 Cross Point Road, P.O. Box 113, Edgcomb, ME 04556
www.edgcombchurch.org FB/EdgcombCongochurch

Phone: 207.882.4060

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Janet Peck

Church Coordinator: Marjorie DiVece

Pianist: Joseph Cough, Jr.