May each person feel invited to this community, equipped to use their gifts to the Glory of God, and sent to serve.

Contemporary Worship Service
Sunday, December 18, 2022, 11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent
To all who join us in worship online or in person, you are welcome here!

We invite you to share the sacrament of holy communion with us. If you are worshiping online, please prepare by having a piece of bread or cracker and a cup of wine, grape juice or water at your side. If you are worshiping in person, you will be invited to come forward around the communion table to receive the sacrament.

Words to the songs may be found in the back of the bulletin or on the screen.

We have a Connection Time from 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for coffee, learning, service or simply fellowship activities!

Please share your prayer requests either by writing them on the paper on the podium at the entrance to the worship space or by emailing them to prayers@faith-andover.org

If you would like to be added to our weekly email list, which shares upcoming events and activities, sign up on our website: www.faith-andover.org

For pastoral care needs or to chat, contact Pastor Jen at 978-806-8255, email jen@faith-andover.org, or drop in at Caffè Nero in Andover on Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and Noon.

We use Facebook and Instagram. Find us @Faith.Andover and @faithandover

Welcome!

We pray this time enriches your spiritual life.
GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME
The assembly stands as able.

SONG .............................................................................................................  Hear Our Praise

GREETING WITH PEACE
Who is the first person you tell when you have good news?

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING
Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER
God of all, we are sometimes distracted and forlorn, other times eager and anxious. Help us to know that we are not alone, that you are always near. Draw us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news.

We are listening.
We are grateful.

ALL: Amen.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 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. 42 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 43 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 44 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE


46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

MESSAGE .............................................................................................................................................. Rev. Jeanette D. Leisk

SONG .................................................................................................................................................. Mary, Did You Know

APOSTLES’ CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially Maeve, Cian, Andrew, Laine and Drew, the Rohr family, Phil, and James. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. We pray for those who grieve, especially Corinne Williams and her family and the Seiple family. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the concerns and celebrations named by this community today...

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Gifts may be made with cash, check, or online [https://tinyurl.com/fnem2ht6]

SONG .................................................................................................................................................. Your Love, Oh Lord

OFFERING PRAYER

God, we ask that you would extend your blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of today and tomorrow,
When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house.
ALL: Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.

Gracious God, forgive us when we shut others out in their times of need,
ALL: Forgive us when we shower criticism or judgment instead of blessings and joy.

Help us to see you when we see our neighbor.
ALL: Amen.

Family of Faith, hear this good news:
We who have chosen wrong are given a second chance.
We who have lost our way are welcomed into community.
We who feel alone are seen, held, and known.
This is the good news of the gospel.
No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,
God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.
Thanks be to God, ☩ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
These words are called the “Words of Institution” and describe the meal Jesus and his friends shared the night before he was crucified.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD’S PRAYER
This is a form of the prayer Jesus taught his followers when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome to come to the table for Communion.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

At this time, those gathered at home may share the elements of bread and wine that you have at your home communion table.
Those gathered in person will be invited to come forward at the direction of an usher and kneel or stand
around the communion table. You will be given a wafer (gluten-free are also available) by the pastor, which you may then consume. An assisting minister will invite you to take a pre-filled cup of white wine or red grape juice, which you may then consume before returning to your seat.

If you prefer to stay at your seat and have the pastor bring you communion, please let an usher know.

SONG ................................................................. Breath of Heaven

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray.
God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING
As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, and loves you, in the name of the Father, ✡ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.

SONG ................................................................. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRAYER LIST
for Corrine Williams and family as they mourn the death of her granddaughter Ashley;
for the Payson family upon the death of Barbara’s brother Walter Eaton;
for the Seiple family as they mourn the death of Jean’s sister Ginny;
for Maeve and Cian Donegan, grandchildren of Carla & Lynn Buffington, for healing;
for Kate Robinson’s nephew Andrew, and his parents, Laine and Drew;
for the Rohr family, Phil Liaboe, and James Lino.

We are a praying congregation. In order to keep our prayer list current,
please let us know of any additions or changes by email to prayers@faith-andover.org.
We will pray in worship for 3 weeks, unless you tell us otherwise.

Those Serving in Worship Today
Presider/Preacher: Rev. Jeanette D. Leisk
Praise Band Leader: Ingrid Marstaller
Praise Band members include:
James Ball, Greg Bird, Bill Hartzell, Brian Scanlon,
Dave Schweizer, Tammy Skwierczynski, Rebecca Zammuto
Altar Care: Caroline D’Agostino, Suzanne Neuman
Worship Technology: John Breiland, Bill Mark Langdell, Brian Scanlon
Hear Our Praises

Verse 1: May our homes be filled with dancing
May our streets be filled with joy
May in-justice bow to Jesus
As the people turn to pray

Chorus: From the Mountains to the valley
Hear our praises rise to you
From the heavens to the nations
Hear our singing fill the air

Verse 2: May a light shine in the darkness
As we walk before the cross
May your glory fill the whole earth
As the water o'er the seas

Chorus: From the Mountains to the valley
Hear our praises rise to you
From the heavens to the nations
Hear our singing fill the air

Bridge: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Chorus: From the mountains to the valley, hear our praises rise to You
From the heavens to the nations, hear our singing fill the air

Chorus

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Mary Did You Know

Vs. 1  Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would some day walk on water?
      Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
      Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
      This Child that you’ll deliver will soon deliver you

Vs. 2  Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
      Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
      Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
      When you kiss your little Baby, you kiss the face of God?

Br.    The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live a-gain
      The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb

Vs. 3  Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
      Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will one day rule the nations?
      Did you know that your Baby Boy was heaven’s perfect Lamb?
      The sleeping Child you’re holding is the Great I Am

Words by Mark Lowry, Music by Buddy Greene
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Your Love, Oh Lord

Vs. Your Love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains
Your justice flows like the ocean’s tide

Chorus And I will lift my voice to worship You, my King
And I will find my strength in the shadow of Your wings

Vs. Your Love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains
Your justice flows like the ocean’s tide

Chorus And I will lift my voice to worship You, my King
And I will find my strength in the shadow of Your wings

Your Love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky

“Your Love, Oh Lord”
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David Carr, Mark D. Lee and Tai Anderson
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Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

1. Glory, glory, Hallelujah, when I lay my burden down
   Glory, glory, Hallelujah, when I lay my burden down

2. No more crying, no more crying, when I lay my burden down
   No more crying, no more crying, when I lay my burden down

3. Thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, when I lay my burden down
   Thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, when I lay my burden down

   Glory, glory, Hallelujah, when I lay my burden down
   Glory, glory, Hallelujah, when I lay my burden down

   Glory, glory, Hallelujah, when I lay my burden down
   Glory, glory, Hallelujah, when I lay my burden down

Text: African American Spiritual  Music: Glory, glory, Hallelujah, African American Spiritual
“Breath of Heaven”
Words and Music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant