Liturgy of Word & Sacrament
December 18, 2022 ☼ 4th Sunday in Advent

The Community Church of Sebastopol
United Church of Christ
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North ☝ 707.823.2484 ☝ www.uccseb.org
PIANO PRELUDE  
* All Earth Is Waiting  
  - Alberto Taulé

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT  
* Veni, Veni Emmanuel  
  - French melody

CANDLE-LIGHTING LITURGY  
Advent IV: Love  
  - Sanctified Art

* OPENING HYMN  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
  #119

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
  - Sanctified Art

  One:  God of today and tomorrow... How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?

  Many:  Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor... (silent prayer)

* WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING THE LOVE  
The Love of Christ be with you: And also with you.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE  
Advent IV: Love

CHILDREN’S PRAYER  
ending with The Lord’s Prayer

Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Thy kin-dom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* HYMN  
Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?  
  See insert

GOSPEL READING  
Luke 1: 39 – 58  
  Pew Bible, NT, p. 57

SERMON  
God in Each Other  
  Pastor Benjamin

PIANO INTERLUDE  
Servant Song  
  - Richard Gillard

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
  Pastor Rachel
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
Pat Furber

CHORAL OFFERTORY One Candle Lights the Way – Albrecht & Althouse

* DOXOLOGY Tune: Morning Song

My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
Praise God whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION – Sanctified Art
One: God of yesterday and God of tomorrow, from the very beginning, you gave us the gift of relationships, you tucked us into communities, you wired us for connection.

Many: From the very beginning, you made our hearts capable of love. Thank you!
Receive these gifts as our expression of love for you and for all the gifts of creation. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

RE-AFFIRMATION OF HOLY BAPTISM Warren J. Davis

* CLOSING HYMN Love Came Down at Christmas See insert

* BENEDICTION

PIANO POSTLUDE Emmanuel, Emmanuel – Bob McGee

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

Following worship, all are invited to Kinship Hour in the Bell Tower Courtyard.
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9–18; Col. 1:24–29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Love Came Down at Christmas
Christina G. Rossetti, 1885; alt.

1 Love came down at Christmas, Love all loving, Love divine;
   2 Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
   3 Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;

Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we our Jesus, but where is God's sacred sign?
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.
Our mission is to worship God and share the love of Jesus Christ, teaching the message of Jesus to all ages and putting our faith into action.

An Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we welcome and affirm people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression.

Cover image: “The Golden Cradle,” Carmelle Beaugelin