

LITURGY OF THE WORD
DECEMBER 24, 2023 ∞ ADVENT IV: LOVE



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North ∞ 707.823.2484 ∞ www.uccseb.org

PIANO PRELUDE	<i>Veni Emmanuel</i>	French melody (15 th cent.)
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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOCAL INTROIT	<i>Adeste Fideles</i>	– John Francis Wade (1743)
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LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE	Mary Culberson & Henry Knuth	
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* SUNG RESPONSE	<i>One Candle Is Lit</i>	#128, vv. 1 – 4
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* PASSING THE LOVE	The Love of Christ be with you: And also with you.	
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CHILDREN’S MESSAGE	Advent IV: LOVE	
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CHILDREN’S PRAYER	ending with <i>The Lord’s Prayer</i>	
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Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy 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	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	#517, vv. 1, 3 & 4
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SCRIPTURE READING	<i>2 Samuel 7:1 – 11, 16</i>	Pew Bible, OT, p. 281
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SERMON	<i>A House for Love</i>	Pastor Rachel
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PIANO INTERLUDE	<i>Beecher</i>	– John Zundel
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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING	Maria Culberson	
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OFFERTORY SONG	<i>Candlelight</i>	– Terry Garthwaite
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* DOXOLOGY	Tune: Morning Song	
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My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Luke 1:52–53

One: Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your promised Child, whom you have so freely shared with us.

Many: Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Pastor Benjamin

*** CLOSING HYMN**

In the Bleak Midwinter

Rosetti / Holst

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.**

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what can I offer: all my heart.**

*** BENEDICTION**

PIANO POSTLUDE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

– Bob McGee

*Following worship, all are invited to Kinship Time
in Fellowship Hall.*



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers Ellen Jordan (Lead),
Lori Lapham & Muriel Weaver
Ministers Rev. Rachel Knuth
& Rev. Benjamin Broadbent
Piano J. Althea
Acolyte Henry Knuth
Liturgists Maria & Mary Culberson
Special Music Maria Culberson
Song Leader Andy DelMonte
Tech Team Sophia Broadbent-Bell & Abbey Sawyer
Chancel Décor Kathy Matthies

STAFF TEAM

Lead Minister Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent
Associate Minister Rev. Rachel Knuth
Congregational Administrator Joy Richards
Choral Director Andy DelMonte
Keyboardist J. Althea
Handbell Director Karna Roa
Bookkeeper Deanna Euritt
Custodian Keith Brown



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, and gender (identity and expression).



Cover image: "Our Lady of Faith," by Shiloh Sophia McCloud