



(Luke 1:19)
Sow Good News
INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE



I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this Good News.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

POP-UP PAGEANT

Love ~ December 24, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Though we can't see the whole of it, in coming to earth God is showing us what love is, and the truth that God will not abandon us, nor this good earth. ~ Kate Bowler

~ **ACT I: MAKE READY A PEOPLE** ~

PRELUDE

THE BLESSINGS OF MARY

Larry Campbell

The Sounding Joy (Elizabeth Mitchell and Friends)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Luke 1:19*)

I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you,
and to bring you this Good News!

RESPONSE

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

GTG #95

Taizé Community

PREPARE THE WAY

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Betty Lingler

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son,

she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.

In love, let us walk in the light of the Holy One.

CAROL

LO HOW A ROSE EVER BLOOMING

GTG #129

Verses 1-2

I SCENE I

A NEW KING

ISAIAH 2, 11

The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved. Amen. [*Time of Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

GTG #576

by Swee Hong Lim

SINGAPURA

I SCENE II

LIFT THE VALLEYS

ISAIAH 40

The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

I have good news for you! Shout it from the mountaintop!

With a strong voice, cry out, **“Here is God!”**

God comes with power to make all things right. **Thanks be to God.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*Isaiah 52:7*)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

~ ACT II: THE GOOD NEWS ~

II SCENE I

MARY’S SONG

LUKE 1

The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible

CAROL

SONG OF MARY

GTG #99

Verses 1-2, 5

II SCENE II

JOSEPH’S DREAM

MATTHEW 1

The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible

CAROL

AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

GTG #107

Verses 1, 4

II SCENE III

BORN IN BETHLEHEM

LUKE 2

The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible

CAROL

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

GTG #128

Polish Carol

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

~ ACT III: RISE UP & FOLLOW ~

***BLESS THIS ADVENT: LOVE** (*from The Lives We Actually Have*)

“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)

Blessed are we who look for Love deeper, fuller, truer—than we have ever known, than we could have ever hoped for.

God, we are waiting for love, not the simple kind or the sweep-you-off-your-feet kind, but the absurd kind. The kind wrapped in rags, resting in a bucket of animal feed. Love enough to save us all.

Blessed are we who seek you, the light that dawned so long ago in that dark stable. Love given. Love received.

Receive this gift, dear one. Love has come for you. **Amen.**

