

STIDHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

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PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

Let the ringing of the bell prepare our hearts for worship.

HYMN*- Angels We Have Heard On High

ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY

The Children are dismissed to go to Children's Church

Leader: "O come, Desire of nations bind all people in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.

ALL: "Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God for God has looked with favor on us, God's servants."

Leader: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

ALL: God of Justice, God of Peace, we open our hearts to you. Give us grace to be instruments of your righteousness.

Leader: Give us courage to turn away from distractions and distortions and turn toward the home you have made, are making, and will complete through Christ.

ALL: We, God's people, sing songs of joy with the prophet, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God." (Isaiah 61:10, NRSV)

Leader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the morning of Christmas Eve, we light this candle, turning with courage toward the One who makes a home among us.

HYMN* - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Everyone please sign the attendance. Visitors please include your address, phone number and e-mail address, and pass back to the center aisle.

CHOIR - One Small Child

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below, praise him above the heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Luke 1:46-56

SERMON TITLE - God Makes this World Our Home"

HYMN* What Child is This

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Our service was worship has ended;
our service of worship begins.**

Thank you to those who have helped with the worship service today!

Pastor – Rev. Michael Dillon

Worship Leader – Opal Kuhl

Organist – Carolyn Hockstra

Choir Director – Jackie Newkirk & Choir

Children's Church – Rachel Miller

Ushers & Acolytes