



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata—Seekers of the Light
presented by the Covenant Chancel Choir
December 19, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” arranged by Forrest
“Sussex Carol” arranged by Hayes

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING †

The Milks Family

A: God's love is like an open door.
B: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.
A: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.
B: God's love is a table with room for you.
A: God's love is a crackling fireplace.
B: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.
A: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.
B: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.
A: God's love is a home for all.
B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.
A: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.
B: Amen.

INTROIT "Candles Glowing, Promise Showing"

Candles glowing, promise showing joy that fills our very soul.
Grace abounding, hymns resounding, Christ restores and makes us whole.
Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming, justice streaming, Christ redeeming –
Christ restores and makes us whole! Christ restores and makes us whole!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and join me in the call to worship

Leader: Come, all you seekers of the Light.

People: Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

Leader: Let the hearts of all rejoice who seek to do what is right.

People: Let us trust in God, even when the way seems unclear.

***HYMN #105** "People, Look East"

Ribbon

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth

Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CALL TO CONFESSION Liturgist

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines on us. Trusting in
God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liturgist

Cross

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

(Silence for Personal Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN #654

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

Ribbon

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

PASSING OF THE PEACE The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

“Jesus Loves Me”

TALK WITH CHILDREN

Erin Wise

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Liturgist

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7 (The Message) Liturgist

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—
light! sunbursts of light!
You repopulated the nation,
you expanded its joy.
Oh, they’re so glad in your presence!
Festival joy!
The joy of a great celebration,
sharing rich gifts and warm greetings.
For a child has been born—for us!
the gift of a son—for us!
He’ll take over
the running of the world.
His names will be: Amazing Counselor,
Strong God,
Eternal Father,
Prince of Wholeness.
His ruling authority will grow,
and there’ll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE 2021 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Seekers of the Light

By Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes

Prelude

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

“Prepare!”

“Come Near to the Manger”

“Angels Shout the News Tonight”

“Hurry to Bethlehem”

“Seekers of the Light”

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

“Behold! Go Tell! Shine”

MINUTE FOR MISSION The Deacons Offering

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Cross

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say “debts & debtors.”)

*HYMN #110 “Love Has Come” v. 1, 3

Ribbon

1 Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "Love Has Come"

† Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Assisting in Worship Today:

The Milks Family- Advent Wreath Lighters

Charlie Van Aman–Liturgist

Jason Guthrie–Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Katie Wynkoop–Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

Flowers were donated for today's worship service in celebration of
Bob and Betty Winchester's 65th wedding anniversary.

You can give online to Covenant by scanning this QR code.





"Gather Us In"
by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity