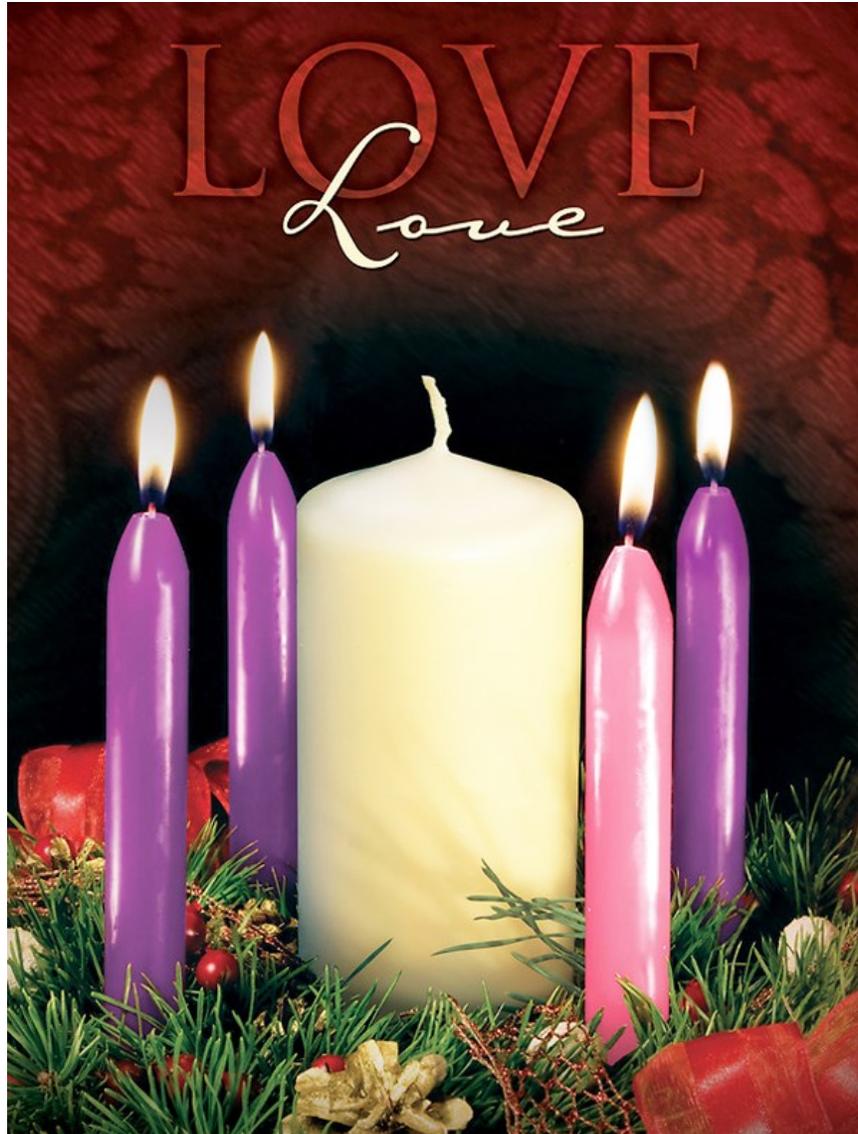


Sebastopol United Methodist Church

.....



Sunday, December 20, 2020
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 20, 2020
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

.....
Order of Worship, including Scripture

Lighting the fourth Candle of Advent

“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called, “Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” -- Isaiah 9:6

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful. Love bears all things, endures all things. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” -- 1 Corinthians 13: 4a and 13

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of **LOVE**.
Jesus is God. God is love.

Let us pray:

God of love, grant thy endless love deeply in us, so that we continue to teach others love for the common good. Amen.

Seasonal Theme:

Advent is a time of expectation, anticipation, and preparation for the coming again of Jesus in Bethlehem and into our hearts.

Theme for the day:

Mary, the mother of Jesus, as our model of a trusting, faithful servant of God.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For the Mighty One has done great things, and holy is God's name.

Pastor: God looks kindly on us when we are at our lowest.

People: **Rejoice in God our Savior.**

Pastor: God has done great things for us in times past. God will do great things for us in days to come.

People: **Rejoice in God our Savior.**

Pastor: Christ's mercy is upon us, offering hope and love in time of despair.

Unison: **Christ's love has made us whole. Rejoice in God our Savior Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Faithful God, we know that you are always guiding us, yet we often make plans without listening to you, and discover that our own agenda drowns out our own ability to hear your will for us. May your faithfulness be magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior. Fill us with good things, that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Romans 16:25-27** **Luke 1:26-38; 46b-55**

Message: **THE PRESTIGE OF BEING A MOTHER! BE MAGNIFIED!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

O God of Giving, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer, to lift up the lowly and feed the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace, in Christ's name. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Magnify the Lord and rejoice, for He will make all things possible -- His blessings create, redeem and restore us, now and always.

.....

SCRIPTURE READINGS for December 20, 2020

first reading – ROMANS 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

second reading – LUKE 1:26-38; 46b-55

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and

pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

.....
Sebastopol United Methodist Church
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube channel: Sebastopol UMC

Thank you for worshipping with us today.