

Visions United Spirit Gathering
December 20th, 2020 - Advent 4
 "When Shepherds Were Sheltering In Place"
 Living Love Wherever We Find Ourselves

Our Community Gathers

Prelude God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen *Daphna Pearson*
 Traditional English Carol ©1984 Communique Music, Inc./ASCAP. Arr: 1988.
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Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Carol VU#59 Joy to the World (vs. 1&2) *Lead: Trudy Colpitts, John & Daphna Pearson*
 Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Music: George F. Handel, 1742. Arr: Lowell Mason, 1836.
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Gathering Invitation

We invite you to bring your Advent Wreath to worship and light your Advent Candles with us:

Place the cloth
 prepare the table
 look for hope
 and light the candle.

Ring the bells
 bring out the cradle
 look for peace
 birthed in the stable.

Deck the halls
 and 'hark!' with angels -
 look for joy:
 Come, all ye faithful!

Sing the songs,
 through star shine's sparkle;
 look for love:
 in manger's marvel.

Lighting the Advent Wreath - Candle of Love

Karen & Ross Thompson

Carol VU#7 Hope Is a Star (v4, refrain - 'love' in our song)
Lead: Lorna Teed, Helen Halfpenny, Brian Affleck (guitar)
 Words: Brian Wren 1985, Music: Joan c. Fogg © 1984.
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Theme Sharing

An Angel on the Shelf

Narration: Megan Smith-Landry

Carol VU#36 Angels from the Realms of Glory (*v. 1, refrain*) *Lead: Charlotte & Jill Baycroft*
 Words: James Montgomery, 1816. Music: Henry T. Smart 1867,
 alt, desc: Ruth Girand 1994. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A- 720804

We Listen for Wisdom

Words of Introduction

Carol VU#75 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (*vs. 1-4*)
Lead: Lorna Teed & Daphna Pearson
 Words: Nahum Tate 1700, alt. Music: adapt. From Este's Whole Book of Psalms 1592.
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Scripture Luke 2:15-20 *Reader: Trudy Colpitts*

Carol Do You Hear What I Hear *Lead: Anna & Bill Peters*
 Words/Music: Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne. Arr: Harry Simeone © 1963
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Reflection When Shepherds Are Sheltering in Place

We Gather Around the Table of Faith and Share the Gifts of God's Love

An Invitation to Gather at the Table

One: May a heart of love dwell with you and within you.

All: *And also, in you*

Carol VU#62 Once In Royal David's City (*v. 1&2*) *Lead: John & Daphna Pearson*
 Words: Cecil F. Alexander 1848, alt. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett 1849.
 Harm: Arthur H. Mann © 1957 Novello & Co. Limited.
 Desc: David Willcocks © 1970 Oxford University Press.
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A Story to Gather Us at Table

One: Come, to be comforted
 in the story of Bethlehem-'*House of Bread*'.
 Come to be comforted at this table
 by a handful of bread
 and a cup of love,
 that will stay with us always.

**ALL: At this table we remember God's promises
of Emmanuel – God-With-Us.**

**Light and love enfleshed;
dwelling with us.**

The Story of Jesus

One: We remember the sacred story... So we come.

**ALL: *We come to be comforted at this table
by a handful of bread
and a cup of love,
that will stay with us always.***

Carol VU#62 Once in Royal David's City (v.3)

Lead: John & Daphna Pearson

Prayers of Community

Blessing of the Bread & Wine

Carol VU#62

Lead: John & Daphna Pearson

(words: Mary Beth Moriarty; adapted by Shawn Redden)

May the bread of life enfold us,
may the wine instill that love,
of the Christ child, long foretold us,
now proclaim from heaven above.
Come and gather at our table,
worship Christ the newborn King.

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing the Bread

Pouring of the Wine and Sharing the Cup

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

May we who are journeying to the manger
always have room
to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child.
May we who shared in these sacred gifts
learn to live fully,
and to share freely
all that we have and are.
So may Emmanuel – God with us and for us –
be once again
incarnated in the world.
May it be so.

Special Music

Away in the Manger

Hillsborough Bell Choir

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

Blessing & Changing of the Light

Song VU#43 Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Lead: Trudy Colpitts, John Pearson,

Bill & Anna Peters, Lorna Teed, Joan Hawkes, Brian & Kim Affleck (plus guitar)

Words: John Wesley Work 11, 1907. Public Domain. Arr: ©Oxford University Press.

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Thank You for Joining Us!

May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.