



The \_\_\_\_\_  
**First Congregational Church**  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,  
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

*December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
The Fourth Sunday in Advent*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*The Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

The Advent Reading

Jennifer Barnes & Gail Owens

Leader: Christmas is getting closer! Why do we light the Advent candles?

**Family: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”**

Leader: What is the meaning of the fourth lighted candle?

**Family: The fourth candle is the King Candle because Messiah came as the promised Son of King David to perfectly rule and defend His people.**

Leader: Why was He born in Bethlehem?

**Family: King David had been born in Bethlehem a thousand years before Jesus came to earth, and God promised that David’s greater Son, Jesus, would also be born there. (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6)**

Leader: What kind of King is Jesus?

**Family: Jesus is the King of Kings and much greater than earthly rulers. His reign is holy, righteous, and just. His Kingdom will have no end. (1 Kings 2:45; Isaiah 9:7)**

Leader: Matthew 2:1-6

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

**Family: Thanks be to God.**

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship	Psalm 19	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Exultation #193	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	Congregation
Scriptural Call to Repentance	Habakkuk 2:14, 18-20	Pastor
Prayer of Collective Confession	Psalm 25	Congregation

**Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD! For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness	Romans 8:1	Pastor
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor
Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	1 Kings 10:6-10	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Psalter 89:1-4</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Psalm 89:1-4	Pastor
	<i>“The King’s Love Song”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #197	<i>Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Corinthians 13: 14	Pastor

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.*

Postlude

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*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~*

*~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

*Prelude: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Manz)*

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (J. S. Bach)*

*(see Trinity 317)*

*Offertory: In dulci jubilo (Dupre)*

*Postlude: Ding Dong! Merrily on High (Young)*

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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The December Prayer letter is available in the narthex.  
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## Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Join us on December 24<sup>th</sup> for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. There will be two services, at 5:00pm and 7:00 pm. Nursery is available at 5:00 pm. Invite your friends and family to join you as we celebrate Christ's birth!



## **The King's Love Song**

### **How Does Messiah Sing This Song of Praise?**

This Is a Love Song about *the Greatest Love* in the Universe (1).

This Love Will Be Established in Heaven & Earth Forever (2).

Jesus Has Bound This Love by Sacred Oath Forever (3-4).

**Re-read (sing) with This *Christ-Centered* Understanding.**

**Application—Delight in Christ with Joyful Obedience!**

CONCLUSION: The Psalmist sings of the steadfast love of the Lord. This love song declares God the Father's intention to win a Bride for His Son and establish their union together forever. The song continues to describe the mechanics of this plan in terms of covenant (a sacred oath sealed in blood) and David's eternal throne. Jesus has come as the Father's chosen One, the true Son of David, who alone is qualified to establish David's eternal reign with His own blood on the cross. While Jesus is now with His Father temporarily, He has promised to return for His beloved Bride (those in Christ through faith) for that glorious wedding feast in the new heavens and new earth.

**Psalm 89:1-4 ESV**

(emphasis added to highlight parallelism)

I will *sing* of the **steadfast love of the Lord**, forever;

*with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness* to all generations.

For I said, “**Steadfast love** *will be built up* forever;

in the heavens *you will establish your faithfulness.*”

You have said, “*I have made a covenant* with **my chosen one**;

*I have sworn* to **David** my servant:

‘I will *establish your offspring* **forever**,

and *build your throne* **for all generations.**’” *Selah*

**Trinity Psalter for Psalm 89:1-4**

Of God’s Love I’ll Sing forever,

to each age Your faithfulness.

I’ll declare Your love forever

Founded in the Word from heav’n:

“With My Chosen I’ve made cov’nant,

To My servant David sworn:

I’ll your line confirm forever,

To each age build up your throne.”

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

## The Fourth Week of Advent—December 18-24 am

Leader: Christmas is getting closer! Why do we light the Advent candles?

Family: **Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”**

Leader: What is the meaning of the fourth lighted candle?

Family: **The fourth candle is the King Candle because Messiah came as the promised Son of King David to perfectly rule and defend His people.**

Leader: Why was He born in Bethlehem?

Family: **King David had been born in Bethlehem a thousand years before Jesus came to earth, and God promised that David’s greater Son, Jesus, would also be born there (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6).**

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## Psalm 89:1-4 (ESV)

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

<sup>3</sup> You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup> “I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.” *Selah*

## **To Meditate on This Fourth Week—First Kings 10:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> And she said to the king, “The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, <sup>7</sup> but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. <sup>8</sup> Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup> *Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord loved Israel forever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness.*” <sup>10</sup> Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices and precious stones. Never again came such an abundance of spices as these that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

Closing prayer for *fourth week* to be read in unison:

“Lord Christ, we exalt You for laying aside your glory by making Yourself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant and offering Yourself in humble obedience by a shameful and cruel death on the cross. Forgive us when we despise Your glory by veiling our hearts with sin and pride. Give us new eyes to see the brilliance of Your glory in all things. Make our hearts sensitive to Your unsurpassed greatness that we might reflect the image of Your powerful and magnificent glory. Amen.”