

— The Enduring Light of Love —

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

In hopes AND in fears, do not be afraid

Love is with us

In light and darkness, do not be afraid

Love is for us

In laughter and strife, do not be afraid

Love will never fail us.

Company

CAROL

Seasons of Love from Rent

Company

POSTLUDE

The Great Adventure (reprise)

Company

You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



(* Please rise in body or in spirit
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TX**

**3rd Sunday of Advent
The Great ADVENTure Cantata
December 17, 2023**

—Gathering—

PRELUDE **No Day But Today** *from Rent* Company

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Stefen Kane

Keep watch! Look up! For soon the heavenly host will appear and proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth!

We watch for the light and listen for the voice of God's messengers today, and every day.

Do not be afraid!

God's messengers proclaim good news of great joy for all people.

We gather like shepherds and sheep in a field, waiting for the good news of great joy.

In the darkest of nights and brightest of days we watch and we wait.

Good news is on the way.

Come, let us worship!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN #121** **O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv 1-3)**

CANDLE LIGHTING Candle Lighters: Kelly and Tom Weaver

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth. Today we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us. When we are overwhelmed with conflict without or within, the peace of Christmas may be found. We welcome the peace of Christ, present among us and available to all. Today we light the candle of peace, because peace has come to us.

Welcome, joy of Christ!

***Even in times of grief and sorrow,
you never forsake us or leave us alone.***

Fill our hearts with joy today.

ADVENT PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE Light from Next to Normal

Joshua Allen and Stefen Kane

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

— The Great Advent-ure: An Advent Cantata —

Hymn #121 **O Little Town of Bethlehem (v4)**

BIDDING PRAYER The Great Adventure *from Kimberly Akimbo* Company

— The Dawning Light of Hope—

DIALOGUE Morning Glow *from Kimberly Akimbo* Stefen Kane

LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL Ain't it Good *from Children of Eden* Company

—The Growing Light of Peace—

DIALOGUE Waving Through a Window *from Dear Evan Hansen* River Evers

LESSON Isaiah 60:2-5

CAROL Tomorrow *from Annie* Company

— The Unexpected Light of Joy —

DIALOGUE The Story Goes On *from Baby* Carla Hallock

LESSON Luke 1:26-38

CAROL There's Been a Change in Me *from Beauty and the Beast*
Joshua Allen