

Hope United Church of Christ

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Prelude: Prelude on "Wachet Auf" - - - David Lasky

Welcome

Announcements

Offering Prayer

Opening Song: Love Has Come

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Love Candle by Joe Holland and Family

Call to Worship:

One: Loving God, as we move closer to Christmas we come seeking the gift of love.

All: Love to fill the emptiness in our own hearts and within our world.

One: Teach us ways to share your extravagant love.

All: Show us the power of love as we open our lives to the healing light of Christ.

One: Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

All: That we may walk in the glowing love of Christ. Amen.

Song of Love: When God Is a Child verse 4

Children's Message: LOVE

Special Music: Prayer to Emmanuel by *Patrick M. Liebergen*

THE ALLELUIA

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Prayer before Scripture

Scripture Reading:

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25 NRSVUE

Sermon: Complications and Commitment *Rev. Meg Wilson*

Song of Response: What Child Is This

Prayers of the People: **God of Love... Hear Our Prayer**

Lord's Prayer

Closing Song: An Advent Hymn

Benediction:

Blessing: "Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming"

tune: pleading savior chalice #136

Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.

Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands.

Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

Postlude: Noel Allemande - - - Louis Couperin