



**Worship Service for December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**World AIDS Day**

**Prelude** Marshall Davies

**Chiming of the Hour** Jan Lundy

**Welcome** Pastor Felix

**Centering Moment** Pastor Felix

**Praise and Worship Song** Congregation

“We Light A Candle”

We light a candle for hope  
and our world that's longing for hope  
We light a candle for hope  
and our world that's longing for hope Holy One,  
shine with the fire our lives oh  
We light a candle for hope  
and our world that's longing for hope  
  
We light a candle for love  
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for love  
and our world that's longing for love Holy One,  
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for love  
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for joy  
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for joy  
and our world that's longing for joy Holy One,  
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for joy  
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for peace  
and our world that's longing for peace

We light a candle for peace  
and our world that's longing for peace Holy One,  
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for peace  
and our world that's longing for peace

**Announcements**

Jan Lundy

**Call to Worship**

Jan Lundy

LEADER: In Advent, we watch and wait in wakeful alertness.

**ALL: In Advent, we prepare to welcome the life of Jesus, who was sent into the world to embody divine mysteries and truths.**

LEADER: In Advent, we greet the Holy One, who transforms our hearts into living temples.

**ALL: In Advent, we prepare to walk the path of discipleship and mission with unwavering devotion and commitment.**

LEADER: In Advent, we watch for signs of God's presence birthing new life in our midst.

**ALL: Come, Holy One! Be born among us! Move in and through us! Make yourself known to us!**

**\*Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #131 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear vs. 1 & 2

It came upon the midnight clear,

That glo-rious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
Great news of joy we bring.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

**Gathering Prayer**

Congregation

**ALL: God of Promise, in this Advent Season, we are mindful of our siblings in the human family suffering from HIV and AIDS. We ask your healing presence on**

**millions of people living with the disease today; particularly, the children who are infected or who have been orphaned by the disease. Make us a safe haven for those who are abandoned, discriminated against, and rejected on account of their illness. Empower us to speak out for a just distribution of healthcare. Empower our mission to remove the stigma. As we begin our Advent season of waiting in hope, let us remember those across the world who wait in hope for a cure.**

**Amen.**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Pastor Felix & Jan Lundy

It is the season of short days and long nights. We light this candle to remember that even in natural darkness, our lights shine. Let us slow down and listen to the sacred voice which is our guide, as we wait to celebrate the coming light in the Child Jesus.

**Invitation to Offering**

Jan Lundy

Fisher House - Houston

**Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

**\*Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that Love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

Jan Lundy

**ALL: Holy One, we commit what we have offered to help sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Bless now these offerings. May they be used in the service of your divine light.**

**Amen.**

**Biblical Witness**

Pastor Felix

Mark 13:32; 35-37

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. Keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at

cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

## **Contemporary Witness**

Jan Lundy

### Nikki's Story

Taken from the [biktarvy.com](http://biktarvy.com) website

Nikki didn't know any women like herself living with HIV when she was diagnosed in 2008. She felt alone and like she had lost her voice. But, after some time, she came to the realization that there had to be other young women who also felt unsure about sharing their status. Motivated to connect with women like herself, Nikki posted a video sharing her story. People all over the world began to reach out to her. And Nikki found they, too, had powerful stories to tell. Today, Nikki leads a support group and hosts a podcast.

After writing 2 books, Nikki helps other women tell their stories through writing workshops. She knows these stories can help empower, educate, and support others.

## Reflection

Pastor Felix

“Today’s Urgent Call: Keep Awake”

## Special Music

Video

“A Human Touch”

You can call it a decision  
I say it's how we're made  
There's no point in shouting from your island  
Proclaiming only Jesus saves  
There will always be suffering  
And there will always be pain  
But because of it there'll always be love  
And love, we know, it will remain  
Everybody gets lonely  
Feel like it's all too much  
Reaching out for some connections  
Or maybe just their own reflection  
Not everybody finds it  
Not like the two of us  
Sometimes all anybody needs

Is a human touch  
Everybody wants a holiday  
Everybody wants to feel the sun  
Get outside and run around  
Live like they're forever young  
Everybody wants to be beautiful  
And live life their own way  
No one ever wants to let it go  
No matter what they do or say  
Everybody gets lonely  
Feel like it's all too much  
Reaching out for some connections  
Or maybe just their own reflection  
Not everybody finds it  
Not like the two of us  
Sometimes all anybody needs  
Is a human touch  
Sometimes all anybody needs  
Is a human touch  
Everybody gets lonely  
Feel like it's all too much

Reaching out for some connections  
Or maybe just their own reflection  
Not everybody finds it  
Not like the two of us  
Sometimes all anybody needs  
Is a human touch  
Sometimes all anybody needs  
Is a human touch

## **Remembering & Honoring**

Saying of the names of those who have died or are living  
with AIDS/HIV

## **Responsive Prayer**

LEADER: Holy Love, we accept your invitation to walk with  
you and with each other.

**All: When we are feeble, help us reach out to your  
strong arm. When we are in trouble, help us call on  
your grace without guilt.**

LEADER: Increase our faith when our destination seems  
distant and unreachable. Remind us that our doubts are  
evidence of thinking and feeling deeply.

**All: Draw us close as one family and one spiritual community of care. Show us the needs around us so we can respond with determination. We are grateful for the love inspiring us to make a difference in our world.**

**Amen.**

## **Invitation and Communion Prayer**

Pastor Felix Carrión

PASTOR: Welcome, friends, to this holy sharing.

**ALL: Welcome to offer love.**

PASTOR: Welcome to this time set apart.

**ALL: A time to remember the holy promises of God.**

PASTOR: Welcome to this table of remembrance and joy.

**ALL: The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.**

## **Communion Prayer**

**Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup**

**Sharing the Elements**

**Communion Music**

Plymouth Choir

“A Christmas Blessing”

May the shining splendor of the star tonight  
spill into your darkness, fill you with its light,  
light that seeks the shadows of your sheltered heart,  
reaching every corner, touching every part.

May the angels' music in the air tonight  
comfort all your sorrow like a lullaby.  
May it blossom in you, fill your broken soul,  
ease your pain and sadness, make your spirit whole.

May the peace of Christmas fill our world this night,  
peace for every nation, peace in every life.  
Heal our inward strife that war may cease on earth.  
Peace be born within us with the Savior's birth.

May the peace of Christmas fill our world this night,  
peace for every nation, peace in every life.

Heal our inward strife that war may cease on earth.

Peace be born within us with the Savior's birth.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Congregation**

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

**ALL: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustains our hope and comes on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #116 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 1, 2, 5, & 6

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Child of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh:  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide your heav'nly home;

Make safe the path to endless day,  
To hell's destruction close the way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Love stir with-in the womb of night,  
And death's own shadows put to fight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix

**Song of Parting**

Congregation

TNCH # 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

(ppt 35) Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

(x2)

**Postlude**

**Marshall Davies**

**Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: Jan Lundy

Sound: Cii-jayy Jones

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Cathy Normand

**Rev. Felix Carrión**

**Designated Pastor**

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