



Worship Service for December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Pam Laham
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Praise and Worship Song	Congregation

Sing! #174 "Star Child"

Star-Child, earth-Child
Go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child,
Heaven's lightning rod.

This year, this year,
Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for every-one,
Everyone alive!

Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know.

Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears.

This year, this year,
Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for every-one,
Everyone alive!

Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store.

Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
Down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine.

This year, this year,
Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for every-one,
Everyone alive!

Announcements

Pam Laham

Call to Worship

Pam Laham

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

**ALL: In Advent, we prepare to proclaim the meaning
of Jesus' birth.**

LEADER: In Advent, we greet the Holy One, who transforms
our lives into living temples of divine light.

**ALL: In Advent, we prepare to walk the path of
righteousness and discipleship.**

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

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

***Congregational 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 of our lives oh
We light a candle for hope
and our world that's longing for hope.

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 of our lives

Oh, we light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace

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 of our lives

Oh, we light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: Holy One, in this Advent season, we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to embody your divine light. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence. Help us to devote our lives to the task

of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfil the destiny we were created for.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pastor Felix Carrión & Pam Laham

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

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Mark 11:15-18

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow

anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “It is written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?’ But you have made it a den of robbers.” The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Contemporary Witness

Pam Laham

*The First Christmas:
What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’ Birth
by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan*

Because of the importance of Christmas, how we understand the stories of Jesus’ birth matters. What we think they’re about—how we hear them, read them, interpret them—matters. They touch the deepest of human yearnings: for light in the darkness, for the fulfilment of our hopes, for a different kind of world.

Set in the first-century context, they are comprehensive and passionate visions of another way of seeing life and of living our lives.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“No, Not Here!”

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

“Sing Noel”

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel;
Come, sing Noel, Noel, sign Noel,
Noel, Noel; Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel;
Come, sing Noel, Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel;

Come, sing Noel
Sing Noel, sign Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing we all Noel, Come, sing Noel,
Sing we all Noel, Come, sing Noel,
Sing we all Noel, Sing Noel, Sing Noel

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix Carrión & Congregation

Invitation to Offering

Pam Laham

American Indian Center of 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

Pam Laham

**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 spreading your divine light.**

Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #125 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
vs. 1, 2, & 4

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo—ri-a, in excelsis Deo,
Glo—ri-a, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the glad some tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song.
Glo—ri-a, in excelsis Deo,
Glo—ri-a, in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid
whom the choirs of angels praise;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Glo—ri-a, in excelsis Deo,
Glo—ri-a, in excelsis Deo.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

TNCH #136 “Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing,
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing,
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Pam Laham

Sound: Cathy Normand

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Mary Lowell

YouTube Host: Rev. Lori Keaton

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