



Worship Service for November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent
World AIDS Day

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Margaret Stone
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

Margaret Stone

Call to Worship

Margaret Stone

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.

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

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

for people living with the disease today. We pray for the children who are infected or who have been orphaned by the disease. May your love envelope them. May your divine light shine upon them. Make us a 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 that your light shines in the darkness.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pastor Felix Carrión & Mary Lowell

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 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

Margaret Stone

Nikki's Story
(taken from the 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 Carrión

“The Urgent Call: Keep Awake”

Special 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.

Remembering & Honoring

Congregation

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.

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

Amen.

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix Carrión & Congregation

Invitation to Offering

Margaret Stone

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

Margaret Stone

**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.
Amen.**

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #106 "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"

My heart sings out with joyful praise
to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low
and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God,
is always full of grace
To those who seek their Maker's will

in every time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just
to scatter all the proud.

The tyrants tumble from their thrones
and vanish like a cloud.

The hungry all are satisfied;
the rich are sent away.

The poor of earth who suffer long
will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past
at last has come to be,
for God has come in power to save,
to set all people free.

Remembering those who wait
to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep
to wipe their tears away.

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: Margaret Stone

Sound: Cii-jayy Jones

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Scott Edmonds

YouTube Host: Rev. Lori Keaton

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