

Calm and Bright: 200 Years of Silent Night
*Let us be as open vessels that God's spirit may enter.
You are welcome here...come and worship!*

9:55 Preparation for worship:

Gathering: *Christmas Hallelujah (Cloverton Christmas Lyrics)*
-Michelle Currie & Ada Goff

Welcome:

Threshold Song: It was the Night When Love Was Born
(See Insert)

Pastor:

Congregation: (spoken)
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Pastor:

Lighting the Advent Candles: Nancy Batchelor and Rob Harriman
Reader 1: We continue this season of waiting by lighting the third candle, anticipating the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2: Uplifting God, we open ourselves to hear your call today to recognize your love all around us, and also see the potential to add to the love all around us—making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

Spoken Response of the Community:
Fill us with your peace and light,
make the world so calm and bright.

Opening Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #377

Invocation: O God of boundless love, we have prepared our homes, and our gifts, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of love. Free us from the stresses and strains of this time, and place your hope, your love and your peace, which passes all our understanding, in our hearts. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Sharing the Peace

Awakening: *There is a Love (by Elizabeth Norton) -The Union Church Choir*

Message for the children and the child in each of us:

Anthem: *Night of Silence/ Silent Night (by Daniel Kantor/arr. David Haas)*
-Michelle Currie & Ada Goff

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5, 14, 16-17 Ada Goff
After the reading, you may choose to respond, "Thanks be to God."

Sermon: Love's Pure Light Rev. Paula Norbert

Meditation Music: *What the World Needs Now Is Love*
(by Burt Bacharach) -Michelle Currie

Musical call to Prayer: (two times) Hush now in quiet peace, be still your mind at ease. The Spirit brings release, so wait upon the Lord.

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory: *Love Is Christmas (by Sara Bareilles)* -Michelle Currie
Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

Children's Sharing Time:

Closing Hymn: Put A Little Love In Your Heart *See Insert

Benediction

Go with God into this day
May the Spirit guide your way
Offer love to all you greet
Like Christ, see God in all you meet.

Benediction Refrain: *Sung:*

We need a silent night in here.
We need your presence to come near.
Give us the hope we seek
and the peace we need.
We need a silent night in here.

Give us the hope we seek
and the peace we need.
We need a silent night in here.

Response: Amen

Postlude:

Thank you to Music Director Michelle Currie and Musicians Jen Comeau, Ada Goff, and Michelle Currie and to our wonderful Choir and Choir Director, Patricia Mulholland.

Many thanks to Gail Quinney for her wonderful work with our Youth.

Worship Notes:

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Union Church

Biddeford Pool

...a place of peace and Presence by the sea



Redeeming Grace
Third Sunday in Advent

you are welcome here
December 16, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.