

Waupun United Methodist Church, Waupun, WI
Worship Music and Bible Reading – 12/18/2022

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles on screen/supplement

Reader A: The Lord our God is with us and is mighty to save us.

God will take great delight in us and will quiet us in love.

God will rejoice over us with singing.

Bible Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Reader B: Listen to this Matthew narrative of the angel's visit to Joseph in a dream:

Reader A: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man . . .

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" -- which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Lighting of the Four Advent Candles

Reader B: On this fourth Sunday in Advent, along with the candles of hope, peace, and joy, we now light the candle of love. We are loved by God, and that love is proved through the sending of Jesus Christ.

(While Reader B is reading, Reader A lights all four outer candles on the wreath. DO NOT light the center candle.)

Prayer

Reader B: Let us pray. The One who visited Joseph in a dream visits us still. The Spirit that was at work saving the Hebrew people long ago is at work in our lives today. The child born of Mary is in our midst. Feel God's presence among us. We are restored through the power of God's salvation. **Amen.**

Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy

**Rock a bye, my dear little boy, dear little boy, wonder of wonders, my blessing and joy;
 slumber as I gently hold you, let my tender love enfold you;
 gift of God to me and the world, here in my arms lies so peacefully curled.**

**Little Jesus, Infant Divine, Infant Divine, one with the Father, yet born to be mine;
 as I rock you calmly sleeping, angel guards their watch are keeping;
 precious child, one day we shall see what love has destined for you and for me.**

Angels, We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!

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