SLATE RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 21, 2025 11:00am
Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE
"Noel, Noel, Noel, Tidings Now We Bring"
arr. Hamlin

ANNOUNCEMENTS – MINUTE FOR MISSION
Ron Sturdivant

***RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL**

INTROIT **SEE SCREEN**
"Prepare"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **Love**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.
People: Thanks be to the God of light.
Leader: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.
People: Thanks be to the God of peace.
Leader: In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.
All: Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life.

OPENING PRAYER (ALL)

Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word…LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #249**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty. Knowing the love of our heavenly father, let us approach him with our confession of sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Loving God, we confess we are not the people you hope us to be. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. *Moment for silent prayer and reflection*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. Rejoice! You are loved by God, you are forgiven by God, now and forever.
Alleluia! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***THE GLORIA PATRI #812**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (ALL)
Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 3: 14-19
Page 1820

ANTHEM
"Advent Noel" Liebergen

GOSPEL READING John 3: 16-17
Page 1650

SERMON
"I Love You"
- God

***PROFESSION OF FAITH** hymnal, back cover

***HYMN 256**
"Love Has Come!"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE TO PRAYERS #641
"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY ANTHEM
"Venite Adoramus" Hughes
***DOXOLOGY**
***OFFERING PRAYER**

***CLOSING HYMN #265 (Vs. 1,2,6)**
"The First Noel"

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** **SEE SCREEN**
"Go Now in Peace"

***POSTLUDE**
"Christmas Hymn" Smith/Grant

*Please stand if you are able.