

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
December 13, 2020  
Third Sunday of Advent – LOVE  
Children’s Sunday**

***A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD***

**PRELUDE** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
Elspeth Hunter, piano  
(UCC Music Lesson Scholarship Recipient)

Music by Thomas Helmore.  
Arranged by Kevin Olson.

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP** (Pastor John)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme)

**CANTICLE** *O God of Love*

Words by J. F. Connolly  
Tune: HESPERUS

O God of Love, show us Your way,  
Let love be now our guide, we pray.  
Let joy and hope and peace abide,  
O God of love be at our side.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** (Maya and Luci Yantz)

**Reader 1:** Today we light the candle of HOPE, the candle of PEACE, and the candle of LOVE.

**Reader 2:** Dear friends, let us love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**Reader 1:** God, thank you for showing us what true love is. Help us to love you and to love one another. We wait for Jesus with hope, peace, and love.

**Reader 2:** We light these candles as symbols of HOPE, PEACE, and LOVE as we pray, Come Lord Jesus, come!

(The candles of HOPE, PEACE, and LOVE are lit.)

**OPENING HYMN** *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*

German 15<sup>th</sup> century, translation Theodore Baker, 1894  
Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS,

**CHILDREN’S TIME** (Linda Oehme)  
The Lord’s Prayer

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**ANTHEM**    *Were You There On That Christmas Night*    Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth  
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

The Jesse Tree

**CLOSING HYMN**    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers,  
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, Arranged by Thomas Helmore, 1854

**BLESSING**

As you depart this day, may you feel the Lord's presence  
and hear his song singing over you now and forevermore.

**POSTLUDE**    *Joyful All Ye Nations Rise*    Based on the tunes MENDELSSOHN & ANTIOCH  
Hand Bell Choir    Arranged by Dan R. Edwards