

# SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP

Creating brave spaces that nurture and inspire the human spirit

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ Imagine Love*

*December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

When I first attended a church service..., the hardest part wasn't believing in God, or even Jesus. It was the language of light and dark...

Why, I wondered, would God - who is peace everlasting - assault the vibrating silence of the dark with such unbidden reveille? How could something so simultaneously calming and stirring be unholy or punitive? Besides, if light is an invention, then isn't darkness the thing that primevally is?...

The light enters, and it is not overcome; yet neither does it overcome. Instead it sits there twinkling, billions of beams of it, bathing the cosmos in indivisible dazzling darkness. It is there above all, in that perfect paradox, that we meet divinity. -Jacob Edson

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

**Hymn** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

## LISTENING FOR THE WORD

**We Light a Candle for Love** VT 916

**Scripture** Micah 5:2-5a

**Hymn**

**The Poet's Word**

*Spiraling In, Deepening Down* by Kerr Mesner

**Offering**

**A Time for All God's Children**

**Scripture** Luke 1:46-55

**Sermon**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Hymn**

**Sharing our lives and our prayers**

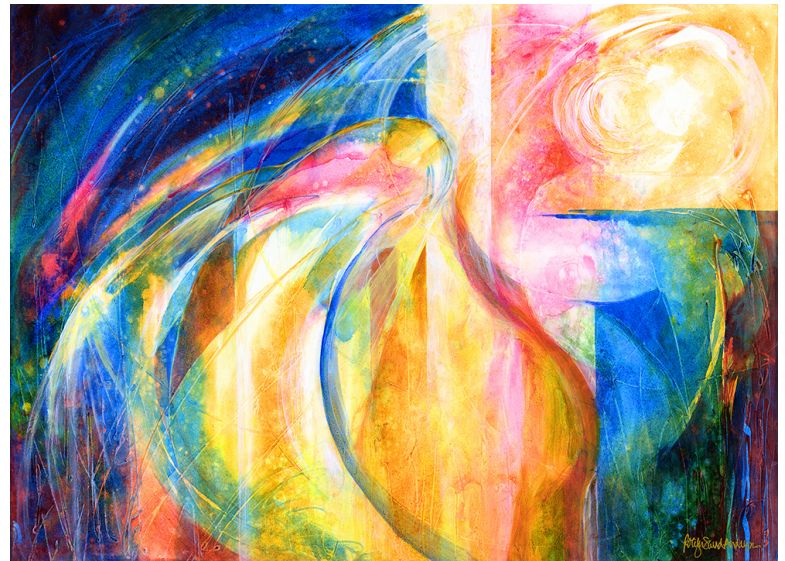
**Praying in the Way of Jesus**

## THE WORD IN THE WORLD

**Benediction**

**Carols**

We will sing carols together after the benediction. Those not comfortable with singing are welcome to exit to the foyer after the benediction.



Robyn Sand Anderson, Magnificat

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*Southside Fellowship is an inclusive Anabaptist/Mennonite congregation that understands faith as a journey. At the core of our community is the boundless love of God, the justice-centered life of Jesus, and the mystery of the Spirit. We welcome all people to join us, including those who have been excluded elsewhere because of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, economic status, marital status, age, or religious uncertainty.*