

Historic White Marsh Church

December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude Marjorie Lampkin - Pianist

Hymn ~ 256 Love Has Come!

Welcome and Announcements

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing HWMC Ladies Trio

Responsive Reading

Joseph's Song Bob Huff

Prayer & Praise

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Mary, Did You Know? Alabaster Grace

Sermon: "Love: God's Gift That Changes Hearts" Pastor Brad

I Wonder as I Wander Marjie Lampkin

Presentation: "A Ragamuffin Christmas" The Torgerson Children

Hymn ~ 278 Angels We Have Heard on High

Benediction & Postlude

Visitors:

Welcome to our church! Please fill out the visitor card at your pew, then give it to Pastor Brad or place it in the offering box.

Sunday: Bible Explorers at 9:45 AM & Worship at 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00 PM

Love: God's Gift That Changes Hearts

John 3:16-17, 1 John 4:7-12

The Love God Reveals — "For God So Loved The World"

This is the foundation of Advent love: It is love planned by the Father, revealed in the Son, poured out through the Spirit.

The Love God Gives — Transforming, Not Just Touching

- This love is initiating, as God loved us first. (1 John 4:10)
- This love is sacrificial.
- This love is personal. (Luke 1:25)
- This love is transforming.

The Love God Calls Us to Live — "If God So Loved Us..."

- Love must be visible. (1 John 3:18)
- Love must be sacrificial.
- Love must be patient and kind. (1 Corinthians 13:4)
- Love must flow toward the unlovely. (Matthew 5:44)

Practical Applications — How To Live Advent Love

- Ask God to soften your heart.
- Practice one act of sacrificial love each day
- Forgive quickly and fully.
- See people as God sees them.
- Let love lead to worship. (Luke 1:46)

Questions to Ponder:

1. Why is it important to remember that God loved us first?
2. How does the incarnation of God demonstrate His love?
3. What relationships in your life need the love of Christ this season?
4. How can you practice sacrificial love like Joseph this week?

Announcements for December 21, 2025:

Today, the Torgerson children will present a special Christmas play, **“A Little Ragamuffin Christmas,”** which they wrote, during the worship service. The service will also feature special Christmas music presented by members of our church family.

Friendship Fellowship today, following the worship service.

Christmas Socks and Caroling! On Monday, December 22 at 5 p.m., we will meet at the Lancashire in Kilmarnock to deliver Christmas socks and sing Christmas carols. Please let Pastor Brad or Joanie know if you are interested.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 at 7 p.m.

No Bible Study on Wednesday, December 24 or December 31.

Tithes & Offerings: Please use the wooden **offering box** or *mail your offering to: PO Box 24, Lancaster, VA 22503. Thank you!*

Historic White Marsh Social Media:

Facebook: @historicwhitemarshchurch

YouTube: Historic White Marsh Church

Alabaster Grace Ministries

Website: alabastergraceministries.org

Facebook: @alabastergraceministries

YouTube: Alabaster Grace

Sundays with Alabaster Grace on 101.7 Bay FM: 9:15-9:30 AM

Responsive Reading

John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:7-12

Leader: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

People: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Leader: *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

People: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Leader: *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

All: Lord, we thank You for sending Your Son, the gift of unconditional love. Let Your love fill our hearts this season and help us to love others as You have loved us. May Your love guide us and shine brightly through us in all we do. Amen.

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