

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GREENVILLE, SC 29601
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2022
10:00 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger
arranged for oboe and piano by David Moore

Mike West, oboe

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; + Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

In this season of light, let us come before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

God of Love and Light,

**We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be.
We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark.
We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated, and judgmental.
We inflame others by lashing out in anger.
We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt.
We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.
Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light.
Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.
Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing.
We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness as all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Know this day that all your sins are forgiven, in the name of God, the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Remain Standing

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.***

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about turn. *Refrain***

**From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

THE ABC'S OF CHRISTMAS

by Erin Klassen

A is for Angel. The Angel Gabriel, in the gospel of Luke, began the story by telling Mary, “Good morning! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty. Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.... Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.”

B is for Bethlehem, where our story takes place.

People traveled from far and wide to get to Bethlehem, which was not a very big village.

C is for Census, which means an official counting of all the people.

This is the reason so many people came to Bethlehem.

D is for Donkey.

A donkey carried the family on their long journey. Mary and Joseph had to travel 107 miles along the Jordan River to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That is a very long journey.

E is for Exhausted.

That’s how everyone must have felt when they arrived. It would take about 36 hours of walking to go that far. That’s three days in a row of doing nothing but walking.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus move to the manger.

F is for Family.

Mary and Joseph and their new baby, Jesus, created a new family, one that would bless the whole world.

The gospel of Luke says it this way: “While they were there, the time came for Mary to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

G is for the Good News about to be shared with all the earth.

This is what the angels said:

According to the gospel of Luke, “There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. The shepherds were terrified. The angel said, “Do not be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket lying in a manger.” At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God’s praises: “Glory to God in the heavenly heights. Peace to all people on earth.”

Angels are invited to come to the stage and gather behind the manger during Hark, the Herald Angels Sing with their bulletins.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.**

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.

**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.**

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

H is for Hope.

Hope is knowing that good news is coming, even when things look bleak. Jesus is the source of our hope.

I is for Imagine.

If we close our eyes and imagine the scene, we can see the beauty and wonder of the angels proclaiming good news to all people. We can see the shepherds, first terrified, but then overcome with joy as they hear the good news. If we try even harder, we can imagine a world where God's peace reigns, where there is no war or hunger. And if we can imagine it, we can do it with God's help.

J is for Joy.

Joy is a kind of happiness that comes from God. It cannot be dampened, and is always shared. The birth of Jesus gives us joy.

All shepherds and animals are invited to come to the stage during the hymn Joy to the World and gather among the angels with their bulletins.

HYMN

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

K is for Kindness.

Kindness begins with the understanding that we all struggle. Kindness is more than deeds. It is an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that encourages, strengthens, and empowers. Always be kind. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Shine love and light into the world through kindness. . . .kindness for every human being, for all of God's creatures.

L is for Lost.

When Jesus grew up he told a lot of stories, and three of them were about lost things that were found. He loved to find lost things, and when you are with Jesus, you will never be lost. He is the good shepherd, who will do anything to find you. L is also for Love. Jesus summarized his ministry by saying "Love God..." and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

M is for Manger.

A manger is usually used to hold food for animals, but this time it held the baby because he had no crib.

HYMN

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

N is for Noel.

Noel is another word for Christmas. It means new birth, and that's what happened in our story. That's what happens every year at Christmas time. That's what happens every time we decide to follow Jesus – he is born anew in us.

O is for Offering.

The wise ones gave gifts to the baby, and we can offer our gifts every day. We give our time, our talents, and our treasure to God, and pray that as a Church, we are good stewards of all that is entrusted to us.

Wise Ones are invited to come and gather around the stage during the singing of Go Tell It on the Mountain.

HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

P is for Peace.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and is the source of the kind of peace that surpasses all understanding.

Q is for Quiet.

We begin a time of prayer in quiet, allowing God to speak to us.

R is for Revealed.

Revealed means “showing us something that was once hidden.” God revealed to us what love looks like by giving us Jesus. Jesus is love, and reveals to us the way to love one another.

S is for Star.

One special star lit up the night with a brilliant glow of warmth and love and guided wise ones to come to see the baby. The wise ones were mysterious, and they lived far away, but they brought gifts to Jesus because they knew that he would grow up to be the Savior of the world. Matthew’s gospel tells us this: Instructed by the king, the wise ones set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child with Mary and Joseph. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

T is for Table.

When Jesus grew up he invited all to his table. He gave his friends bread and wine, and told them to remember him always. When we gather at the Lord’s Table today, we call it Communion because we come together. So at this table, we also remember the next letter:

U is for Unity.

Communion is a time when all people can come together to be one. Just as many grains come together to form one bread, so we who are many people, come together to be one body of Christ.

V is for Vulnerable.

Vulnerable means, “able to be hurt.” Every baby is very vulnerable, and so are we when we love one another. God became vulnerable when Jesus was born, and we are called to be vulnerable when we love our brothers and sisters.

W is for Wonder.

Like the wise ones, we stand in awe and wonder of the newborn baby Jesus.

X is for Christ.

X is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in the word “Christ.” The X is one of the most ancient symbols of Christianity. People have been using the letter X to stand for Christ for centuries.

Y is for You.

You angels. You animals. You wise ones. You shepherds. You sons and daughters. You mothers and fathers. You siblings in Christ. You friends and guests. You are all here to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Z is for Zeal.

Let your zeal for Christ burn brightly. The light of Christ is shining brightly in and through you. As the star shines brightly over the Bethlehem stable, may you shine the light and love of Christ into the world.

All nativity participants are invited to return to their seats during the music prior to the hymn.

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Silent Night, Holy Night!

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Watching and waiting joyfully for Christ with the sure and certain hope that God frees us from the bondage of sin, we pray for the church, creation, and all in need.

Brief silence

Holy One, you bring hope and peace to the world through the good news of your word. Bless, strengthen, and reform your church to more closely resemble your kin-dom. Raise up leaders who are willing to proclaim your inclusive Gospel to absolutely all people. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Magnificent One, your creation is full of glory and wonder. Bless the cardinals who remain steadfast in this area while other birds have migrated further south. Grant peaceful slumber to the bears who begin hibernating in the mountains north of here. We give you thanks for your tender love of all creation. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Just One, you lead us mercifully from generation to generation. Guide legislators both locally and nationally in making decisions in the best interest of not only this generation, but the generations to come. Bring peace to families torn by political conflict. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Inclusive One, you are Emanuel to all. We give you thanks that in this place, a baby born to queer parents can play the role of baby Jesus in a Christmas pageant. Use this symbol to fill our hearts with the knowledge that we are all your holy family and all types of families are holy. Your work of radical inclusion is often difficult. Sustain us with more joyful days such as these, when seemingly small things tell us of how life changing your gospel can be. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Mighty One, you bring the powerful down from their thrones and lift up the lowly. Bring food to those of us who have too little and guide those of us who have too much to share freely. Provide warm and safe shelter to those of us who find ourselves without places to lay our head. Swiftly bring justice and equity to those who are oppressed, especially those suffering under the strong arm of power, hate, and patriarchy. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Healing One, you blessed Mary with the miracle of pregnancy. When it be your will, and at your perfect time, bring your miraculous healing to those who are sick. Comfort the dying and grant the terminally ill the gift of Christian hope. Be with all who suffer alone this holiday season. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Loving One, you let your face shine upon your people. Continue using this congregation to do your good work in the world. Strengthen new justice ministries and sustain our youth, queer, music, and education ministries. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Eternal One, through Christ, you have made a way for all people to know eternal life. We thank you for the witness of all the faithful who have gone before us to be with you. Fill us with the beautiful hope of eternal life as we await your coming. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.
And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

OFFERING ANTHEM

Adult Choir

Mary Did You Know
by Mary Lowry and Buddy Greene
Arr. Jack Schrader

Please stand as able

OFFERTORY HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

**Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth,
From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.
Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.**

Let us pray. God of Light, **our world is a very dark place.**
Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time, and, our resources,
trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence.
May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good
works and give glory to you.
We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished.

Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us.

We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth.

Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it.

With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One — God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes — Blessed! Blessed! in — the name of God. —

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now
and forever.**

Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

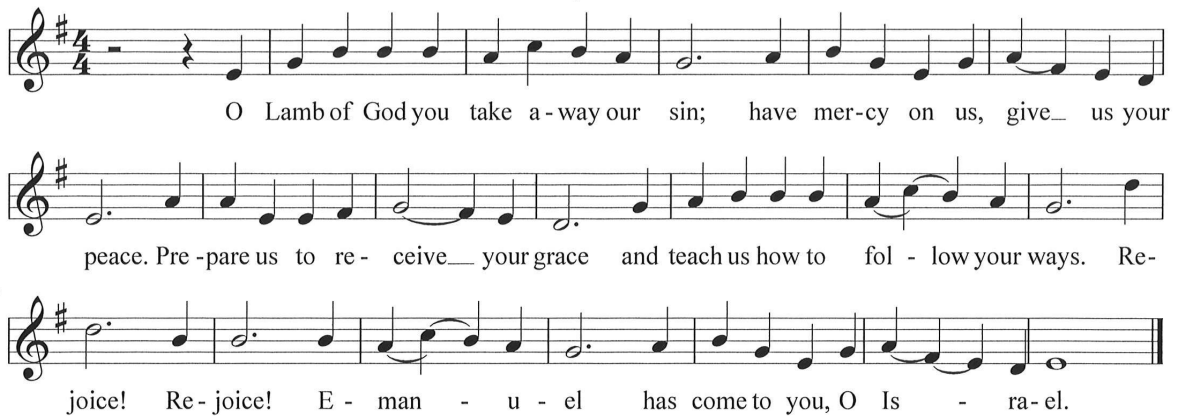
Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

Worshipers will come forward to receive the bread and wine and then return to their seats to consume the elements.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give_ us your
peace. Pre -pare us to re- ceive__ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-
joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

ANTHEM

A Christmas Carillon
by Margaret R. Tucker

Handbell Choir

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain***

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain***

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain***

**O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain***

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the evercircling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, our bright Morning Star,
we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper.
May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world
with your love, justice, and peace.
We ask this in your holy name.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Creator, ✚ Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Everyone is invited to gather in the Multipurpose Room
for a festive Christmas Brunch. Exit the Gym by the right rear doors
to enter the Multipurpose Room*

*Drama participants are encouraged to keep their candy canes, halos,
masks, and stars, or return them to the tables where they received them.*

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their 21st anniversary by Lani Ludian and Roberto Bautista.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist/Choir Director	Jim Parham
Pageant Coordinator	Amy Brown
Narrators	Mark Allen, Megan Finnern
Prayers	Emily Hager
Letter Bearers	Samuel Godfrey, Adaline McCormack Abby Sease, Ryan Spearman
The Holy Family	Missy Roberts, Jonathan and Greyson Preacher
Instrumentalists	
Violins	Caroline Brightwell, Mary Beth Ridenhour
Viola	Grace Butler
Cello	Heather Kleckley
Flute	Joanna Lewis
Oboe	Mike West
Clarinet	Jax Jordan
Euphonium	Nate Hybl
Glockenspiel	John Beckford
Tambourine	Chad Brightwell
Guitar	Steve Koenemann
Mandolin	Jack Wilcox
Greeters	Jo Lewis, Lane Lewis David Nichols, Karen Nichols, Melanie Wessinger
Ushers	Bonnie Farmer, Wayne Landreth, Lani Ludian
Brunch Coordinator	Cathie Landreth
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley
Photographer	Steve Boguski

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Vice-President

Richard Moose
Treasurer

Wynne Boliek

Tom DiAntonio

Heather Fanning

Debbie Farstad

Greg Hamluk

Calvin Harmon

Heather Kleckley
Secretary

Roger Brown
Youth

Melissa Kolb

Terry Morgan

John Otten

Jimmy Reynolds

Peggy Schotsch