



Christmas  
Eve

December 24, 2024  
10pm

**Welcome!**

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

**The Love of God Gathers Us**

**Gathering Music**

*We gently settle into sacred time and space*

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Prelude and Candle Lighting** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Trad French Carol*

*Acknowledging the light of Christ among us*

**Words of Welcome**

**Choral Anthem**

“Advent Alleluia”

*Jay Althouse*

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

## **Advent Candle Lighting**

In this season of Advent, we gather around a wreath...  
We light the candle of HOPE...  
We light the candle of PEACE...  
We light the candle of JOY...  
We light the candle of LOVE... Let us pray:

**Emmanuel, we celebrate your Advent in Jesus. And we light an Advent of new hope in this time and place. Amen.**

## **Sung Response**

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

*traditional carol, chorus by Maren Tirabassi*

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
is come to birth where all God’s children dwell.**

## **Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

### **Prayer of Confession & Longing** *(responsive)*

God of love incarnate, the birth of the Christ child reminds us that all our wonderings come home to you. Our griefs and delights find a place in the stable where you transform scarcity and fear into abundance and companionship.

**Your light shines in our lives; your peace embraces our struggle; your life opens us to new awareness of ourselves and our neighbors. We confess that we sometimes fail to stay open and aware. In Jesus’ humble birth we discover your everlasting grace. We welcome you and offer you our thanks and praise. Amen..**

### **Musical Interlude**

*...to accompany our quiet prayers*

### **Assurance of Grace** *(responsive)*

**One: The peace of Christ be with you!      All: And also with you!**

## **\*Passing the Peace**

*...to those with us online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes*

### **Lessons and Carols**

<b>The First Reading Carol (NCH #126)</b>	<b>“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”</b> <b>vs. 1 &amp; 4</b>	Isaiah 9: 2-7
<b>The Second Reading Carol (NCH #133)</b>	<b>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</b> <b>vs. 1-2</b>	Luke 2: 1-7
<b>The Third Reading Carol (NCH #132)</b>	<b>“Joy to the World”</b> <b>vs. 1-2</b>	Luke 2: 8-12
<b>The Fourth Reading Carol (NCH #125)</b>	<b>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</b> <b>vs. 1-2</b>	Luke 2: 13-14
<b>The Fifth Reading Carol (NCH #148)</b>	<b>“What Child is This?”</b> <b>vs. 1 &amp; 3</b>	Luke 2: 15-20
<b>The Sixth Reading</b>		John 1: 1-14
<b>Lighting the Christ Candle</b>		
<b>Carol (NCH #139)</b>	<b>“The First Nowell”</b> <b>vs. 1-2</b>	

## Responding To God's Love

### Message

Solo

“Ave Maria”

Giulio Caccini

### A Prayer for Christmastide

### Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)  
*Blue electronic giving cards* represent gifts made electronically.



Offertory

“Drummer Boy”

K. Davis

\*Offertory Response “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

\*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

**God of all, in Jesus you come to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with transcendent joy like the singing of angels. Fill us with wonder like the eyes of children. May our journey to the manger renew in us a commitment to serving you. In gratitude and hope, we dedicate gifts of money and effort to the work of your love. Amen.**

\*Preparing to Share the Christ Light

\*Benediction

**\*Carol (NCH #134)**

**“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, heavenly 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 thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Please extinguish your candle as lights come up*

**\*Postlude**

*Departing quietly, we place candles in baskets at exits*

*We carry the Christ light in all times and spaces  
**Peace on Earth and good tidings to all!***

**We thank our poinsettia donors...**

**Jill Greenhalgh and Rolf Dittmann**

*In gratitude for the Greenhalgh and Dittmann families.*

**Pastor Clare Gromoll**

*In gratitude for the loving people who are our church.*

**Paula and Walt Richey**

*In honor of Rev. Linda Tossey.*

**Sarah and Therese Thorson**

*In memory of Joselle Rosengren.*

**Fritz West**

*In memory of Cynthia Evans West and William and Jean West.*

**Mary Horak Binger**

**Kathleen Dennison**

**Andi Favilla**

**Sue Favilla**



*We encourage donors to take flowers home following the service tonight.*

## PRAYER CORNER

*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:*

### *For persons known to us...*

\*For our **Jewish siblings** in the wake of Temple Israel being defaced with swastikas last week in Minneapolis. For those experiencing fear in the face of hateful actions... For all to have open minds and loving hearts amidst human diversity.

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother, **Allen**, as his prostate cancer returns.



## Thanks for all 2025 Intended Gifts!

We invite any members and friends who anticipate offering financial support in 2025 to please turn in your form as well. This will help our leaders plan our upcoming ministry.

We look forward to the coming year! *Giving forms in Narthex.*





All are welcome  
to join us  
on Sunday mornings

**Weekly Sunday Worship**

Choir Rehearsal | 8:30 am

Worship | 9:30 am


Children's Activity & Youth Group (age 3 - gr 12) | 9:45-10:15 am

Fellowship | 10:30 am

Adult Faith Conversations | 11:00 am

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Bob Dickie (greeters), Sam Gromoll (youth greeter), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (soloist & liturgist), Cheri Schwartz (liturgists), SCUC Choir, Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla, Sharri Kinkead, Arly Fuhr, Mary Binger, & Kathleen Dennison (decorations)



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# Angels, from the Realms of Glory

126

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
Seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:  
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend - ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

## Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

*James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper Sheffield Iris, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
Henry T. Smart, 1867

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7**Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.  
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.  
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

*Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.*

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.  
 Lewis H. Redner, 1868  
 Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN

## Joy to the World!

132

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its  
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and  
 re -  
 and

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 won - ders of God's love,

*Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."*

*Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased  
 Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a  
 hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.*

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.  
 Lowell Mason, 1836

## Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol  
 Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.  
 St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heaven - ly song.  
 Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.  
 Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

The earliest version of this anonymous French carol was first published in 1855. There have been numerous English translations since the 1860s, but the carol did not gain widespread ecumenical usage until the first half of the twentieth century.

Tune: GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
 (LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES)  
 French carol melody

ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

The image shows a musical score for a Christmas song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.' are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords and rests. There are some faint, illegible markings above the treble staff, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



## What Child Is This

148

William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;  
John 19:16b-18, 34

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.

This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain  
English traditional melody, 16th century

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-12

Traditional English carol; alt.

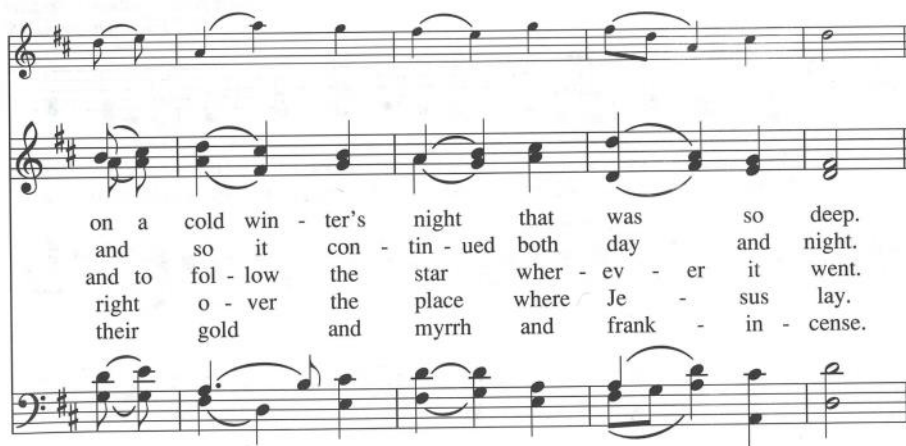
*Descant*

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,  
 2 They looked a - bove and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star shone bright in the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,  
 three sag - es came from coun - try far;  
 o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,  
 and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 To seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 And there it did both stop and stay,  
 They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,





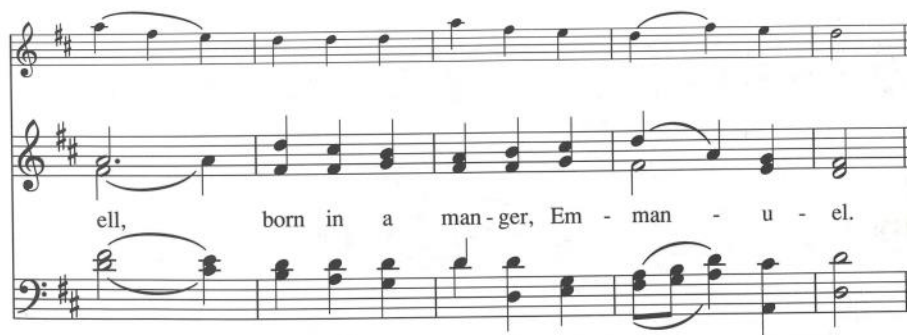
on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*



*Refrain*

Now - ell, now - ell, now - ell, now -



ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

*Though perhaps of earlier origins, this anonymous English carol first appeared in print in the nineteenth century. "Nowell" stems from the Latin novellae (news) and is used as a joyous greeting to celebrate Jesus' birth.*

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL Irr. with refrain  
Traditional English melody  
Harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871  
Descant, Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937