



Service of Worship December 1, 2024 9:30am
First Sunday of Advent

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

“Make Room”

by Casting Crowns

Praise Team/All

A fam’ly hiding from the storm found no place at the keeper’s door.
It was for this a child was born: to save a world so cold and hollow.

A sleeping town, they did not know that lying in a manger low
a Savior King who had no home has come to heal our sorrows.

**Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart for God to write his story?**

**You can come as you are. It may set you apart,
when you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for his glory.
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart.**

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

(Sung)

**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.**

(Spoken)

The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more hope.

Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

We are a people who long for Good News.

There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

Holy and Living God, we pray for the renewal of our world.

Too often, we let fear or complacency prevent us from
calling out the injustices of our time.

Give us courage for action, even in the midst of our longing.

Call us to a "census of hope."

Call us to our senses

so that we may see, hear, know,

the power of your presence with us, Emmanuel.

We pray this in the name of your Son,

Jesus, the Christ, the Hope of Our Lives. **Amen.**

Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction:

God is with us every step of our way toward the Hope of Bethlehem.

Jesus is being born into our lives even now.

The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

(Sung)

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

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*SONG TO PRAISE

“O Come Divine Messiah”

by Riddle & Seay

Praise Team/All

**O come, divine Messiah. The world is longing for the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flies away.**

**Dear savior come to tired earth and bring the grace of dawn.
Dispel the night with thy face; come, Messiah, come.
O come, divine Messiah, come. O come, divine Messiah, come.**

**O thou whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Does break the captive fetters, and brings the wayward home.**

**Dear savior come to tired earth and bring the grace of dawn.
Dispel the night with thy face; come, Messiah, come.
O come, divine Messiah, come. O come, divine Messiah, come.**

**There is hope today that God, himself, might shine upon our souls and save.
Unto you a savior comes, and ev'rything will change, ev'rything**

O come, divine Messiah, come. O come, divine Messiah, come.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

Little Donkey

Eric Boswell

Lit - tle don - key, lit - tle don - key, on the dus - ty road,
got to keep on plod - ding on - wards with your pre - cious load.
Been a long time, lit - tle don - key, through the win - ter's night.
Don't give up now, lit - tle don - key; Beth - le - hem's in sight!

Words and music by Eric Boswell, 1959. © Chappell Music Ltd.
This version adapted from 4/4 to 3/4 time in this alternate version inspired by the original.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:18–25 (NRSVue)

Barbara Douglas

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

SONG TO REFLECT

“Magnificat”
Praise Team

by Keith & Kristyn Getty

*My soul will magnify the Lord; I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of his favour.
For he had done great things for me; he was mindful of his servant.
Ev'ry age shall call me blessed.
The hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son;
for he who promised is mighty in remembering his mercy.*

*My soul will magnify the Lord for his grace to those who fear him
through ev'ry generation.
The proud he scatters to the wind as the ruler's strength is broken,
and the rich are left with nothing.
The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied;
our portion and our treasure, our hope and help forever.*

My soul will magnify the Lord; I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of his favour.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1–3 (NRSVue)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Lead me, guide me, along the way.
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

“Emmanuel”
Praise Team

by Steve Angrisano

Come, come Emmanuel! Son of God, appear.
Heaven and earth, rejoice! Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the song of God appear.

Come, come Emmanuel! Son of God, appear.
Heaven and earth, rejoice! Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near!

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Come, come Emmanuel! Son of God, appear.
Heaven and earth, rejoice! Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near!

DOXOLOGY

(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

**Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion "Gabriel's Message" by Matt Maher

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:

"All hail" said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother, thou shalt be. All generations laud and honor thee.

Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored maiden!" Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.

"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Prayer After Communion

Sending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

(Sung)

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our fear, and draw us near; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

*SONG TO SEND

“Make Room”

by Casting Crowns

Praise Team/All

Shepherds counting sheep at night. Do not fear the glory light.
You are precious in his sight. God has come to raise the lowly.

**Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart for God to write his story?**

**You can come as you are. It may set you apart,
When you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for his glory.
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart.**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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