



Service of Worship December 8, 2024 9:30am
Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE "All the Angels Sing" by Rob Romeyn
GCPC Wind Ensemble – Pam Smith Kelly, director

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY Andrew & Amy Sellers' family

(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 continues, and this candle will help light our way.
We are on our way to more peace.

Life is full of expectations and waiting for the right time,
the right answer, the right opportunity.

We are a people who wait for Good News.

It is hard to wait, but there are milestone moments
when we get a glimpse of what true peace feels like.

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

Holy and Living God, we pray to you in the midst of unanswered questions.

Often we are anxious and impatient as we desperately
want to know outcomes and chart our life's path with certainty.

Give us patience, God.

Call us to pause in peaceful surrender,
even and especially when the pieces of our lives
seem to be falling apart rather than getting put together.

Open our hearts to know your enduring presence
in this very moment, in this waiting.

We pray this in the name of your Son,
Jesus, the Christ, the Prince of Peace. **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 Peace 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!

*HYMN 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

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 12:9–18

Anne Stroud

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

ANTHEM

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Music by Paul O. Manz

Words Revelation 22,
Adapted by Ruth Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins.
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,
who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more.
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:5–25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

**Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

740 Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D)
Refrain E^b (A7) B^b7 (Em) Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you
 lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Fine*

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.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC “Olde English Carol” arr. Robert W. Smith
 (What Child Is This?)
 GCPC Wind Ensemble

*Doxology *(Sung to the tune of “Away in a Manger”)* MUELLER

**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.**

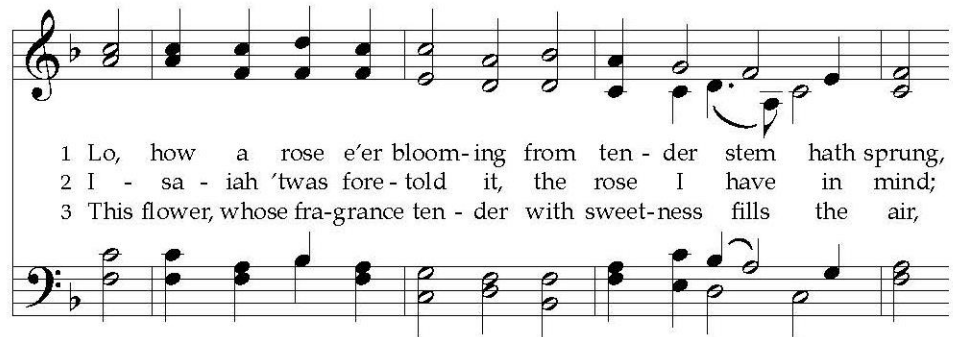
Sending

*HYMN 129

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

EST IST EIN' ROS'

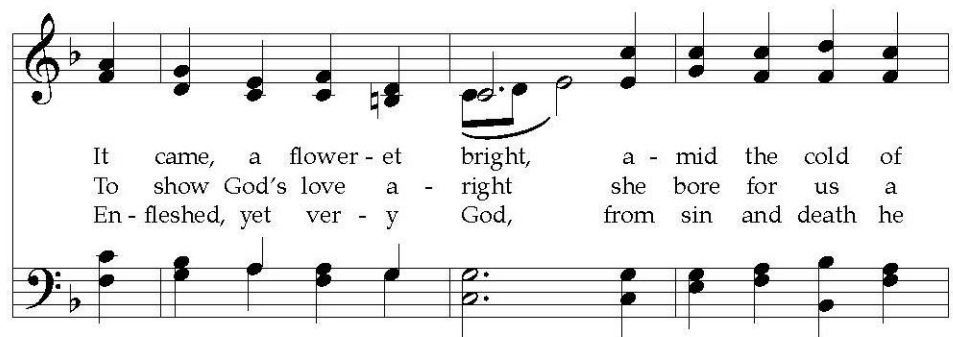
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129



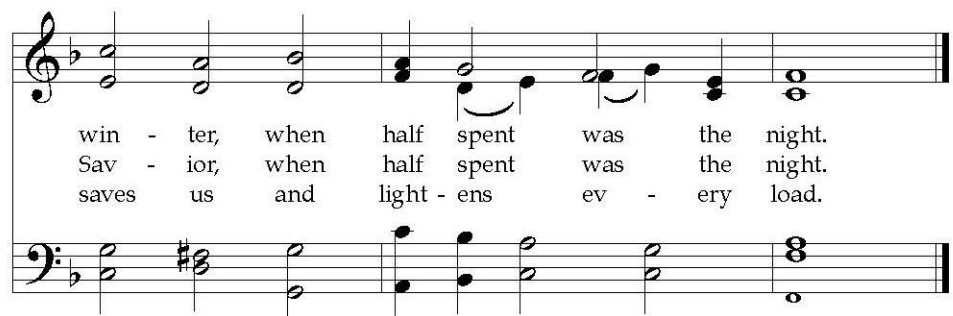
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.



It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

(Sung)

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast 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.**

POSTLUDE

Finale from "Rhapsody on Christmas Carols"
GCPC Wind Ensemble

by Claude T. Smith

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

Songs of the season
Swinging & Singing into Christmas

GCPC Wind Ensemble

Pam Smith Kelly, director

Katie Hearn, Jani Scheppers, *flutes*

Bob Dover, Edwin Fukunaga, *clarinets*

Lisa England, *bassoon* ~ Pat Setser, *bass clarinet*

Charlie Graves, Russ Thompson, Kevin Schwartz, *trumpets*

Jim Kelly, Wendy Kenemer, Ellin Schoenfeld, *horns*

David Roth, David England, *trombones*

Mike Hockley, Lara Schesser, *baritones*

Brent Herdman, Paul Weissenborn, Brandon Hord, *tubas*

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, *string bass*

Keith Langabee, Ken Eberhart, *percussion*

Linda Dover, *piano and organ*

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