

Fourth Sunday of Advent



"We Refuse to be Enemies":

Words of Welcome at a Palestinian peace center on the West Bank

December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...

an adventure for life!

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.
- Please silence your cell phone.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Please be respectful of people who use this time to prepare for worship.

Prelude *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* arr. Larry Shackley

Advent Candle Lighting *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*



4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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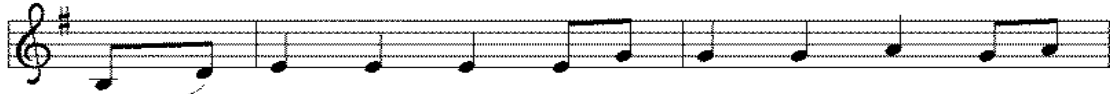


Welcome

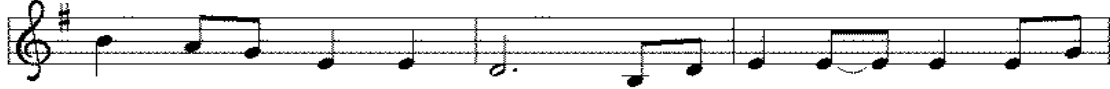
Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



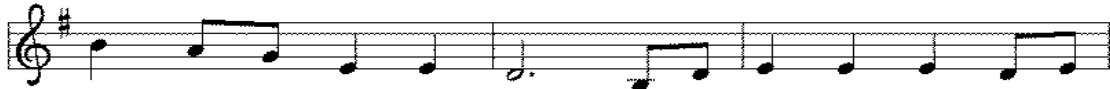
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



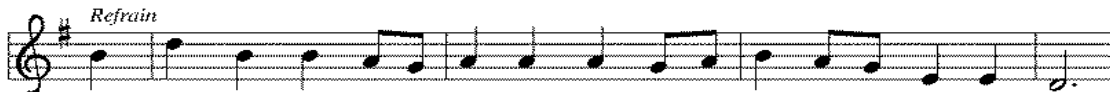
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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Greeting

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

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God. *To refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

To refrain

for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us;

to make us peo - ple of God; to make

To refrain

all things new.

Please be seated

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading

Romans 16:25-27 (The Message)

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the early church at Rome

All of our praise rises to the One who is strong enough to make you strong, exactly as preached in Jesus Christ, precisely as revealed in the mystery kept secret for so long but now an open book through the prophetic Scriptures. All the nations of the world can now know the truth and be brought into obedient belief, carrying out the orders of God, who got all this started, down to the final detail.

All our praise is focused through Jesus on this incomparably wise God!
Yes!

May we open ourselves to what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Amen.**

Please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation


Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*



Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Luke 1:46b-55

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Annunciation

Luke 1: 26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."
(Immediately to "The Magnificat")

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

All:

1.3. My soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y
great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of
you, heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with
fine last time
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,
strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,
How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,
hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

The Gospel of the Lord

Please be seated

Praise to you, O Christ.

Spoken Reflection

THERE IS ONLY US

Musical Reflection

On Jordan's Banks/People, Look East! arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Chime Choir

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Community Prayers

Let us pray....

After each petition: "Receive our prayer,"

Your mercy is great.

Amen.

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Pastor Tim Muller, Heidi Sherer, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose
The people of All Shepherds Lutheran Church in Lewis Center; Redeemer community members Kathy and Bob Rapp

Time with the Young People

Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Members are encouraged to move around the sanctuary to greet each with a hearty handshake or a hug. For those who have special concerns or who do not wish close contact, please offer a sign of blessing to let others know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.

We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshiping via livestream before greeting those in the sanctuary.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to share this communion meal.

Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.

In body or spirit, please stand

Offertory All the Music Sung and Played Here

Bless the talents we are bringing, for we offer you our best.

If our gifts are not in singing, may our joyful noise be blest.

If our world is ever silent, may we sign to you above.

Touched by grace, may each one present offer back your song of love.

SONGS OF GRACE: New Hymns for God and Neighbor. © 2009 Discipleship Resources. All rights reserved. Purchasers of this volume are granted permission to use the texts included in public worship. Acknowledgement of the author and source is required with each use.

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
 One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

God of grace, as we follow the example of Jesus, send your Holy Spirit upon us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May we find the imagination, the courage, and the strength to use our waiting times to build your Beloved Community of joy, justice, and peace, for which we now pray:

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sharing the Meal

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal.
So do we.

Please be seated

You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray, grape-apple juice in the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available on request, ask Pastor.



Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten



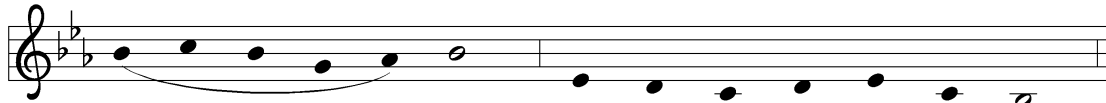
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Hymn The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Mystery, the earth still waits for its healing. May we who are part of that waiting take and use the waiting times to re-imagine how we can be healers of creation. Open our hands and hearts to embrace and use the uncertain times to learn how to live and love. So may our watching and waiting join with that of Emmanuel to realize your beloved community here on earth.

Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Hymn **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

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

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

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*

Blessing

Amen.

Announcements

Postlude ***Comfort, Comfort Now My People*** arr. Larry Shackley

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Holden Evening Prayer © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc.

To fulfill the Mission Endowment Fund's guidelines, the Special Funds Team (SFT) is seeking suggestions for the use of the funds for 2023. Please use the **pink** form to nominate possible recipients. Complete it and place it in the Sunday offering plate or leave it in the church office. Suggestions are due by **Sunday, December 24**. The SFT will then make its recommendation to council for action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. See **Reflections** newsletter for more details.

Humanitarian Support in The Holy Land



Middle East Crisis

Both [Lutheran World Relief](https://tinyurl.com/nc94955d) <https://tinyurl.com/nc94955d> and [Lutheran Disaster Response](https://tinyurl.com/2ywxumtz) <https://tinyurl.com/2ywxumtz> will contribute 100% of designated funds to relief work in The Holy Land.

Use the links above to donate directly.



Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm

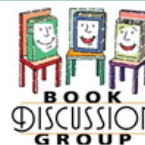
In-Person and Livestream

Christmas Day Worship

10:00 am

In-Person and Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sGE88YtJrLWuGWO0sS-yw>



Wednesday, January 17

7-8:30 pm

This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto

by Suketu Mehta

Copies are available in public libraries.

IN-PERSON and ZOOM

<https://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tK M2xE d3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09>

Meeting ID: **865 8150 4887** +++ Passcode **274918**

Phone Only: **312-626-6799**

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister	David Shull, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Karen Rider
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ashley Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
Communion Prep	Wendy Stoica
Producers	Scott Steiner, Judith Bird
Hospitality	Judith and Ashley Bird

*Flowers are given by the **Collins family** in memory of **Karen Collins**.
Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence*

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER DECEMBER 24 - 31

Today	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	7:00 pm	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Christmas Eve Worship
Monday	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Christmas Day Worship
Next Sunday	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion



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Office hours -9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America