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**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Back to the First Christmas:**  
**A Christmas Pageant**



Artwork by Kathryn Ott

**December 21, 2025 + 10:00 am**

**Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...**  
*an adventure for life!*



Please stand in body or spirit

# Hymn

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Unison*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

*Refrain (Harmony)*

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
cause us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -  
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vs. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954) VENI EMMANUEL  
MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) L.M.Ref.

## 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*

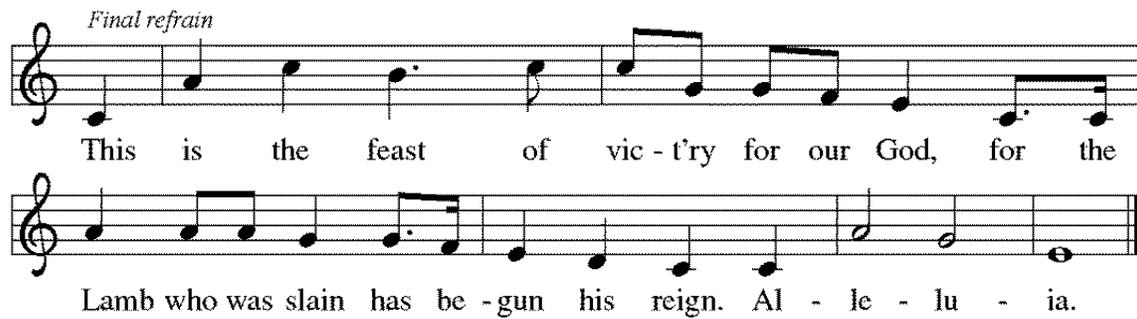
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the  
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be  
peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*  
hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of  
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-

le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and  
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,  
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the  
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of Play and Delight, Jesus told us when we live in this world with the wonder and freedom of children, we catch glimpses of the world you dream of. May we listen well to the young people in our midst, so we might be reminded of the wisdom they know which we too easily forget. We pray in the name of the Coming One, who always and everywhere invited children to come to him. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*



## WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

*Please be seated*

### **“BACK TO THE FIRST CHRISTMAS”**

*The idea for this story came from the creative mind of Kathryn Ott.*

*All the young people turned it into a story.*

*Based on their awesome work, Pastor Dave turned it into a play.*

*Most of the shepherds' words come from a pageant written by Bob Perkins,  
a member of a church Dave served in Seattle.*

### **Cast**

Narrator: Katie Jacobs

Amanda: Kathryn Ott

Mary and Ox: Ruby Jacobs

Angel and Donkey: Caroline Ott

Angel: Shanaëlle Saint Felix

Joseph: Dave Shull

Innkeeper: Wendy Stoica

Shepherd: Wendy Stoica

Shepherd: Sheryl Owens

Shepherd: Nancy Magargal

Holy Family: Surprise cameo appearances



Hymn

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We greet those who are livestreaming with us by waving to the camera in the back of the sanctuary above the choir loft. Then you are encouraged to greet each other in a way that expresses the peace and love of Christ.*

*If you do not wish close contact, offer a sign of blessing to others to let them know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.*

## Musical Reflection

### ***Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang***

Robert Lau  
*Choir*

O lowly maiden, O blessed woman,  
You have been chosen to bring us the king.  
Peace be with you, O fairest holy one,  
Mary, mother, child of God.

#### ***REFRAIN***

Ave, ave, ave Maria.  
Ave, ave the angel sang.  
Ave, ave, ave Maria  
Ave, ave the angel sang.

Fair one so gentle, filled with the Spirit,  
You will bear Jesus, the savior of all.  
Don't be afraid now, God's love surrounds you.  
Mary, mother, child of God. ***REFRAIN***

What will you call him, O lovely maiden?  
Rulers and nations will bow at his name.  
Let all creation give thanks for the holy one:  
Jesus, Savior, child of God. ***REFRAIN***

## Community Prayers

After each petition: "Your mercy is great, O God."

**Receive our prayer.**

**Amen.**

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

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, 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, Becky and Larry Trover's son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Karen Rider's niece Tammy and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim, and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Debbie Turner's friends Sherrie and Jim Tompkins, Emily Crosley, Bill Boys, Grace and Ken Jones and their son Dan Jones, Ranel and Neil Hoddinott's son-in-law Russ Ward, sister and brother-in-law Paulie and Jerry Shaffer, and friend Lana's daughter Mary  
For the people of Ibada ya Kiswahili Lutheran Church in Pataskala  
For Redeemer community member Heidi Sherer



## 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

### You Are Holy

1\*



You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

\* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling

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South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

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## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and good for us to gather at this table of Emmanuel – God-with-us. This is the place where bread and wine remind us how to live and love as those who inhabit God’s time, and work to build God’s Beloved Community. This is the place where we recognize that the one for whom we wait is also the one who is already, and always, here with us.

So come! Whether you are watching for the dawn, or dreading first light, whether you are waiting with hope, or hiding your face, come with quiet confidence. Here Emmanuel watches for our coming, and waits with love and joy to welcome us in.

The story of Emmanuel is the story of God – waiting to inhabit time, who took on flesh and form, and lived among us, so that we might re-imagine life. It is the story of Jesus – waiting to be betrayed, who shared supper with his friends, where he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take this and eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me.” And after supper he took the cup and gave it to them, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.”

And so, taking this bread and wine, we remember and celebrate the waiting which began to change the world; and we join our voices with all who still wait and work for that change to come to completion:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, 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

Whoever you are, from wherever you come, whatever you believe, you are welcome and invited to receive. Come! For all things are now ready.

*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

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



# Hymn

## In the Bleak Midwinter

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

*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

like a child

Gm C Am Dm

1 like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a  
2 like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a  
3 like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a

Gm C F D7

child and a friend, Je - sus comes like a  
child on the street, Je - sus comes like a  
child here to stay, Je - sus comes like a

Gm7 C Am Dm7

child we may find claim - ing heart soul and mind, like a  
child we once knew com - ing back in - to view, like a  
child we re - ceive all that love can con - ceive, like a

Gm7 C11 F

child strong and kind, Je - sus comes  
child born a - new, Je - sus comes  
child we be - lieve Je - sus comes

**Blessing**

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Postlude**

***Joy to the World***

arr. John Ness Beck

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The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications.  
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**Adult Ed**  
**December 21 – 11:45-12:45**  
**Room 2**



**A Conversation with Pastor Dave**  
**about anything**

In-Person and Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81952034409?pwd=IsIzRLXkWCVvjlAgAzG6mvTT2N9uIR.1>  
Meeting ID: 819 5203 4409  
Passcode: 781179  
Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



***Christmas Eve Worship***  
**7:00 pm**  
***In-Person and Livestream***

***Christmas Day Worship***  
**10:00 am**  
***In-Person***

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



**Birthdays this week:**  
24 – Julianne Johnson  
24 – WilFrantz Raymond  
25 – Doug Eakin  
26 – Emily Kent

## OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	David Shull, Pastor
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Mary Benis
<b>Cantor</b>	Scott Steiner
<b>ASL Interpreter</b>	Emily Ott
<b>Organist &amp; Senior Choir Director</b>	Kathy Rapp
<b>Pianist &amp; Chime Choir Director</b>	Karen Kent
<b>Usher</b>	Mike Benis
<b>Verger</b>	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Becky Trover, Michele Disbro, Otts
<b>Producers</b>	April Smith, Judith Bird
<b>Hospitality</b>	Wendy Stoica, Karen Rider

*Flowers are given by **Melissa Hackim** celebrating **Debbie Turner's** birthday.  
The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA Good Gifts.*

## THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER DECEMBER 21 – 28

<b>Today</b>	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion and Children's Christmas Program
	11:15 am	Decorate sanctuary for Christmas Eve
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM <b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 am	IN-PERSON only <b>Christmas Morning Worship</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	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