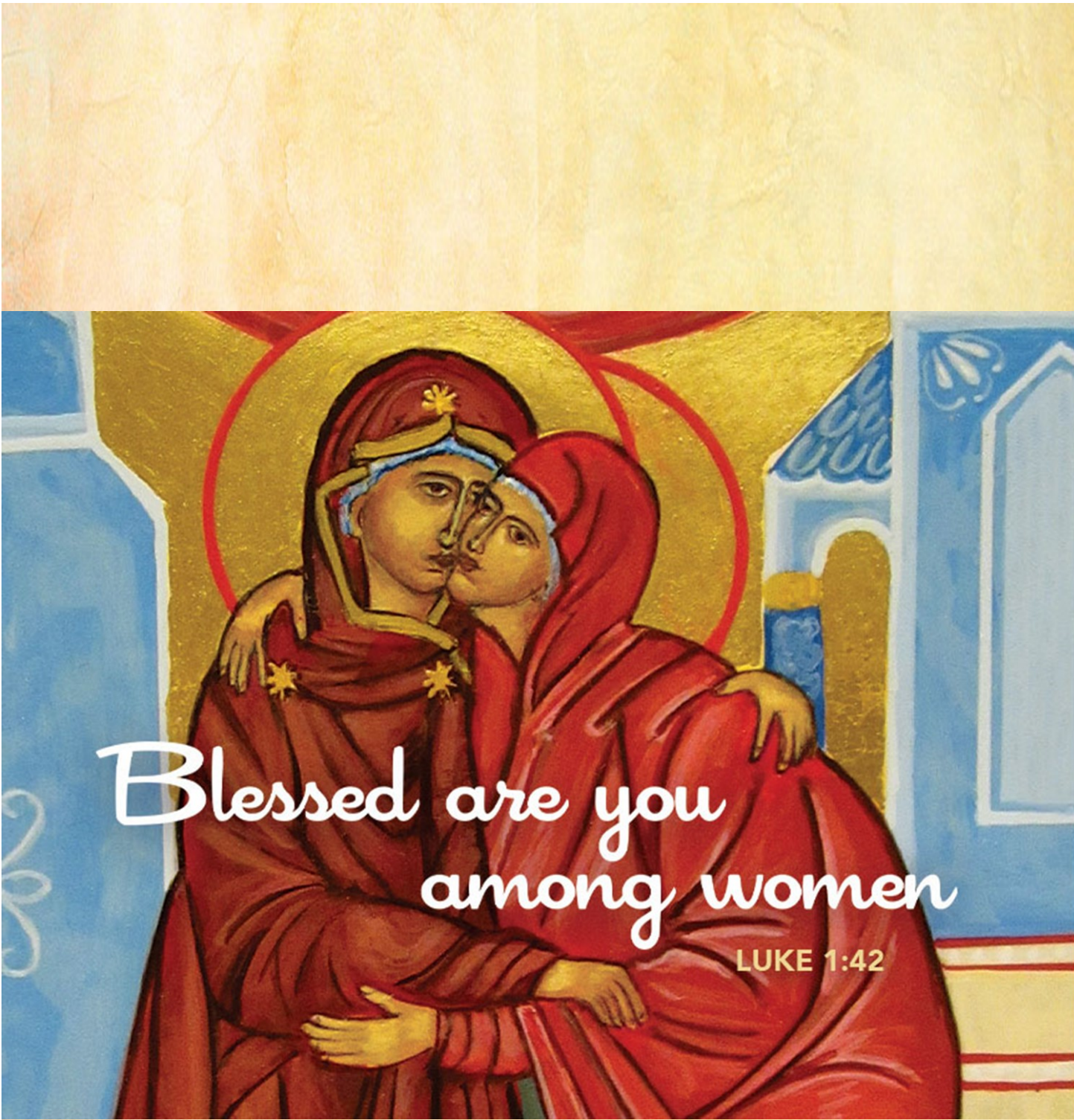




Blessed are you  
among women

LUKE 1:42



# The Forth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 18, 2021 5:00pm  
Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:00 and 10:30 am

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** Seasonal music on Euphonium -

Neal and Susan Becker

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(8am) "Hyfrydol" ("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus") Chime Trio

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## FOURTH SUNDAY - *The Wonder of the Message*

### *Candle Lighting*

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the glory of the season with renewed wonder. Advent is a time to be awed by God's redeeming love for the lost and broken. The **second candle** calls us to reclaim the promises of God spoken in ages past. As the light fills this room, so the Word of God fills our world with hope for the hurting, peace for the restless, and joy for the heavy hearted. The **third candle** is an invitation to wait patiently upon the Lord. In a world where we often lack for patience, Advent reminds us to rest in God's timing and trust God's plan. The **fourth candle** challenges us to grow in faithful expectation. As people who faith often becomes tamed to the miraculous, Advent is a time to remember afresh a God in whom all things are possible.

### *Responsive Litany*

During Advent, we ignite the wonder of expectation.

**Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

During Advent, we look for the light that shines in the darkness.

**Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

During Advent, we embrace the hope that enlivens the soul.

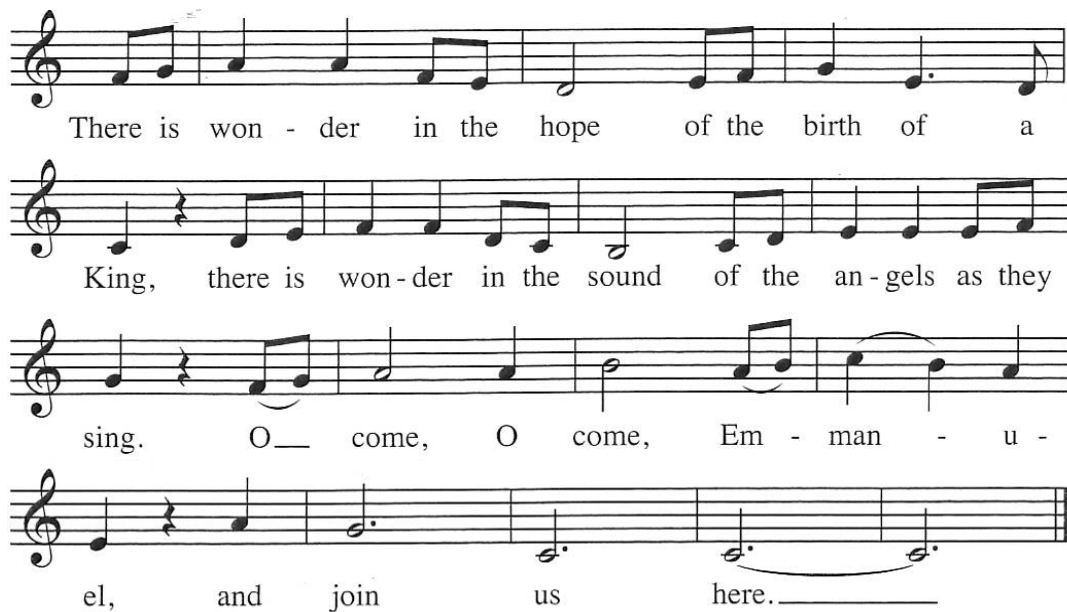
**Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

During Advent, we welcome the Savior who beckons the world.

**Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

During Advent, we rejoice in the One who has reclaimed the lost.

**Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**



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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ANTHEM

(5pm & 10:30am) "Hyfrydol" ("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus") Chime Trio  
(8am) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" People of Praise

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the

Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me

and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,**

**from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm

and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones**

**and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**

**to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,

to Abraham and his children forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

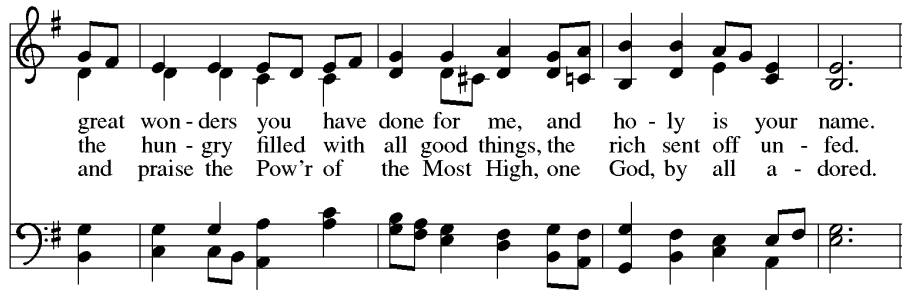
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.  
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;  
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

*(Continued on the next page)*





Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.  
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## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

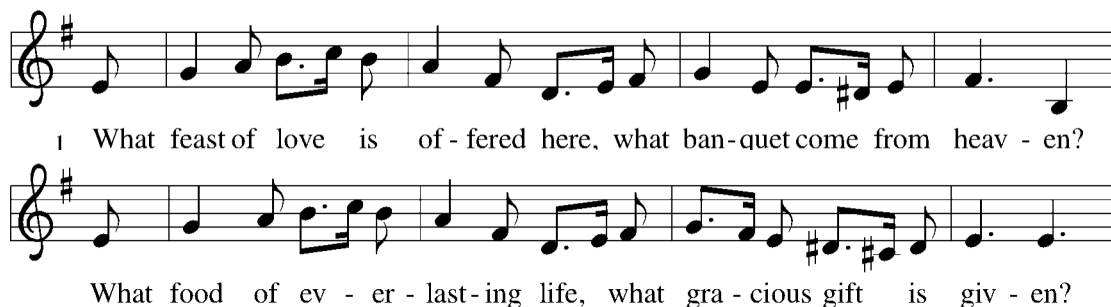
## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

*We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings to the church may be placed in the box on the table near the entrance to worship or be sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.*

### OFFERING SONG “What Feast of Love”



*(Continued on the next page.)*



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

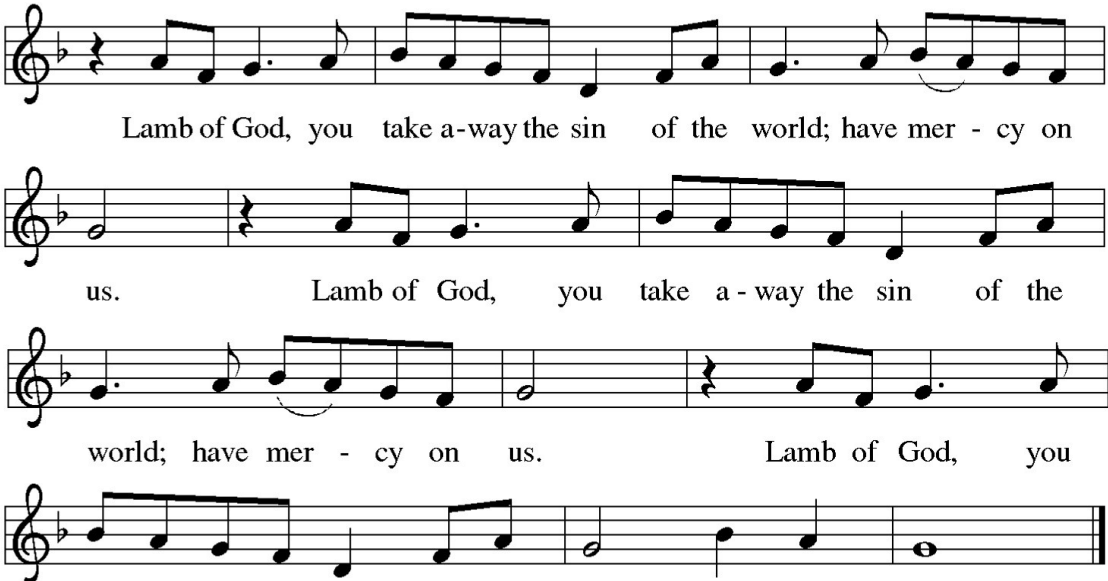
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.*

*Those worshiping with us at home may use their own bread and wine or juice for communion. On site, communion will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say "Body of Christ given for you," and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, "Blood of Christ shed for you," and you will drink the wine or juice.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**Amen.**



## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE      “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”



3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

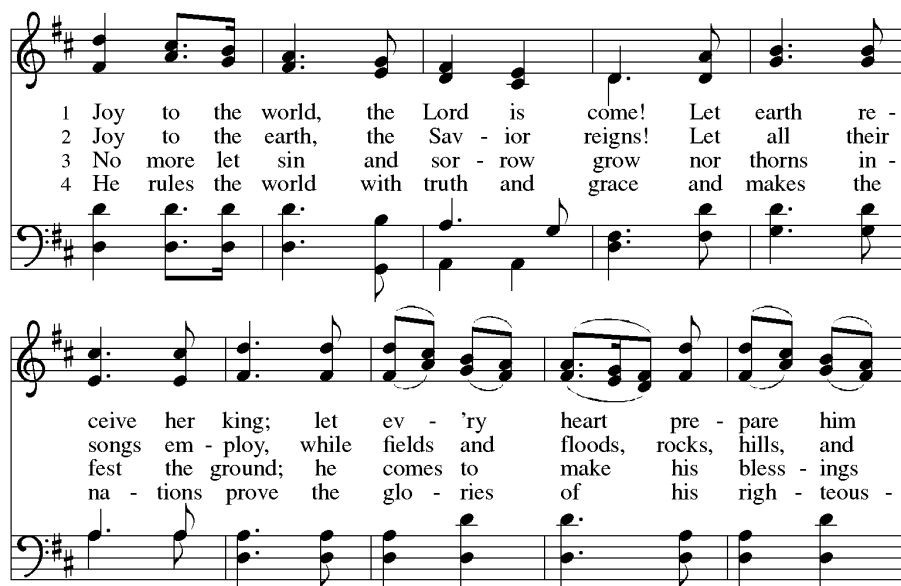
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### “Joy to the World”

vv. 1&4



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 -

(Continued on the next page..)

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

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these  
 people and all who are in need in our prayers.

|                              |                     |               |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Michelle Weltzin-<br>Trainor | Ann Kuehl           | Patty Mixdorf |
| Ron McFate                   | Eugene Kreiter      | Melissa Alden |
| Nancy Meyer                  | Ed Stoltz           | Sue Vogel     |
| Karen Rathjen                | Jan Kluever         | Craig         |
| H.O. Nelson                  | Pat Hoffman         | Lois          |
| Norm Harvey                  | June Dierks         | Carolyn       |
| Sheila Baustian              | Michael Schafer     | John          |
| Sally Puls                   | Karen Muetzel       | Mary          |
| Duane Miller                 | Peyton Langebartles | Bonnie        |
| Tim Winter                   | Sherri Westmeier    | Dorie         |
| Jensen Spencer               | Meyer Mixdorf       | Clif          |
|                              | Bob Morehead        | Kelly         |



The flowers on the altar this week are given by Mary Moore in loving memory of Dale.

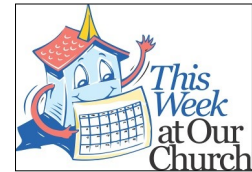
The flowers on the altar last weekend were from Roger and Sherri Beyer in celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

*If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also sign up by calling the church office, or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-altar>*



Bill and Terri Wittkowski are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, December 18th. *Happy Anniversary!*

### **THIS WEEK AT FAITH**



|                                      |                         |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Saturday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>  | 5pm                     | Worship                          |
| Sunday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>    | 8am                     | Worship                          |
|                                      | 9:15am                  | Sunday School (Adult Class Only) |
|                                      | 10:30am                 | Worship                          |
| Tuesday, December 21 <sup>th</sup>   | 5:30pm                  | Food Pantry                      |
| Wednesday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 6:15pm                  | People of Praise                 |
|                                      | 7:15pm                  | Resounding Joy!                  |
| Friday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>    | 2pm                     | Worship                          |
|                                      | 4pm                     | Worship                          |
|                                      | 9pm                     | Worship                          |
| Saturday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>  | <i>Merry Christmas!</i> |                                  |
| Sunday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>    | 9am                     | Worship                          |



**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN**—Time for snow removal volunteers. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering area and online if you could help clear sidewalks after a snowfall. Additional information can be found on the sign up sheet or on our web page. The sign up link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-snow1>

***Thank you for your help!***

