

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.

Worship with Congregational Christmas Program



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome! Today our congregation tells the story of Jesus' birth through our Christmas Program. Remembering that the Lord Jesus himself was born a child of Mary, we give thanks to God for the gift of life and salvation that is ours in him. As we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth, we invite you to worship our newborn King with us in special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Join your heart and voice in praising our Lord in today's worship service.



Prayer before worship

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prelude

“When Christ Was Born of Mary Free” – Old English Carol
(arr. Kristine Johaneck)
St. John’s Handbell Ensemble

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

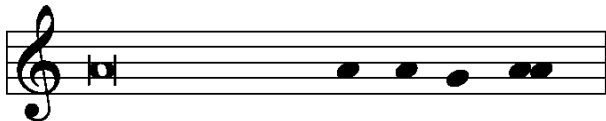
Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Each week we light a new candle on the Advent wreath.

P Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised that the One of peace would come from Bethlehem to feed your flock and make us live securely. As we light these candles, kindle in us the fire of your love, infuse in us the fruit of your Word, and empower us to lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry with good things; let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved.

C Amen.

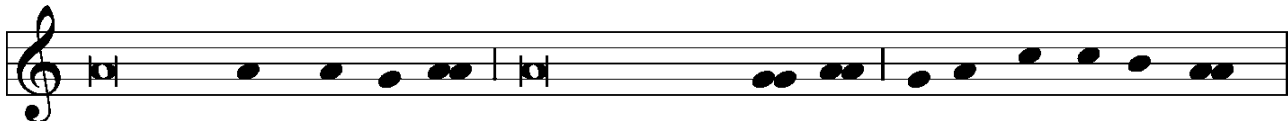
Kyrie



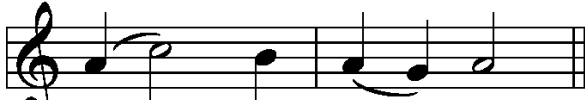
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



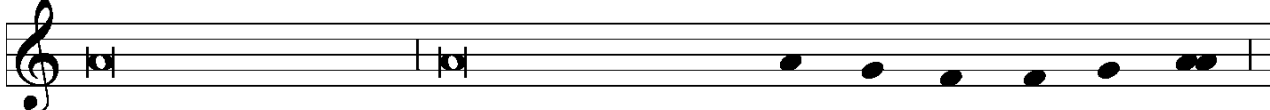
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



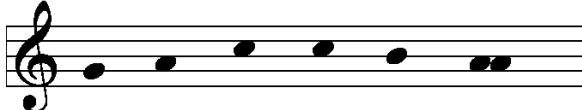
and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



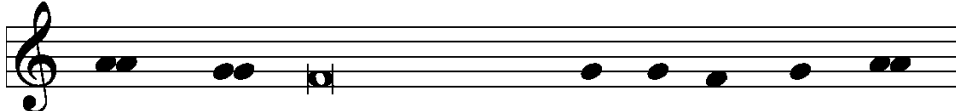
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gathering Song

“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (LSB 633)

(Advent 4, stanzas 1-4)

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with four stanzas of lyrics and a piano accompaniment with chords indicated above the staff. The piano part consists of a treble and bass clef with a grand staff bracket. The lyrics are aligned with the vocal line.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

D G D Em Am D

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

Em D7 G C B7 Em

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Am7 D7 G C G

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.** ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

L Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

C You have called us by name; we are yours.

First Song of Isaiah

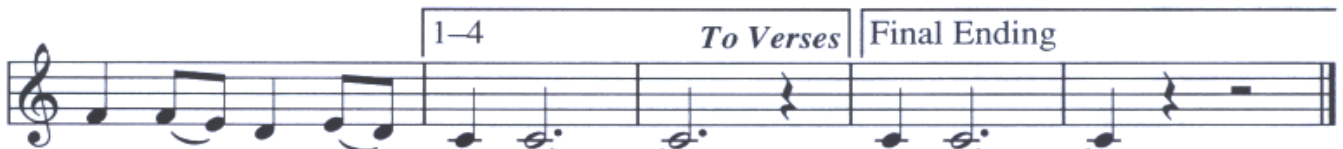
Refrain (Repeated at end)



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be a -



fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and



He will be my Sa - vior, Sa - vior.

Verses



1. There - fore you shall draw wa - ter with re - joic - ing



from the springs of sal - va - tion. And on that day you shall say, give

To Refrain



thanks to the Lord and call up - on his name;

(verses 2 & 3 on the next page)



2. Make his deeds known a-mong the peo - ples; see that they re-mem-ber that his



name is ex - alt - ed. Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for He has done great

To Refrain



things, and this is known in all the world.



3. Cry a - loud in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on,



ring out your joy, for the great one in the

To Refrain



midst of you is the Ho - ly One of Is - rael.

WORDS: From *The Book of Common Prayer*; MUSIC: Jack Noble White Copyright ©1977 by Charles Mortimer Guilbert as Custodian; Used by permission

Epistle Reading

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

C You have called us by name; we are yours.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



C Glo – ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

C You have called us by name; we are yours.

Hymn

"O Sing of Christ" (LSB 362)



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318 Tune: Public domain

The Amazing Story of Christmas

A Celebration of the Savior's Birth

Welcome

(Narrator)

Welcome everyone to Bethlehem! One of the more amazing things about the Christmas story is that it didn't happen without the people who are in the story. God did not just swoop in and make this story happen all by God's self. Instead, there needed to be willing people to participate in the story. Mary, Joseph, shepherds, animals, and even the angels are obedient and follow through with what they are told to do. And so today, we will have an opportunity to do the same thing: By choosing to participate in the story, we will make the story happen.

Hopefully, you all chose a costume when you entered worship today. As the story unfolds, we will invite characters at different times to come up front and stand in their position. There are no speaking roles, so please do not worry! All we ask is that you sing during the hymns, pay attention to the stage directions in your bulletin, and most importantly, enjoy the greatest story ever told!

Let us together open our eyes and ears, and experience the story of Christ's birth...

Narrator: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first three staves contain the main verses of the hymn. The fourth staff is marked 'Refrain' and contains two lines of music. The fifth staff contains the final line of the hymn. The lyrics are: '1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Refrain Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!' The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs.

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: THE GOSPEL IS PROCLAIMED

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,

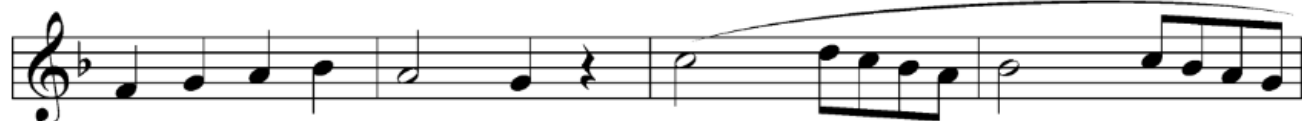


And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.



Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: MARY & JOSEPH

During the hymn, those who wish to portray Mary and Joseph are invited forward

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: A BABY IS BORN

Away in a Manger

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Away in a Manger'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the first line. The second staff ends with a period. The third staff has a dashed line under the word 'sky' in the lyrics. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

Text: Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

During the hymn, all angels are invited forward

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47
Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: THERE WERE SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD

During the hymn, all shepherds and animals are invited forward

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

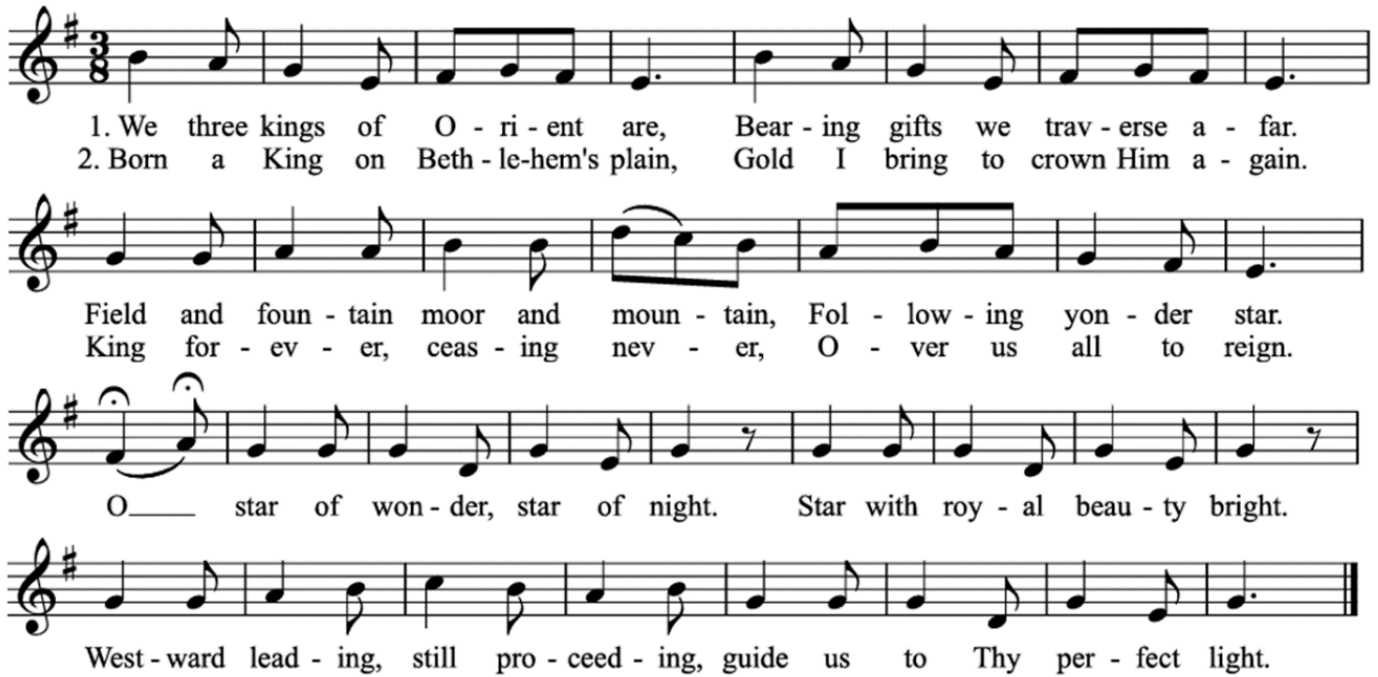


O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786
Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: THE THREE WISE MEN

During the hymn, those who wish to portray the wise men are invited forward



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far.
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain.

Field and foun - tain moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, O - ver us all to reign.

O___ star of won - der, star of night. Star with roy - al beau - ty bright.

West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to Thy per - fect light.

Tune & Text: Public Domain

Narrator: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn. *Refrain*

Text (st. 3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.
Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual
Text and tune: Public domain

Narrator: HEAR THE GOOD NEWS!

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

The End

- P** Waiting for the fulfillment of our hope in Christ's promised coming, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the Advent season each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."

*Please respond by saying
"Hear our prayer."*

The prayers end with the words:

- P** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

- P** Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to pray:

C 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.

Blessing

- P** May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son, ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Dismissal

- L** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



1. wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
2. gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
3. me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My
4. Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn; And



1. hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 2. Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."
 3. soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
 4. Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:
- } "Most



- 1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: 10 10 12 10; *Birjina gaztettobat zegoen*; trad. Basque carol; tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924.

Music: Trad. Basque carol melody.

Postlude

"Carol of the Bells" (arr. Kerry Boyce)

St. John's Handbell Ensemble

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome	DCE Jennifer Hills
Lay Assistant	Angie Stiens
Director of Music	David Leahey
Acolyte	Sofi Hills
Crucifer	Giulianna Vazquez
Ushers	Fred Esposito Mike Waring
Advent Candle Bearers	Hulshizer Family
Narrator	Jen Leahey
Altar Care	Jean Gilbertson
AV Operator	Greg Auld Jurgen Gobien
Nursery	Andi Hassett Janet Smith





Altar Flowers

Donations to the Flower Fund

To the Glory to God

Poinsettias

Jeannette Bottomley

Mark & Jean Gilbertson

Brian & Christy Hoins

Jake & Connie Jacobs

Eric & Andrea Klanderma

Jim & Mary Lofgren

Long Family

Pastor and June Meehan

John & Ethel Sullivan

Steve & Linda Tracy

In memory of my husband, Roy

In memory of Jean's father, Fred Ebner

In memory of loved ones

Merry Christmas

In memory of John Long

In honor of the Christ Child

In honor of all of our loved ones



Please join us for these special worship services:

Wednesday, December 21

12 Noon Midday Advent Service with Holy Communion (livestreamed)

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service (no livestream)

This 45-minute service is designed especially for families with young children (up to age 10)

7:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion (livestreamed)

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

*No Bible Class

*No Children's Ministry

Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

5:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion (livestreamed)

Sunday, January 1 (Circumcision and Name of Jesus)

10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion (livestreamed)

*No Bible Class

*No Children's Ministry

Please visit our website at www.sjlc.com for devotional readings for use in the week ahead or to learn more about our life together as a congregation.

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To view the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, *Midweek Update*, scan this QR Code



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