

# Advent Lutheran Church



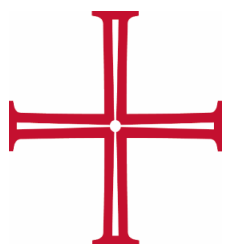
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* ©Michael Torevell

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2023**



## Welcome to worship at Advent!

### Ways to engage throughout the service online:



Space: So much of our living currently happens in one space. Consider designating worship time through the practice of lighting a candle, dimming the rest of the lights in the apartment, placing a cross (it can be homemade) or a Bible on the table – something that is sacred to you that designates we are gathering for sacred worship.

Community: There is a comments section, use it to say hi to one another and check in. Post pictures of you or your household preparing for or engaging in worship. Church is God's people gathered. So make yourself known and check in with each other in turn.

Music: Sing so loudly your neighbors sing along!

Prayers of the People: During the Prayers of the People, type your prayers into the comments section. And commit to holding the prayer request of at least one other person throughout the week.



Offering: Our ministry continues. Throughout this time, we continue to feed people. We continue to worship together. We continue to provide care for the whole community. Please consider continuing your financial contribution through online giving [www.adventnyc.org/give](http://www.adventnyc.org/give) or text to give at 917-994-8568 and follow the instructions.



Communion: At Advent, when we gather, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Holy Communion is a cosmic event. There is a collapsing of time and space so that in that singular moment when you receive the body and the blood, you do so with every person who ever was, is and will be, in every time and place.

Rev. Tuhina Rasche says it best, *“As a called an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, I took an oath to not only responsibly administer the sacraments, I also took an oath to care for God’s people. In caring for God’s people, if folks at home lift up their elements in the midst of worship, I fully and wholly believe the Holy Spirit to be at work to consecrate these elements. Yes, Jesus is at the right hand of God. And yes, even in elements consecrated in a virtual space, Jesus is in those elements as well. We cannot confine the moves of the Holy Spirit in community, even if that community is virtual.”*

During the consecration of the elements, you are invited to lift up bread and wine/juice in your home, and to commune when the words are spoken. Scripture tells us nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the promise.

### **All the People of God speak the text in Bold (that’s you!)**

Worship leaders speak the text in regular type. | *Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.*

## WELCOME

Pastor Danielle Miller

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

...or hopeful and patient.

**If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.**

...or have been here before.

**Come in, come in. There is room for you here.**

The angels are singing, **"Be not afraid."**

The angels are singing, **"Good news and great joy!"**

**So come in, come in! There is room for us here.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN***Little Drummer Boy*

**Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum  
A new born King to see, pa rum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,  
So to meet Him, pa rum pum pum pum,  
When we come.**

**Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give a king, pa rum pum pum pum  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,  
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum,  
On my drum?**

**Mary nodded,  
pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time,  
pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him,  
pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
Then He smiled at me,  
pa rum pum pum pum  
Me and my drum.**

**\* GREETING**

... the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

**How does a weary world combat cruelty?**

How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

**We do all these things with God's help. For today, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

Today, Christ draws near. **Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.**

Today, we are not alone. **God is near. Love has drawn close.**

**Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen**

*A thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices.*

## \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we are humbled in your presence and loved into wholeness by your grace. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL OF PRAISE

*Love Has Come*



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**SECOND READING:** *Titus 2:11-14 (The Message)*

God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

(v1 & v2 before the reading – v3 after the reading)

*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!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

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

*Refrain*  
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

**\* GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 2:1-14*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a

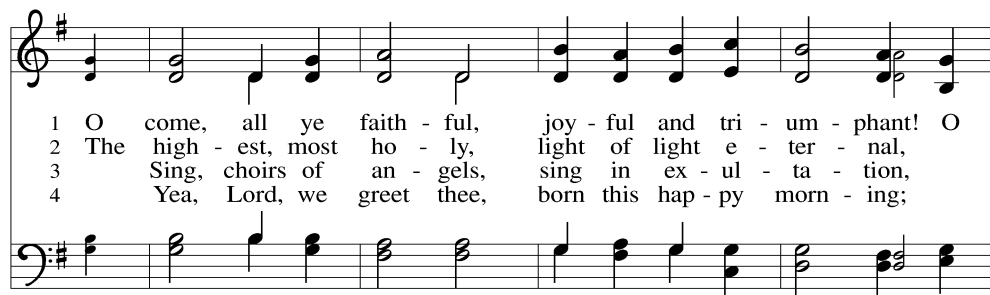
manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## YOUNG DISCIPLES MESSAGE

### \* HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Come All Ye Faithful*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



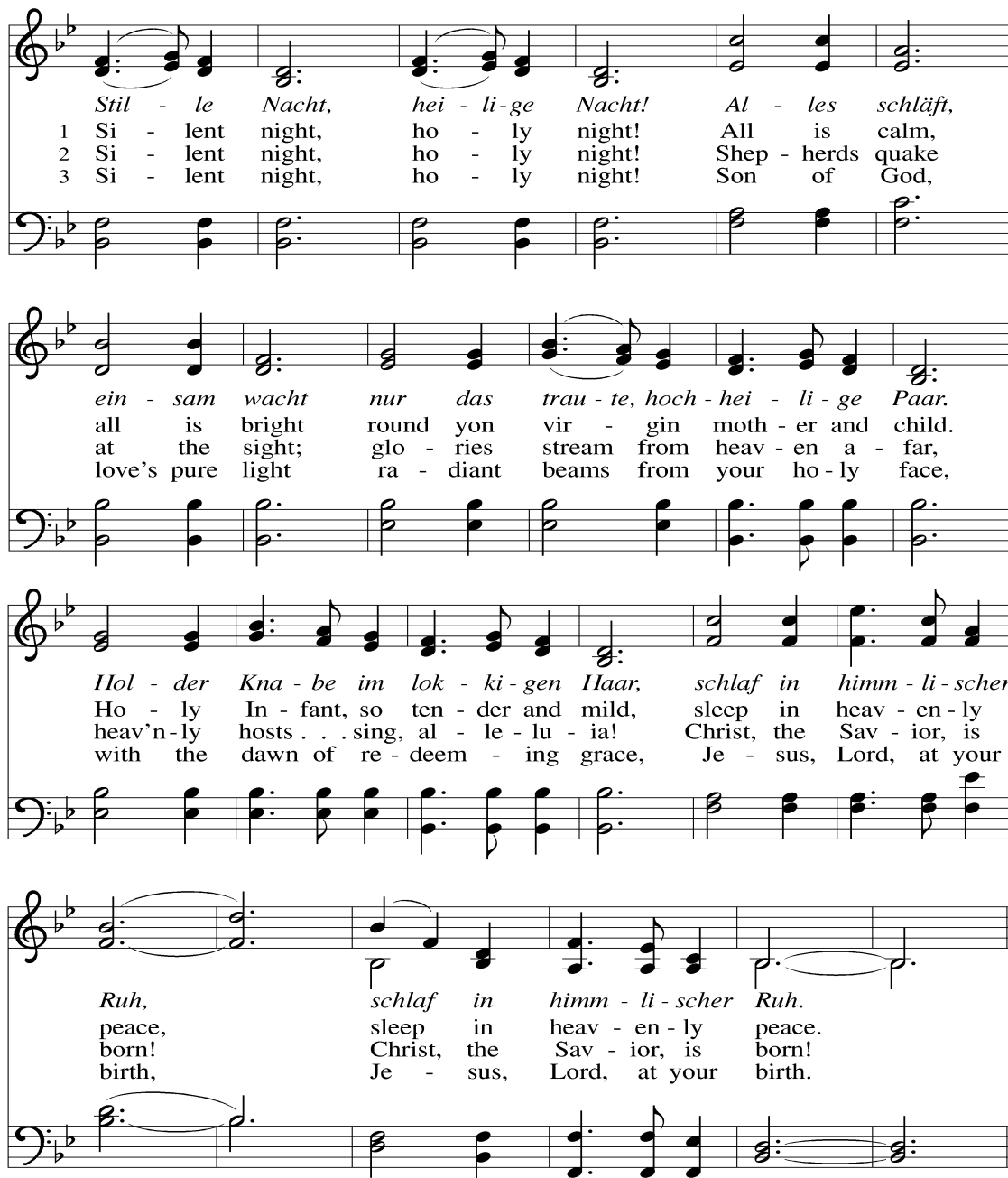
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

# WELCOMING OUR HOPE

*Just as we lay our burdens at the foot of the cross on Good Friday - tonight you are invited to come forward as you feel moved and like the Shepherds and Wiseman of old – worship and place your hopes in the manger.*

## \*REFLECTION HYMN

*Silent Night, Holy Night*



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,  
 Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your  
 Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...and so we pray with hope,



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.

*\* The prayer response reflects Mary's Song in response to receiving the news that she is the Christ-bearer and God is coming into the world.*

## \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING



*The gifts you give today are used for God's ministry here at Advent and around the world. You are invited to give via the offering plate or online at [www.adventnyc.org/give](http://www.adventnyc.org/give). If you already give online or through your bank, please acknowledge and celebrate that offering by placing a yellow giving card, found in your pew, in the offering plate. Let us give thanks to God!*

*If you have not yet given your Giving Intention Card, please consider doing so today. Physical cards are located at the entryway of the church or visit [www.adventnyc.org/giving2024](http://www.adventnyc.org/giving2024)*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Corpus Christi Carol*

## \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## \* GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks unto God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

## \* PREFACE

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \* HOLY, HOLY

*Intro (first time only)* *All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Bles - sed is the one who came,  
God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;  
bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes  
all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo  
in the bread and in the wine.  
ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo  
ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## \* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...you knit together a real human body that comes from another body.

**In the incarnation, in becoming human, you know what it is to bleed.**

To hurt. To cry out for justice from a body that was tortured.

**You know the pain of speaking up against the things that separate.**

The pain of oppression. Of those who think they get to define who counts as human.

**And yet, you gave yourself to us.**

You gave your own body and blood to heal us, to bring us closer to ourselves, and one another.

**To heal the broken connections, within, without, and between our whole beings.**

... the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

## \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

*We are one people who pray in many tongues. We invite you to pray in the language you are most comfortable using when speaking to God (Spanish, Swahili, German, Chinese, English, Arabic, etc). Like on the day of Pentecost, may our prayers rise like incense, diverse and yet united.*

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, with one faith but many tongues, let us pray as our Lord taught:

**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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.**

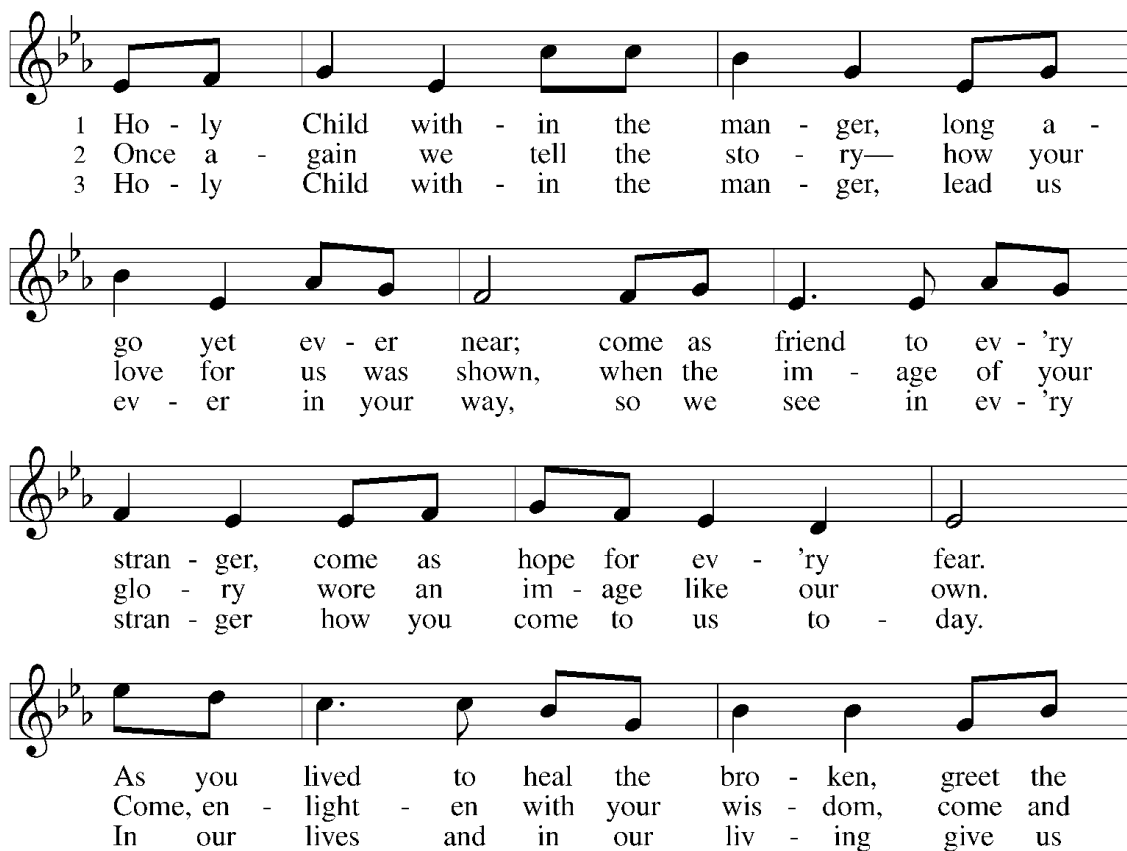
## \* THE DISTRIBUTION

*Jesus is the host of this table and all are welcome.*

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at God's table.*

### DISTRIBUTION

*Holy Child Within the Manger  
O, Little Town of Bethlehem*

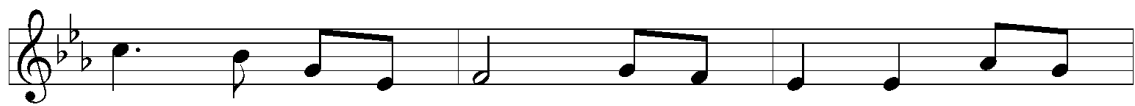


1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

+++



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



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,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



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!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## A CALL TO MISSION AND MINISTRY

Our mission is love.

**Our mission is to welcome all people to experience and live out God's love.**

Our strategy is community.

**Following the example of Jesus, our strategy is to practice authentic community that builds an inclusive faith.**

Our vision is transformation.

**Our vision is to be a church where the Holy Spirit transforms peoples' faith, the community and the world.**

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING 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



## SENDING

Christ the Savior is born!  
Share this good news of great joy with all the world!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High!*

