

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022 | 10:30 AM



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and a professionally staffed nursery is available from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Vicar Naem Harry, Intern

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Andrew Schanstra, Livestream Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead—show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and is to come. **Amen.**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith and do not be afraid.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

The assembly stands or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

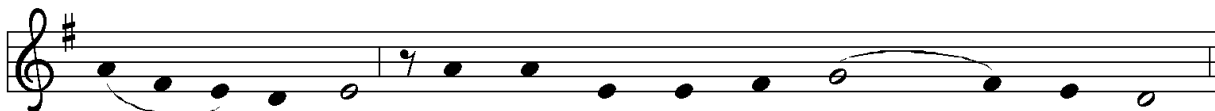
Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you † in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 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*
- 6 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*
- 7 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*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

APOSTOLIC 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.**

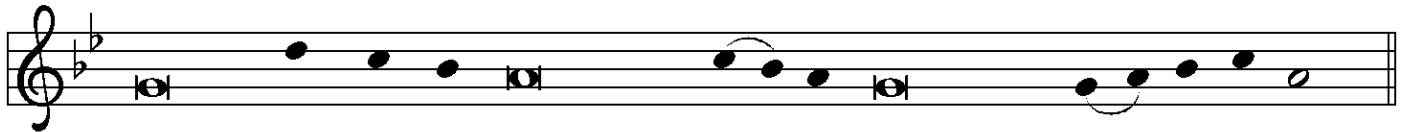
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



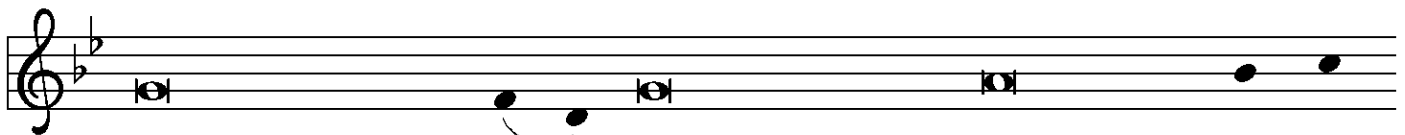
Lord, have mer - cy.



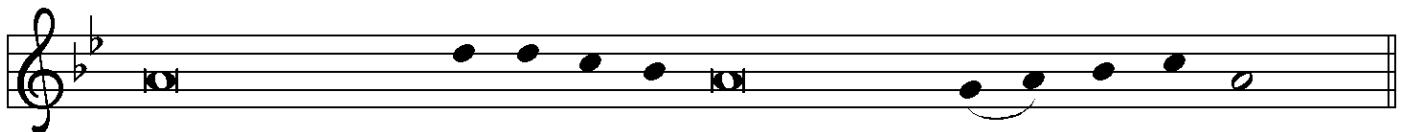
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



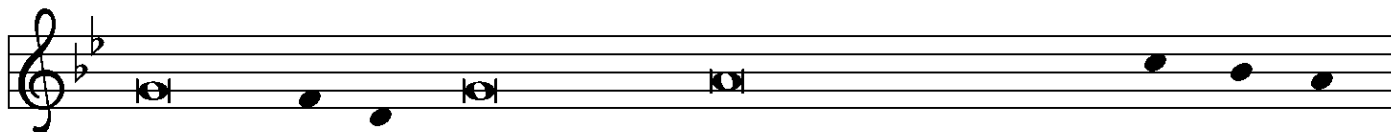
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



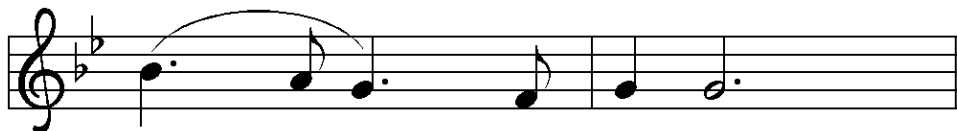
Lord, have mer - cy.



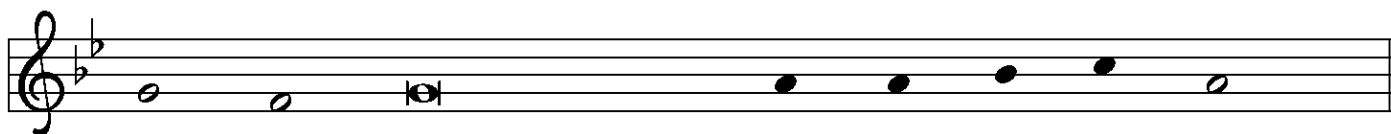
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



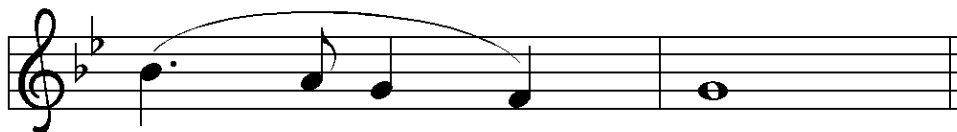
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10–16

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask 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. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1–7, 17–19

Refrain sung first by choir; all other times by all. Boldface verses sung by all.



Let your face shine up - on us, and we shall be saved.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.

³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD ¹ God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your ¹ people pray? R

⁵You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹ your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong ¹ for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- ¹ on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD ¹ God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved. R

SECOND READING Romans 1:1–7

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

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

NOW
THE
LORD
IS
NIGH
COME
LET
US
ADORE

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing the acclamation; Choir sings the proper verse.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V. The virgin shall conceive and ¹ bear a son,*
and they shall name ¹ him Emmanuel. (*Matt. 1:23*)

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18–25

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

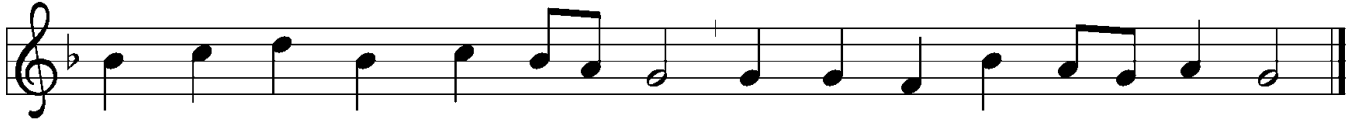
The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 263 Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

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 INTERCESSION

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC E'en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord the Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come sing Holy, Holy Lord.
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon for Christ is coming soon.
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun for Christ will be their All!

Revelation 22:5, adapt. Ruth Manz

Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 258 Unexpected and Mysterious

Verse 3



3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

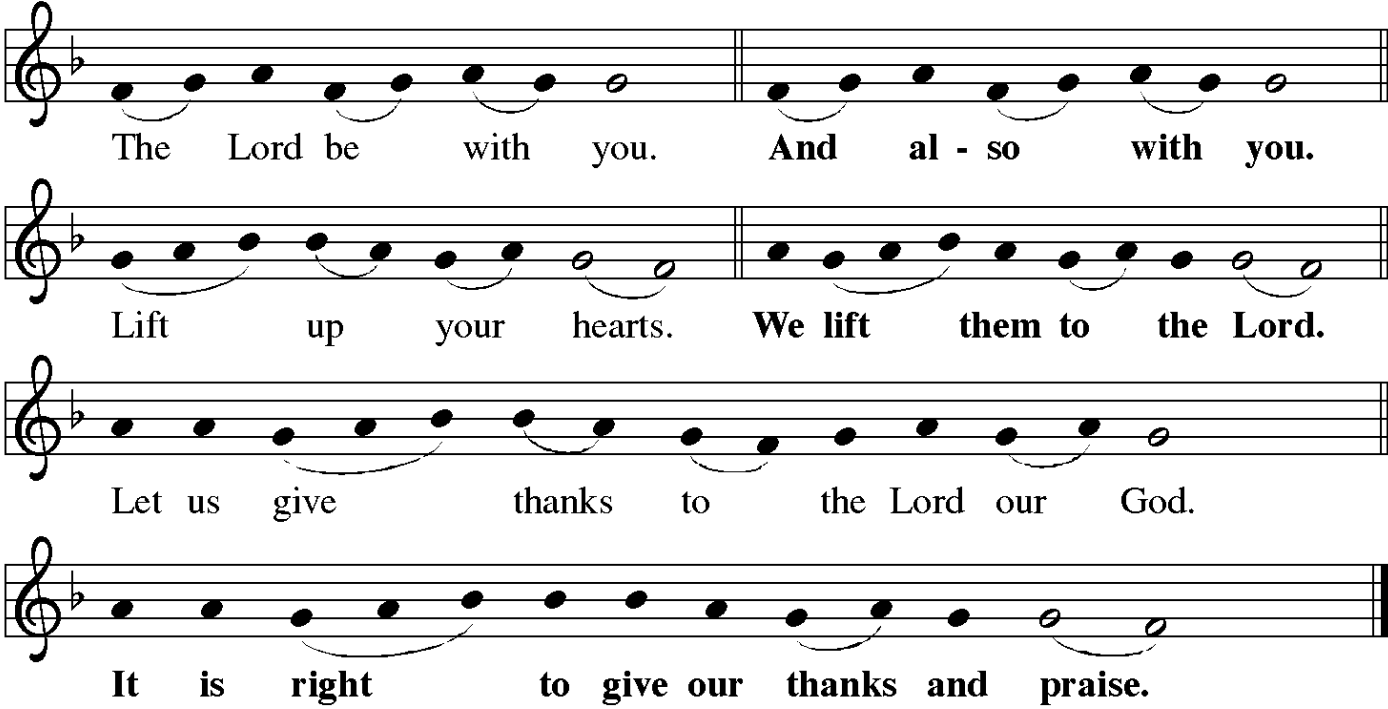
Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984
Text © 2002 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **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.**

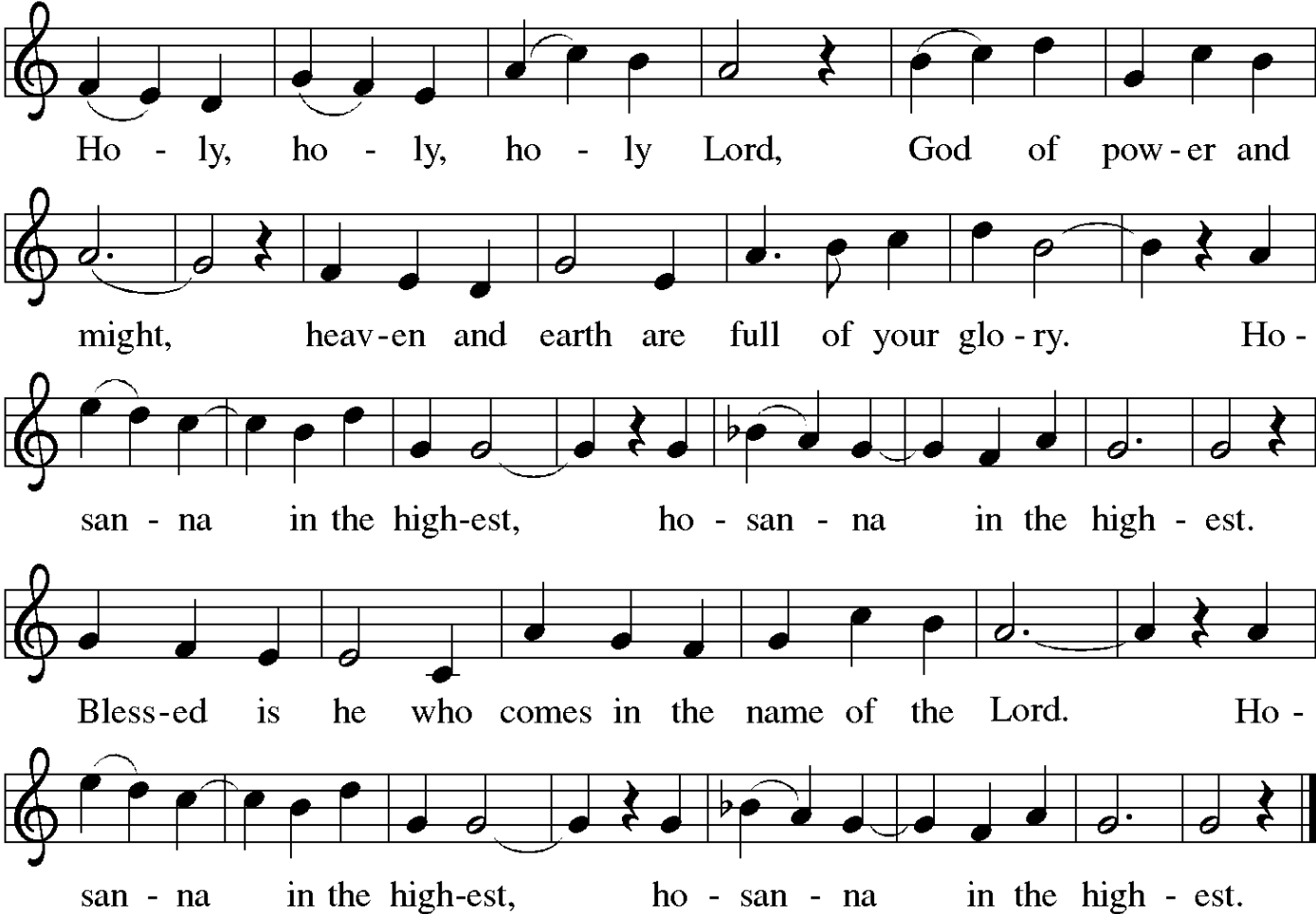
Meal
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PROPER PREFACE



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, 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS 902 Come Now, O God



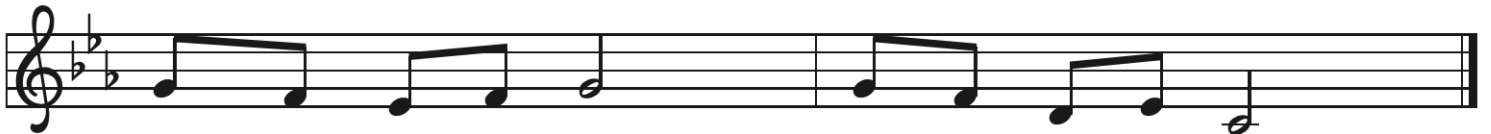
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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COMMUNION HYMN ELW 265 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.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your advent among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you 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 ELW 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



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.



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



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



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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter



December 18, 2022

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Roy Patterson by the Sharpe family.

2023 Pledge Update: We have received **73 pledges** for a total of **\$386,920** toward our goal of **\$480,000**, and World Hunger pledges are **\$16,320**. Please submit your 2023 pledge today!

Year-End Giving: Please remember to fulfill your 2022 financial commitments to St. John's by December 31 so that your gift can be recorded this calendar year. Special Christmas offerings are also an important part of financial health, so please give generously.

The 2023 Flower Chart is posted on the rear bulletin board for you to sign up.

Advent Faith Formation, TODAY, 9:00 AM. Help us pack 200 sustainable lunches for Bridges.

Advent Sale ends TODAY!

Christmas Decorating, TODAY after the 10:30 service join us for the many tasks that need to be completed to ready St. John's for Christmas Eve. Pizza will be provided.

Caroling, TODAY, 4:00 PM. Meet at St. John's to carol around Summit.

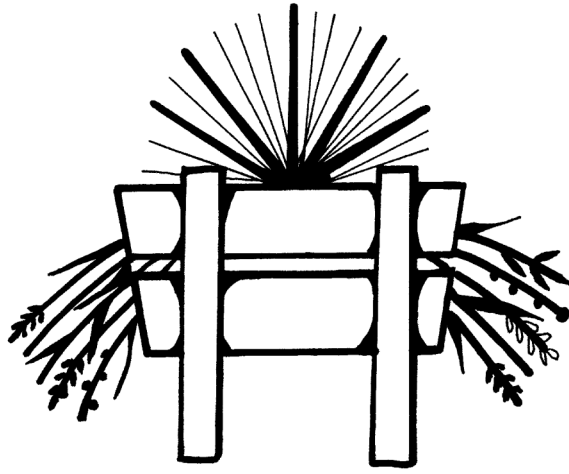
Blue Christmas Service, Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM. We will gather to hear scripture, name our woes, pray together, receive communion, light candles, and receive God's hope and healing. All are welcome.

Intergenerational Christmas Choir will sing at the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. Open to all children (4+), youth, and adults. The choir will rehearse on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM. We will learn the carol at Faith Formation on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

We will have ONE SERVICE at 10:30 AM on Sundays December 25 and January 1.

Church Office Holiday Hours: Please note that the church office will be closed from **December 26–January 2**. For pastoral emergencies, please contact the pastor.

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, our Nursery Attendant, will be retiring at the end of this year after 44 years of faithful service. The Christmas Eve 5:00 PM service will be Anne's last day serving among us. We will hold a **Retirement Celebration for Anne on January 15, 2023 following the 10:30 service**. More details about the celebration and ways for you to express your gratitude will be forthcoming. In the meantime, thank Anne for her amazing commitment to our congregation.



Christmastide Worship Schedule

December 20	Blue Christmas 7:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve 4:40 PM Brass & Organ Festival Prelude 5:00 PM Candlelight Communion with Brass 9:40 PM Choir & Organ Festival Prelude 10:00 PM Candlelight Communion with Brass
December 25	Christmas Day 10:30 AM Christ Mass with carol sing
January 1	Christmas 1 10:30 AM Lessons & Carols