

Parish Hall Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025 10:30 AM

GATHERING SONG

There is a Great Joy Coming

There is a great joy a-coming,
There is a great joy a-coming,
There is a great joy a-coming
to the whole people my Lord.

Glory, glory, glory!

Glory, glory, glory!

Glory be to God in the highest,
Peace, goodwill toward men.

Soon in the city of David,
Soon in the city of David,
Soon in the city of David

A Savior will be born.

Glory, glory, glory!

Glory, glory, glory!

Glory be to God in the highest,
Peace, goodwill toward men.

He shall be called mighty Jesus,
He shall be called mighty Jesus,
He shall be called mighty Jesus,
The King of kings and Lord of lords.

Glory, glory, glory!

Glory, glory, glory!

Glory be to God in the highest,
Peace, goodwill toward men
Peace, goodwill toward men
Peace, goodwill toward men

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WELCOME

PASTOR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PASTOR

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

Light four candles

Light One Candle

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress., Inc. One License A-731020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PASTOR

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.

FIRST READING

AMEILA MULLIN

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore 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. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For 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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

YOSIA RASAS

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

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

SECOND READING

LAURYN BOEHM

Romans 1:1-7

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

⁷ To 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 word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

PASTOR

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

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

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2, One License A-731020

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt., One License A-731020

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. One License A-731020

APOSTLES' CREED

PASTOR

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ASSISTING MINISTER

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

OFFERING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ways to digitally give:

- Text: "ILC" to 73256 and fill out the form
- Online at www.ilcpville.org
- Realm app

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD

PASSING THE OFFERING PLATE

OFFERTORY SONG

Magnificat

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
And my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
Strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
And up lifted the humble of heart.
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
And left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love.
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forever more.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.

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OFFERING PRAYER

PASTOR

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTOR

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.

COMMUNION SONGS

Little Baby Jesus

Little baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem
They laid Him in a manger there was no room in the inn
Mary was his mother and Joseph was his pa
An angel came to Mary and said the Baby will rule all

Little baby Jesus was born to be a king
The Son of God came to the earth to all salvation bring
Little baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem
They laid Him in a manger there was no room in the inn

As little baby Jesus laid there in the hay
A bright star shining in the East showed three men the way
The wise men brought him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh
And when they saw the baby they knelt before their Lord

Little baby Jesus was born to be a king
The Son of God came to the earth to all salvation bring, as
Little baby Jesus laid there in the hay
A bright star shining in the East showed three men the way

Little baby Jesus would grow to be a man
He lived by example when he followed God's commands
It started in a manger with a donkey, cows, and sheep
It ended on a cross with nails in his hands and feet

Little baby Jesus was born to be a king
The Son of God came to the earth to all salvation bring
Little baby Jesus would grow to be a man
He lived by example when he followed God's commands

Followed God's commands
Little baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem
They laid him in a manger there was no room in the inn

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They Stood in Silent Prayer

The little lambs were standing there beside the holy babe
They gazed with awe upon the child while shepherds knelt to pray
They seemed at once to understand the wonder lying there

And all around the manger they stood in silent prayer

Oh yes the Lord is come oh yes the King is here
And all around the manger they stood in silent prayer
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah

The cattle grazing in the fields could hear the shepherds pray
They turned and slowly came to find the stranger in the hay
They bowed their heads in silence there was no sign of fear
And all around the manger they stood in silent prayer

Oh yes the Lord is come oh yes the King is here
And all around the manger they stood in silent prayer
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah

The donkey, oxen soon appeared for they had been afraid
They could not understand the gathering ev'ry one had made
And then they saw the Christ Child now sleeping in his bed
At once they knew the meaning and slowly bowed their heads

Oh yes the Lord is come oh yes the King is here
And all around the manger they stood in silent prayer
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah

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BRASS QUARTET

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PASTOR

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

BLESSING

PASTOR

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray

O, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father
this blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name

O, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

O, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign

O, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light

Glorious now, behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Hallelujah! Hallelujah,
Worshipping God most high

O, star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay

Songwriters: Steven Page / Ed Robertson / Kevin Hearn / Jim Creeggan / Tyler Stewart / Dominio Publico God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings lyrics ©
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GOOD NEWS

ASSISTING MINISTER

DISMISSAL

ASSISTING MINISTER

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.