



### WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

### GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

## WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday of Advent JOY

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*Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion*

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### Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning  
the way you feel comfortable.

**All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!**

**Everybody Is Somebody Here**

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity’s greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

**What, then, should we do?**

Our world is also full of the fruit of God’s love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

**What, then, should we do?**

God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

**We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN “Soon and Very Soon”

*Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!*

2. *No more cryin’ there*

3. *No more dyin’ there*

4. *Soon and very soon*

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God’s coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God’s salvation has come and is coming. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God’s salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

**SONG OF WAITING "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vv 1-3**

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!*

*Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;*

*Come and behold him born the king of angels:*

REFRAIN: *Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, 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! REFRAIN*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,*

*Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!*

*Glory to God in the Highest; REFRAIN*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let Us Pray. Eternal Father, **you have created us to be a part of this world and a part of this story of Christmas. Help us to see that you come to each of us exactly where we need you to be. Open our hearts and minds to the hope, peace, and joy you have for each of us. AMEN**

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Ginger Bread Person**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**The Biggest and Best Christmas Present Ever**

*The kids will sing the hymn once,  
please join us the second time through*

**Welcome: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!*

*Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;*

*Come and behold him Born the king of angels:*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

**Scene 1: "Joy to the World"**

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;*

*Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing*

**Scene 2: “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 ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"*

**Scene 3: “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**Scene 4: “Silent Night”**

*Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant,  
so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace*

**Scene 5: “Go Tell it On The Mountain”**

Refrain

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

Refrain

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**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NOISY OFFERING**                      **Family of Christ Community Fund**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**L:** Lord, in Your Mercy                      **C:** Hear our prayers

**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.**

## THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



## Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musicians

Solveig Englund

Sound and Video

Nathan Blilie

\*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

## BLESSING

### PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*REFRAIN:*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*REFRAIN*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

*REFRAIN*

*Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

*REFRAIN*

## POSTLUDE



**Join us for a candlelight  
service Christmas Eve  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:30pm.**

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# FamilyofChrist

FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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