

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2022

GATHERING

*We gather together joyfully during this season of waiting.
May our greetings and visiting be signs of Christ's presence with us.*

ORGAN PRELUDE

Reflection on *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*

WELCOME

QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

This morning we have come to tell again
the story of angels and shepherds,
of disbelieving fathers and unlikely mothers.

**This morning we have come to hear again
the good, good news
of love born among us -
of God here with us.**

This morning we prepare to receive the gift
of a child born in a stable -
a child who brings hope and light to the world.

GATHERING SONG

Comfort, My People

The cantor will sing the song first; then the congregation sings together.

Com- fort, my peo- ple calm all your fear; the day of sal-
va- tion is quick-ly draw - ing near. The One you long to__
see will soon set you free.____ O__ come, Lord
Je - sus come.____ O__ come, Lord Je - sus come.____

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words followed by a blank line to indicate a breath or a pause. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

As we light this Advent wreath,
may its flame be a symbol of hope,
and its warmth a sign of blessing.
As Mary and Joseph praised God
for the blessings they received,
may our own praise this morning
lead us to the stable
where hope is born and all are loved.
We ask this through Jesus,
the Light of the World.
Amen.



1. Love will come, a light in the dark - ness!
 2. Love will come, and fill us with won - der.
 3. Love will come and nev - er will leave us!



Love will shine in the Beth - le - hem skies.
 Love will soon be a - sleep in the hay.
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free.



See, all heav - en will come to pro - claim it;
 See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



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



Love! Love! Je - sus will come, a Sav - ior!
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whis - pers;
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ - mas.



Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYER OF ADORATION | STANDING

God of signs and wonders,
stars and angels,
heaven touching earth
and the divine entering human flesh;
be the peace among us,
the hope within us,
and the love surrounding us,
so that in our celebrations this season
we may share your love with those who need it most.
So may we live the praise we offer to you,
Emmanuel, God-with-us,
now and evermore.
Amen.

WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM

Winter's Rose

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, from tender stem has sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

This flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 11:1-10

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Winter Snow
Daniel Rausch, soloist

THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 35:1-10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Who Comes to Save

Who comes to save?

What shall cause the desert to sing?

What shall cause the wilderness to blossom?

What will bring fresh rivers to the drylands?

The glory of the Lord, and the majesty of God, who comes to save.

What will bring our weakness to strength?

What shall give our fearful hearts new courage?

Be strong, do not fear, your God will come to save.

He comes with hope.

He comes with peace.

He comes with joy and love.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Advent,

we confess that we have been

reluctant to speak out your message of hope,

and to live out your promise of salvation.

Give us the generosity of heart

and the wisdom of spirit

to be your messengers in your world today,

that others may know you love them

and call them closer to you.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In God's love,
no one is insignificant,
no one goes unnoticed,
no one is turned away,
no one is forgotten,
no promise made is broken,
no plan is unfulfilled.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord,
all is forgiven!

SOLO

Love is Christmas
Kyra Kornfeld, soloist

REFLECTION

Mysterious Paradoxes
by Lauren Mallaby

SONG 109 | STANDING

Blest Be the God of Israel

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 1:18-25

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas, at the holy Savior's birth.
In Bethlehem on Christmas morning, love came down to earth.
Love came down at Christmas, in a manger filled with hay.
In Bethlehem on Christmas morning, love came down to stay.
Heavens glowing, cattle lowing, shepherds knowing, love is born.
Love came down at Christmas; angels gave the sign.
Love came to earth at Christmas, love amazing, love divine.
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels singing, praises bringing, carols ringing, Christ is born!

Love came down at Christmas, at the holy Savior's birth.

Love came down at Christmas, bringing hope and peace on earth.

LITANY

God, you came into the world weak:

a baby born in a stable,

sleeping in a feeding trough,

with animal sounds and smells all around.

This is how love came to earth.

God, you have made us vulnerable.

Our bodies can get sick and hurt.

Our hearts are easily broken.

Life is not always safe.

This is how love lives on earth.

God, you have also made us resilient.

Bodies can heal.

Hearts can mend.

Lives and communities can change.

This is how love heals us all.

God, your power is made perfect in our weakness,

for weakness breaks us open

and makes room for us to grow and flourish

so that we can be your love.

Amen.

SOLO

Love at Christmas
Bryan Wlas, soloist

SHARING THE PEACE | STANDING

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

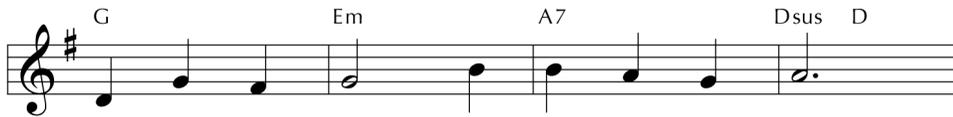
TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE | STANDING

Come to the Table



*1 Come to the ta - ble, all you who praise God.
2 Come eat this bread now, my bro - ken bod - y.
3 All is now read - y, like the first ta - ble.



Laid in a sta - ble, God's gift of love:
My vow re - mem - ber: I am your Lord.
Pray for the Spir - it; lift up your hearts.



Je - sus our Sav - ior poured out his life's blood.
Drink of this wine, the cup of sal - va - tion,
Christ has a - ris - en, our Lord and Sav - ior.



Our sins for - giv - en, God's gift of love.
for you are mine, and I am your Lord.
With great thanks - giv - ing, lift up your hearts.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | STANDING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

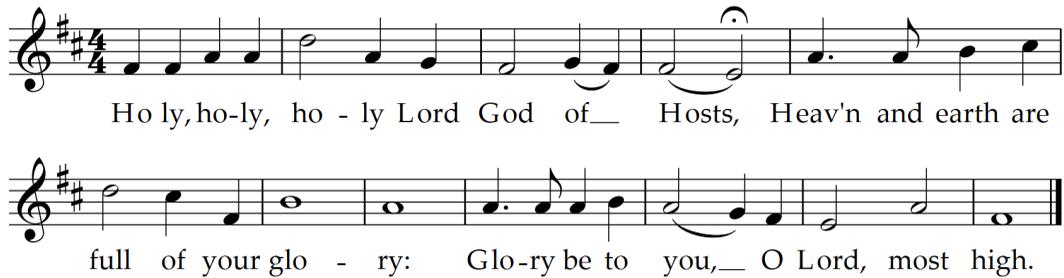
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and joyful thing
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God,
for sending your prophets to announce your coming reign,
your servants to prepare the way of the Lord,
and your Son, Jesus, to bring light to our darkness.
You draw us to yourself with the promise of salvation,
and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill.
And so, with angels and archangels,
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Ho ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of_ Hosts, Heav'n and earth are". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "full of your glo - ry: Glo-ry be to you,_ O Lord, most high." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ,
whose coming we await with hope and anticipation,
and for whose life, death, and resurrection
we give thanks beyond measure.
May this meal we share be a sign that our redemption is near.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
May they be for us a communion in the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be the body of Christ to a world sitting in darkness and gloom.
Come Lord Jesus,
with your Father and your Spirit, to the church,
and receive our praises, now and forever,
as we pray the prayer you taught us...

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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

*Please come forward by the center aisle to receive communion.
Once you have received, please return by the side aisles.*

The bread of life ... **Thanks be to God or Amen**
The cup of salvation ... **Thanks be to God or Amen**

COMMUNION SONG

What Feast of Love

(Sung to the tune of "What Child Is This")

What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
O taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious drink is given?

This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine from heaven.
O taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope,
we give you thanks for this foretaste
of the justice, love, and peace
of your promised new creation.
Strengthen us with this heavenly food
as we await the coming in glory
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

CLOSING SONG

He Came Down
led by the Sunday School Children

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | STANDING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Voluntary on Two French Carols

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy

Greeters: Andy and Susan Langan,
Nancy Holly

Advent Wreath: David and Nancy Holly

Lectors: Barbara Scott, Andy Langan,
Liz Berwanger

Prayer Leaders: Ryan and Kendall Reis

Musicians: Bryan Wlas, Kelsey Goodwin,
Kyra Kornfeld, Daniel Rausch, Annie Liu,
Warren Oja, Laurie DeVillers

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Christmas* by Sara Bareilles / *Love Came Down at Christmas*
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Ken Bible, alt. Copyright © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.
Tune: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, 1856 / *Winter's Rose* arr.
Gregory M. Pysh © 2016 Kjos Music / *Winter Snow* by
Audrey Assad © 2009 River Oaks Music Publishing / *Who
Comes to Save* by Vicki Hancock Wright © 2019 Celebrating
Grace Music / *Love for Christmas* by Carole King

Readings and Prayers from www.worshipwords.co.uk
Mysterious Paradoxes by Lauren Mallaby (Australia)
How Love Came to Earth by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson (USA)
Advent Prayer of Approach by Cara Heafey (UK)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information about weekly Bible studies and small groups can be found in your weekly email or at winnpres.org. Sign up at winnpres.org to receive our weekly email.



OFFERING

You can financially support the ministry of WPC in one of the following ways:

- Scan this QR code.
- Place your offering in the collection box.
- Give online at winnpres.org/give-online.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 4PM/8PM

Carols, Holy Communion, and candlelight at both services. Our 4pm service is especially for children and all those who are young at heart.

CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be **NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE CHURCH** on Christmas Day. Everyone is invited to join us for breakfast and a brief worship service at the Jonquil Hotel.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST @ THE JONQUIL

Join us as we continue our tradition of sharing the gift of Christmas joy with the residents of Good News Partners' Jonquil Hotel (1600 West Jonquil Terrace, Chicago). Please see your weekly email or the website for all the details. RSVP and sign up to bring food through the email or website. There is also a sign-up on the coffee hour table. Contact Nancy Holly for information.

JANUARY 1: CAROLS AND PETS

Four legs, two legs, or no legs, everyone's welcome at our Children and Pets Carol Service, a fun-filled carol service for all the family. No pet too big, no child too small!

JANUARY 8: EPIPHANY PAGEANT

Celebrate the arrival of the Magi with the annual children's Epiphany pageant. Come hear the Christmas story re-told by our Sunday School children like you've never heard it before.

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate

