



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025 10:30 a.m.



*We give thanks for our guest musician, Adrian LePique,
made possible through the Art and Lorraine Edinger Memorial Music Fund*

GATHERING

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Setting by Dallas Blair

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace & John Head
Adrian LePique, Trumpet

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" English Carol; Arr. Linda R. Lamb
Robbie VanNest; Handbell Tree Solo

***CALL TO WORSHIP: THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE** *The Bush-Kaufman family*

One: Out of darkness a light shines.

All: From a dead stump a shoot grows.

One: It takes root below and bears fruit above.

All: The gardener tends to it with steadfast love.

One: Today we continue our Advent journey.

All: Today we light this candle of love.

***CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" #119** *Glory to God Hymnal*

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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth,

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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of steadfast love, if we are honest we know that we are not worthy of your love.

If we were a planted tree, our roots might dry out with doubt.

Forgive us for not reaching down with our roots to the nourishing water,

for not turning to your Spirit for spiritual strength and direction,

God of steadfast love, heal us so that we may bear fruit worthy of your grace,

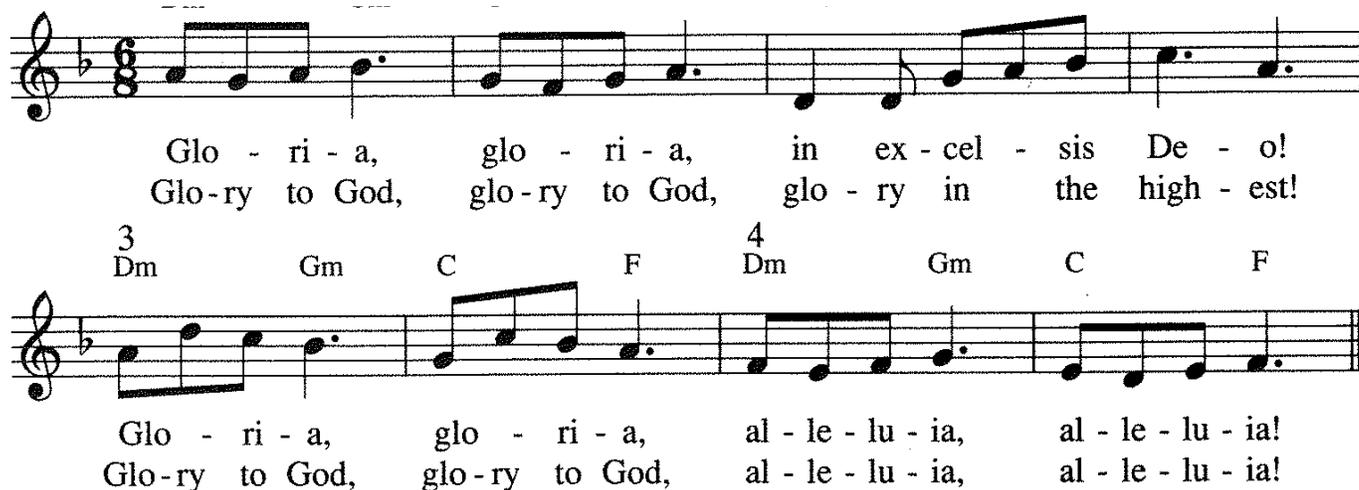
and fill this world with your love. *(silent confession)*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Beloved of God, be assured of God's unconditional love and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: "Gloria" #756 *New Century Hymnal* (sing both verses)



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

3 Dm Gm C F 4 Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*PASSING THE PEACE *Passing the Love*

HANDBELL ANTHEMS

- "Love Came Down at Christmas" Tune *Gartan*; Arr. Jason W. Krug
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Arr. Jason W. Krug
"Carol of the Bells" Mykoia Leontovych; Arr. Jason W. Krug

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEMS

- "Prepare the Way of the Lord" William Rowan
"Christ is Born!" Mark A. Miller
"What Did the Star See?" Words by J. Paul Williams; Music by Joseph M. Martin

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-35 Pew Bible p.831

A Word of God that is still speaking,

Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” #107

New Century Hymnal

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
Whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**In deepest night Christ’s coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,
The weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
May God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-23 Pew Bible p.783

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “What Child is This? #148 *New Century Hymnal*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God’s holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!**

**Why lies the Child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding?
Give heed, draw near; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mary!**

**Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God’s salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary!**

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERTORY "God Rest You Merry, Gentleman" English Carol; Setting by Sondra K. Tucker
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #782 *New Century Hymnal*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "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!**

Refrain: **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, all glory in the highest! *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Gigue on "Joy to the World" George F. Handel, Archangelo Corelli;
Setting by Sondra K. Tucker

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes:

1. Image and prayers adapted from www.reformedworship.org

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