

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



JANUARY 4, 2026

WELCOME

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME.

If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.

Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon,

Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.

*Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

We leave all that which might be a distraction from worship at the doors this day and we prepare our hearts for worship.

Peace be with you. ***Amen.***

PRELUDE

Love Came Down to Bethlehem

Maher/CCLI #7121448

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace. ***Amen.***

We turn to the doors of the sanctuary.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

***we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.***

***We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;***

***we have not always recognized
your presence among us;***

we have not always embraced your message of peace.

***We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.***

***We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;***

***our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;***

our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today

and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God 's grace upon grace flows over you.

† Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

Please turn to the altar as the cross passes your pew.

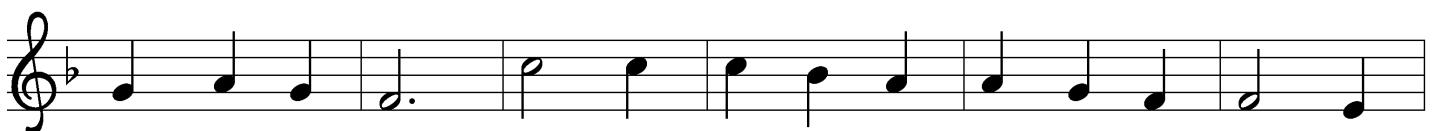
HYMN

Love Has Come

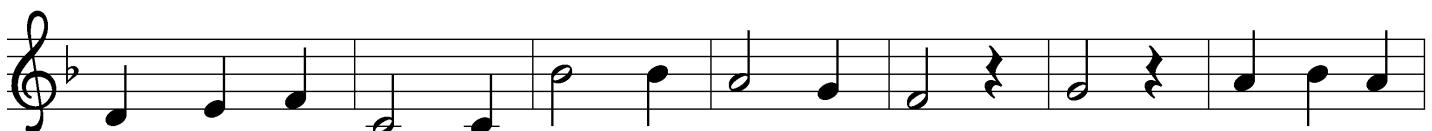
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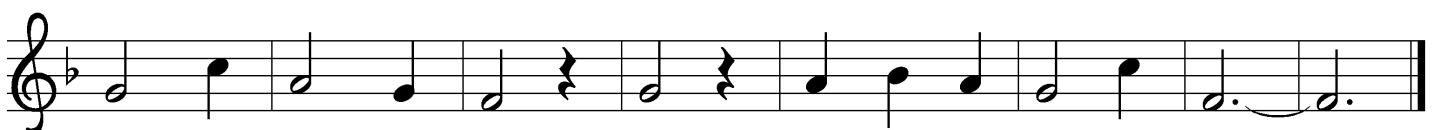
1 Love has come—a light in the dark-ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won-der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



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



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

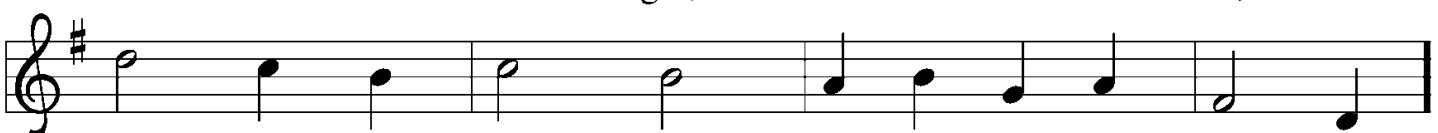
Wade/Public Domain



1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;

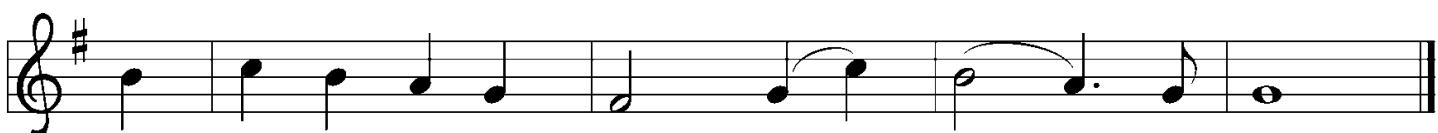


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah,

⁷ Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,

and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

Word of God, teaching us the way.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

We read responsively.

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ ***who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.***

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ ***God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.***

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ ***God scatters hail like bread crumbs.***

Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ ***God declares the word to Jacob,
statues and judgements to Israel.***

²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;

they do not know God's judgements. Hallelujah!

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, teaching us the way.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Emmanuel

McGee/CCLI #12949

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b
Em - man - u - el,
Em - man - u - el,
A A/C# Dm G⁷ G/B C
his name is called Em - man - u - el;
C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b
God with us, re - vealed in us;
A A/C# Dm G⁷ F/C C
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify

to the light.⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jesus

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

SERMON

We stand.

Word becomes flesh!

HYMN

There Is a Redeemer

Green/CCLI #11483



E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭/C B♭⁷/D E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭/C B♭ E♭ B♭

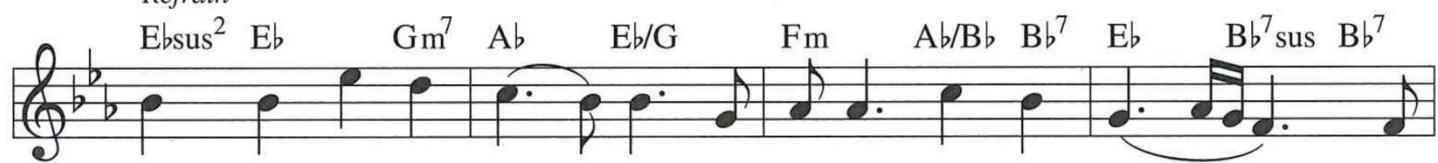
1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭ E♭/G Fm⁷ B♭⁷sus E♭ A♭/B♭

pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my king for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain



E♭sus² E♭ Gm⁷ A♭ E♭/G Fm A♭/B♭ B♭⁷ E♭ B♭⁷sus B♭⁷

Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



E♭ B♭/D E♭ A♭/C E♭/B♭ A♭ Fm⁷ B♭⁷sus B♭⁷ E♭

send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

We sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Hear us O God, ***Your mercy is great.***

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***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.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

We sit.

OFFERING

*We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. **Friendship pads** have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.*

OFFERING

Holy Child Within the Manger

Haugen/OneLicense #00594

We stand.

OFFERTORY

What Child Is This?

Dix/Public Domain



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

***Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice***

*in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior. Amen.*

THE MEAL

*Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.
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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son, in the miracle of water turned to wine, he revealed your glory.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

We proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in

his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Make your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. ***Come, Holy Spirit.***

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

We sit.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the side aisles to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second chalice of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the center aisle. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. If this is the first Sunday of the month, we also offer communion at the rail. On this Sunday, you may continue through the side doors, and an usher will guide you to the altar to receive communion.

MUSIC

Medley

Price

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. ***Amen.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

Incarnate God,

you are among us at this table.

***May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.***

***Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us. Amen.***

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,

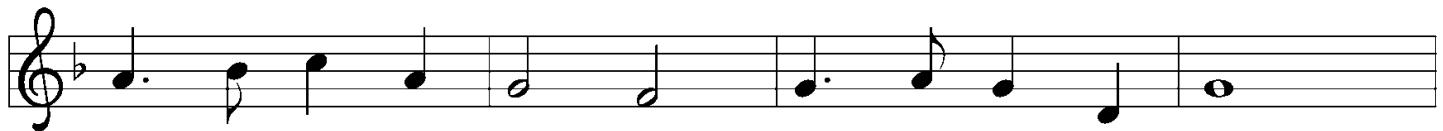
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

HYMN

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

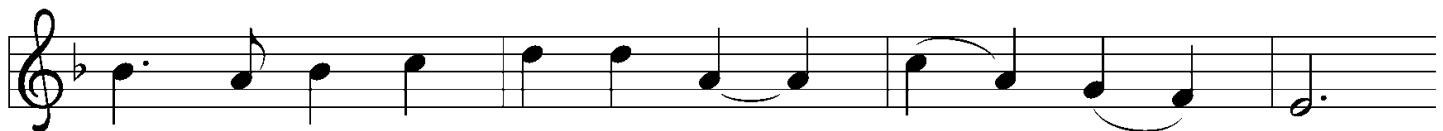
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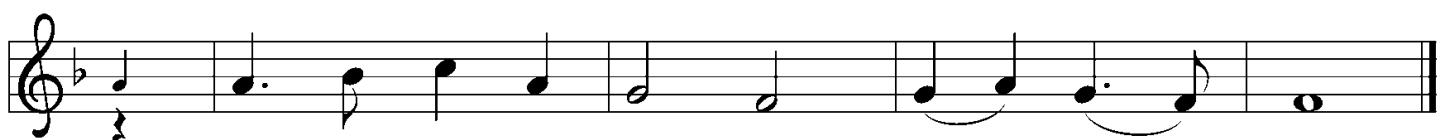
1 In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
 2 Heaven can-not hold him, nor . . . earth sus-tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep-herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



the in the bleak mid-winter, long-ago. Christ.
 yet Lord . . . God al-might-y, Je-sus heart.
 what I can I give him— give my

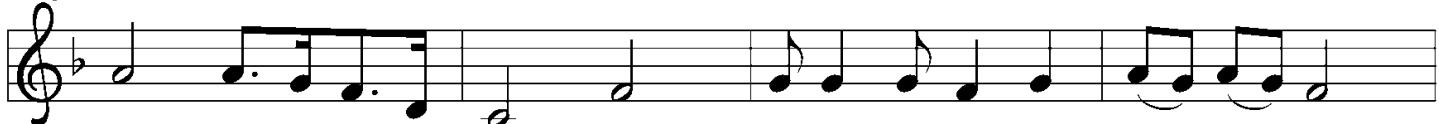
As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

SENDING

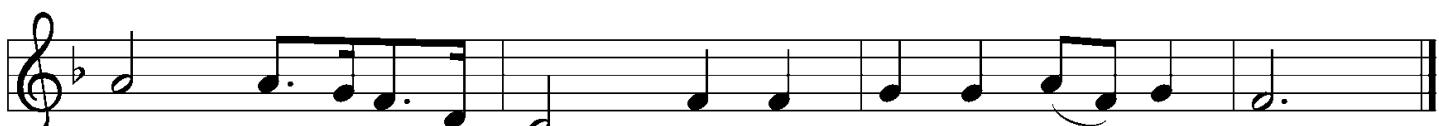
Go Tell It on the Mountain

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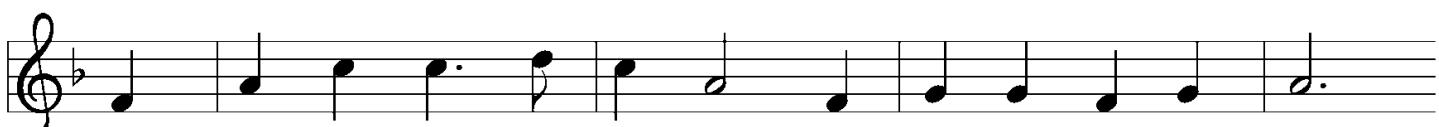
Refrain



Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

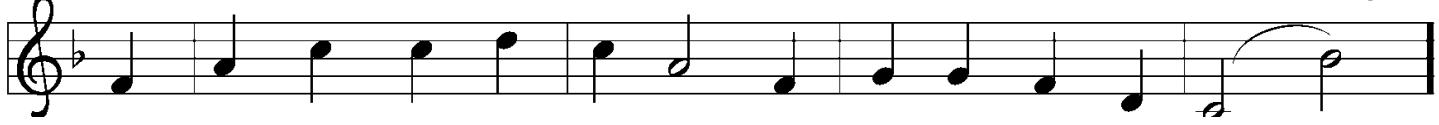


go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain



and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world.

We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered. We have been fed.

Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of David Moyer Sr. by Parker and Diane Boulware.



Join Us for a Health & Wellness Seminar!

Are you looking to kickstart a healthier lifestyle this year? Join us on **Saturday, January 25th, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm** at the **Mt. Hermon Fellowship Hall** for an inspiring afternoon with Michele Head. You'll learn practical tips for better lifestyle choices, explore wellness-focused diets, and discover secrets to healthy cooking. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sponsored by the Care Team.

Thank you also to the congregation for the generous Christmas gift which you gave to me on Christmas Eve.

It is a privilege to serve alongside you at Mt. Hermon. I look forward to what **THE PRESENT** presents to us in the upcoming year. Most Appreciatively,

Pastor Gina



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV



January 9 -11, 2026

The Council and Ministry Team leaders will be at the Isle of Palms for a retreat. We will be looking back over 2025 and looking forward to 2026. We will be worshiping with you online as Deacon Deborah Poole will be leading worship.

Please be in prayer for the Spirit to speak to those at the retreat.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

4:00 Christmas Eve = 90

7:00 worship 67 + live stream 185 = 252

December 28, 2025

9:00 worship 85 + live stream 142 = 227

Current & Benevolent	Received	15,112.75
Building Fund	Received	475.00
Building Improvement	Received	85.00

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In memory of **Betty Sue Duval** by Debbie & Rick Duval

To the glory of God and in memory of the birthday of my mother, **Frances Porth** by Earl & Mary Frances

In memory of **Stephen Michael Price** by Wynne & Mary Price

In memory of **G.A. Weathersby** by Rose & Bob Wingard

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers:	Ricky Bouknight	Arron Kinard
	Fran Bouknight	Tom Stahl
Crucifer:	Cameron Bucknam	Walker Kinard
Acolyte:	Connor Eargle	Quentin Kinard
Lector:	Ricky Bouknight	Elyse Kinard
Communion Assts:	Cameron Bucknam	Walker Kinard
	Connor Eargle	Quentin Kinard
	Ricky Bouknight Fran Bouknight	Elyse Kinard
	Lynn Bouknight	Arron Kinard
	Marion Leaphart Cyndi Leaphart	Susan Busby
Audio:	Ryan Corley	Breanna Metze
Video:	Marie Gardner	Breanna Metze
Flowers:	Boulwares	Metze

SERVING IN JANUARY

LOCK UP: Dion Metze

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price, Angie Hydrick

TABULATORS: Larry Amick, Angie Hydrick

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*

Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*
Gloria Mathias, *home*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Lauren Addy Chris Carroll
Joye Haygood Frankie Jackson
Skyler Miller Amanda Robinette

Debbie Duval Renee Greenbaum
Elyse Kinard Doris Maddox
Jim Whitaker Dennis Thurman

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayer

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck,
 friend of Robin Ellisor
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
 friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
 friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson,
 aunt of Courtney Bucknam
Jaimie Womack,
 friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Blase Rhine,
 grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gant*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*

Thelma Moyer, *mother of Diane Boulware*
Kaiden Howell,
 friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik
Randy Stonehill, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer*
Linda Bennett, *mother of Beth Jordan*
Neice of *Abbey Carroll's teacher*
Singley & Parisano families,
 friends of Sam & Kathy Cooper
Joy Jordan, *friend of Michelle Gant*
Dorris Layton,
 friend of Earl & Mary Frances Sease
Jody Harper, *friend of Kelli Goff*
Tressa Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's sister*
Wayne LaBounty, *friend of Herb Bucknam*
Scarlett Redmon, *cousin of Kinard Family*
Joe & Billy Corder, *friends of Ryan Price*
Michael Williams,
 son-in-law Georgianna Gray
Wayne & Kristen Watkins,
 friends of Courtney Bucknam
Meredith Thorndike,
 goddaughter of Wayne & Charlene Corley
Melissa, *niece of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*
Anne Piercy, *friend of Kathy Whitaker*
Addie, *granddaughter of Lavonne Roof*
Elizabeth McKee, *aunt of Bonnie Bouknight*
*Frank Flinn, *friend of Ryan Price*



WeAreMtHermon

www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00 pm

803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*
Administrative Asst

803.951.3784
803.240.3143 cell

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, *President*

Sheila Eargle, *Secretary*

Parker Boulware, *Financial Secretary*

Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President

Frank Bouknight, Treasurer

Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 4th

9:00 am Worship
10:30am Sunday School

Monday, January 5th

5:30pm CR: Care Team

Tuesday, January 6th

6:00 pm Epiphany Worship/Reception

Wednesday, January 7th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe)

Thursday, January 8th

6:00 pm CR: Travel Team

Friday, January 9th-Sunday, January 11th Council Retreat at IOP

Saturday, January 10th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls)