

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
3rd Sunday of Advent - December 11, 2022
8:30 am Service is live, 11:00 am is live, live-streamed, and recorded
Holy Communion, Setting One

Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book.

Prelude - *Quasi allegro in re majeur* by Cesar Franck

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

C **Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song - Prepare the Royal Highway

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

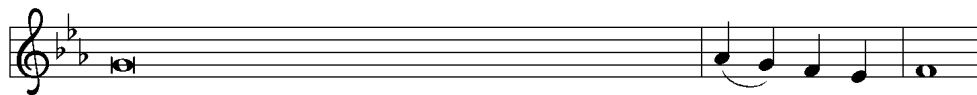
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



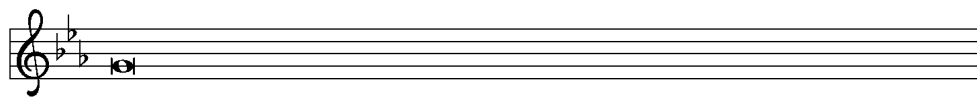
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



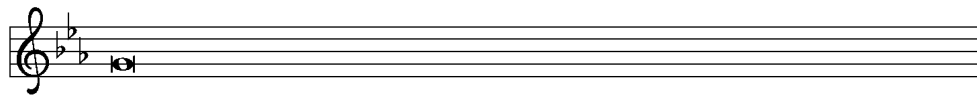
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good - will to
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485–1550; tr. composite

Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius

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P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you**
P Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,

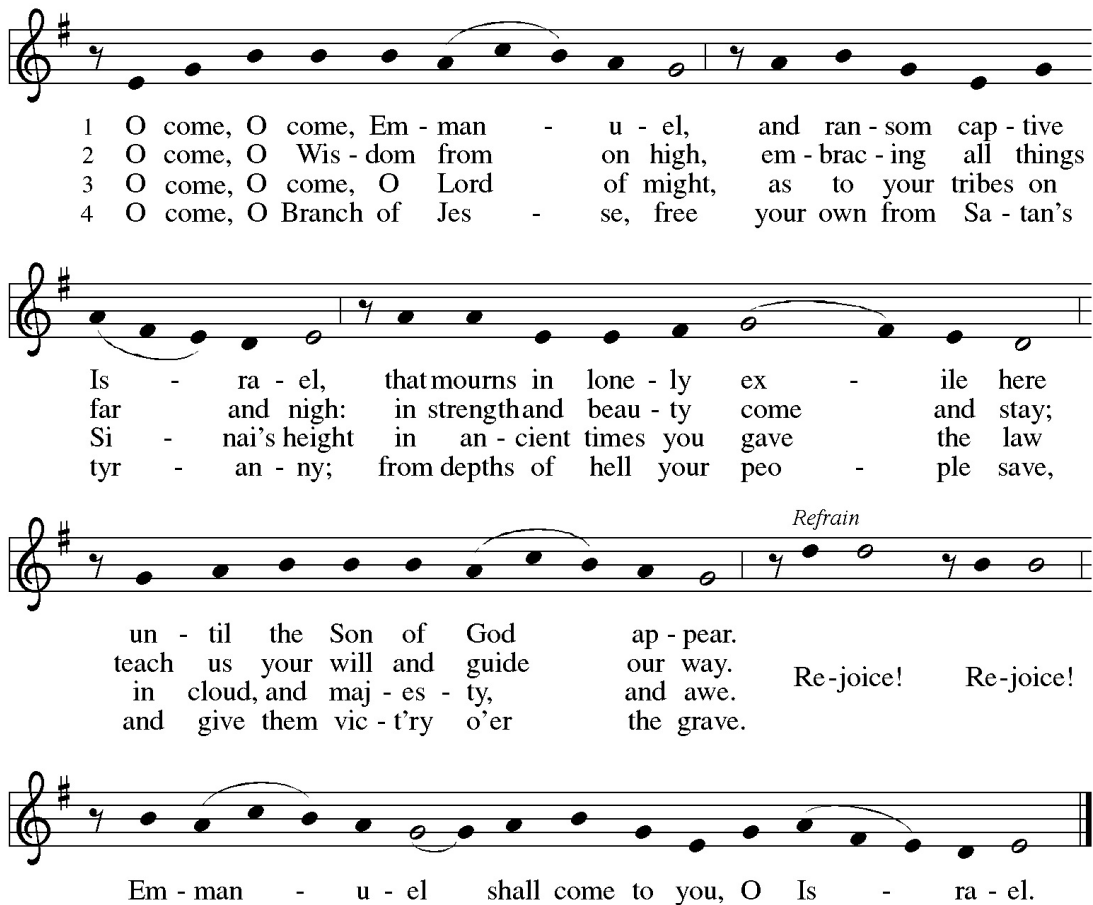
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 3)

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

After the Gospel is announced, the people say: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12).

From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

After the Gospel is read, the people say: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict (*regions in turmoil may be named*). Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss (*especially*), Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Naomi, Pat, Judy, Mary, John, Tom, Pat, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - (8:30) *Improvisation on ELW 241*

(11:00) *Advent Message by Martin How (Choir)*

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al-so 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a common time signature. The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.


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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN – Creator of the Stars of Night

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN – Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude - *Toccata in C* by Heinrich Scheidemann

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The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

✙ in honor of Ida Elliott and in memory of Jim Elliott on their birthdays by Theresa and Christian Oertel

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Naomi Watson, Pat Casper, Judy Schlegel, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Pat Cashwell

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Vickie Ettinger, Lois Horn, Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Gary Hill (cousin of Penni Perrotte), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Gad Kainer, Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Cynthia Sund (grandmother of Megan Cunningham), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Jane Taylor (mother of Maria Chi), Wayne Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Debra Fletcher (sister of Bill Wilson), Marie Watts (cousin of Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Don Rangnow (friend of Robin Winfree), Jim Cunningham (father of Megan Cunningham), Ashley Collins

(niece of Deb Tabert), Holly (friend of Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright)

Poinsettias or Lutheran World Relief Designations are available for this Christmas Designations. Forms and donations (\$10.00 each) are due in the church office by **Sunday, December 11**. Poinsettias may be picked up by their owners following the last service on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day after the 10:00 am worship. Donations to LWR will be sent directly to Lutheran World Relief to be used at their discretion of need.

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Make Ready for Holy Disruption:

A Contemplative Advent Midweek Series

Wednesdays: Nov 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner (soups, salad, bread)

7:00 pm Worship (link to the livestream Advent Service on Wednesday

nights: <https://vimeo.com/event/2679102>)

Advent carries expectations for two events: as we wait for the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, we also await the time when Christ will come again to make a new heaven and new earth. Christ's coming brings peace ... but also disruption of the sin, injustice, and brokenness that burdens our lives and our world. When we pray for Christ to come, we are praying for a holy disruption of the status quo of death and the revealing of God's kingdom of life.

Led by the Duke Lutherans, our midweek Advent series this year is built around four steps to help us prepare for God's holy disruption: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week's liturgy (consisting of prayer and silence, singing, listening, and reflection) will focus on one step. Together, the steps will remind us that discipleship is always a process and journey. As we worship, we will ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes so that we might see all of the ways that God promises to come and will come into the world.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!

A Look at the Art of Advent

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.

This Advent at St. Paul's, Art Historian Janet Seiz will present three sessions during the morning Adult Education featuring all of these things. Each session will highlight a comparison between a "classic" and a "contemporary" work of art related to a specific event in the Christmas story. Aspects of the creative process and the Artist's use of technique and materials will be covered as well as the development and use of symbols. Each class will open and close with a short video blending Advent art and music together.

- ▶ Week I: The Annunciation, November 27, 2022
- ▶ Week II: The Visitation, December 4, 2022
- ▶ Week III: The Adoration of the Shepherds/The Nativity, December 18, 2022

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 9:45 am in Trinity Hall and on Zoom. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2023 and elect three members to the Congregational Council. The Zoom link will be sent out this week. The budget information has been emailed and available for pick-up in the foyer. Please plan to attend.

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday, Dec 14 at 6:00 pm - Sign up by Dec 11

Plan to attend the Christmas Dinner in Trinity Hall on Wed, Dec 14 beginning at 6:00 pm. Menu is Pork Loin and a Shrimp dish, Garlic Potatoes, Broccoli and Cheese Casserole, salad, rolls and a variety of desserts. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and you are welcome to email Susan Esposito at admin@stpaulsdurham.org with the **number attending and which meat dish is preferred**. If you can assist in any way (prep work, cooking, serving, and clean-up), please contact Martha Dahl at 847-612-6687 or mjdahlhouse@gmail.com ! The Advent Service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



Information for the January issue of Cross Connections will be due on Monday, December 19 with mail out on **Wednesday, December 21, "Holy Folders" meeting at 11:00 am.** This will be an abbreviated issue due to the short amount of time and the holiday schedule. We will concentrate on worship information and events and not include staff articles unless necessary.

"O Holy Night", The Greatest Story Ever Told – December 16 and 17, 2 shows each night at 6 and 7 pm at Camp Agape, 1369 Tyler Dewar Lane, Fuquay-Varina. Come to Camp Agape for an evening of family fellowship and an incredible presentation of the Christmas story. Follow the "Greatest Story Ever Told" as it unfolds across camp through our live nativity! Whether you have been joining us for years or this will be a first for your family, celebrating Jesus' birth is sure to be a moving experience for all! There will be wonderful hors d'oeuvre and snack arrangements for you to enjoy before the show, our favorite carols will be sung, and we will experience the joy in the journey of the manger. Cost is \$15 per person (\$60 maximum for immediate family). Register now because time slots fill quickly! Go the website: agapekurebeach.org.

On Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm, you are invited to a community service of silence and contemplation, hope and peace at Epworth Methodist Church, 3002 Hope Valley Road, Durham.

Can you help provide rides? St. Paul's has a handicap accessible bus and we have members who need transportation to church or evening events. If you can help by providing some evening transportation such as to the meals and services, or would like to learn how to handle the bus (you do not need a special driver's license), please contact the staff.

Children's Sunday School is meeting downstairs in the Genesis hall from 9:45-10:45 am. We will have some fun cooking and also creating some special crafts as we talk about the seasons of Advent and Christmas in the church. Please join us!

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Friday, December 16 at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to the nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

During the past year, we have enjoyed the result of St. Paul's annual contribution in support of **"Sing for Joy,"** a radio program of sacred music aired by WCPE and their website, theClassicalStation.org. Now we have an opportunity to renew our \$1,000 annual support of "Sing for Joy" so that St. Paul's can continue to be named on the air as a sponsor of the program. Donors can drop a check, noting WCPE on the check, in the offering plate or the Finance Drop Box in the staff hallway or they can be mailed to St. Paul's. These checks will be consolidated and a check from St. Paul's will be sent to WCPE when we accumulate the \$1,000 donation. Many thanks to Hitch Havill for helping us support WCPE and "Sing for Joy." **Deadline is December 11** for contributions.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul's pasta! THANKS to your generosity the "St. Paul's Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf" stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. To date since starting in August, we have collected 465 packages and 512 pounds of pasta. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with others and keep the St. Paul's shelf stocked! The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, a ministry of South Durham Connections, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze. **St. Paul's Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (**NOT:** kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

New Programs from Growing thru Grief

Growing thru Grief offers help and support to people grieving the loss of a loved one. We are a coalition of religious and civic organizations which have been serving people since 2013. We offer education and small group support each week.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

Dec. 13 Holiday Cello Concert, with Debbie Davis

Dec. 20 Looking Back at Grief, with Bill Dahl

Dec. 27 A New Beginning, with Mike McCleod

We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Meetings are held each Tuesday, with registration starting at 4:00 pm. First time attendees must show proof of Covid vaccination and booster(s). Masks are optional. We ask people to come at 4; the program begins at 4:30, and all will end by 6.

Please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org if you have any questions.

The Afghan refugee resettlement group has been hard at work helping our new neighbors from Afghanistan settle in Durham. They are a wonderful family of 10 with another child on the way. The father drove US military personnel in Afghanistan and we would like to purchase a used van for him. Additionally, the oldest son needs tuition for community college in the fall. He dreams of one day being a doctor. In order to help raise funds for these needs we have started a gofundme page:

<https://gofund.me/1cf5b6e8> We encourage people to donate (everything helps) and also to share the link. This is an easy way for us as a church to simultaneously help a family in need and to reach out beyond our walls and show everyone the good work we are doing.

Music Time for Children – Join us at the 8:30 am service on Sundays for music time with Ted Turner, our minister of music. Following the children's message, all children (and parents) are invited to come sing some songs and have some fun in Whitesell hall during the sermon at the early service. They will return to the service after the singing to continue worship. We hope to see you there.

Child Care on Sunday mornings! We now have an attendant, Courtney, on Sunday mornings who will care for your small children so parents and older children may attend Sunday School and worship. She will be available during the 8:30 service through the 11:00 service. Care will take place in the Parlor which is the room between the atrium and Whitesell Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Bible Study – Join us on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am where we are studying the book of Genesis. The class takes place in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed.

Join the Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11.

Topic: Coffee Hour, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

Our Free Little Library is full of books, magazines, and puzzles for your use. You are welcome to take or leave one to use and share. Stop by the shelf which is near the water fountain in the atrium.

Worship – We have two services: 8:30 am and 11:00 am, both using Setting One of the ELW. The 8:30 am service will be in-person. The 11:00 am service will be in-person, live-streamed and recorded. The link to watch the 11:00 service live is: <https://vimeo.com/event/1478223>. The link to watch any services which have been recorded is: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> then choose the service date or event you wish to watch. We now are offering child-care during the worship times. Our attendant will be located in the room between the foyer and Whitesell Hall.

Sign-Up Genius Links

We need worship assistants weekly. Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

♦ Sunday Morning Worship Tasks

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, altar guild, video, etc. Staff will be glad to provide assistance for any of these tasks.

♦ Sunday morning Communion Assistants and Lock-Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion>

♦ Devotions – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Please send your devotions to Vicar Amanda Spangler at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

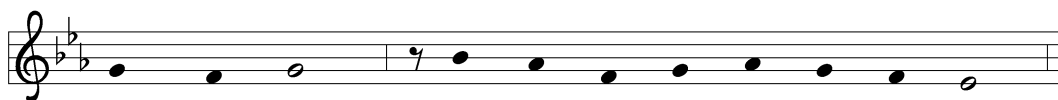


Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
 Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
 Music: FREUTEUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602