



and vacations, let us pause and take a breath.

**Many: We have come here to worship our Rock and our salvation.**

One: We have come to anticipate the wonder of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

**Many: We stand before God, awaiting Word, and truth, and life.**

One: Let us pause amidst the hustle and bustle of secular Christmas busy-ness and breathe in the sacred love of a Christ-centered advent season.

**All: Let us celebrate the advent of Christ our peace!**

*Adapted from "Contemporary Gathering" by Hans Holznagel in The Abingdon Worship Annual. Used with permission.*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — Scott & Bethany Lawrence**

**HYMN**

TFWS #223 "Where Children Belong"

## **CHILDREN'S STORY — Lin**

**HYMN**

UMH #237 "Sing We Now of Christmas" (vs 1, 2, 3)

1. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

**REFRAIN:** Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

2. Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest. **REFRAIN**

3. In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,  
Seated by the manger, watching the holy child. **REFRAIN**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-20** — Diana Murray, Suzanne Gallagher, Lin Cheek

Diana: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Suzanne: “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Diana: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Suzanne: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Diana: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Lin: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Diana: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**MESSAGE**

“Christmas According to Luke”

Rev. Lin Cheek

**RESPONSIVE HYMN**

UMH #211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (verses 1 & 2)

1. O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel  
Who mourns in lowly exile here until the son of God appear.

**REFRAIN:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come thou wisdom from on high who ordered all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. **REFRAIN**

**OFFERTORY** — Anneke Toomey

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Diana Murray

**ALL: Eternal God, you have blessed us in more ways than we can count. May these gifts we dedicate in your name bring your peace to a violent and fractured world. And may we be your**

peace to the least and the lost, especially those who believe they have everything, but who don't have you in their hearts. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

**TIME OF PRAYER** — Lin

**ALL:** 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. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      TFWS #2098    “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (vs 1 & 2)

1. The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the virgin Mary had a baby boy and they say that his name was Jesus.

**REFRAIN:** He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

2. The angels sang when the baby born, The angels sang when the baby born,  
The angels sang when the baby born, and they say that his name was Jesus. **REFRAIN**

**\*BENEDICTION** — Lin

**POSTLUDE** — Anneke Toomey

Prelude/Postlude—Anneke  
Song Leader— Janice Bachmann  
Liturgist — Diana Murray

Accomp.—Anneke  
Special Music — Hymn  
Children’s Message— Lin

Offertory—Anneke  
Organ — Betsy  
Violin — Rae Ann Norell