St. Paul's Lutheran Church 4th Sunday of Advent - December 18, 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 - (8:30) Nun komm der Heiden Heiland by Dieterich Buxtehude (translation: Savior of the Nations, Come, ELW 263

(11:00) Ding Dong Merrily on High by Richard Proulx (Handbells)

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 \(\Pi\) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Gathering Song - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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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



All Glory Be to God on High



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

Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius
Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2–4 © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

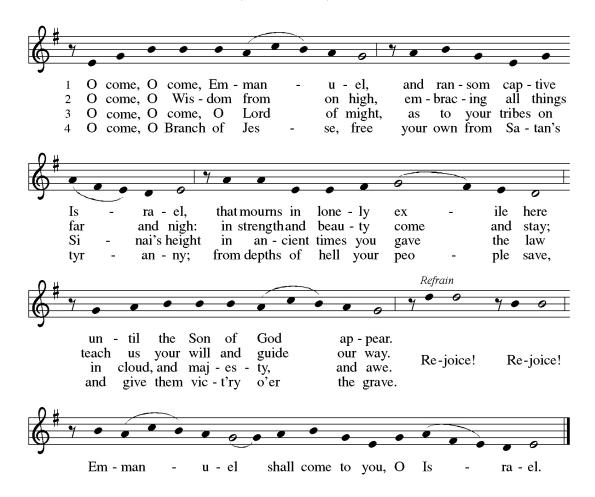
First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

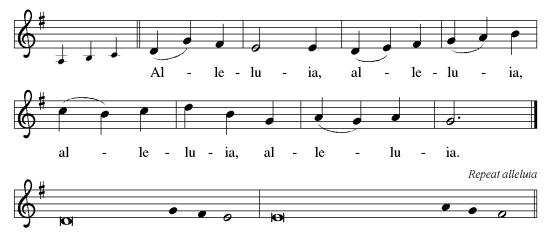
Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation



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 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 5 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Savior of the Nations, Come

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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.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (*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. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. 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.

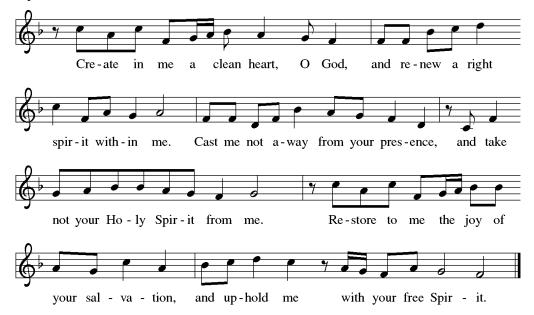
C And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - O Lux Beatissima by Howard Helvy (Choir at 11:00)

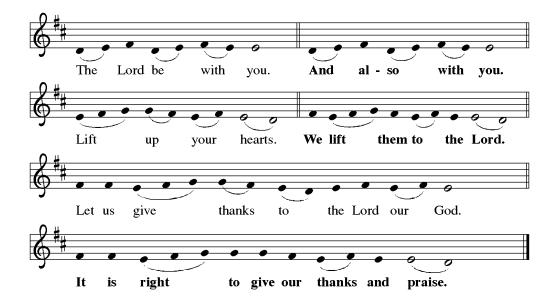
Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart



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

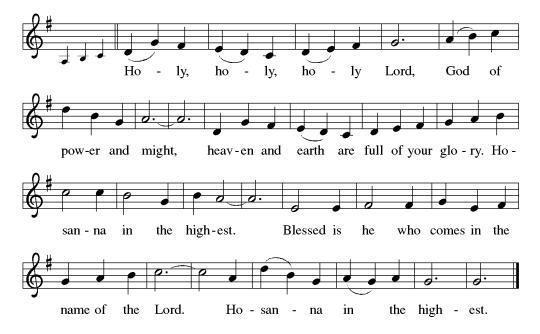


Preface

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



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.

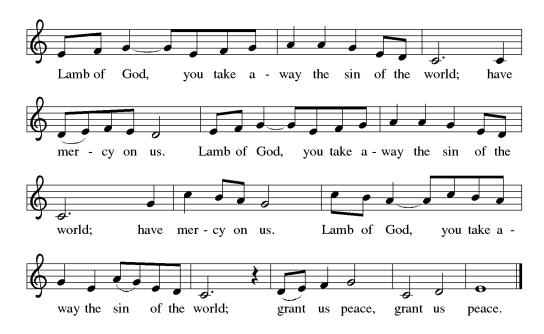
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD



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 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

265

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



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 – Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling

631

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude - Nun komm der Heiden Heiland by J. S. Bach

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

- ◆ To the glory of God by Hitch Havill and Rachel Harter
- ♣ In memory of my mother, Virginia Jules, my grandmother, Alvena Peil, and family and friends who have passed, by Rebecca Jules

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. Sign-up sheets are available for 2023.

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)

Information for the January issue of Cross Connections will be due on Monday, December 19 with mail out is 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.

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SUPPERS AND WORSHIP Make Ready for Holy Disruption:

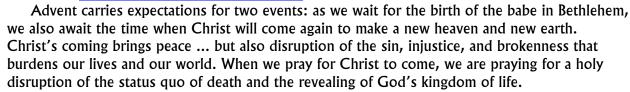
A Contemplative Advent Midweek Series

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)



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

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

Croasdaile Worship will be on Thursday, December 22 at 2:00 pm. Come join us!

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. 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.

Thursday Bible Study will not meet on December 22 nor 29, we will return on January 5, 2023.

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=WVVCRlqrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; us find our let rest in born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, e - ter - nal Spir-it By thine own rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

Savior of the Nations, Come



- of the na tions, come; vir-gin's son, make here your home. hu man flesh and blood, but the mys tic Breath of God, Sav - ior
- Not
- Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- From God's heart the Sav ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



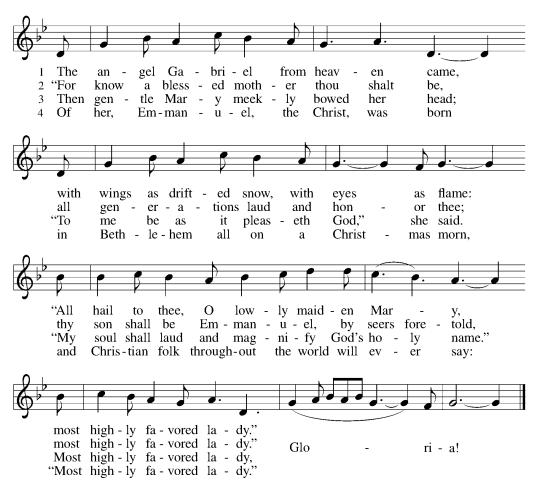
0 heav'n and earth: God has cho-sen Mar-vel now, such birth. was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh. Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run! van-quish death's com-mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

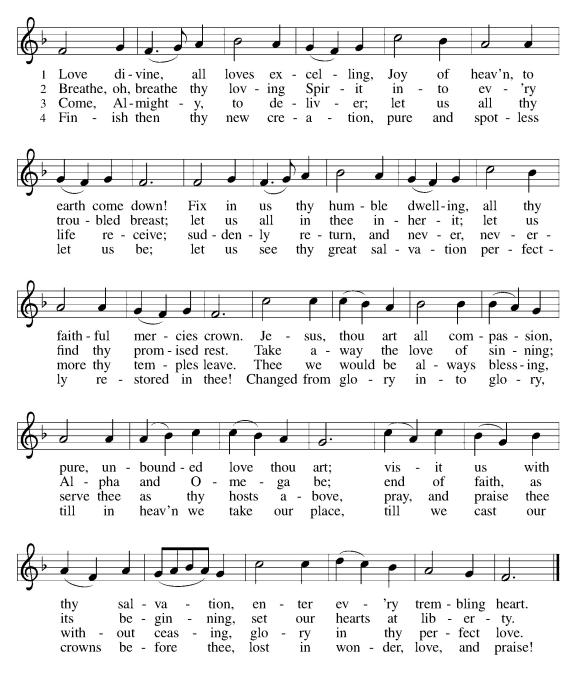
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The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887