



14 December 2025  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Lighting the Advent Candle - Joy

We light the first two candles in our Advent wreath represent God's gifts of hope and peace.

*Light two purple candles*

As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share with those we love. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought "good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people." The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of peace are still 'tidings of great joy' for us today.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul tells us to rejoice in God always. The third candle which we light this morning reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

*Light the pink candle*

And so let us together pray:

**God of Joy,  
Thank you for the excitement and delight  
we experience at this joyful time of year.  
Help us to share your joy with others  
so that they, too, will be filled  
with your Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*Please stand to sing*

# We Sing

## Prepare the Way

### Verse 1

We've heard the revival stories  
Of ancient and old time glory  
Spirit of God come do it again  
Miracle-working power  
Moving in signs and wonders  
Spirit of God come do it again (CHORUS)

### Verse 2

God, You're just getting started  
A testimony of more to come  
Spirit of God, come do it in us  
We join the faith of heaven  
And prophesy Your kingdom here on earth  
Spirit of God come do it in us (CHORUS)

### Chorus

Prepare the way, He's coming through  
Ready or not, our God's on the move  
We're gonna see heaven on earth  
Come, Holy Spirit, awaken Your church

### Bridge

Fire fall, wind come blow  
We're ready for more, ready for more  
Break down the walls, push back the doors  
We're ready for more (ready for more)

### Ending

We've heard the revival stories  
Of ancient and old time glory  
Spirit of God come do it again

# We Pray

*Prayers are led, then all pray together:*

**O God of prophecy and expectation,  
you proclaim the unfolding of future joy  
and the promise of life renewed.  
Strengthen our hearts to see your advent gift,  
that one day we will walk with Christ,  
where sorrow and sighing will be no more  
and the journey of your people will be joy.  
Amen.**

# **We Hear God's Word**

## **First Lesson**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. A 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. No 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. And 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**People – Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

# Gospel Song

## Emmanuel

**CHORUS**

The musical notation for the chorus of 'Emmanuel' is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, F/A, Bb, F, Bb, F/A, Csus, C, Dm, Dm/C, Bb, and F/A. The lyrics are: 'Come, come, Em - man - u - el! Son of God, ap - pear. Heav - en and earth, re - joice! Sal -'.

Come, come, Em - man - u - el! Son of God, ap - pear. Heav - en and earth, re - joice! Sal -

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The musical notation continues on a new line, starting with a measure rest. Chords are indicated above the staff: Gm7, Csus, C, Dm, Dm/C, Bb, F/A, Gm7, Csus, C, and F2. The lyrics are: 'va - tion is draw - ing near. Sal - va - tion is draw - ing near.'

va - tion is draw - ing near. Sal - va - tion is draw - ing near.

## Gospel Lesson

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:2-11)

**People – Glory to you, Lord Christ**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**People – Praise to you, Lord Christ**

*Please be seated*

# Sermon

## We Set the Table

### Mary, Did You Know?

#### Verse 1

Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water  
Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Has come to make you new  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you

#### Bridge

The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb

#### Verse 2

Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would give sight to the blind man  
Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God  
Oh Mary did you know

#### Verse 3

Oh Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation  
Mary did you know  
That your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb  
And the sleeping Child you're holding  
Is the great I Am

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## Christ Feeds Us

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

**People**

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Lift up your hearts.

**People**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People**

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.  
From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep  
and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and  
every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled  
against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you  
would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings  
through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

***Celebrant & People***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory**

**Hosanna. Hosanna, in the highest**

**Hosanna. Hosanna, in the highest**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.



# During Communion

## ***Come, Lord Jesus***

### ***Intro***

Come, Lord Jesus, come redeem us  
We will wait for You

### ***Verse 1***

You will flood our souls with light  
Bring the broken world to rights  
As You swallow death with life  
We will be singing

### ***Verse 2***

And still waters You will stir  
As we're changed from who we were  
We're no longer 'neath the curse  
You'll find us singing

### ***Chorus 1***

Come Lord Jesus  
come redeem us  
We will wait for You  
When the night  
gives way to the light  
Our hearts will know it is You

### ***Bridge***

We reach for You  
with hopeful longing  
We join the earth  
in all its groaning  
And the trees  
will clap their hands  
And the rocks will join the song

### ***Chorus 2***

Come Lord Jesus come redeem us  
We will wait for You  
When the night gives way to the light  
Our hearts will recognize You

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

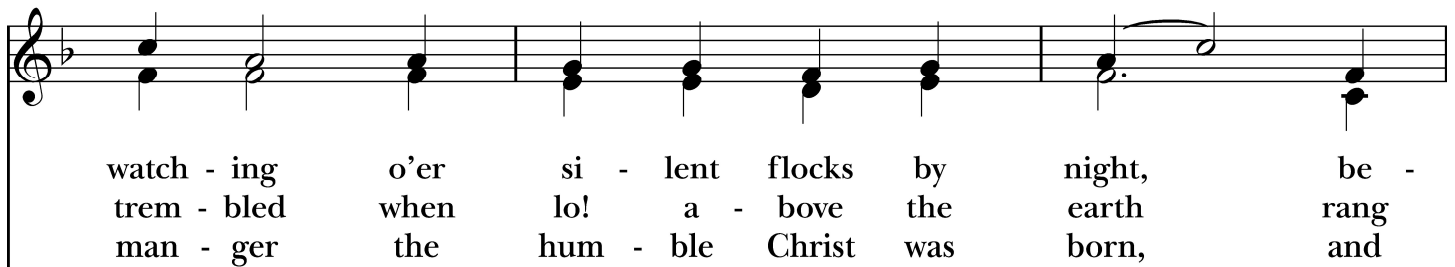
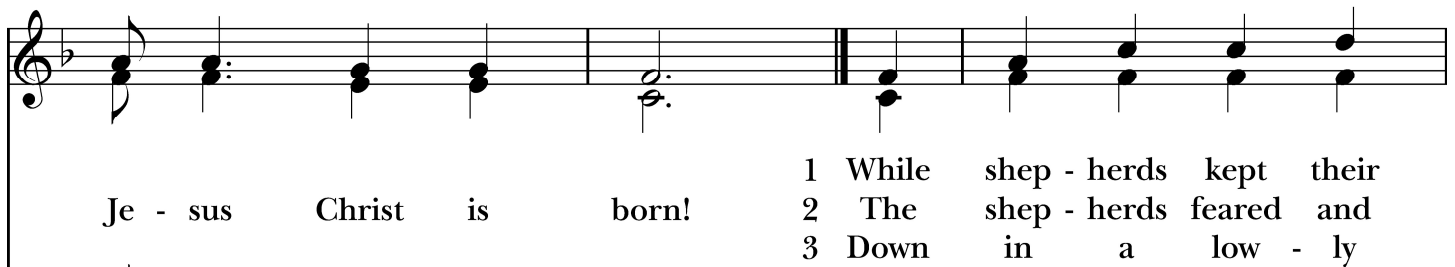
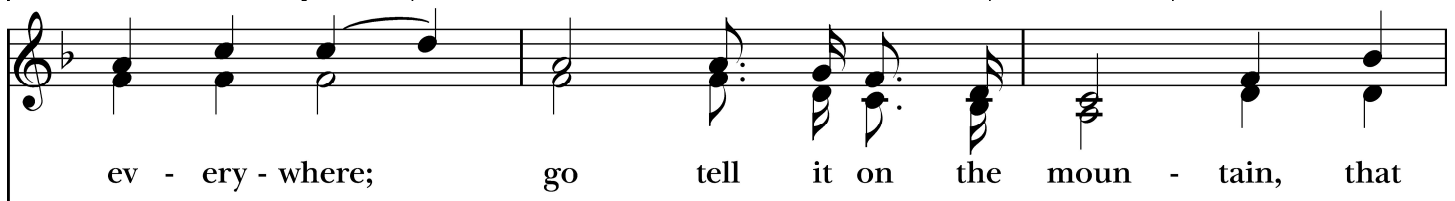
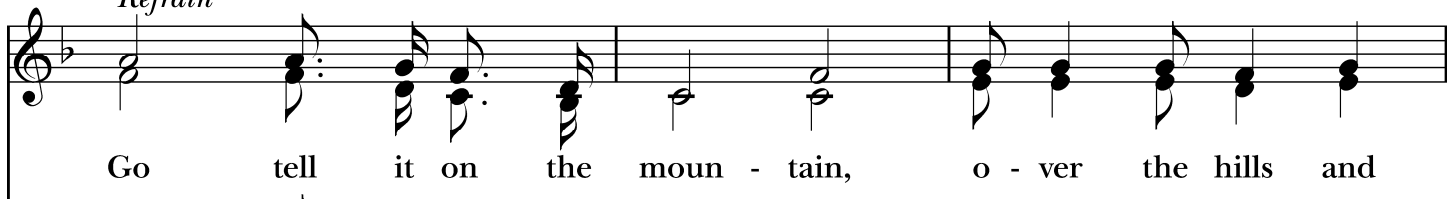
# Announcements & Blessing

## We Sing

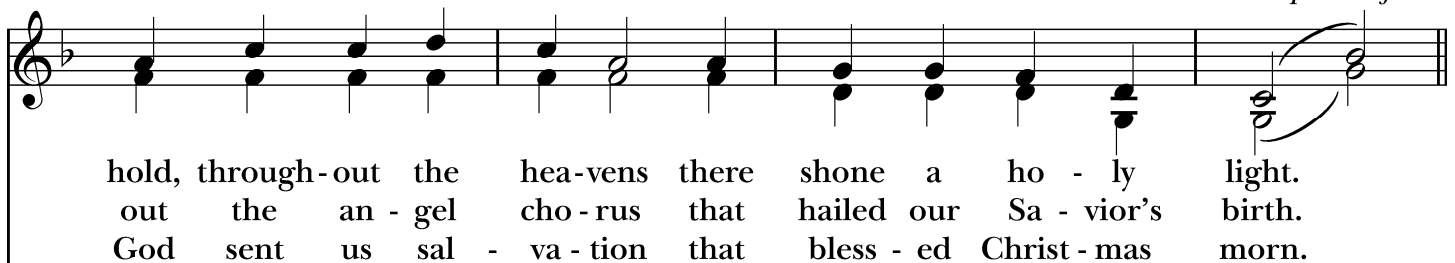
### Go, tell it on the mountain

*Hymnal 99*

*Refrain*



*Repeat Refrain*



# We're Sent

*Deacon* – Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit  
***People* – Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**