

Advent 4

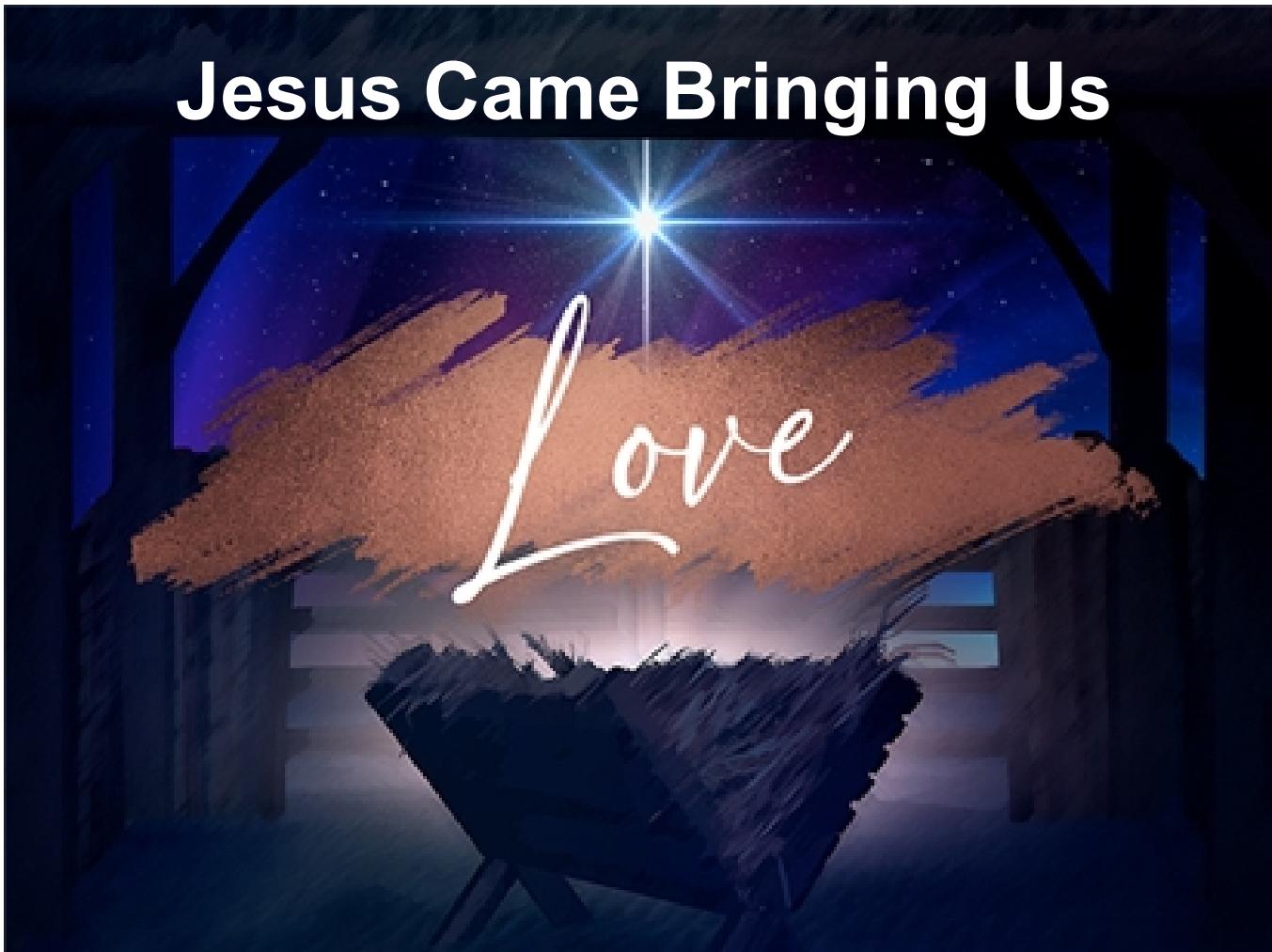
December 21, 2025

Gathering Music

“Little Drummer Boy”

Welcome

Jesus Came Bringing Us





Announcements

Light the Advent Candle - Love

Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Last week, we lit the first three candles in our Advent wreath, the candles that represent our Hope and our desire for Peace and Joy in our hearts.

Today, we light the fourth candle, the candle that represents Love. We live in a world longing for Love: a Love that recognises each one of us as a child of God, a Love that welcomes us as we are, a Love that celebrates all that we are.

Knowing the need for Love in our own lives and in this dejected world, we light this candle as a symbol of the Love promised in the coming of Jesus.

(The fourth candle is lit.)

Hymn VU # 6 (v.4) “A Candle is Burning”

4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to Heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our Earth.



Prelude

“Gésu Bambino”

Call to Worship

Hear the good news ! God is with us !

**Far beyond us, yet nearer than body and bone;
God is with us.**

A wonder, a mystery, the news of greatest joy; God is with us.

**Restore us, O God, let your face shine,
that we might be saved. Amen!**



Hymn VU # 48

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark ! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on Earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled !'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem !'

Refrain **Hark ! the herald angels sing,**
'Glory to the newborn King !'

Christ, by highest Heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel !

Refrain **Hark ! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King !'**

3

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace !
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness !
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

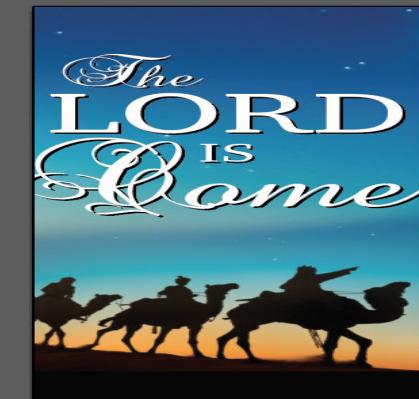
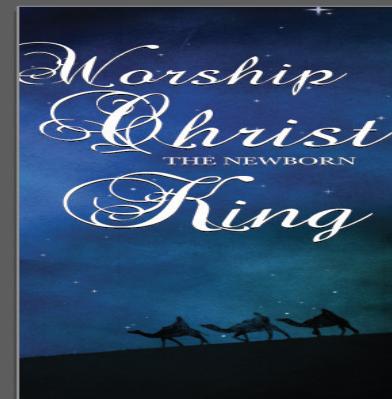
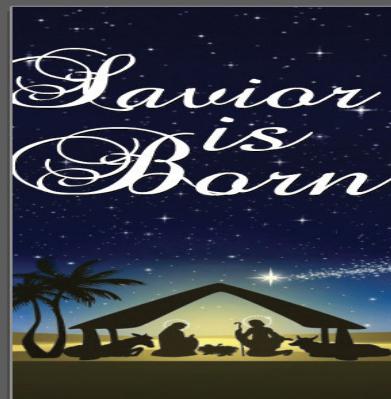
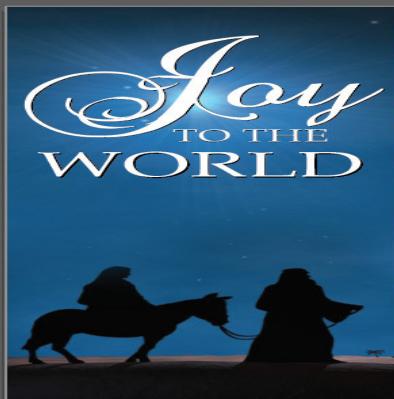
Refrain **Hark ! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King !'**

Prayer of Confession

Friends, knowing that we pray to a God who longs for us to draw closer, who longs for us to always be more honest and courageous in naming our failings as well as our strengths, let us unburden our hearts with the ways we have fallen short of God's vision for our lives. God who is with us, closer even than our own breath, reveal to us the Saviour.



Like so many before us, we fall short of your hope for us and need the hope of salvation. Like David and the prophets of old, we need your promise of love. Like Mary and Joseph, may we have peace and joy. Like all the saints who have gone before us, grant us the gift of life. Free us from the ways we have failed to be your people, your children. Free us from the ways we have hurt, ignored, and fallen short.



Words of Assurance

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from Scripture.

The prophet Isaiah declares, “A young woman is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel” which means “God with us.”

May we take the radical realities of God’s forgiving love deep into our hearts, and know that we are indeed forgiven, freed from our sins and freed for God’s love !

Thanks be to God ! Amen.



Time
with
the Young People

with Cathy

Children's Song VU # 69 "Away in a Manger" (v.1)

1

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.



*(The children may now proceed
with their guardians to have sharing time.)*

**The Scriptures
First Reading**

*read by Marian
Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God - the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his Resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second Reading **Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
We give thanks for inspiration.**



Choir Anthem

"I Believe in Angels"



Message

by Rev. Yun-Hee

Hymn VU # 73 "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

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 is Jesus.

Refrain He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes ! believer ! Oh, yes ! believer !
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious Kingdom.

2

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

Refrain

He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes ! believer ! Oh, yes ! believer !
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious Kingdom.

3

The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain

He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes ! believer ! Oh, yes ! believer !
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious Kingdom.

Prayers of the People

Compassionate, God, whose Spirit called Joseph to parenthood, called him to release a life he knew, and receive a life he could never have imagined, and on Mary, preparing her for motherhood and birth, by your Spirit, call and prepare us for our work...for our relationships...for the ways you created us to be...

In the silence of our hearts, or in spoken word we name to you the people, the problems, the paradoxes, the sicknesses, and the fears which all ache for your healing.

(I invite you pray silently or aloud.)

In the silence of our hearts, or in spoken word, we name to you the ways we seek your help in releasing things, fears, illusions, and ideas that we need to release from our lives in this Christmas season.

(I invite you pray silently or aloud.)

With our hearts and hands duly emptied, in the silence of our hearts, or in spoken word, we name to you what we hope to receive in this time of Advent ending and Christmas beginning.

(I invite you pray silently or aloud.)

Caring God, you listened to our prayers and petitions. We trust you. We need you. We love you. Please answer us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer VU # 960

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd 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.

We Offer Our Gifts

Musical Offering HYMN VU#540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Offering Prayer



Fearless and faithful God, in your yearning for a renewed world we recognise and celebrate our own calling and participation. In the receiving of these gifts, receive and honour that self-same desire to be a renewing and affirming presence; people alive to your gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Amen.

Hymn VU # 38

“Angels we Have Heard on High”

1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain **Gloria, in excelsis Deo !**
Gloria, in excelsis Deo !



2

Shepherds, why this jubilee ?
Why your joyous strains prolong ?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song ?

Refrain **Gloria, in excelsis Deo !**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo !

3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R

4 See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain Gloria, in excelsis Deo !
Gloria, in excelsis Deo !



Blessing

Brothers and sisters, the best news, the greatest news, the true longing of our hearts is happening.

Thank God ! To us is born our Liberator, our Prince of Peace.

Go forth from this time to serve and love your neighbour.

Amen.



Commissioning “Go Now in Peace”

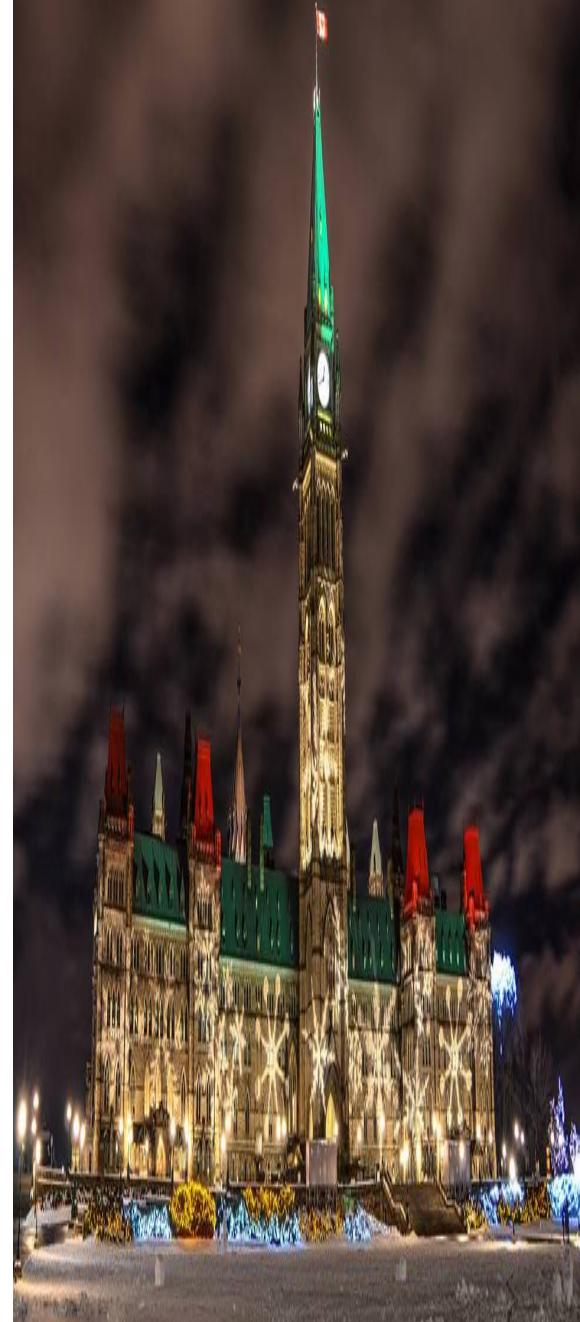
***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of
every day.***

***Go now in faith, steadfast strong
and true. Know God will guide you
in all you do.***

***Go now in love and show you
believe.***

***Reach out to others so all the world
can see. God will be there within,
around, above.***

***Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.***





**We thank God for being with us
And
thank you Congregation for worshipping today in
person and by Zoom
And for your participation in the Service !**

(Images from the public domain.)