

November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent



Worship Leaders:

Pastor Brian Entz & Mary Markve-Patch

Music Leaders:

Ralph Johansen & Worship Team

*Please read along with all **Bold** text*
*All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

Advent Reflection

Mark Patterson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*O Lord, you flower the gardens for us
and make green the wastelands.*

*The mountains burst forth with streams of water
and the fields are filled with your bounty.*

*Thank you, God, for all good gifts,
and make our hearts your home
that we might serve you all of our days
and live in the hope of your peace. Amen.*

-Ann Weems

GATHERING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 121 (MSG)

I look up to the mountains;

does my strength come from mountains?

No, my strength comes from God,

who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.

God's your Guardian,

right at your side to protect you

Come, let us worship God!

***OPENING SONGS**

Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Emmanuel (sing 2x)

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

***ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

O Hope, we need your presence, we rely on your steadfastness.

Fill us with your hope, O God, that we might make it through these trying days and experience your coming kingdom.

This candle represents the light of Christ's hope, shining in our lives.

***ADVENT RESPONSE**

Come, Emmanuel

Agre

Come, Emmanuel

Agre

Quoting, "Come, Thou long Expected Jesus"
Charles Wesley (1744)

$\text{♩} = 95$

We are wait-ing for Em-man-u-el, we are wait-ing for the Lord. Bring us

5 *hope, hope, hope in our hearts; o-pen eyes that we may see. O, come, come Em-

10 man-u-el born to set us free, from our fears and sins re-lease.

15 We'll find our rest in you. Come, Em-man-u-el.

*substitute peace, joy, love

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The psalmist pleads, "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love." Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone.

Holy God, could it be true? Are you about to do a new thing to make our hearts sing? Even in a weary world when so many are tired and tired of being tired? Forgive us for singing the same old song of cynicism. Forgive us for keeping quiet instead of speaking truth, for standing back instead of stepping up. Strengthen our hearts in holiness that we would increase and abound in love for one another and all of your creation. In the name of the One who is to come again, we pray, Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Receive the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and hold on to hope.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE**

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Open our hearts and still our minds, O God, so that as your word is read and proclaimed we might receive what you say to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV)

1The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

- 2 In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
- 3 Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
- 5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 13:11-14 (NRSV)

11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

#107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Barb Janski, Flute

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV)

36"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, or the Son, but only the Father. 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would

have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Let the Christ Child In

Althouse/Albrecht

*“Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life.”
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



*PRAISE REFRAIN

#698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

The risen Christ is the savior of all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God’s reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.

The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God’s final victory over the power of sin and death.

All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you, to love our neighbors and our enemies, and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Sovereign Lord.

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed,
may we all have enough;
for the oppressed and the oppressors,
may we pursue justice and equity wisely;
for the peacemakers and the warmongers,
may clear truth and stern love lead us to just harmony;

for the silenced and the propagandists,
may we speak our own words in truth and hold space for others to speak truth;
for the unemployed and the overworked,
may all have work that is kind, life giving, and creative;
for the doubters and the certain,
may we find trust in you;
for those experiencing homelessness and those who are pampered,
may we all have homes that are simple, warm, and welcoming;
for the sick and the healthy,
may we care for one another with love and compassion;
for the vibrant and the dying,
may we all remember the gracious truth, that in life and in death we belong to you.
Let us lift up those in our congregations and community in need of healing, support, and care...

Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign Lord. In his name we join our voices, using whatever words we know, to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

#100 My Soul Cries out with a Joyful Shout

*BLESSING

*SENDING REFRAIN

Go Now In Peace

Sleeth

1x together, 2x round

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you

Ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere you may go.

POSTLUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Marty Schaefer

***Our Mission is:
Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus***

WORSHIP NOTES

All liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord) Words and Music by Stephen Schwartz© 1971 by Range Road Music., Quartet Music Inc. and New Cadenza Music Corporation
Emmanuel Words and Music by Bob McGee CCLI Song # 12949 © 1976 C.A. Music
Come, Emmanuel Mike Agre ©2025
#447 We Are Forgiven Text: Trad. Liturgical text Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995 copyright Hal Hopson 1995
#107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1983, alt. MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983 Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.
Let the Christ Child In Words and Music by Jay Althouse and Sally K. Albrecht Copyright © MCMXCIV by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.
#698 Take, O Take Me as I Am | TEXT and MUSIC: Isaiah Jones Jr. 1969 | Text and music © 1970 Davike Music Company, assigned 1986 Fricourt Music Company
#100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning) Text: Rory Cooney, 1990 Music: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990 Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
Go Now In Peace Words and Music Natalie Sleeth ©1976 by Hinshaw Music, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettia Orders: Please submit your poinsettia order and payment to Christy in the office **TODAY**.

Deck the Halls: We will be Decking the Halls with our friends from Spirit of Joy **TODAY at 10:30am!** After we decorate, we will enjoy a time of fellowship and a chili feed.

Immigration Aid Collection: There is a bin outside the Fellowship Hall gathering donations of bath & body soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

Adopt-a-Family: We have the family that we have adopted for the holidays! Items that are donated need to be turned in by **December 7th at noon**. There is a bin in the Narthex that is collecting the items for this. We have all of the spots filled!! Thank you so much for supporting and blessing a local family in need this holiday season!

150th Celebration Worship Service: Join us in celebrating serving the community for 150 years! This special service will be on **December 7th at 9:30am**. Please invite your friends and neighbors!

Congregational Meeting: Please join us on **Sunday, December 14th** following the worship service for a special congregational meeting.

UPCOMING THIS WEEK

Today November 30th	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC~Deck the Halls & Chili Feed
Monday December 1st	6:30pm: Prayer Shawl Group
Tuesday December 2nd	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe 6:30pm: Faith Formation Committee Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday December 3rd	7:00pm: Adult Choir
Thursday December 4th	7:30am: People of Faith via Zoom 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group via Zoom
Sunday December 7th	9:30am: 150th Anniversary Celebration Worship with Communion 10:30am: CCC~150th Anniversary Celebration



How Can We Pray for You?

Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests.

BPC Prayer List:

- Family of Larry Pattee
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Rich Dahl
- Mary Gillis, fighting cancer
- George, Elaine, and the Thole family following George's brother's death
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- Arthur James, Tanya's niece's baby
- Diane Ellis
- Family of Don Olsen
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Daniel & Gloria Elliot, Bonnie Morek's brother & sister-in-law
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has a terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jim and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

FORGIVENESS

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

G Am7 Dsus D G Am

God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.

D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G

We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in 4/4 time and E-flat major (three flats). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics 'Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall' are written below the staves, with the vocal line starting on the word 'Take'.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the hymn. It also consists of a treble and a bass staff in the same key and time signature. The melody in the treble staff concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics 'be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.' are written below the staves, with the vocal line starting on the word 'be;'. The system ends with a double bar line.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

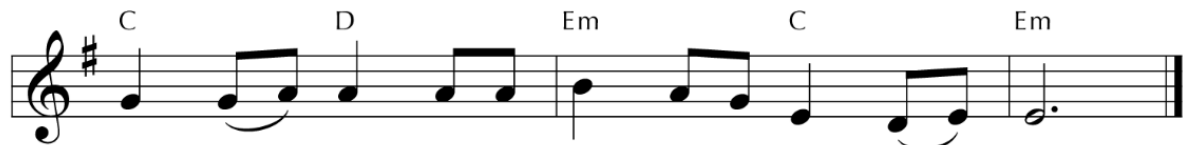
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.