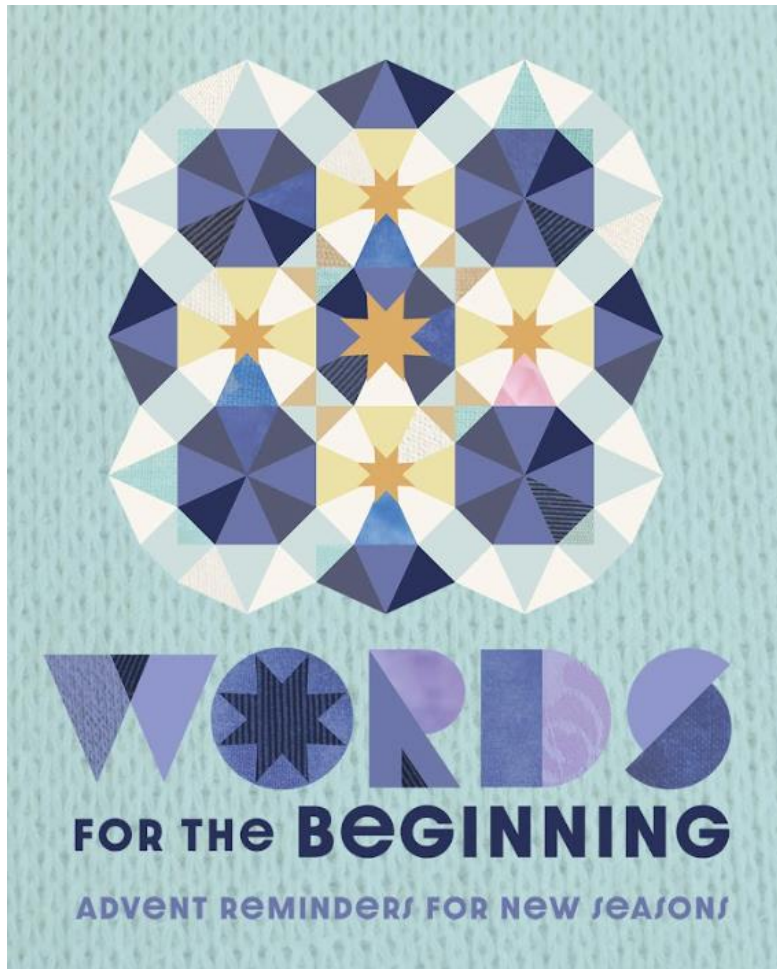


Sunday, December 22, 2024
A Poetic Service of Lessons and Carols
Pastor Kim Swenson



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Doug Scholes
Reader: Karl Peterson
Altar Guild: Peggy Hansen
Communion Assist: Marilyn Meister
Ushers: Karl & Bonnie Peterson
Video Tech: Cindy Michalski

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Welcome

Warm the Time of Winter Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Opening Hymn

Warm the Time of Winter

vss. 1&2

10 *mp* **Em** **D** **C** **Bm7** **Em**

1. When the wind of win-ter blows, bring-ing times of sol - i - tude,
 2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of death comes near,

14 **Cmaj7** **D/F#** **Cmaj7** **D** **Em**

fill the si - lent, ic - y night; be our hearts' com - pas - sion.
 hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear, while the eve - ning deep - ens.

Refrain

18 *mf/f* **Am** **Em/G** **D/F#** **Bm7** **D/A** **A**

Harmony

Melody Ho - ly Light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.
 Ho - ly Light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.

22 **F** **Cmaj7** **D/F#** **Bm7** **Cmaj7** **D**

Ho - ly Light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter. _____
 Ho - ly Light, warm our night; warm the time of win - ter. _____

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

Opening Hymn

Warm the Time of Winter

vs 3

Verse 3

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins at measure 52 with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The second staff continues the melody from measure 53. Chord symbols are placed above the staves: Em (measures 52-53), D (measure 54), C (measure 55), Bm7 (measure 56), and Em (measures 57-58). The lyrics are: "3. When in days of fall-en snow, change con-founds or love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise phoe-nix of our grow - ing."

52 *mf* Em D C Bm⁷ Em

3. When in days of fall-en snow, change con-founds or love burns low,
from the ash - es may there rise phoe-nix of our grow - ing.

60 Descant (optional) *mf/f*

Ho-ly Light, warm our night; warm our win-ter.

Ho-ly Light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.

Ho - ly Light, warm our night;—

64

F Cmaj⁷ 1. D/F# Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ D

Ho - ly Light, warm our win-ter.

Ho-ly Light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.

Ho - ly Light, warm our win-ter.

69

2. D/F# Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ rit.

warm our win-ter.

warm the time of win-ter.

warm our win-ter.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, + one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Kyrie

17 *f Cantor*

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
 Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

41 *All*

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. _____
 Chri - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son. _____
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. _____

Almighty God has had mercy upon us, has forgiven us our sins, and has brought us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, Emmanuel, God with us, **open us to your presence among us. Open our ears and our hearts, that we might come to know you better through the scriptures, the poems shared, and the Spirit moving in our own reflections as we celebrate your arrival in our world and in our lives. Amen.**

Choir *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

ACS 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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Lighting of the Advent Candles: *First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle

God did not wait till the world was ready,
till the nations were at peace.

**God came when the heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.**

God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.

**God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.**

God did not wait till hearts were pure.

In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

**To a world like ours of anguished shame God came,
and God's light would not go out.**

God came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

**In the mystery of Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.**

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,

God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now. Amen.**

Carol: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Cranberry 257 vss. 1-3, 7-8



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Poem: *Annunciation to Mary* by Rainer Maria Rilke

The angel's entrance (you must realize)
was not what made her frightened. The surprise
he gave her by his coming was no more
than sun or moon-beam stirring on the floor
would give another, — she had long since grown
used to the form that angels wear, descending;
never imaging this coming-down
was hard for them. (O it's past comprehending,
how pure she was. Did not one day, a hind
that rested in a wood, watchfully staring,
feel her deep influence, and did it not
conceive the unicorn, then, without pairing,
the pure beast, beast which light begot, —)
No, not to see him enter, but to find
the youthful angel's countenance inclined
so near to her; that when he looked, and she
looked up at him, their looks so merged in one
the world outside grew vacant, suddenly,
and all things being seen, endured and done
were crowded into them: just she and he
eye and its pasture, visions and its view,
here at the point and at this point alone:-
see, this arouses fear. Such fear both knew.



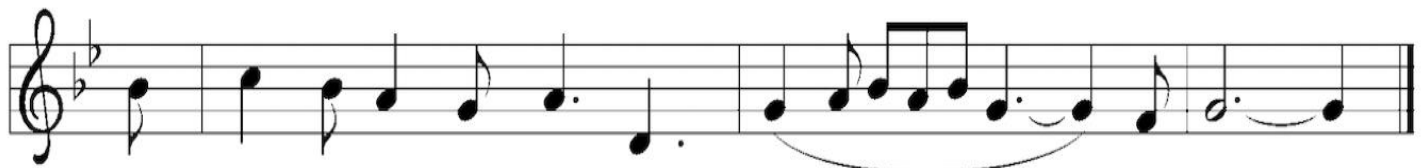
1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Lesson: Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.
⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

A Reading: *The Visitation* by Joyce Rupp

Mary, you went hurriedly over hillsides,
Many of them, to be with aunt Elizabeth,
Whose womb also swelled with surprise
You, the woman of youth and vigor,
Weary from the long road's rigors,
Wondering still about the mystery within
Elizabeth, wrinkled and wise,
Weary from the child kicking inside,
(already a hint of wildness in him)
The two of you, meeting at the door,
weeping and laughing at the same time,
Each one gasping at the other's fertility
And leaping between and among you,
those tow frisky fetuses, yet to be born,
the prophet and One to be proclaimed
Did they feel the love of your hospitality?
Did they swim and sway with your voice?
Did they listen with tiny, eager ears to all
that passed between the two of you
in the days and weeks that swiftly passed
growing and feeding on your rich love?
I don't know which I'd have wanted more,
to be in one of those glorious filled wombs
Or in the house of that woman-blessed place

Responsive Affirmation of Faith: Luke 1:46-54

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Carol

Canticle of the Turning

Cranberry 723



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 pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, 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 - 'ry 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 - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



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.



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.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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Lesson: Matthew 1:18-24

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." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

Poem: *Christmas Dream* by Eugene Peterson

"an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."
Amiably at home with virtue and evil —
The righteousness of Joseph and Herod's
Wickedness — I'm ever and always a stranger to grace.
I need this annual angel visitation.
— this sudden drive by dream into reality —
to know the virgin conceives and God is with us.
The dream powers its way through winter weather
and gives me vision to see the Jesus gift.
Light from the dream lasts a year. Through
Equinox and solstice I am given twelve months

Of daylight by which to build the crèche where my
Redeemer lives. The fetus of praise grows
deep in my spirit. As autumn wanes I count
the days until I bear the dream again.

Carol

People, Look East

Cranberry 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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Lesson: Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Carol:*Joy to the World***Cranberry 267**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Prayers of the People

Mighty One, we magnify your glory. You have done great things for us, showing mercy to your people from generation to generation. Hear the prayers of your people in this time and place.

Show your strength and scatter the proud . . . (pause)
Deliver us from the evil powers of sickness,
sorrow, suffering, and sin,
so that all may know fullness of life in you.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring down the powerful and lift up the lowly . . . (pause)
Humble the leaders of nations
and give justice to the oppressed,
so that all may live in dignity and peace.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the hungry with good things
and empty the pockets of the rich . . . (pause)
Teach us to share our gifts and reorder our priorities,
so that all may seek the common good.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?
Silent and spoken prayers are invited

Mighty One, we give thanks for your grace.
As you have helped your people
from generation to generation,
remember your mercy here and now.
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God's people on earth.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving *(set to tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

The God of grace be here with you.

The God of grace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.

Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,

On earth and in the heav'nly heights adored.

When Jesus sat at table with his friends,

He took the bread, and blessing it, he said:

"This is my body, offered for you;

Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth."

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living bread,

And seek a day when all shall be fed.

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup.

He blessed it and he raised it up.

"This cup is life poured out for you.

My promise to make all things new."

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace

With those who thirst for justice and release.

O Spirit, fire of hope sent from above

Unite us in salvation and love.

Bless these, your gifts of bread and wine

And fill us with your joy divine.

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal

And bless our God, who feeds and heals.

The Lord's Prayer

With hope in our hearts, we unite our voices once more to pray the words your son taught us.

**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.**

Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body

Cranberry 496

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Announcements

Lesson: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Poem: "How the Light Comes" by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.
That it loves
searching out
what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.
That it has a fondness
for the body
for finding its way
toward flesh
for tracing the edges
of form
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.
I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.
And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.

May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain

Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 12/17/24 \$17,616.90

Monthly Budget Expenses..... \$18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 11/30/24..... \$ 214,286.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in December or January, sign up in the hallway.

Christmas Eve Worship: Services will be Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00pm with Tone Chimes special music and 9:00pm for the candlelight service with Choir. There will be no service on Wednesday, December 25th.

Reverse Advent Calendar: Remember to pick-up items for the Resurrection Pantry. The need is particularly urgent as there will be no deliveries from Feeding America the weeks of December 26th and January 2nd which translates to a shortage of 5,000 pounds of food. Items can be brought in anytime during the month of December.

2025 Offering Envelopes: Are available for pick-up in the lounge. Please do not start using until January 1st.

Salvation Army Senior Meal: Is January 20th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway for needed items.

Aebleskiver 2025: It's never too early to start looking for sales on ingredients and basket items.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

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Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Gambrell, David. Connections Worship Companion, Year C, Volume Advent to Pentecost Sunday

(Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship) Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

Communion Liturgy written by Pastor Melissa Bills.

Liturgy adapted from Melissa Adzima