

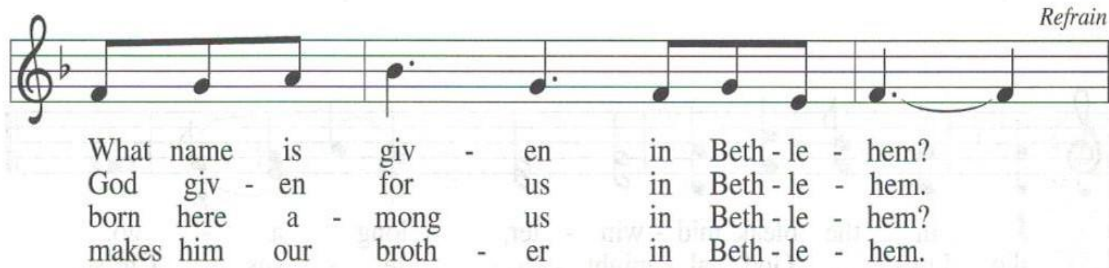
**St. John's Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021**



PRELUDE

WELCOME on this 4th Sunday of Advent as our waiting opens into the day of birth and revelation of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN ~ *That Boy-Child of Mary***That Boy-Child of Mary****293**

5 One with the Father, he is our Savior,
 heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.

Refrain

6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,
 give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.

Refrain

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000

Music: Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin

Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

BLANTYRE

5 5 5 4 and refrain

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

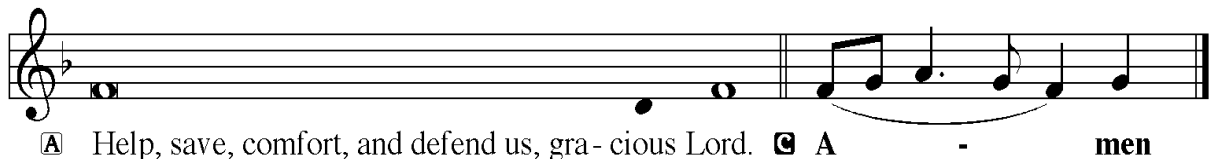
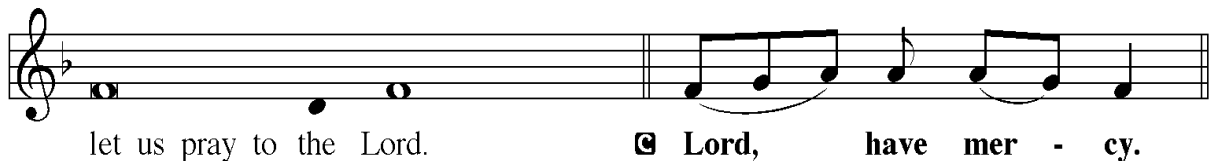
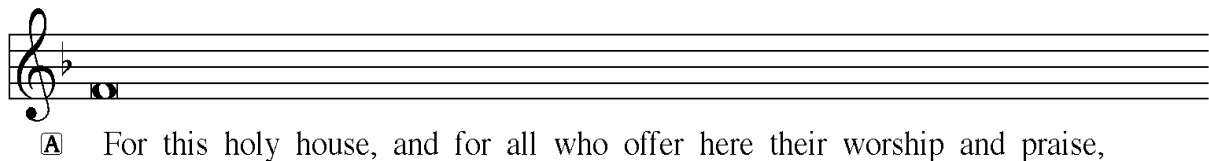
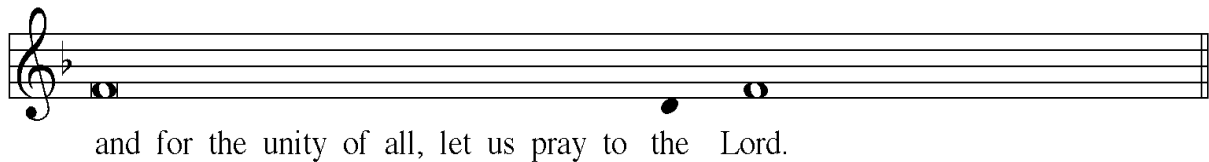
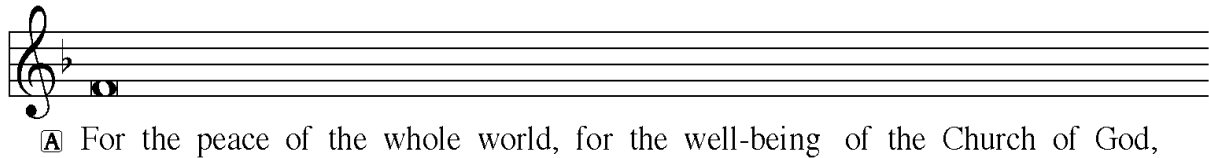
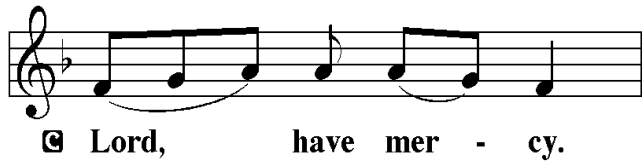
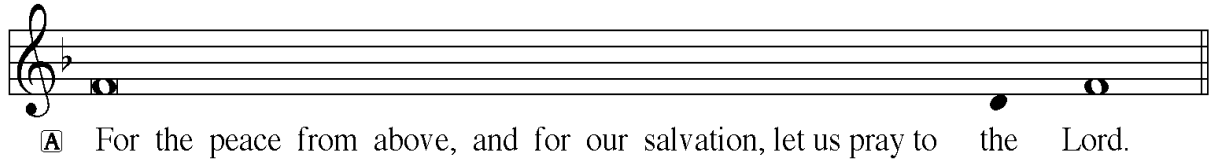
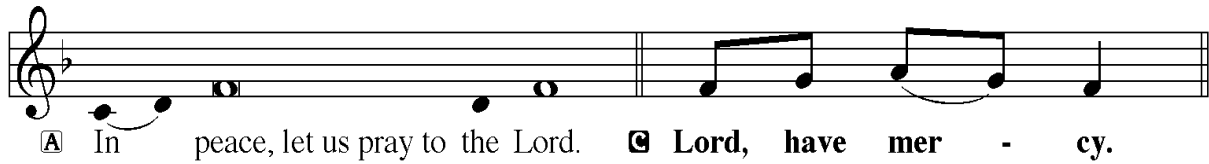
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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. Amen**

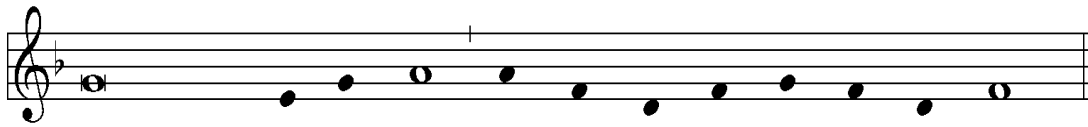
P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

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**

***HYMN of PRAISE**

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**

P Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Micah 5:2-5

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody Luke 1:46-55 ~ *with response*

The psalm is announced, organ plays response 1x, cantor or pastor sings 1x, people join to sing response, then as psalm is read, congregation sings response at each R.

Second Lesson ~ A reading from Hebrews 10:5-10

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES**

ADVENT READER : Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of Love. God's inexpressible love was demonstrated in the sending of his Son. His love has led to our salvation. We respond by loving and living for Him.

Scripture reading: John 13:34-35

³⁴ *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* ³⁵ *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

All: We lift the light of Love

We will sing a verse of our Hymn of Praise (to tune of #328 green hymnal) as printed in the bulletin as we light each candle.

We lift the light of love, O God,
Your candle in our night.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.

One: Hope was a dream and yet we waited,
All: We lift the Light of Hope.

We lift the light of hope, O God,
Your presence burning bright.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope complete in Christ.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope complete in Christ.

One: Peace settled within us and we sought it among the nations,
All: We lift the Light of Peace. (light the next purple candle)

We lift the light of peace, O God,
The Lord of truth and right.
In Your domain let justice reign
And bring us peace in Christ.
In Your domain let justice reign
And bring us peace in Christ.

One: Joy sprang forth from Your salvation and we are glad indeed.
All: We lift the light of Joy. (light the pink candle or third purple candle)

We lift the light of joy, O God.
Your praise is our delight!
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ.
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN ~ *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

LBW # 35

Hark, the Glad Sound!

35

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
 Tune: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

CHESTERFIELD
 CM

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ *See Celebrate

P In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places
that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end
of the front and back pews on your way out.

***OFFERTORY**

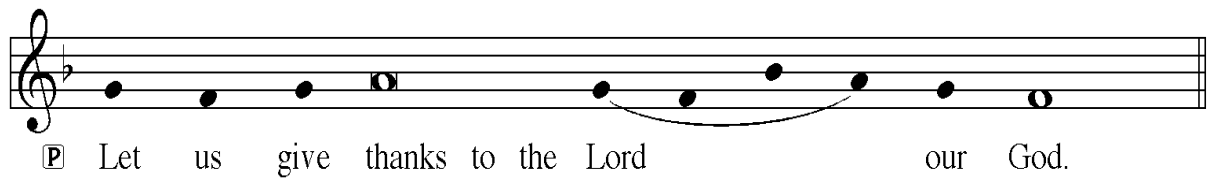
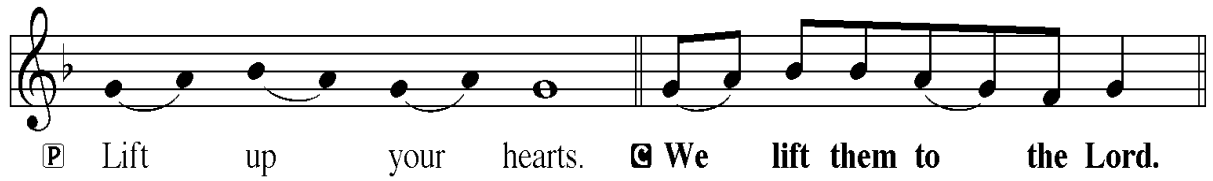
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

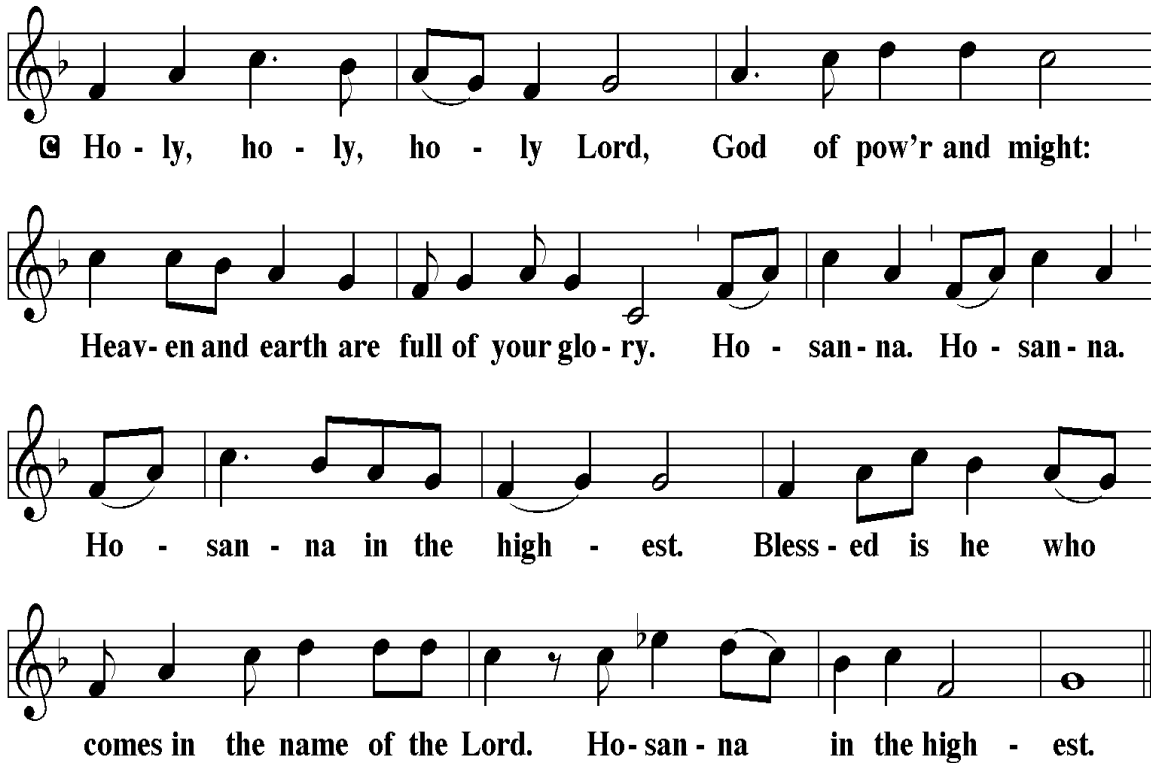
P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



***PREFACE**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as Jesus 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

Maintaining social distancing we will each come forward to take the bread and wine from the plates. Remaining standing you may pause for blessing and prayer before returning to your seats. A receptacle for the cups will be at the end of the front pew.

Invitation to Communion:

P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.

P The Bread of Life. The body of Christ, given for you;

C Amen.

P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

(After all are seated)

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

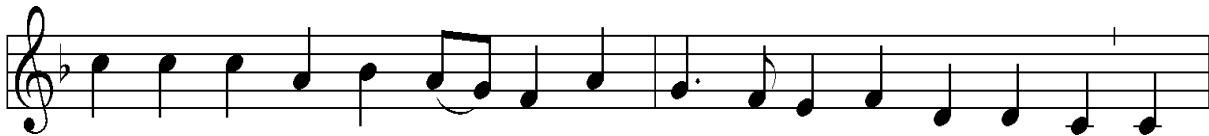
C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

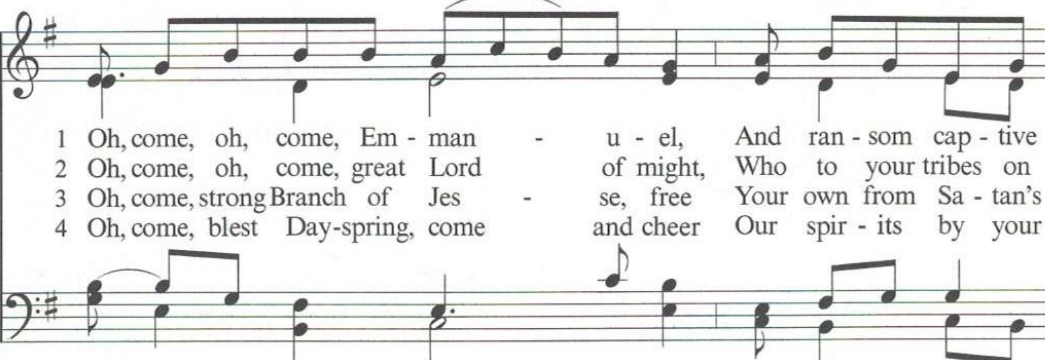
C Amen

*HYMN ~ Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

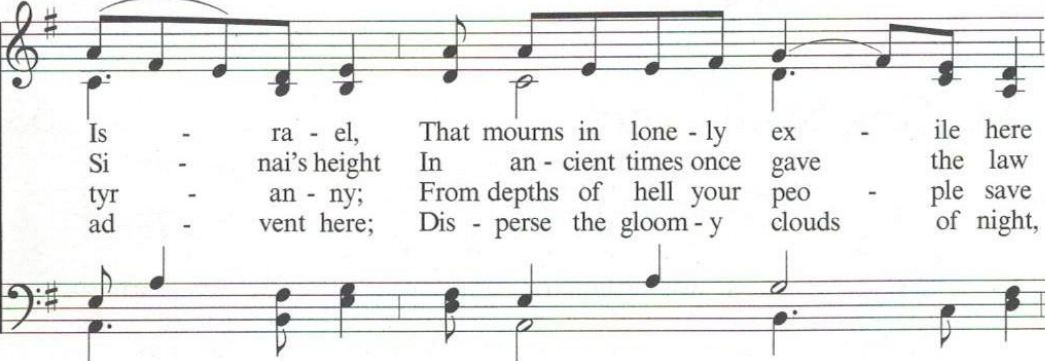
LBW # 34

34

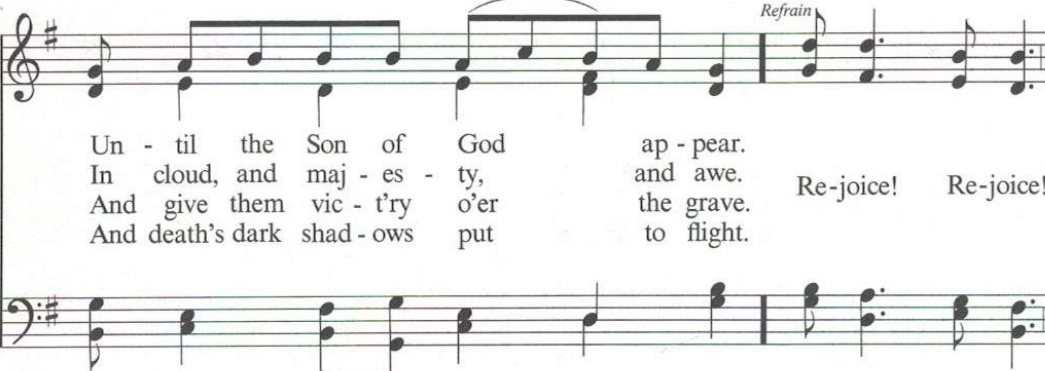
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



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

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

R Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Organist: Seulki Susie Yoo

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Today

Greeter: Jay and Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

Next Sunday, December 26

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

Our Mission Statement

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

Our Vision Statement

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community
through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
John and Brenda Boring in honor of their grandchildren.

Please remember in prayer ~ Don F. Smith, Camden Peachey (grandchild of Regina Peachey) Susan Keller, Scott Plank, Steve Rodgers, Steve Weikel, Stacey Spicher, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Ohesson), Vivian Plank, Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz), Pastor Kramm, Don Wolfe, Carol Yoder (VVH).

FROM the PASTOR

Pastor Ela will be out of the office at Camp Mt Luther on Tuesday Dec 21 for a Synod retreat. If there is a pastoral emergency please call Camp Mt. Luther (570) 922-1587 to relay your message.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
7:00pm St. John's, 9:00pm West Kish

Sunday, December 26 ~ Christmas Carol Service

Sunday, December 2 ~ Holy Communion, Council Installation

Sunday, December 9 ~ Holy Communion, Baptism of Our Lord

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers are needed to help with Sunday morning duties in January and February. PLEASE prayerfully consider serving our church in this way. The sign-up can be found on the table in the narthex.

As we all know, on the night of December 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. If you would like to donate towards the relief effort, Disaster Relief envelopes are available in the narthex, or you can notate "Tornados" on your check or envelope.

There are still 12 dates available to place altar flowers. At this time, the cost is still \$40.00. If interested, please call or sign-up in the narthex.

The 2022 offering envelopes are available in member mailboxes, and the 2022 birthday calendars are available in the narthex. There is no charge for the calendars. Please feel free to deliver the envelopes to a church family member, who may not be here to pick theirs up.

The Social Ministry Committee continues to collect items for the Shelter Service and the "Mitten Tree".

Shelter Service ~ canned goods, bottled juices, non-perishable foods including cereals, pasta, etc. Paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues, shampoo, body wash/soap for children and adults

Mitten Tree ~ mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and new this year, socks for children/adults slipper socks and children's slippers

January 1 thru December 15, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 36 Offering ~ \$1,540.00
St. John's ~ Income \$199,026.54 Expense \$198,512.85
Net Income \$513.69

Daycare ~ Income \$310,723.91 Expense \$291,940.46
Net Income \$18,783.45