
December 24th, 2017 9:30 am

4th Sunday of Advent

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, IL 61048

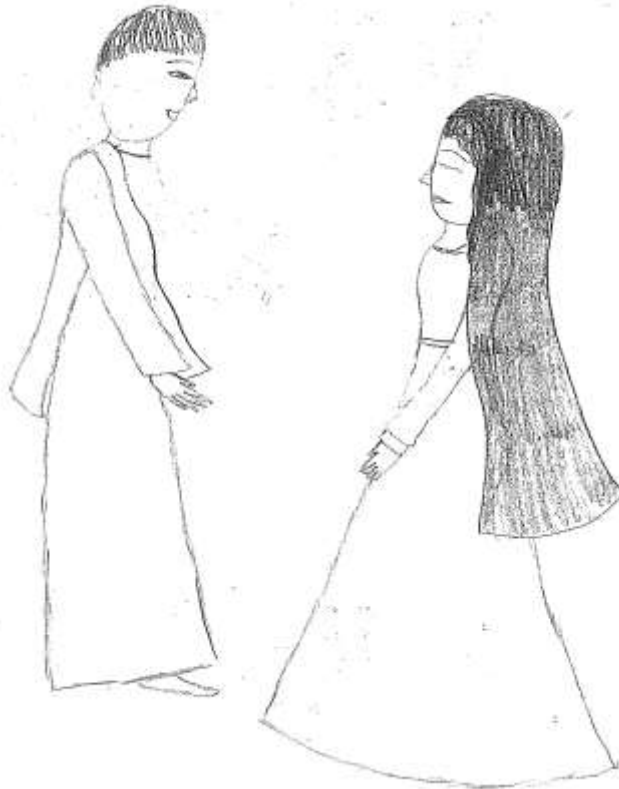
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Artwork by
Anna Patterson

Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

We would like everyone to fill out the Friendship Pad at the end of the pews and pass it along for all to fill out. Please also mark the names of all in the family who are receiving Communion. If you are visiting, please include your address and phone number. We are delighted to have you.

Nursery: Our nursery is located out the north entrance of the sanctuary.
Please feel free to use the nursery anytime during the service.

An AED (defibrillator) is located on the wall in the Fellowship Hall in case of an emergency. The device is designed to deliver calm, clear voice instructions precisely timed to the responder's actions, guiding the responder every step of the way. When the door is open an alarm goes off to alert others that there is an emergency.

**–ORDER OF WORSHIP –
ELW SETTING 3**

PRELUDE (A time for prayer and reflection) **Terry Hart**

Announcements & Community Concerns

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of all time,

**C: we confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

P: Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.

Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW#257



All 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 Women 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 Men 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 All 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,

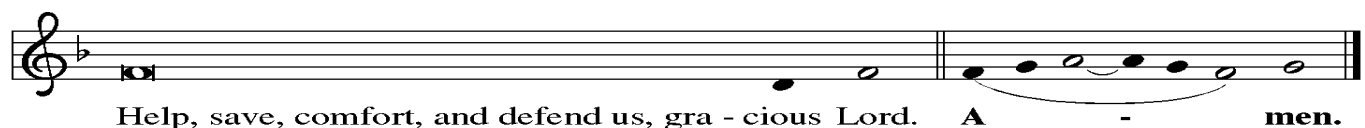
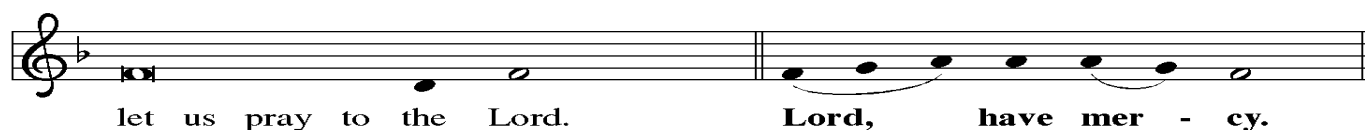
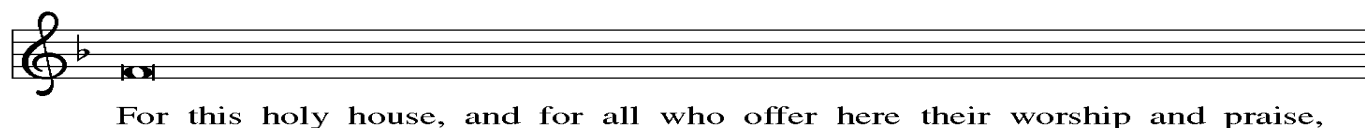
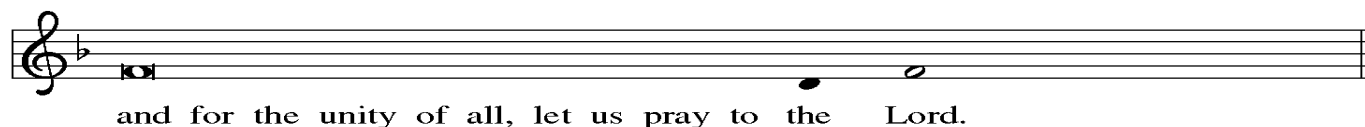
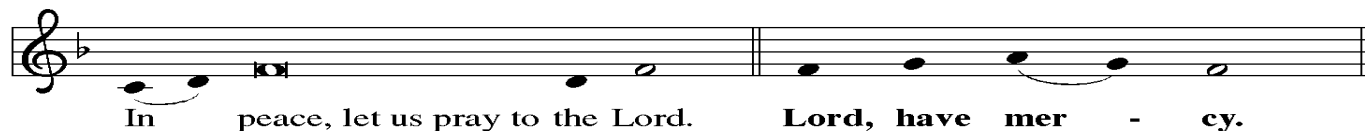


un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

GREETING 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 (Assisting Minister: regular print, **C: bold print**)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray. C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**Cornwell Family**

One of the best known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

L1: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

L2: As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth.

C: Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh.

L1 & 2: Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Light all four candles.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING HYMN Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Verse 4) ELW#240

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Light one can - dle to | watch for Mes - si - ah: | let the light ban - ish | dark - ness. |
| 2 | Light two can - dles to | watch for Mes - si - ah: | let the light ban - ish | dark - ness. |
| 3 | Light three can - dles to | watch for Mes - si - ah: | let the light ban - ish | dark - ness. |
| 4 | Light four can - dles to | watch for Mes - si - ah: | let the light ban - ish | dark - ness. |



He	shall bring sal - va - tion to	Is - ra - el,	God ful - fills	the prom - ise.
He	shall feed the flock like a	shep - herd,	gent - ly lead	them home - ward.
Lift	your heads and lift high	the gate - way	for the King	of glo - ry.
He	is com - ing,	tell the glad tid - ings.	Let your lights	be shin - ing!

L: The 1st READING is from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Luke 1:46b-55 (*Please join the Assisting Minister in reading the psalm responsively*)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

L: The 2nd READING is from Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Please stand as you are able*)

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke 1:26-38 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

P: The gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to you, O Christ!** *Please be seated*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Miho Yasukawa

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Cherry Tree Carol"

Choir & Congregation



When Jo- seph was an old man, An old man was he. He mar- ried Vir- gin



Mar- y The Queen of Gal- i- lee. He mar- ried Vir- gin Mar- y the Queen of Gal- i- lee.

(Choir) When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he,
He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee,
He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

(Choir) Joseph and Mary walded through an orchard green
There were cherries and berries, as thick as might be seen
There were cherries and berries, as thick as might be seen

(Women) And Mary spoke to Joseph, so meek and so mild:
(Choir) "Joseph, gather me some cherries, for I am with child,
Joseph, gather me some cherries, for I am with child."

(Men) And Joseph flew in anger, in anger flew he,
(Choir) "Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee,
Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee.

(ALL) **Then up spoke baby Jesus, from in Mary's womb,
Bend down the tallest tree, that my mother might have some,
Bend down the tallest tree, that my mother might have some."**

(Choir) And bend down the tallest branch, till it touched Mary's hand
Cried she: "Oh look thou Joseph, I have cherries by command."
Cried she: "Oh look thou Joseph, I have cherries by command.

(Men) The Joseph took Mary all on his left knee,
(Choir) Saying "What have I done? Lord, have mercy on me.
Saying "What have I done? Lord, have mercy on me.

(Men) Then Joseph took Mary all on his right knee,
(Choir) "Pray tell me, little baby, when your birthday shall be
"Pray tell me, little baby, when your birthday shall be

(All) **On the sixth day of January, my birthday shall be,
When all stars and the elements shall tremble with glee...
When all stars and the elements shall tremble with glee...**

CREED (from the explanation of Luther's Small Catechism) *Please Stand*

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith through Luther's Small Catechism.

P: The First Article: *On Creation*

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

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property; along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: WA: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. *A brief silence*

WA: Your eternal reign has come into the world. Give us ears to hear your call to serve your kingdom, and send us out to those who are hurting and in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

WA: You created the mystery and beauty of the earth. Replenish rivers, lakes, seas, and all bodies of water, so that plants, animals, and humans can have life and be refreshed. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

WA: You bring down the powerful and raise up the lowly. Where war rages, shatter hatred with forgiveness and peace. Where fear rules, make your all-powerful and eternal presence known. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: You remember us with mercy, Lord, as you have done for all generations. Fill us, comfort us, strengthen us, and enlighten us. Make your will known to all in need. Today we pray especially for **Bob Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Ethel Lobdell, Tena Rackow, Verl Price, Paul Hardel, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Carol Stubbs, Kathy Baumgartner, Robin Cross, Millie Anderson, Connor Stadermann, Justin, Jon Forsythe, Elsie Meier, Linda, Dale, Meghan, Lucille Diddens, Jerilyn Strohecker, Cathy, Sharon, Sienna, Norman Knoll, Jill, Madilyn and Morgan Miller.** Strengthen and encourage **Laura Derr and Lois Paulsen.** Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: You called Mary to bear your Son. We pray for pregnant women, for mothers and fathers of infants and small children, and especially for couples who bear the pain of infertility, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Your kingdom has no end. With your servants throughout time, women and men, old and young, unite us forever in your reign of peace and joy. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you

OFFERING

“O Come to Set Us Free”

Men’s Choir

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church locally and throughout the world, including those in need. We also offer up prayers to God as we offer ourselves (time, talents, gifts, and interests) to the Lord’s service and dedicate our lives to God’s work in the world.

Please stand

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray, C: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY


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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**LORD'S PRAYER**

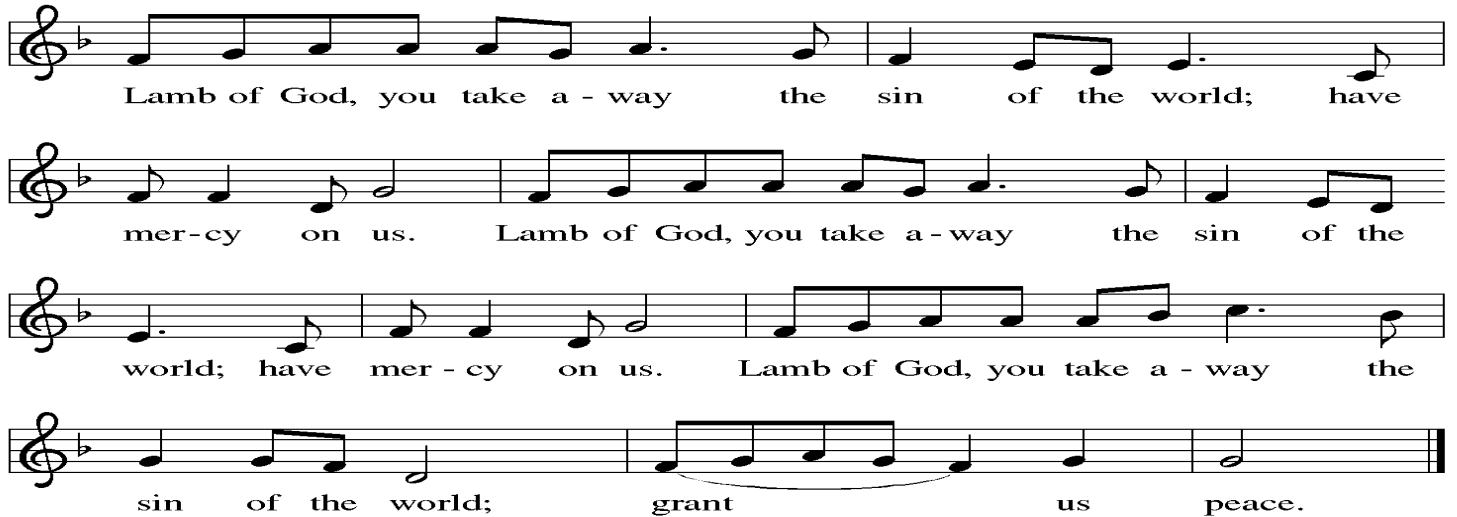
P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: 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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We practice open Communion —Christ invites us to the table. All baptized Christians are welcome to partake the body and blood of Jesus Christ. If you wish to receive a blessing, you may come forward. Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction. Please dip the bread into the chalice. The gold chalices have wine; the chrome chalices have grape juice. You will be ushered down the center aisle, and returned to your pew by way of the side aisles. If you need assistance, please let an usher know.

**LAMB OF GOD**



 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

Love Has Come

ELW#292

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 hear how their song of joy arises:
 Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love! Love! Glory to God on high.</p> | <p>3 Love has come and never will leave us!
 Love is life everlasting and free.
 Love is Jesus within and among us.
 Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!</p> |
| <p>2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.
 See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
 what is the name her heart is saying?
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
 Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.</p> | |

POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION A: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

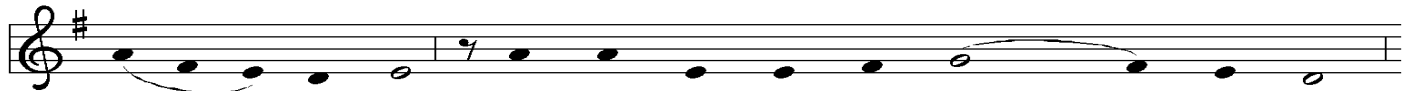
SENDING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (*Verses 5-8*)

ELW#257



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-joyce! Re-joyce!
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*

DISMISSAL (from the back)

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Krista Keene

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Pastor Miho Yasukawa Missionaries to Tanzania: Randy & Carol Stubbs Family
Pianists: Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker Organist: Karen Niemeier Choir Dir. /accomp: Janis Kurth / Marion Fahr
Lector: Shirley Fox Acolyte: Ethan Fye Assistant Minister: Wayne Kurth
Worship Assistant: Marybeth Brinker Communion Usher: Troy and Cindy Doubler
Communion Set-up Beth Martin Communion Asst: Ashtyn Brinker, Hanna Brinker
Elevator Operator: Troy Keene Sound System: Jay Andrews, Austin Andrews
Greeters: Darlene Aurand, Dennis Luke
Ushers: Troy and Cindy Doubler, Chris and Angie Brinker

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD**December 24th thru December 31st, 2017**

Today	Worship Service—"4th Sunday of Advent"—Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Holy Communion	7:30 pm
Monday	Christmas Day Service	9:30am
Tuesday	Pastor Miho at Text Study	2:00pm
Wednesday	"Piece Corps" Quilting Group	8:00 am-11:30 am
Next Sunday	First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service-Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Good Shepherd at Lena Living Center	2:30 pm

Attendance December 17th was 101

Total Offering 12/17/2017 \$1,853.00

Thank you Choir and Men's choir for leading worship this morning through joyful voices.

Join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service tonight at 7:30

as we celebrate Christmas Eve Candlelight worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve worship will include special music, choir anthems, the singing of beloved Christmas hymns, children's message, brass choir, readings from the Gospel of Luke, and

Pastor Miho will share the evening message

December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30am

We will reflect a Christmas story through Martin Luther's hymn, "From Heaven Above" (ELW 268)

December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

Services of music and stories—Our Christmas Stories

Annual meeting for Good Shepherd Jan. 28, 2018

Annual Reports Are Due December 29, 2017

Annual reports are required for each committee and organization of the congregation.

Copy of Sermon is Available

If you would like to have a copy of sermon, please talk to ushers or Pr. Miho.

Updates on the Stubbs Family

See the bulletin board for an updated newsletter from the Stubbs' family and you can also link to the Caring Bridge page for updates on Carol Stubbs at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/love4carolstubbs>