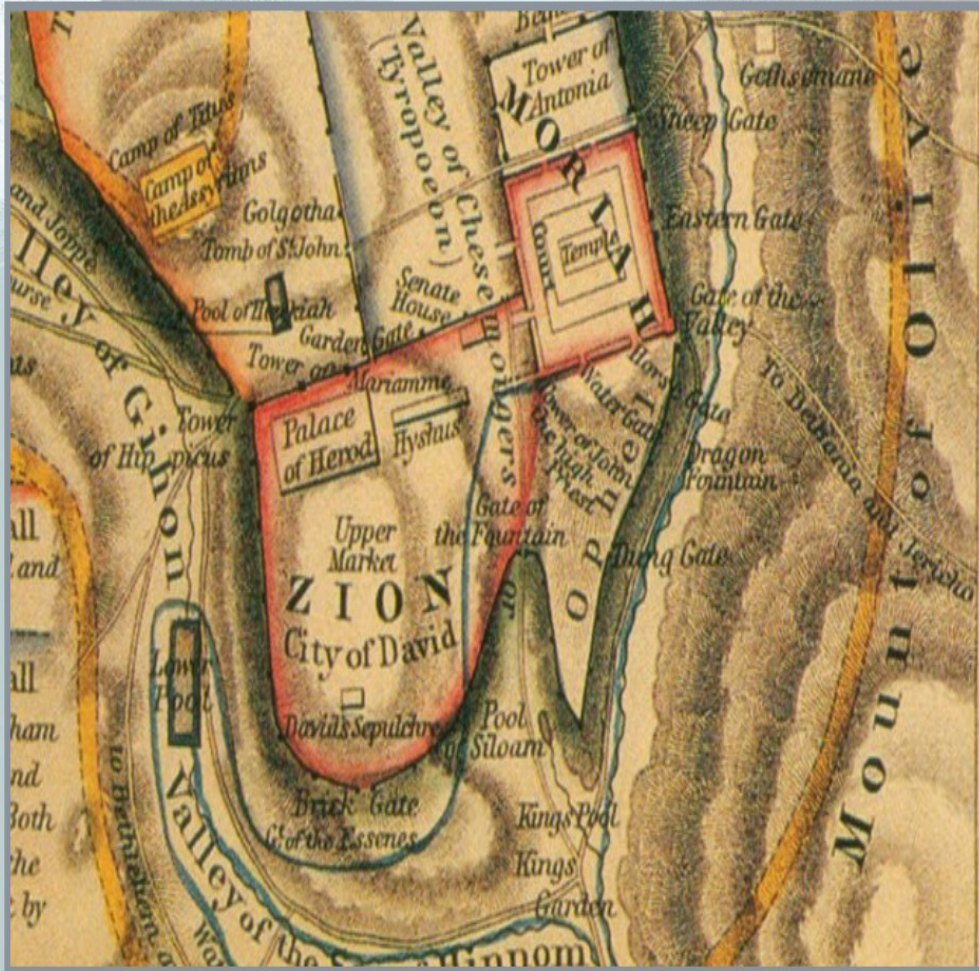


On the Way to Bethlehem



Peace peace PEACE peace Peace

*December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent*



1105 N. Washington Blvd.
Ogden, UT 84404
801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.

Introduction

We are so often focused on the destination in our travels. "Where are you going?" is the most common question upon hearing that someone is heading out of town. While the destination is perhaps the impetus for deciding to "go," it is often the journey itself that offers the most memorable moments—frustrating or delightful. This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. And we will ponder our own milestones—the progress and the potholes "on the way."

Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting

G On the way to Bethlehem, we travel to Jerusalem. The Temple is the site of the dramatic high point of Zechariah and Elizabeth’s story of waiting so long for prayer to be answered. As Zechariah carries out priestly duties and Elizabeth waits outside with others, the usual and customary becomes anything but ordinary! An angelic messenger reveals a divine plan that leaves Zechariah literally speechless.

P It feels poignant that this week we visit Jerusalem in our Advent story and the city is known as “the city of peace.” Certainly we’ve been focused on the difficulties of prevailing peace in this turbulent part of the world even today. There is also the matter of our own “new Jerusalem” within. We wait for the day when we will feel more peace, have more peace, within ourselves. This week, we ask, “what are we waiting for?” and we learn that what happens within us *while* we wait is as important as the outcome. Can we be at peace—work for peace—“live peaceably”—even while waiting?

***♪ ♪ O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! ♪ ♪
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, G major. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A double bar line follows. The second staff begins with a quarter rest, then a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The lyrics "We're on our way." are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. A slur covers the first six notes. The lyrics "Dream of the day when hope holds sway." are written below. The third staff begins with a quarter rest, then a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The lyrics "With all the earth, in" are written below.

all our hearts. We're on our way. _____ This is the day.

G The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

All We are on our way to more peace.

G Life is full of expectations and waiting for the right time,
the right answer, the right opportunity.

All We are a people who wait for Good News.

G It is hard to wait, but there are milestone moments
when we get a glimpse of what true peace feels like

All God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

We're on our way. We're on our way.

Dream of the day when hope holds sway. With all the earth, in

all our hearts. We're on our way. _____ This is the day.

Confession and Forgiveness

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

P Holy and Living God,
we pray to you in the midst of unanswered questions.

All Often we are anxious and impatient as we desperately
want to know outcomes and chart our life's path with certainty.

Give us patience, God.

Call us to pause in peaceful surrender,

All even and especially when the pieces of our lives
seem to be falling apart rather than getting put together.
Open our hearts to know your enduring presence
in this very moment, in this waiting.
We pray this in the name of your Son,
Jesus, the Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

P Let this be a marker of assurance that we are
moving in a faithful direction:
God is with us every step of our way toward the Peace of Bethlehem.
Jesus is being born into our lives even now. ✝
The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

All Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

Prayer for This Day

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

All By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your
salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from Romans, the 12th chapter

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12: 9-18

WA The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

*♫ ♫ Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel ♫ ♫
God with us revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel*

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at

his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1: 5-17

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has lyrics: "Lit - tle don - key, lit - tle don - key, on the dust - y road,". The second staff has lyrics: "got to keep on plod-ding on - wards, with your pre - cious load." The third staff has lyrics: "Ring out those bells to - night, Beth - le - hem, Beth - le - hem." The fourth staff has lyrics: "Fol - low that star to - night, Beth - le - hem, Beth - le - hem." The fifth staff has lyrics: "Don't give up now, lit - tle don - key, Beth - le - hem's in sight." The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's use.

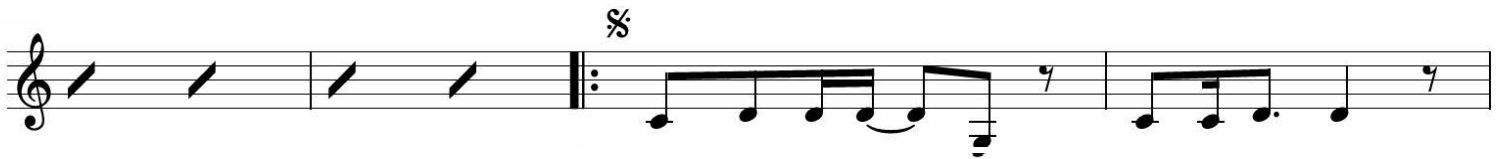
Lit - tle don - key, lit - tle don - key, on the dust - y road,
got to keep on plod-ding on - wards, with your pre - cious load.
Ring out those bells to - night, Beth - le - hem, Beth - le - hem.
Fol - low that star to - night, Beth - le - hem, Beth - le - hem.
Don't give up now, lit - tle don - key, Beth - le - hem's in sight.

Hymn of the Day

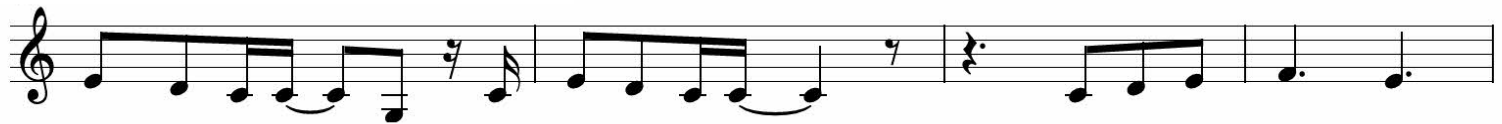
Please stand in body or spirit.

Even So Come

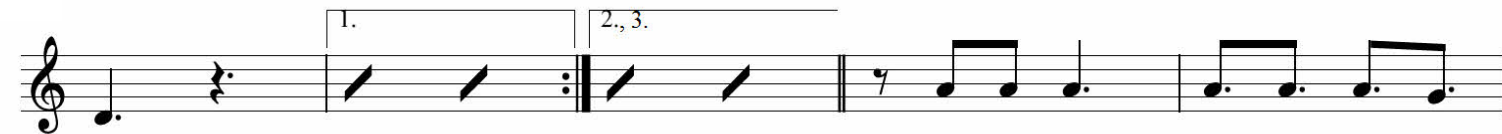
Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates
and Jason Ingram



1. All of cre - a - tion, all of the earth
2. Call back the sin - ner, wake up the saint,
3. There will be jus - tice, all will be new.



make straight a high - way, a path for the Lord; _ Je - sus is com - ing
let ev - 'ry na - tion shout of Your fame; _ Je - sus is com - ing
Your name for - ev - er, faith - ful and true; Je - sus is com - ing



soon. Like a bride wait - ing for her
soon.
soon.



groom, we'll be a Church _ read - y for You. Ev - 'ry heart long - ing for our

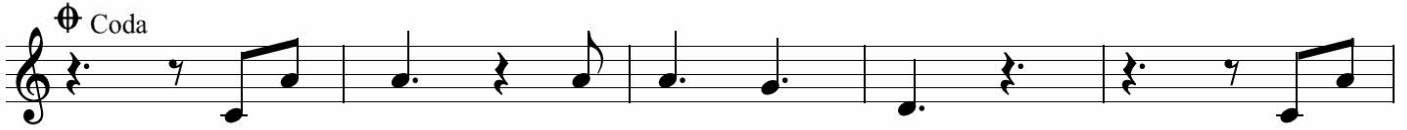


King, we sing: E - ven so, _ come, Lord Je - sus come. E - ven so, _

D.S. al Coda



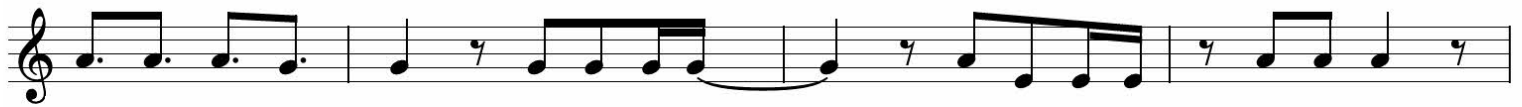
— come, Lord Je - sus come.



So we wait, we wait for You. God, we



wait; You're com - ing soon. Like a bride



wait - ing for her groom, we'll be a Church — read - y for You. Ev - 'ry heart



long - ing for our King, we sing: E - ven so, — come, Lord Je - sus



come. E - ven so, — come, Lord Je - sus come. E - ven so, —



— come, Lord Je - sus come.

Blessing of the Quilts



P This morning, we celebrate the quilt ministry of this Congregation. We give thanks for the opportunity—out of love and concern for our brothers and sisters—to share these quilts, a tangible gift to those in need.

May these quilts reflect God’s love and bring comfort to those who will receive them.

AFFIRMATION OF QUILT MINISTRY

Without knowing who will receive it, each of these quilts were made specifically for the person who will receive it. This is one of the beautiful mysteries of God.

May each recipient see the intricate love and care stitched into their quilt, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows on all people.

May this quilt bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

***All* May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.**

P This quilt was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

***All* May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.**

P May the power of the Holy Spirit live and breathe within each one of us, through these quilts and through the lives they will touch.

***All* Amen.**



***THANK YOU TO EACH ONE WHO SHARED IN CREATING THESE BEAUTIFUL QUILTS.
KNOW DEEP WITHIN YOUR SOUL THAT YOUR GIFTS OF
MATERIAL, THREADS, STITCHING, LAUGHTER AND LOVE
WILL BLESS SO MANY.***

Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

[*You may be Seated*](#)

WA As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(each prayer petition ends with)

WA: God of Peace

All: *You hear our prayer.*

Passing of the Peace

P Jesus Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offertory

Tune: Away in a Manger

♪ ♪ Praise God for these gifts that we offer today ♪ ♪
 and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
 Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
 the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray,
 God of our waiting and watching,

All we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
 to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
 through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P We come to this Table knowing we cannot move forward into new places or new stories without the substance that makes life possible.

There is no way to navigate the journey without a connection to the One who gives us life.

Jesus knew this when he gathered the disciples for a meal. And, he offers that same meal to us now.

P The God of Hope be with you

***All* And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

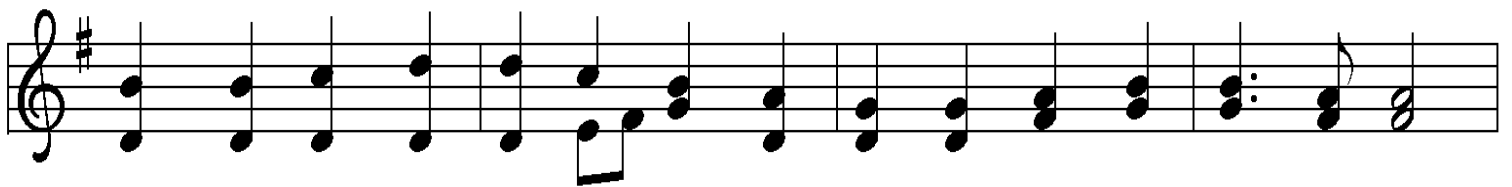
***All* We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***All* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
Especially on this road to Bethlehem, we remember
that like the first breath of all things born,
you formed each of us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

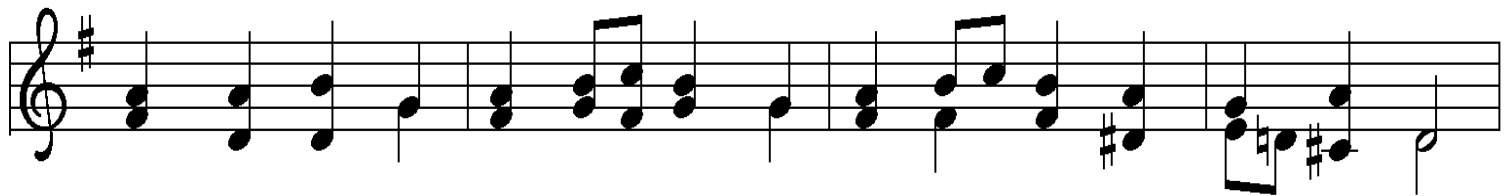
May we always be certain that in every journey, you guide and protect us every step of the way just as you did with our spiritual ancestors.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.

WA Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...
...the time had come when you would save your people.

P Just as Bethlehem offered a warm place to lay his infant head...
...with us by water and the Spirit.

**♪ ♪ Always giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, ♪ ♪
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our brother, let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.**

P On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

P 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 which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

All Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and wherever we are on our journeys of life.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the sustenance of Christ's presence on the way.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

P God in Community, Holy and One,
we lift our prayers to you, saying ...

**All 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.**

The Invitation

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant

Communion Songs

O Come O Come Emmanuel

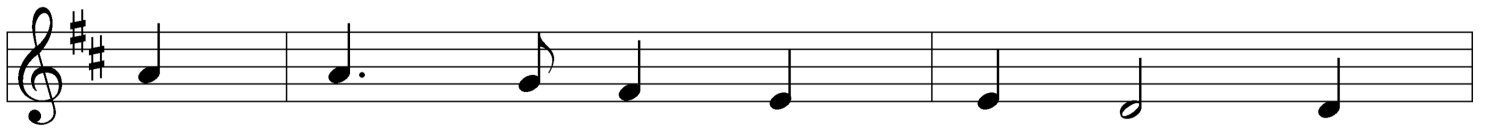
1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - - ra - el; That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, and
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill

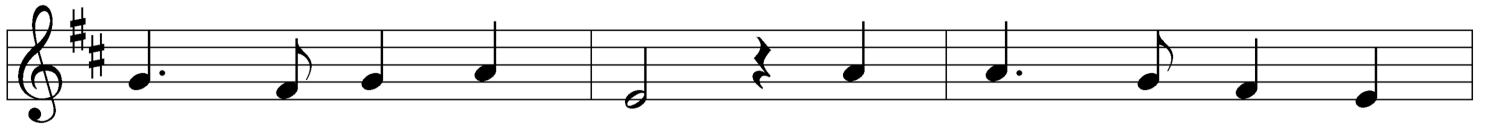
til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
cause us in her ways to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

A Story for All People



1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in
2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in
3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the



fear of end - less night, send forth your word of
hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we
gust is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es



com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The
lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We
crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -



world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,
watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er
pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and



poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and
trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -
home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our

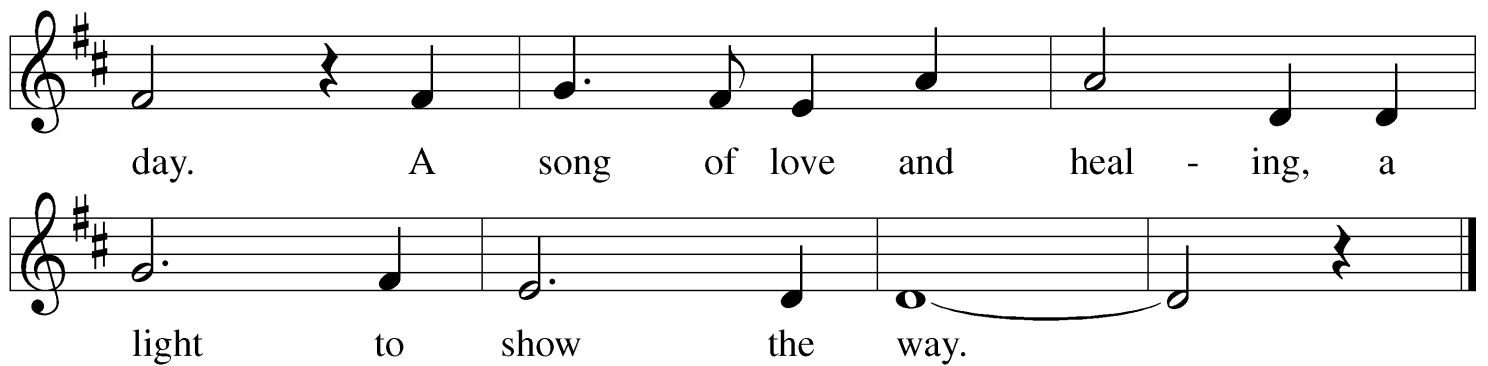


mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.
man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.
God who is, and was, and is to come.

Refrain



A sto - ry for ¹⁷all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -



Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

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

All Amen

P Holy God,

All we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. Amen

You may be Seated

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P And now as you go forth from this place,
know that all the places you encounter in the world
will contain signs and markers of God's work among us.

So keep your senses alert, your perception wide,
and your heart open to new discoveries along the way.

All Amen.

Sending Song

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast out our fear, and draw us near; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

We're on our way. We're on our way.

⁴ Dream of the day when hope holds sway. With all the earth, in

⁷ all our hearts. We're on our way. _____ This is the day.

Dismissal

WA Go out with Peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel!

All Thanks be to God!

*Each week our congregation is **led by children** to collect pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Through this offering, we are reminded that together, the smallest of offerings can change lives and make “hope” tangible.*

In recent years, our Noisy Offering has fed 10 children for an entire year through Food for the Poor.

*The Noisy Offering has helped families by providing:
4 goats; 2 hens; 12 chicks; 2 piglets; mosquito netting;
honeybees and a vegetable garden.*

You’ve provided a Farmer’s Field School, 3 fruit tree seedlings, seeds, and gardening tools.

We can’t wait to see how the children will choose to share next!

Reading for next Sunday,
December 15th
3rd Sunday of Advent

Reading:

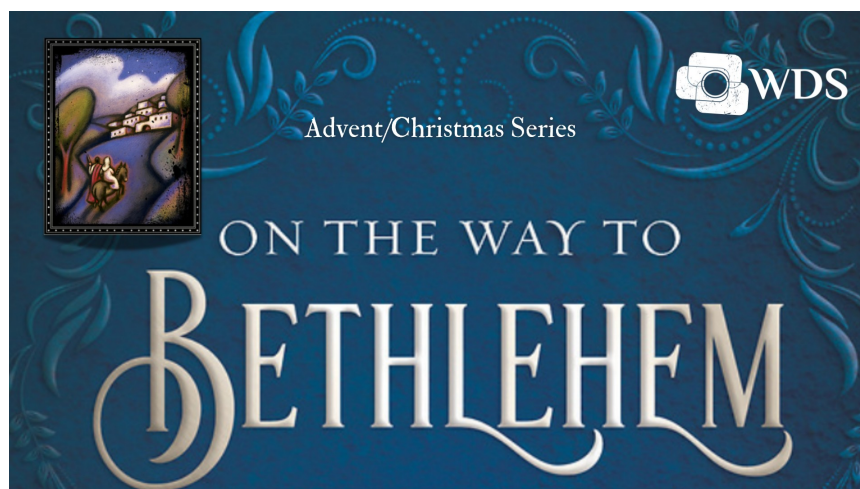
Romans 15: 12-13

Gospel:

Luke 1: 26-38

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