

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



St Andrew's & Unity Lutheran Church
San Mateo & South San Francisco, CA

www.unityssf.org

www.standrews.org

GATHERING

Prelude

Linda Underwood

Welcome

Pastor John Kuehner

Call to Worship

Choir and/or Handbell Choir

Advent Hymn *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW 240



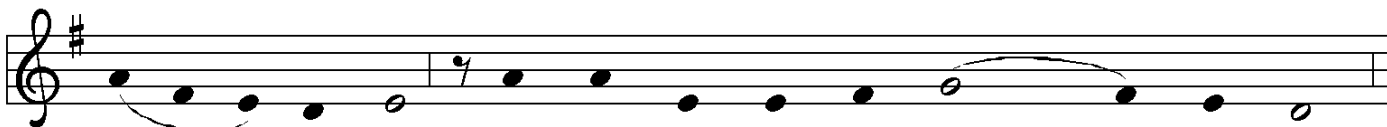
- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dim - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dim - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dim - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let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



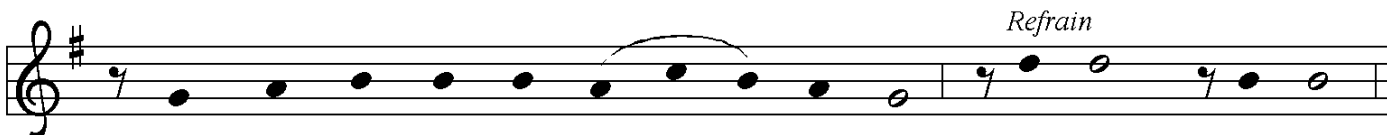
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!



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.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Advent Greeting

P: We wait for the word of the God as we wait for the rains
C: and our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

Hymn of Praise - *The Magnificat* - *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

Refrain



☐ My soul pro - claims your great-ness, O God,



my spir-it re - joic - es in the love of my Sav - ior.



You have looked with fa - vor on my sim - ple ways,



and I will praise you all of my days.



1 You have called me bless - ed, done great things for me.
2 You have hum-bled the might - y, scat-tered earth-ly pride.



You have shown your mer - cy, set my spir-it free.
You have strength-ened your ser-vants, kept us by your side.



You have lift - ed the low - ly, sent the rich a - way.
You have hon-ored your prom - ise made so long a - go.



You have filled the hun - gry, and ho - ly is your name.
You have blessed your chil - dren from age to age, and so:

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, 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 Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WORD

Amen

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

Call and Response Reading: Psalm 12:1-7

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume
when your people pray?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

- ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
- ⁷ Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Verse

P: The Gospel according to Luke

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel – Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

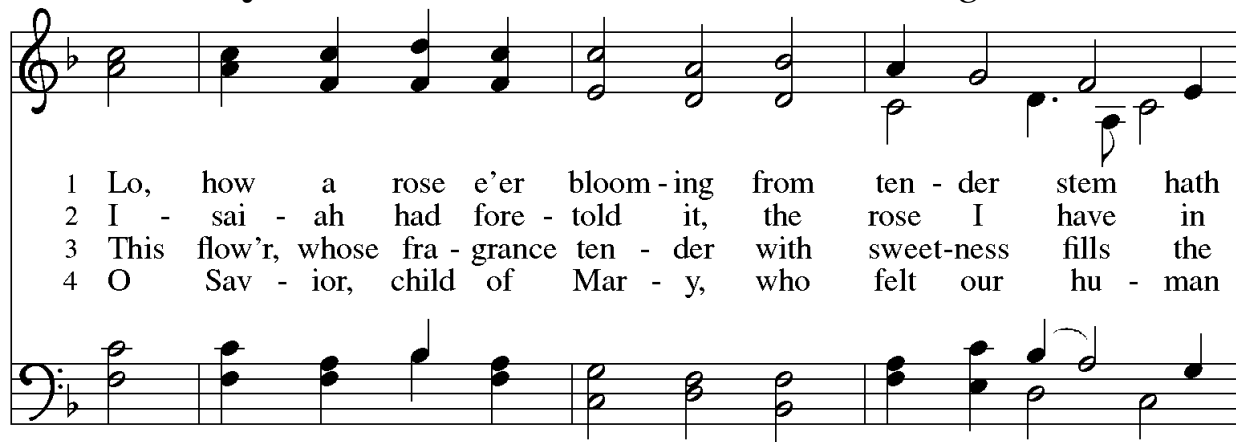
⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

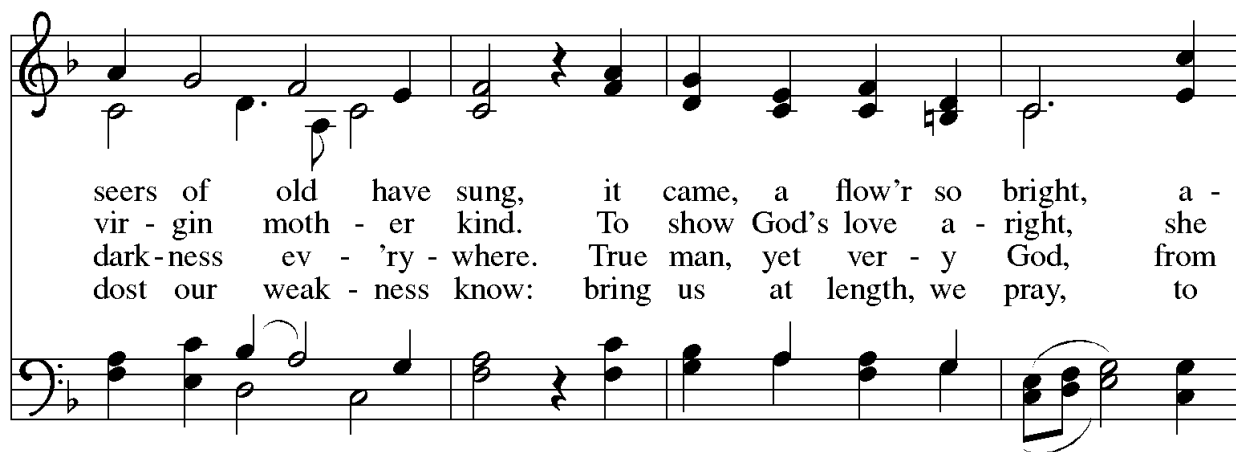
Pastor John Kuehner



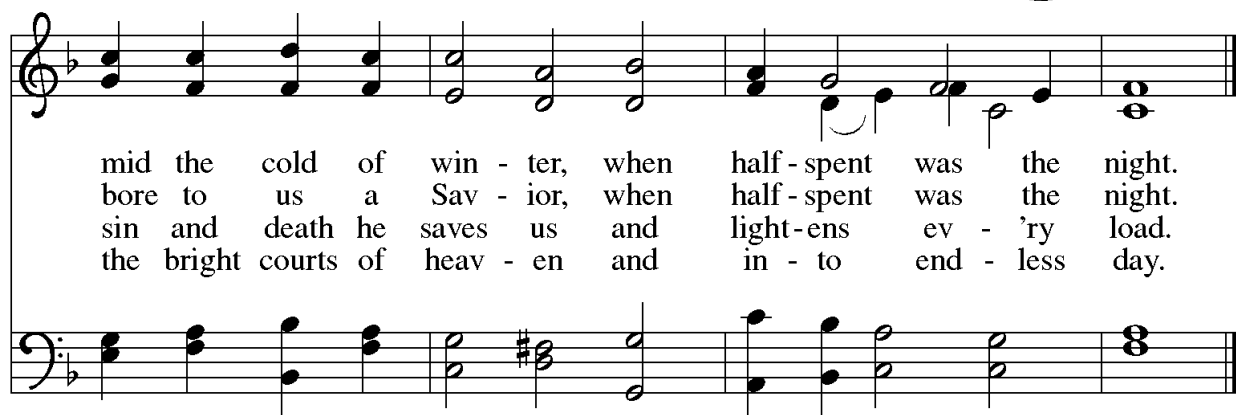
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

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 Intercession

Response to each petition

A: God in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Offering Time and Reflection



Offertory Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

Holy Communion

P: God be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: And also with you.

C: We lift them to God.

P: Let us give thanks to our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Preface | *Words of Thanksgiving*

Holy, Holy

see screen



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution | *Jesus' Invitation*

Lord's Prayer

see screen

**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.**

SENDING

Post Communion Prayer

Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings,
God in the dimness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267

(Turn to final page)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Linda Underwood



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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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,