

Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church
"Responding in Service to God's Love"



Third Sunday after Advent, December 14, 2025

Welcome to Zoar Lutheran Church!

We're glad you're here to worship with us and pray that your spirit will be refreshed and transformed by the abundant grace of our God.

Zoar seeks to follow Jesus's example of inclusion by welcoming and affirming all, including all whom the world attempts to separate, divide, or isolate. We are committed to fostering social justice and racial equality.

The Zoar community is committed to the ongoing work of welcoming all ages, races and ethnicities, physical and mental abilities, marital, economic, and legal statuses, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, as well as all theological perspectives.

We celebrate Holy Communion in worship each week, and all who desire a deeper relationship with the God revealed in Jesus Christ are welcome to partake. This is Christ's table – not our table – and so, we follow Jesus in welcoming all people to the table.

The "Creative Corner" and children's worship bulletins are available for our younger friends. We also offer Children's Time during worship.

If you have a special prayer request or would like to speak with our Pastor in private later this week, forms are available from an usher.

Hearing devices are available at the AV booth at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to stand at the rail for Holy Communion if kneeling is uncomfortable, or let an usher know and we can bring Communion to you.

We invite you to join us in worship, community, fellowship, and ministry – all aspects of congregational life and leadership. Please join us after the worship service for fellowship.

May you find Zoar* to be your "little place of refuge." *You are welcome here.*

(* The name "Zoar" is found in Genesis 19. Zoar is the small town where Lot and his family take refuge when Sodom and Gomorrah are about to be destroyed. "Zoar" means "small" in Hebrew, and since Zoar was a place of refuge, our congregation aspires to be a "little place of refuge.")

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Adapted from a script written by
Rev. Susan Lukey, OM, B.Ed., M.Div., Th.M.

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.**

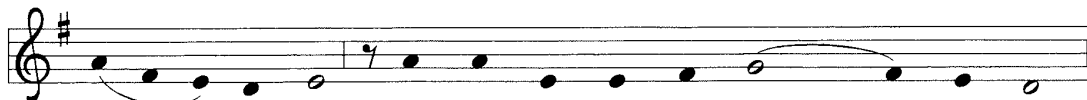
Gathering Hymn

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



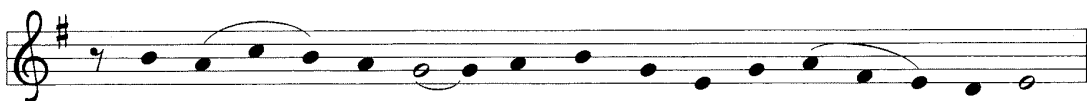
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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: French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

VENI, EMMANUEL
888888

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Call to Worship

P: When life is messy and not going well,
IP: remember that God is with you and is waiting to welcome you in worship.
P: When people are blaming you for something you haven't done,
IP: remember that God is with you, and come spend time with your church family.
P: When you step in the muck or hit your thumb with a hammer,
IP: take a deep breath and remember that God is with you.
P: Come find comfort today in this gathering of God's people.

**C: We know that God is with us,
and so, we've come to worship today in gratitude and hope.**

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Tate / Gonzales / Shaw Family

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
Your Prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
And waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts
As we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May He give water to those who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen.



Lighting of the Advent Candles

(Three candles are lighted as we sing verses 1-3 of "Christ is Coming.")

Christmas Is Coming

John L. Bell

Refrain

Christ - mas is com - ing!, the Church is glad to sing, and
let the Ad - vent can - dles bright - ly burn in a ring. * The
first is for God's pro - mise to put the wrong things right, and
bring to earth's dark - ness the hope of love and light.

* 2 The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

* 3 The third is for the Baptist,
who cried, 'Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus
today and every day.'

4 The fourth is for the Virgin,
who mothered God's own Son
and sang how God's justice
was meant for everyone.

5 At last we light the candle
kept new for Christmas day.
This shines bright for Jesus
new-born, and here to stay.

*Christ is among us.
The candles in the ring
Remind us that our Saviour
Will light up everything.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Compassionate God,
sometimes life is messy.
Sometimes we feel frightened, angry,
confused, excited or frustrated,
happy or sad, delighted or nervous,
and sometimes just discombobulated.
Sometimes we don't know what to feel.
Give us a sign that it won't last forever.
Remind us that a feeling is just a temporary thing,
but you are always there for us,
no matter what we are feeling,
no matter how messy life gets.
You are our God, and we are not alone.
Thanks be to you, forever and ever. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 – *Connor*

It was the sixth month of the year, when the angel Gabriel came to visit a young woman named Mary. Mary lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. The angel said to Mary, "Greetings, beautiful Mary. God is with you." But Mary was confused. She wondered to her herself: "Who IS this? And why is he saying these things to ME?!" The angel continued, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has chosen you to do something special. You are going to have a baby, and it will be God's child. You will name him, Jesus, which means 'God saves us.' This baby of yours will be a great person. He will be called the Son of God. He will be the ruler of his people forever and ever." Mary was still confused. She said, "How can this be? I'm not yet married." The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. This will be God's holy child. Nothing is impossible for God." Then Mary nodded and said, "Here I am. I'm ready. Let it be just as you say." Then the angel left.

(Adapted and written by Susan Lukey)

Sheep: Brandon, Kelsey Tew, David Tate and the little ones of Zoar

Mary's Monologue – Jacquie

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55



1.3. My soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with



ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.



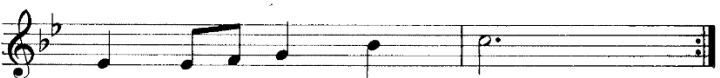
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 – Pat Parker

This is how the birth of Jesus happened.

Mary and Joseph were engaged but they were not yet married.

Mary told Joseph that she was pregnant with God's child.

Joseph was a good man and he didn't want to hurt Mary.

But he was also confused and upset.

Then an angel came to Joseph in a dream and said,

"Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.

Her baby is God's child. It's true. When her son is born, name him Jesus.

He will also be called 'Emmanuel.' That means 'God is with us.'"

When Joseph woke up from his dream, he welcomed Mary into his home.

Then, when her baby was born, he named him Jesus.

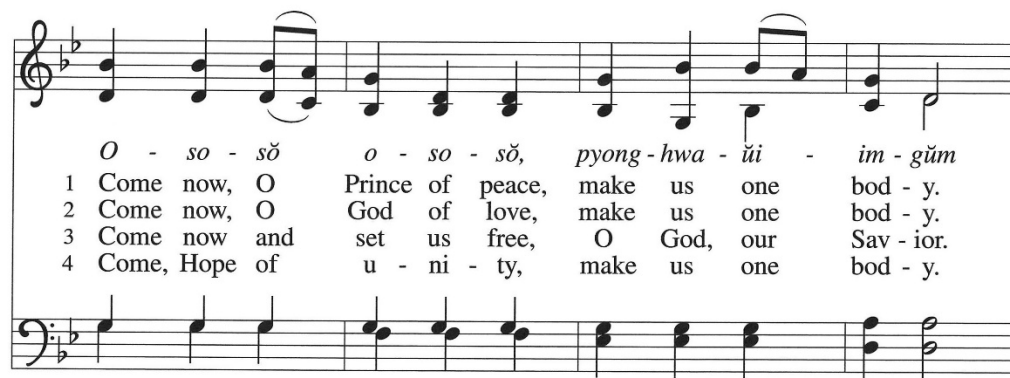
(Adapted and written by Susan Lukey)

Joseph's Monologue – Alden

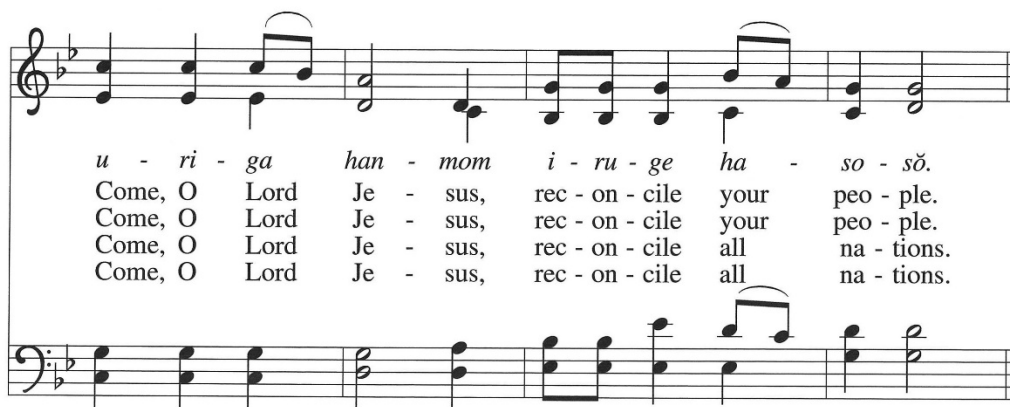
Come Now, O Prince of Peace

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Ososŏ, ososŏ



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

OSOSŎ
6556

Scripture: Luke 2:8-16 – Mary Wintermantel

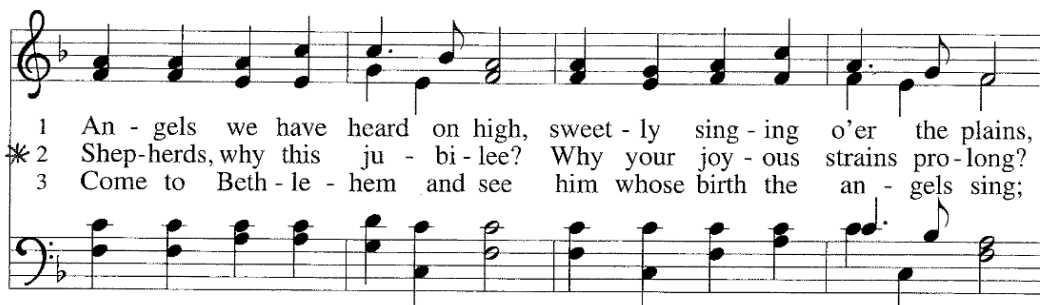
Near Bethlehem, there were shepherds living in the fields.
They kept guard over their flocks of sheep each night.
Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared before them.
The shepherds were afraid, but the angel said,
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news, joyful news.
Today in Bethlehem the Savior has been born.
Go and find the baby lying in a manger.”
Suddenly the sky was filled with angels who sang:
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to everyone on earth.”
When the angels had left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.
They found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the manger.
When the shepherds left the stable, they began to tell everyone about Jesus’ birth. They
shouted out praise to God as they returned to the fields.
Mary listened carefully and watched carefully.
She wanted to remember everything that happened that night.
And Mary treasured all of this in her heart.

(Adapted and written by Susan Lukey)

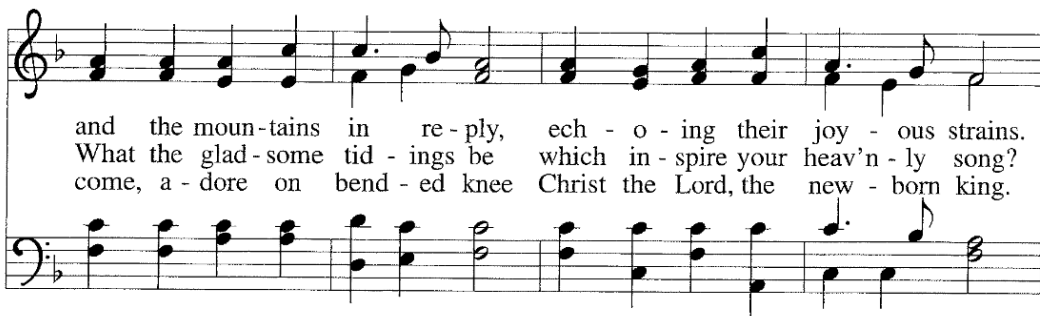
Shepherd’s Monologue – Connor (with Cooper, Paul, and little ones as angels and sheep)

289

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
* 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

GLORIA
 77 77 and refrain



Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 – *Ardeth Woods*

King Herod was king in Jerusalem when Jesus was born.
Three wise travelers from the East came looking for the baby.
They were following a star.
They asked King Herod to help them find the baby.
“Where is the child who has been born, the one who will be the new king?
We saw his star in the east and we have come to worship him.”
When King Herod heard this, he was frightened.
He called together his priests and scribes and asked where the child would be born.
Then Herod gave the wise travelers directions to Bethlehem.
He said to them, “Go, find the child, and when you find him, let me know where he is.
I want to worship him, too.”
Then the wise ones set off again.
They followed the star to Bethlehem. The star stopped over a house.
The Wise Ones went in and found the baby and his mother.
They knelt down and worshiped Jesus.
Then they gave three gifts to the baby: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
A message came to them in a dream.
They were told that King Herod wanted to kill the baby.
So, they didn’t go back to Herod. They went home another way.

(Adapted and written by Susan Lukey)



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What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
* 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Responding to God's Word

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 – Dan Ogborn

In those days an order went out from Emperor Augustus.
He said that all the world should pay taxes.
Everyone went to their own hometowns to pay the tax.
Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of Bethlehem
because that was the place where his grandparents came from.
He was engaged to Mary, and Mary was expecting a child.
So, they travelled together to Bethlehem.
When they got there, it was time for the baby to be born.
Mary gave birth to her first son.
She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger
because there was no room in the inn.

(Adapted and written by Susan Lukey)

Innkeeper's Monologue – Di Bernklau

Invitation to Join the Nativity Scene – Ashlie Carvajal

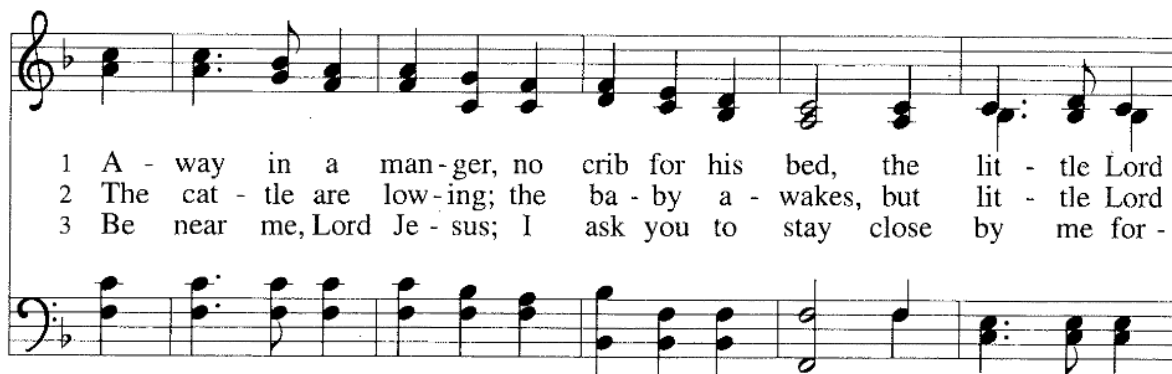
*"Members of the congregation will be invited to take a place in the nativity scene before we sing
"Away in a Manger" together."*



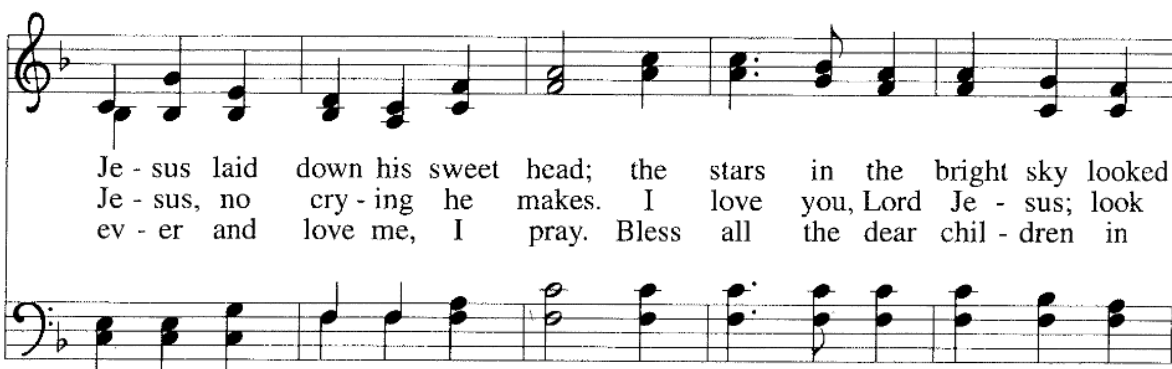
Hymn

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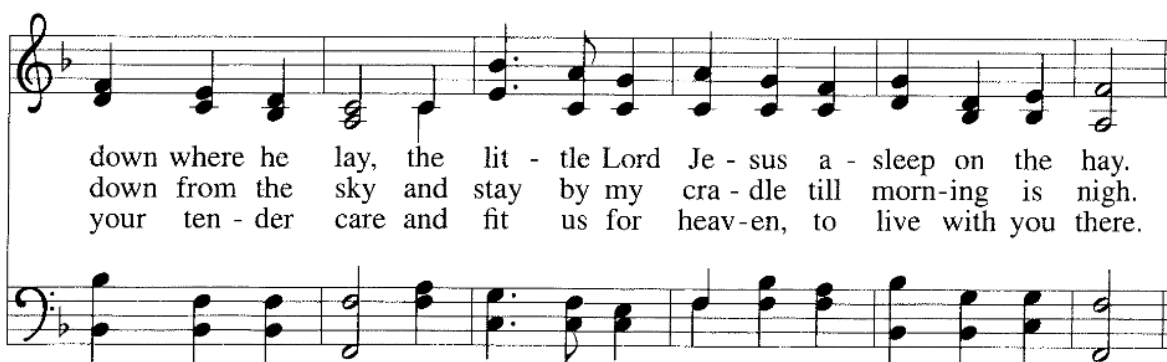
Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
 Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

AWAY IN A MANGER
 11 11 11 11

Prayers of the People

IP: Loving God, we are here to celebrate and to receive the story of the birth of Jesus. Yet, even as we celebrate, we know that there are many in need here and around the world. We come before in the darkness, awaiting the light so that all the world may know your love and peace, O God.

IP: Mothering God, We think of those who are experiencing so many emotions this Christmas, especially those who are not feeling merry or joyous. Be with those who won't be with family or friends for Christmas, those who are sad and grieving for a loved one, and all who are facing struggles and challenges of many kinds, especially those named on our prayer list and in our hearts. Let us pray ...

C: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

IP: Creator God, We pray for your Earth and all of your other-than-human creation. Remind us that your imagination is limitless - you dreamt up the giraffe, the elephant, the narwhal, the giant redwoods, and the stars that guided the magi. Let us remember that loving you, God, means loving all of creation in all we do.

C: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

IP: Holy Redeemer, We beg for peace where there is war, especially in Gaza, the Ukraine, Sudan, and Myanmar. In our own country, we ask for courage to protest injustice and compassion for those on the societal margins such as our neighbors who are houseless, hungry, or persecuted. Strengthen us to show your light to those for whom dawn seems impossibly far away.

C: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

IP: Newborn Christ, We pray for expectant parents everywhere, both biological and adoptive. While there may be joy and excitement about a new child, there also lies fear and unknowing. Let us see in each other, and in all your people, the face of you as a newborn: fragile, pure love, and in need of care.

C: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

We can have so many different memories and emotions at Christmas. Like those there at the first Christmas, we can be happy, sad, joyful, frustrated, peaceful, and angry. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Ones, and the innkeeper all discovered you were with them. They found your peace when Jesus was born. In the same way, may people

everywhere find peace in knowing that you are with us, today and always, for Jesus came as Emmanuel, God-with-us.

C: Amen

Sharing the Peace of Christ

IP: On the count of 3, let's all say together, **"The peace of Christ be with you always!"**

Offering

P: Our offering is the way we say "Thanks" to God for the gift of Jesus. With our gifts, we offer our gratitude that God-is-with-us; we are not alone.

IP: With these gifts, we are able, as a congregation, to share the good news with others. Through these gifts, we can help others know that God is with them; they are not alone.

P: As we sing this hymn, let us present our gifts.



The Friendly Beasts

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Unison



1. Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good, was hum - bly
2. "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, "I car - ried his
3. "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave him my
4. "I," said the sheep with curl - y horn, "I gave him my
5. "I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high, "I cooed him to
6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the sta - ble



born in a sta - ble rude, and the friend - ly beasts a -
 moth - er up - hill and down, I car - ried his moth - er to
 man - ger for his bed, I gave him hay to
 wool for his blan - ket warm, he wore my coat on
 sleep that he should not cry, we cooed him to sleep, my
 dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Em -



round him stood,	Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good.
Beth - le - hem town;	I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.
pil - low his head;	I," said the cow, all white and red.
Christ - mas morn;	I," said the sheep with curl - y horn.
mate and I;	I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high.
man - u - el,	the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el.



WORDS: 12th cent. French carol; trans. anon.; (Lk. 2:7)
 MUSIC: Medieval French melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1987

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS
 Irr.

We Gather at the Table

The Offering Prayer

IP: Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy

Mel Kubik-Bondy

Lively **4**

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

12 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

17 -sa - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is

22 he whocomes in the name of the Lord! Ho - sa - na! Ho -

29 -sa - na! Ho sa - na in the high est! Ho - sa - na!

36 Ho - sa - na! Ho - sa - na in the high est!

The Eucharist Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

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,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

IP: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

IP: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

IP: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

IP: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

IP: Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God

Mel Kubik-Bondy

Gently ♩ = 92

7

E♭ A♭ D♭(sus4) G♭ A♭ G♭ D♭

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us. _____

E♭ A♭ G♭ B♭m A♭ G♭ D♭

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Grant us peace. _____

The Distribution

Instructions for those communing online/in their homes:

Please take a minute to wash your hands if you'll be touching the bread or cup and offering it to another person.

As you are offering bread to another, say these words: "The body of Christ, given for you."

As you are offering the wine or grape juice, say these words: "The blood of Christ, shed for you."



Communion Hymns

We Place upon Your Table, Lord

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1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
 2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
 3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
 depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
 hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
 toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
 use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt.
 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISTRESS
 LM

I Wonder As I Wander

642

The musical score is written for voice and guitar. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

System 1:

Chords: Gm, Cm, Gm⁷, D⁷

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

System 2:

Chords: Gm, Cm, D⁷, Gm, Gm, Cm

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

System 3:

Chords: Gm⁷, G⁷, Gm, Cm⁹, Gm, Cm

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

System 4:

Chords: Gm, Cm, Gm, Cm

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

I WONDER
 12 11 11 12

The Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: **Amen**

The Prayer After Communion

IP: God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

Commissioning and Sending Blessing – Jackie and Alden

Mary: Go, make sure that you help create a world where everyone has full stomachs and a safe place to sleep.

Joseph: Go, make sure everyone knows that God's love is with them, no matter what mess they are in.

Mary: And remember!

Joseph: God's love is big love.
God's arms can hold everyone in the world.
God's heart keeps our hearts warm with compassion.

The Sheep's Encore – *Brandon, Kelsey Tew and David Tate*

Sending Hymn

253

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. It consists of two systems. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a measure of music. The second system contains three lines of lyrics, also corresponding to measures of music. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracket. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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HE CAME DOWN
LM

The Dismissal

IP: May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Servers

Assisting Minister	Di Bernklau
Communion Assistant	Renna Marcus
Pianist	Mel Kubik
Lector	See Cast Listing
Song Leader	Worship Team
Sunday School Teacher	No Sunday School this morning
Greeters	Janet Jeffries, Nancy Mohr
Altar Care	Marie and Jerry Rothi
Sound	Jim Bernklau
AV Technician	Anne Manicke
Altar Flowers	ZLCW

Last Week's Stats & Goals

December 7, 2025	<u>Attendance</u> <u>(Average)</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Over/Short</u>
This Week to Date	89	\$3,151	\$6,033	-\$2,882
This Month to Date	89	\$3,151	\$6,033	-\$2,882
This Year to Date	76	\$269,764	\$254,955	\$14,809
Restricted Building Fund		\$275	Cumulative for 2025	\$14,452
To support our building fund---giving must be designated "Building Fund."				
<i>Thank you for your prayerfully considered gifts</i>				

For those interested in giving electronically, you can scan the QR Codes below



Special Giving



General Fund



Building Fund

Looking Ahead

You Can Also Find The Calendar at <https://zoarlutheran.org/calendar>

Date	Time	Activity
Sunday: 12/14	10:30 – 11:30 am 12: – 1 pm 12:30 – 1:30 pm 1:30 – 2:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service: Sanctuary Fellowship Time: Narthex Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary Ordinary Men Rehearsal: Sanctuary
Monday: 12/15	Pastor's Day Off	
Tuesday: 12/16	5 – 6:00 pm 7 – 8:30 pm 7 – 8 pm	Community Dinner: Narthex and Kitchen Council Executive Committee: Zoom Grupo La Frontera (Spanish language AA): Kindness Room
Wednesday: 12/17	11 – 6 pm 7 – 8 pm 7:30 – 8:30 pm	Music Ministries: Sanctuary Grupo La Frontera (Spanish language AA): Kindness Room Technology Taskforce: Zoom
Thursday: 12/18	10:30 – 11:30 am 12 – 7:30 pm 7 – 8:30 pm	Bible Study with Pastor Michelle Music Ministries: Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study: Zoom
Friday: 12/19	9 – 10:30 am 6:30 – 7:30 pm 7 – 8 pm	Breakfast and Social at Jarboe's Preschool Christmas Pageant: Sanctuary Grupo La Frontera (Spanish language AA): Kindness Room
Saturday: 12/20		
Sunday: 12/21	10:30 – 11:30 am 12: – 1 pm 12:30 – 1:30 pm 1:30 – 2:30 pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service: Sanctuary Fellowship Time: Narthex Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary Ordinary Men Rehearsal: Sanctuary

Long-term Monthly Scheduled Activities:

First Tuesday of every month	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Evangelism Team Mtg. – Zoom
Monday prior to each Church Council Mtg.	7 - 8 pm	Property & Management - In person @ Zoar
Second Tuesday of every month	7 - 8:30 pm	Church Council Mtg. - Zoom
Second Thursday of every month	1 - 2 pm	Youth & Education Mtg. – In person @ Zoar
Third Wednesday of every month	7:30-8:30 pm	Technology Task Force: Zoom
Fourth Tuesday of every month	7 - 8:30 pm	Executive Council Mtg. - Zoom
Last Friday of every month (3 rd Fri in Nov & Dec)	9 – 10:30 am	Breakfast Group: Jarboe's Grill in Canby

From "Christ in Our Home" Volume 72 Number 4

Pick up your FREE copy of this daily devotional in front of the church office!

Thursday, December 25

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Day

[The angel said,] "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." (v. 10)

Just who is receiving this good news the angel announced? Yes, it's the lowly shepherds out in the fields with their sheep. The long-awaited Messiah doesn't come in power and majesty as some had hoped. He is born in humble circumstances, not a palace. Even today some people would rather see Jesus as a man of power, vanquishing all his enemies (and all their enemies). But that is not what God chose.

This really *is* good news. From the very beginning, God wanted to make clear that the Messiah was meant for all people, not just for the few, for the wealthy. Not only was the birthplace of Jesus humble, but the first ones to hear about the birth were shepherds—not exactly the most socially acceptable people of that time. They didn't waste any time in heading to Bethlehem to see this child, nor did they keep the good news a secret. They praised God and told others what they had heard and seen; and all were amazed. What wondrous love is this!

**Thank you for your extravagant love, O God.
Help us share this love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Prayer concern: People who want a warrior Jesus

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7