

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 3rd, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 Services

Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Prelude

Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme – J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

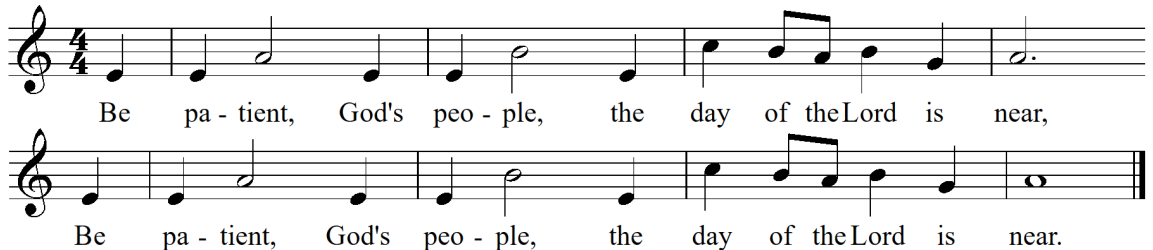
Call to Advent (11:00)

Advent Exultation by Bill Ingram
– Righteous Ringers

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

Be Patient, God's People



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Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Ever-present God,

We come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness, and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin.
 Know that you are a beloved child of God and be strengthened in all goodness.
Amen.

Gathering Song

#264 Prepare the Royal Highway

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with
 you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

God of peace,

**You comfort us in our worry and our sorrows. You promise to restore us now and
 eternally. Sustain us in our waiting during this Advent season and always.
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Advent Candle Lighting - The Candle of Peace

Advent is a time for waiting. Waiting for the Messiah; waiting for peace.

We wait for the Lord; our souls wait.

With the birth of the Christ child comes the rebirth of peace for all the world.

You have promised peace beyond understanding; we long to receive you.

Isaiah proclaims a shoot shall come out of Jesse and John the Baptist calls us to repent
 for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Light our path out of darkness.

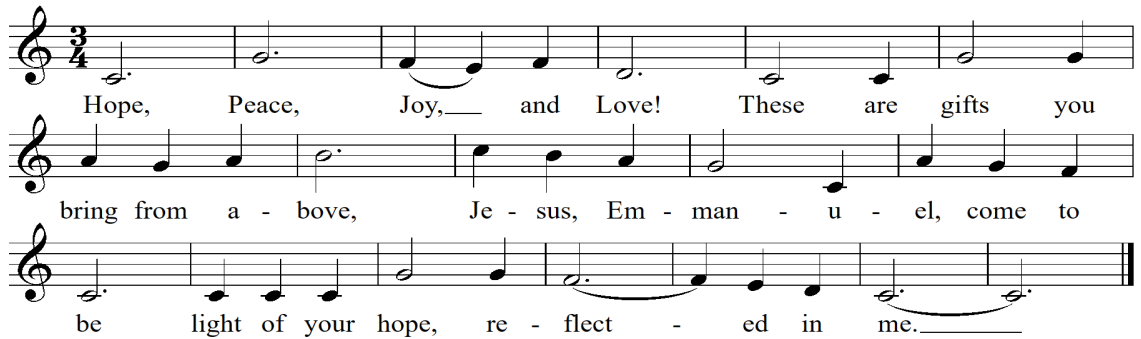
Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist called the
 people to prepare the Lord's way, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Bless us as we light these Advent candles. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
 that we may be a light shining in the darkness, welcoming others as Christ has
 welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation and our peace.

Blessed be God forever. *(The first two candles are lighted.)*

Advent Response (Sung Twice)



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Word

Today's Bible readings can be found in your pew bible; Isaiah 40:1-11 on page 517.

Call to Listen to the Word of God

God of love and power, you are revealed to us in your Word, in accounts of prophecy and fulfillment that direct our attention to Jesus Christ.

Illumine us now as we hear your Word proclaimed, that we may open our hearts to him, yearn for his coming in glory, and serve him with joy. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

The prophet Isaiah draws on beautiful creation imagery to remind God's people that God's essence is eternal, bringing them relief, confidence and comfort.

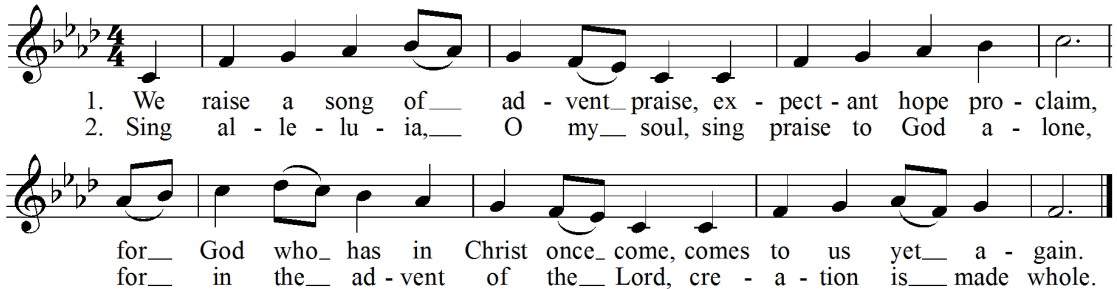
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

We Raise a Song of Advent Praise



1. We raise a song of ad - vent praise, ex - pect - ant hope pro - claim,
2. Sing al - le - lu - ia, O my soul, sing praise to God a - lone,
for God who has in Christ once come, comes to us yet a - gain.
for in the ad - vent of the Lord, cre - a - tion is made whole.

Tune: Consolation [Morning Song], CM. Kentucky Harmony, 1816. Text: Flora Litt and Wayne Irwin, Copyright © 1994.
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Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayers of Intercession

In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Call to Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer



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...God of Promise,
In mercy, hear our prayer.

We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love
 and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering

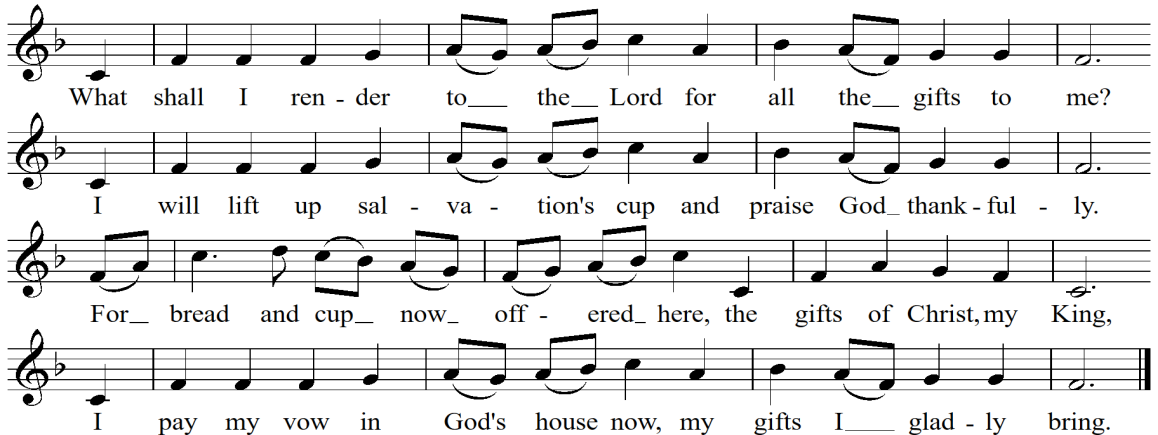
A Carol for Advent by Mary E. Caldwell
 – Jan Johnson, Soloist

*Who shall come in the fullness of time to gladden the hearts of men? Who shall
 bring new joy to the world, and the poor and lonely defend?
 Who shall come on a cold winter's night, when the world is hushed and still? Only
 the silent stars keep watch as a promise is fulfilled.
 Just as a child newly born, he shall come to a stable rough with sod. 'Tis gentle
 Jesus, Prince of Peace, the blessed Son of God!
 We await him with rev'rent hearts; O come, Lord Jesus, come!*

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory

What Shall I Render to the Lord?



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all the gifts to me?

I will lift up sal - va - tion's cup and praise God thank - ful - ly.

For bread and cup now off - ered here, the gifts of Christ, my King,

I pay my vow in God's house now, my gifts I glad - ly bring.

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Offertory Prayer

Holy God, you have given us all we need, material and immaterial, even to the gift of your own Son. Receive now our gifts as a sign of our gratitude and faithfulness to you, and use them for your good work in the world.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving - Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer - Words of Institution

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty, and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your saving justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal the entire suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming with righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

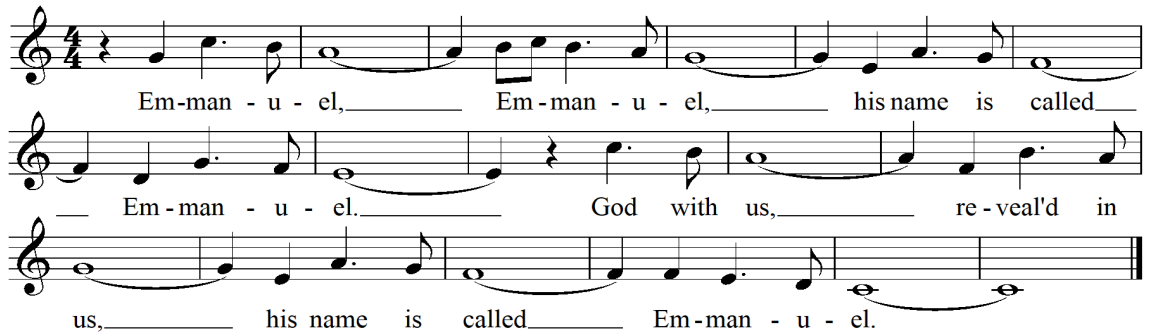
Christ Jesus, who is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, invites you to feast in his just and holy reign.

We come to share in the bread and wine that is Christ's body and blood and be strengthened for this time of waiting.

Please be seated.

Fruit juice is offered as an alternative to wine. Juice is in the center of the communion tray.

Call to Communion

Emmanuel

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Communion Hymn

#250 Blessed Be the God of Israel

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

#253 He Came Down

Dismissal

Go in peace. The coming of the Lord is near. Prepare the way.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme
 – Max Drischner [1891-1971]