

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 10th, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 Services

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome today to our presentation of “The Nativity.” We celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons with you today. For almost 50 years, “The Nativity,” which was first presented in 1974, has shared the Christmas message of love coming into the world. Over these many years, casts of hundreds of Angels, Shepherds, Villagers, Kings, Soldiers, and choir members have portrayed the Christmas Story to thousands of people. The pageant has undergone changes over the years as we adapted to a new space, re-wrote or added parts here and there, and rotated music selections. But what remains unchanged is the story of God’s all-embracing love coming to us in a tiny baby born in a lowly stable – God’s entrance into the world that changes us forever.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Advent Greeting

This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.

Sometimes we are confused, unsure of what is happening in our lives.

“Do not be afraid. The child is from the Holy Spirit.”

The child shall be called Emmanuel; God is with us.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

Christ comes to lighten our darkness

May the light of God’s glory be with you always.

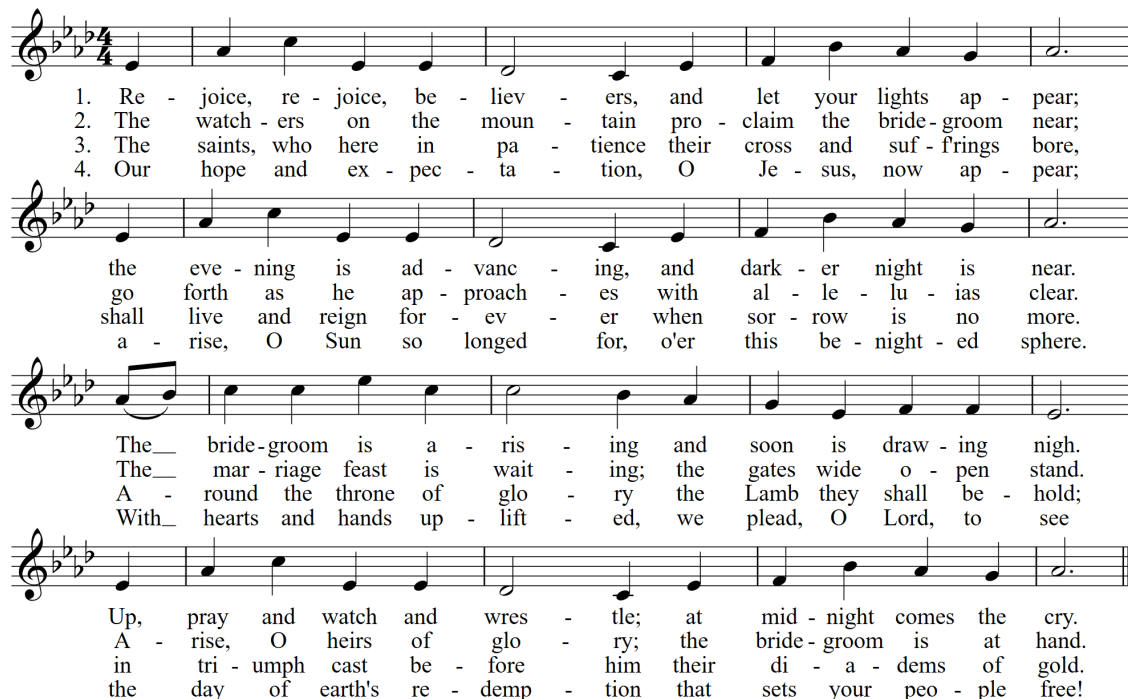
And also with you.

Please be seated.

Offering Hymn

#244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Godbells will play for the introduction and then join the congregation in singing this Advent Carol.



1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2. The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3. The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - frings bore;
 4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;
 the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.
 The__ bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The__ mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With__ hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see
 Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907. Music: Swedish Folk Tune. Tune: Haf Trones Lampa Färdig, 76 76 D.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer of the Day for the Advent Season

O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your love throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

...Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

The Christmas Pageant

Anthem

Away in a Manger – Praise Kids

Anthem and Video

God So Loved the World by David Aaron Miller, Senior Choir

Opening Litany

Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem.

The Lord has removed your judgment;

he has turned away your enemy.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;

you will no longer fear evil.

On that day, it will be said to Jerusalem:

Don't fear, Zion. Don't let your hands fall.

The Lord your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.

He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing.

Introduction

Scene 1 – The Prophecy

Words from Isaiah

Anthem

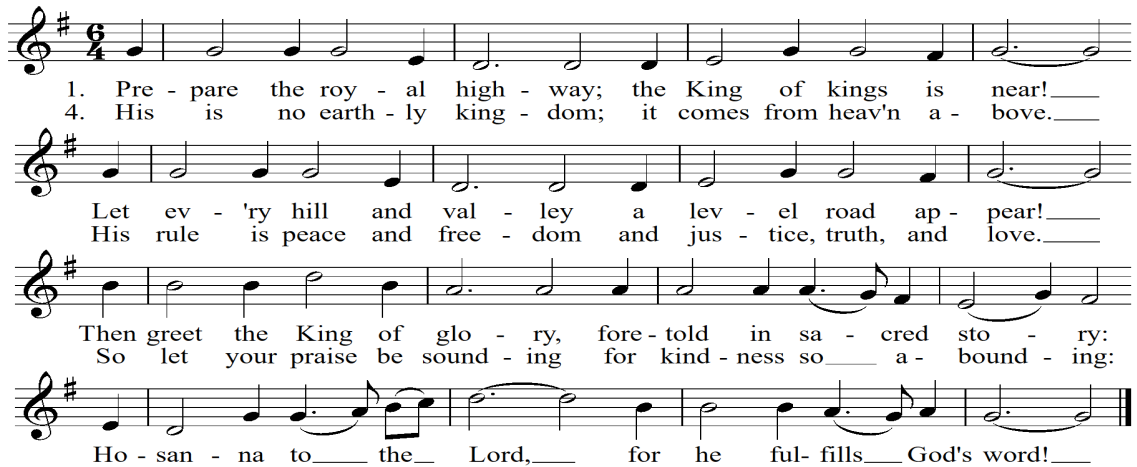
The King Shall Come arr. by Robert Hobby,
Senior Choir

Reading

John 1:6-8

Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway



1. Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!____
 4. His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.____

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!____
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.____

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!____

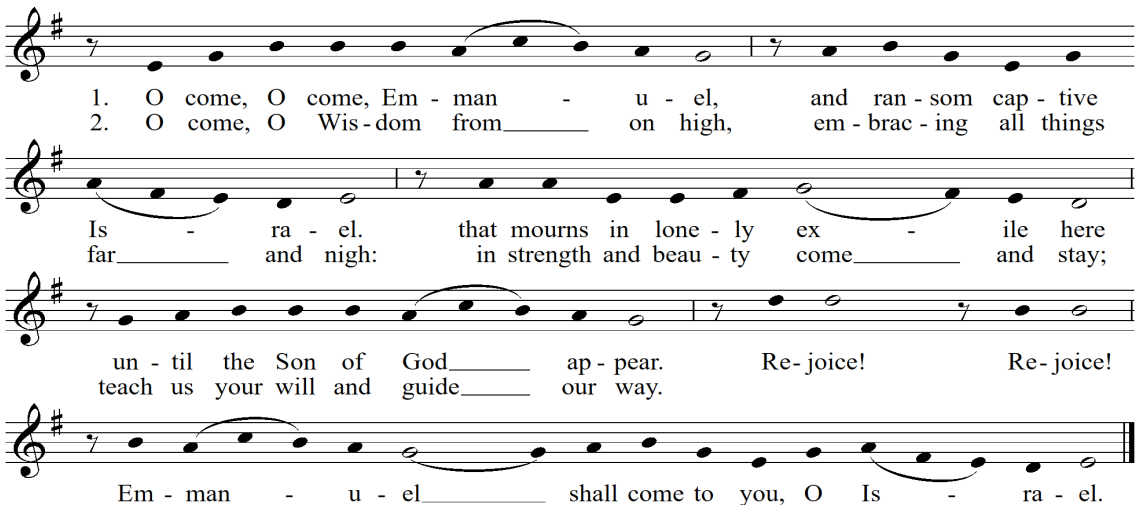
Text: Fran Mikael Franzén, 1722-1847. tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Text © 1978 LBW, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th Cent. Tune: Bereden Väg För Herran 76 76 77 66. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Reading

John 1:1-5

Hymn

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

Is - ra - el. that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 teach us your will and guide our way.

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

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music: French Processional, 15th Century. Tune: Veni Emmanuel 88 88 88. Text stanzas 2, 6,7 Copyright © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Scene 2 – The Annunciation

Gabriel Appears to Mary

Anthem

Magnificat by Paul Tate - Senior Choir

Donna Manke, Soloist

Scene 3 – Proclamation from Caesar

Music

Processional Fanfare by Noel Rawsthorne

Scene 4 – Joseph's Dream

Scene 5 – Bethlehem City

Anthem

Dance and Sing for the Lord Will be With Us –

Hal Hopson – New Creation Choir

Collection of Taxes

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

yet in thy dark street shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

The Innkeepers and finding a place to stay

Scene 6 – The Birth of Jesus

Anthem

O Holy Night by A. Adams - Senior Choir
Donna Manke, Soloist

Scene 7 – Angel Gabriel & Shepherds in the Field

Music

Den die Hirten lobten sehre by Helmut Walcha

The Multitude of Angels appears to the Shepherds

Anthem

Fanfare for Christmas Day by Martin Shaw –
Senior Choir

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

Shep-herds, why this ju-bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro long?
What the glad-some tid-ings be which in-spire your heav'n-ly song?
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. Tune: Gloria 77 77 and Refrain. Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

Scene 8 – King Herod and the Wise Men

Music

Rondeau from *Abdelazer* by H. Purcell

Scene 9 – The Star in the Sky & The Three Kings

Anthem

Three Kings by Michael Bedford –
New Creation Choir

Procession of the Kings

Scene 10 – Adoration at the Manger

Anthem

Peace, Peace by Rick & Sylvia Powell
– Senior Choir

The congregation is asked to join in singing "Silent Night" when cued.

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace***

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, to act justly, to walk with others in
compassion, rejoicing as you live in the Savior that has been born
to us.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

***Joy to the World* arr. by John Rutter**
– Senior Choir and Congregation

The Congregation is asked to join in singing Stanza 1

***Joy to the World the Lord is come!
Let Earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing***

Postlude

Nativity Scenes Cast

Mary:	Ashley Manternach	Herod:	Steve Winters
Joseph:	George Ubell	Herod's Assistants:	
Gabriel:	Natalia Byrne		Mark Zello
Angels:	Kate Charlson		Levi Kirchner
	Phoebe Mann	Three Kings:	Andy Cherney
	Grace Williams		Chris Kent
	Emma Richter		Rob Weileder
	Kateri Kirchner	Narrators:	Claire Foley
	Lily Buer		Hannah Malloy
Caesar:	Al Van Lith		Grant Nickel
Head Guard:	Daniel Zello		Abera Wolaver
Soldiers:	Jinru Granger		Abby Wurzbürger
	Eli Schaar		Caleb Cherney
Lead Shepherd:	Abera Wolaver		Levi Kirchner
Shepherds:	Caleb Cherney	Villagers/Taxpayers:	
	Liam McCorkle		Abby Wurzbürger
	Hannah Malloy		Caleb Cherney
	Kloee Richter		Abera Wolaver
Innkeeper:	Grant Nickel		Liam McCorkle
Innkeeper's Wife:	Claire Foley		Levi Kirchner
Isaiah:	Grant Nickel		

Praise Kids! Directors: Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt

New Creation Directors: Jeff Reeves, John Paradowski, Heide Hughes, Dara Greene

Senior Choir Director: Alexa Doebele

Organ & Piano: John Paradowski and Heide Hughes

Directors: Gretchen Haugse and John Paradowski

Choreographer: Connie Malloy

Stage Manager: Victoria Vorpapel

Tech Crew: Ed Bross, Flash Gordon

Pageant Support: The Congregation and Staff of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Thank you to all for supporting this celebration of the birth of our Savior,
Jesus Christ.