

## WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Veni Emmanuel*

David Schelat

### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE

The Rev. Dr. James Butler

### \* UNISON INTROIT FOR ADVENT

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

### \* GREETING AND RESPONSES

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
With mercy and grace,  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**  
With divine light and healing,  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**  
With power and glory,  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

### \* HYMN 110

"Love Has Come"

BRING A TORCH

### \* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!  
**We are not alone!**

### CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

### UNISON CONFESION

God of grace and mercy, we have sinned in thought, words, and deeds, in what we have done and left undone. We do not always love you above all else or love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In your mercy forgive us and help us to follow the pathway of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### SUNG RESPONSE

*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 their great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

(Pew Bible, O.T. p.865)

### \* GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-16

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.58)

### ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING – Candle of Joy

### SUNG BLESSING

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

## WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### OFFERTORY

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
Polish Carol

Arr. Edward H. Wetherill

### \* DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**WE TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST'S BIRTH**

**"A Cookie Cutter Christmas"**

A Christmas pageant for children and youth written and directed by  
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry.

Note: During the pageant, the congregation will sing the following hymns:  
No. 152 – "What Star is This" and No. 462 – "I Love to Tell the Story"

**\* HYMN 136**                    "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"                    GO TELL IT

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* DEPARTING MUSIC**                    *Savior of the Nations, Come*                    Arr. Paul Manz  
*The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.*

**Our Mission**

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship,  
service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

**Staff**

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor  
The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates  
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music  
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary  
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist  
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper  
Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian  
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



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**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

10 a.m.

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