



**8:30 a.m. ~ Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

## PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

*Organ*

## WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

### OPENING HYMN “Once in Royal David’s City”

### OPENING LITURGY

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

C: **His steadfast love endures forever.”**

P: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,

C: **And will call him Emmanuel.”**

P: In past weeks, we lit the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Today, we light the candle of LOVE as we celebrate our King who came to us in humility.

C: **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”**

P: “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.” “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

C: **“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”**

P: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

C: **Amen.**

### RESPONSE “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*[Moment of silent confession]*

P: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

**C: That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

P: The love that we have in Christ is the greatest love of all. Knowing we are loved gives us confidence to come together in a shared confession of sins, with the firm knowledge that we will be forgiven of those sins. We confess together:

**C: We have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. We are unworthy of Your grace. Savior of the nations, come. Make our hearts your home. Abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

P: Christ came to earth to save you. He died for your sins. “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

**C: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.**

P: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

**C: They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.**

P: For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**RESPONSE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5:1-5 [ESV]

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:8-20 [ESV]

P: Alleluia! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**C: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior. Alleluia!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

## STATEMENT of FAITH *from the Gospel of John*

R: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.

**C: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.**

R: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

R: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

**C: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.**

R: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God,

**C: Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

R: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

## SERMON HYMN “Away in a Manger”

## SERMON “THE KING WHO CAME IN HUMILITY”

## OFFERING CONNECT

## OFFERTORY

“An Angelic Celebration”

arr. Joel Raney

*Piano/Organ Duet*

## PRAYERS of the CHURCH

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

## THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS

## WORDS of INSTITUTION

## THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## AGNUS DEI

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Away in a Manger/Jesus, Once of Humble Birth”

“Coventry Carol”

arr. Tonioli

arr. Martin

*Piano*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESS

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

**BENEDICTION**

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

**POSTLUDE**

“Carol of the Bells”

*Piano Duet; Calvin Copper & Marie Rogers*

Traditional



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