



December 1, 2024
Sunday Gathering
The First Sunday of Advent
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-PRELUDE-

"Joy in the Morning" – N. Sleeth
Brenda Gardiner

-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

-WELCOME-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.

THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE,
THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE,
EVERY HEART, EVERY VOICE ON THAT DAY WILL REJOICE,
THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

Thank you, God, for the Love you've shown us;
YOUR LOVE FAR EXCEEDS ANY EARTHLY LOVE.

Over and over again, we see your love
reflected in the compassion and good deeds of others;
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE LOVE WE'VE KNOWN.

Help us, O God, to be your Love in our world;
HELP US TO CARRY YOUR LOVE WITHIN US,
AND GIVE TO OTHERS IT AS IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.

AMEN!

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE,
AND THE WAY OF THE LORD WILL THAT DAY BE RESTORED,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE.

-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS,
BORN TO SET YOUR PEOPLE FREE.
FROM OUR FEARS AND SINS RELEASE US;
CHRIST IN WHOM OUR REST SHALL BE.
YOU, OUR STRENGTH AND CONSOLATION,
COME SALVATION TO IMPART;
DEAR DESIRE OF MANY A NATION,
JOY OF MANY A LONGING HEART.

BORN YOUR PEOPLE TO DELIVER,
BORN A CHILD, AND YET A KING,
BORN TO REIGN IN US FOREVER,
BORN YOUR GRACIOUS REALM TO BRING.
BY YOUR OWN ETERNAL SPIRIT
RULE IN ALL OUR HEARTS ALONE;
BY YOUR ALL-SUFFICIENT MERIT
RAISE US TO YOUR GLORIOUS THRONE.

-SCRIPTURE-

Matthew 1: 18-21, 24-25 (CEB)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly.

²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

-THE MESSAGE-

"It Must Begin with LOVE"

Kenny Bishop

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"When Love Was Born"

Timmy Smallwood

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Emmanuel"

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.
GOD WITH US, REVEALED IN US,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.

-COMMUNION-

"Lullaby for the Christ Child" – C. Bell

-OFFERING-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"A Star Shown Bright"

A STAR SHOWN BRIGHT
ACROSS THE PLAIN
AND CALMED THE EARTH
SO LOVE COULD REIGN.
'T WAS IN A CHILD
THAT HOPE WAS BORN,

A DREAM FULFILLED!
O HAPPY MORN!

O SON OF GOD,
INCARNATE WORD,
O WISDOM'S LIGHT,
WHOM ANGELS HEARD,
COME FORTH AGAIN,
OUR HEARTS CONSOLE.
O HEAL OUR HURTS
AND MAKE US WHOLE.

FROM BETHLEHEM
COME TO OUR DAY;
REVEAL TO US
YOUR HOLY WAY.
BE BORN AGAIN,
ETERNAL FIRE.
O SPIRIT COME,
OUR SOULS INSPIRE.

O STAR SHINE FORTH
ONCE MORE THIS NIGHT
AND FLOOD OUR STREETS
WITH HEAVENLY LIGHT
TILL EVERY HEART
IN CHRIST SHALL SEE
THE GLORY OF ETERNITY!

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

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THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.