



KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 am

✝ Please stand as you are able.
Congregation responses in **Bold**.

PRELUDE

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Robert J. Hughes

WELCOME

✝ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

C **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C **Amen.**

✝ GATHERING HYMN


I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to




fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with




light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



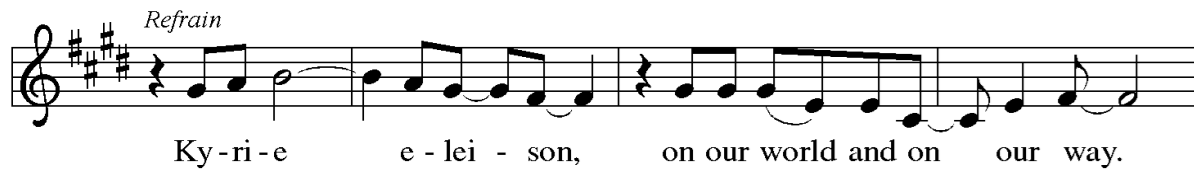

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the




cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



✠ KYRIE ELW S184



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

READING James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

L A reading from the fifth chapter of James.

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW S188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

✝ GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?"⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 3

A Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

C **let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**





1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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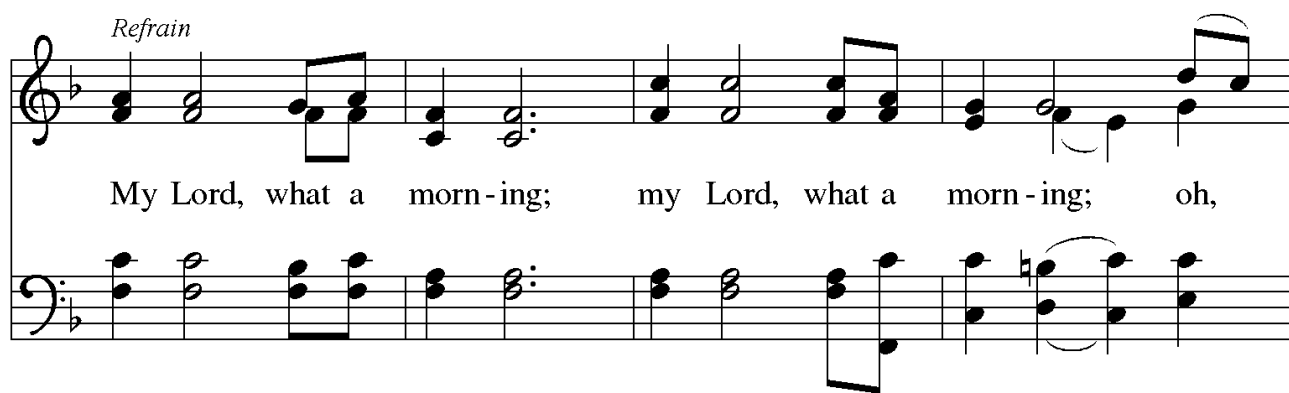
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Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

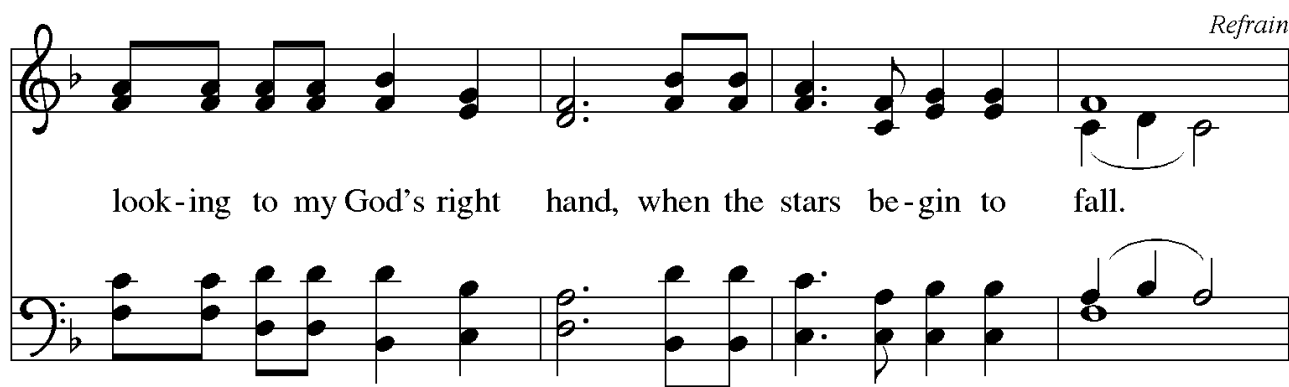


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man. 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers.

Prayer petitions will conclude: "God of grace,"
*The congregation's response is: "**hear our prayer.**"*

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

✝ SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

SOLO

Sing of Mary, Pure and Holy
Nick Bronson, Soloist

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 483

Here is Bread

HERE IS BREAD



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



Refrain

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

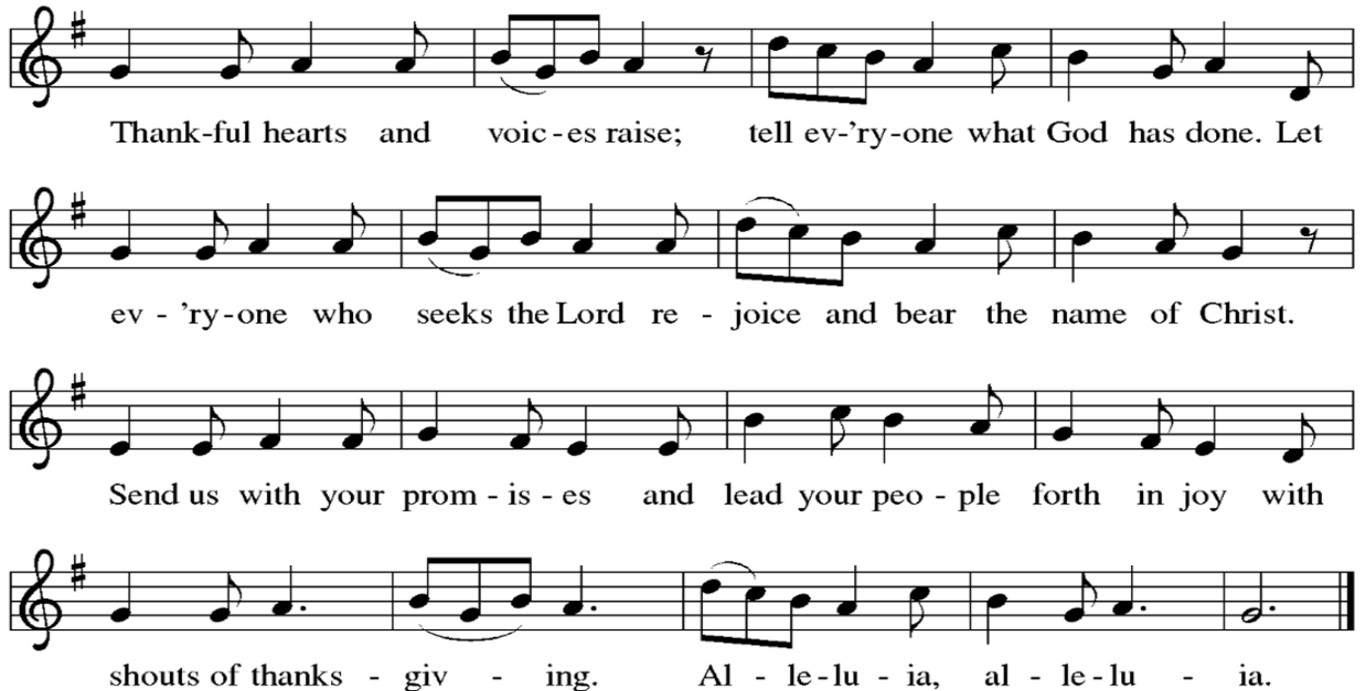
✠ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

✠ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.


POSTLUDE

Behold, He Cometh!

Mary Elizabeth Dexter



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 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!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 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:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



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