

welcome to worship
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 7, 2025 ♦ 10:00 am



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement
5 Wyomissing Boulevard
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

The assembly's responses are in bold print.

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Biery

WELCOME

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Durand Family

We light this Advent wreath as we wait for Baby Jesus to come. **Come to us soon, Lord Jesus.**

We wait like Mary and Joseph, unsure of what is to come, but facing the future together.

We are not alone as we wait, but surrounded by our community of faith.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, this week we light two candles and remember that we are in this together, a family of believers. We light these candles in thanks for companions on the journey. **Amen.**

ADVENT HYMN 240

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah – stanza 2 only

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 (The Message)

11 ¹⁻⁵ A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump, from his roots a budding Branch.

The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him,

the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding,

The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength,

the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God.

Fear-of-God will be all his joy and delight.

He won't judge by appearances, won't decide on the basis of hearsay.

He'll judge the needy by what is right, render decisions on earth's poor with justice.

His words will bring everyone to awed attention.

A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked.

Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots,

and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land.

⁶⁻⁹ The wolf will romp with the lamb, the leopard sleep with the kid.

Calf and lion will eat from the same trough, and a little child will tend them.

Cow and bear will graze the same pasture, their calves and cubs grow up together,
and the lion eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens,
the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent.

Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill on my holy mountain.

The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive,
a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

¹⁰ On that day, Jesse's Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – stanza 1

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12 (The Message)

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³ ¹⁻² While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here."

³ John and his message were authorized by Isaiah's prophecy:

Thunder in the desert!

Prepare for God's arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

⁴⁻⁶ John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.

⁷⁻¹⁰ When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? It's your life that must change, not your skin! And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire.

¹¹⁻¹² "I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I'm a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes ... God of grace, receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude ... through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

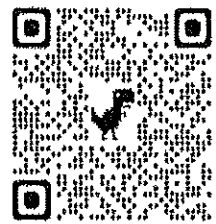
PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

If you brought an offering today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY

A Story for All People
Atonement Choir

Choir: As people wait in darkness, in fear of endless night,
Send forth your word of comfort, a message of great light.
The world stands proud before you, conflicted, hungry, poor.
Come, scatter pride and foolishness, and mend all souls with Savior love once more.

Refrain (all sing): 🎵 **A story for all people, old story new today.**
 A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.

A time of preparation: the guest is drawing near,
As mountain places crumble and straightened paths appear.
Prepare a humble welcome in every heart and home,
And celebrate the promise of our God who is, and was, and is to come. *Refrain*

Renewed by this encounter, we'll go out and proclaim.
We'll tell of your salvation, and magnify your name.
The servant words of Mary will swell the faithful soul,
And you will bring your children home that day when all creation will be whole. *Refrain*

"A Story for All People," words and music by Dori Erwin Collins. ©1999 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-742295.

The assembly stands.

HOLY COMMUNION

Following the Words of Institution:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

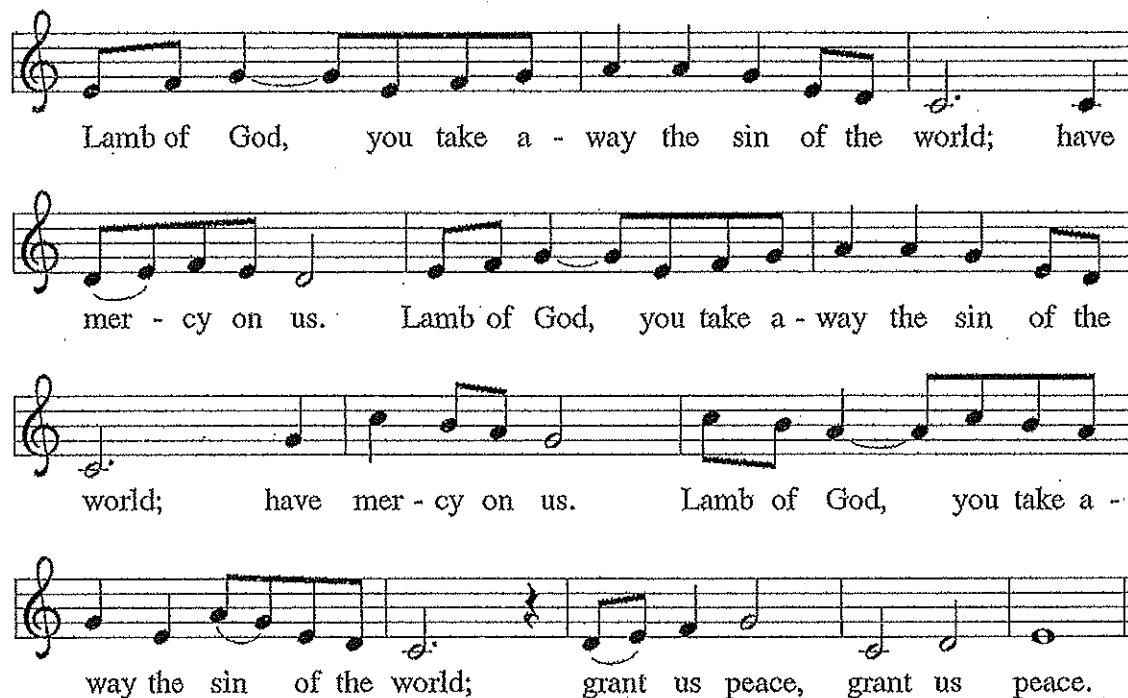
The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, then check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 255

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 711

O Day of Peace

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Manz

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Assisting with Worship

MaryLou Hall, greeter ♦ Daral Woerle, head usher

Sandy Kern, lector ♦ Tyler Good, assisting minister

Gail Dawson-White, Precious Johnson-Agiri,
Tim McGuirk, Sally Youngcourt, communion assistants

Mick Bryan, Matt Shirk, audio/visual ♦ Frank & Victoria Mercuri, nursery

Karen Sandloop, altar captain ♦ Kaia Arana Lyon, sexton

Atonement Choir

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24 ♦ 11:00 am

Service of Holy Communion ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Children and youth participate in this family-friendly service of Holy Communion for all ages.

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24 ♦ 6:00 pm

Candlelight Service ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Family-friendly worship with children's message, carols, and candlelight. (no communion)

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24 ♦ 7:30 pm

Candlelight Service of Holy Communion ♦ the Rev. Katie Lyon

Traditional Christmas worship with Atonement Choir, Holy Communion, and candlelight.

The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day ♦ December 25 ♦ 10:00 am

A simple service of Word and Sacrament ♦ the Rev. John Richter

Lessons and Carols ♦ December 28 ♦ 10:00 am

Our Christmas celebration continues with a service of Lessons and Carols.

(no sermon, no communion)

Festival Christmas Choirs

All are invited to sing with the Choir for Christmas Eve!

For Children, Grades K through 6:

Rehearsals on Sundays after worship, 11:00-11:45 am in the choir room: December 7, December 14, December 21. Please try to attend these rehearsals. On Christmas Eve, December 24, warm up at 10:00 am in the nave, worship at 11:00 am.

For Teens and Adults:

Rehearsals on Thursday evenings, 7:30-8:30 pm in the choir room: December 4, December 11, December 18

Rehearsal on Saturday morning, 9:30-11:00 am in the nave: December 20 (come at 9:00 am for coffee and donuts!)

Please try to attend at least 2 of these 4 rehearsals. On Christmas Eve, December 24, warm up at 7:00 pm in the choir room, worship at 7:30 pm.

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher or stop by the sound booth on you way into the worship space.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. Children from 3 years of age to 2nd grade are invited to experience worship geared just for them—follow the CHILDREN'S CHAPEL leader to the privacy room after the Children's Message. Children will return to their families for communion.

CHURCH NURSERY for preschool aged children & younger is in Room F126 during worship.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are limited Monday and Tuesday due to some staff commitments. Wednesday and Thursday the office will be open 10:30am-2:30pm.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues this fall, 8:45-9:45 am in room F122 at 8:45am; we continue our journey of reading the Bible and are now in the New Testament!

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page. We are especially in need of **LARGER SIZED MEN'S CLOTHING**.

PICKLEBALL IN THE ATONEMENT GYM will continues this afternoon with beginner play at 2:00pm, competitive play at 3:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

2025 PLEDGES should be close to fulfillment. If you are unsure of your remaining pledge, please email Amy Rogers at arogers@atonementwyo.org, or reach out at 610-375-3512 x110.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING will take place this afternoon, December 7. Meet in the narthex at 3:45 pm for warm up and organizing, then different groups of us will travel via carpool to carol from 4:00 until 6:00 pm. All ages are welcome!

THE ANGEL TREE IN THE NARTHEX still has a few names remaining, for children from the BCIU Teen Parent Program. There are additional names online, contact the office if you need help signing up to purchase a gift. We will also be collecting monetary gifts for Common Ground to purchase much-needed clothing. Donations can be placed in the offering or the box next to the tree. Mark your donation "Common Ground".

WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT will include selections from HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER. Join Atonement and Common Ground in Lundin Hall at 7:00 pm, following a fellowship supper at 6:00 pm.

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

ADVENT HYMN 240

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
stanza 2 only



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

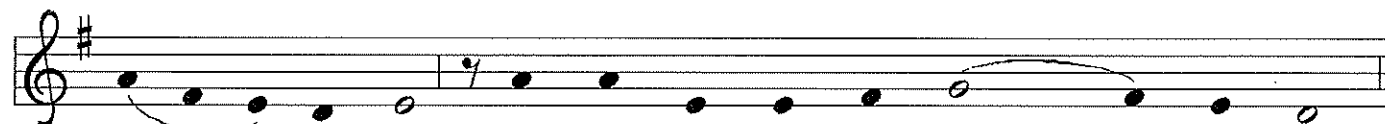
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

stanza 1



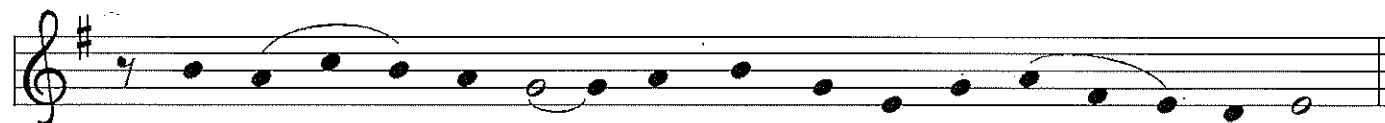
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

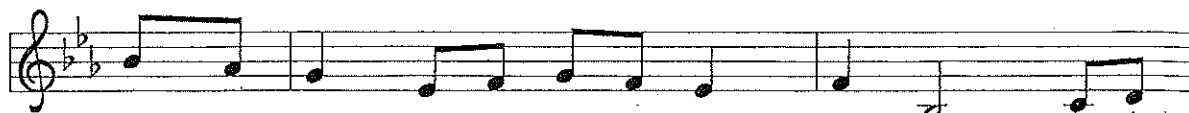


dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

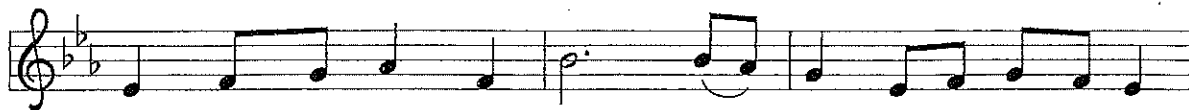
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

JEFFERSON
87 87 D

There's a Voice in the Wilderness



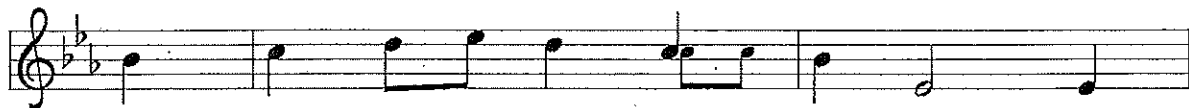
1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



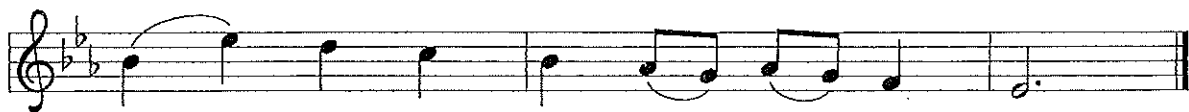
high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

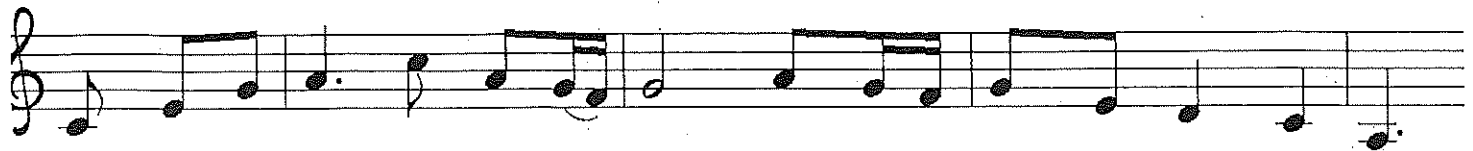


loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

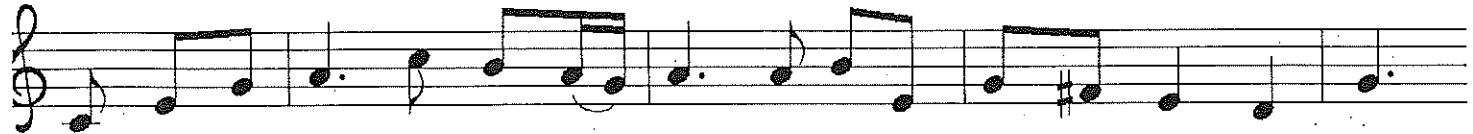


plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

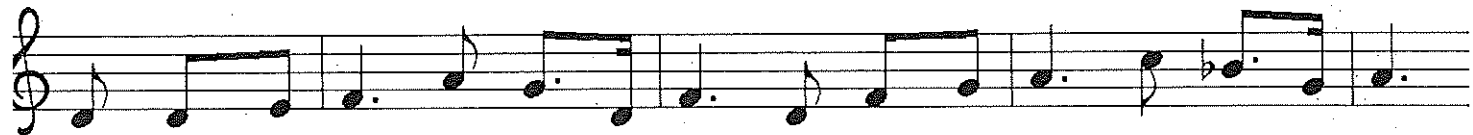
O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de-vour the small;



guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

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Poinsettias & World Hunger

Donors are needed for the poinsettias which will decorate the church on Christmas Eve. We are requesting \$10.00 per poinsettia, but any amount is welcome. As an alternative to (or in addition to) donating a poinsettia, you are invited to make a donation to the World Hunger Appeal.

Donations will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and may be made in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one. **Please return the form below by December 14 with your donation.**

I wish to provide _____ poinsettia plant(s) for Christmas Eve

Make a donation of _____ to the World Hunger Appeal.

___ in loving memory of:

___ in thanksgiving for:

Name (as it will appear in the bulletin)

Payment:

___ Check payable to Atonement

___ Scan the QR code

