

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

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www.mttaborlutheran.org



9:15 AM - December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

ALIVE! Worship Service

INTRODUCTION

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Advent Hymn (Watching Waiting Longing)

Verse 1

Heaven sent a child to save us light for all to see
Helpless baby mighty Savior holy mystery
Unto us a son is given born in Bethlehem
Lamb of God the Light of nations God in flesh became

Chorus

Watching waiting longing for the day
When His people would glorify
The Name above all names

Verse 2

For the joy that lay before Him chose our agony
Jesus bore the wrath of Calv'ry
Washing sinners clean
Our Messiah Christ our brother word of God in flesh
Loosed the chains that held us captive
Broke the bonds of death

Chorus

Watching waiting longing for the day
When His people would glorify
The Name above all names

Verse 3

So we wait with expectation for His Advent here
Bride of Christ His word proclaimed
For all the world to hear
He will come in clouds descending
At the trumpet sound
In the light of Christ our Savior
Ev'ry knee will bow

Chorus

Watching waiting longing for the day
When His people would glorify
The Name above all names

All Earth Is Hopeful

verses 1 - 3



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, *al* Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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O Come O Come Emmanuel

Translated from Latin by

John Mason Neale

Melody: 15th century Franciscan hymn

(based on the recording by for KING & COUNTRY)

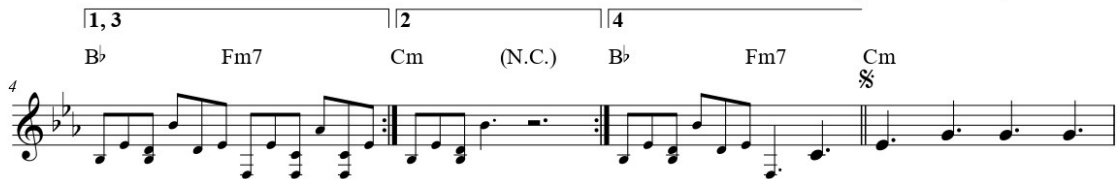
Arranged by

Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone,
Mark Campbell, Stephen Lynch,
Stephen Blake Kanicka and Ben Backus

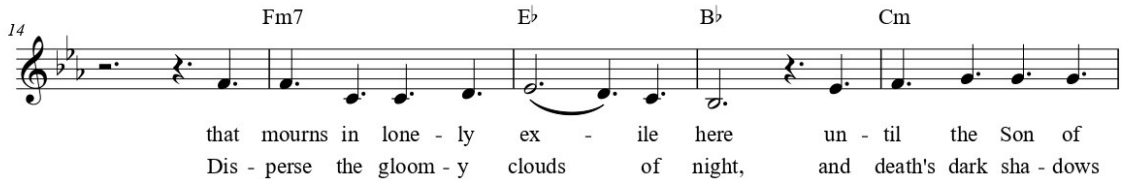
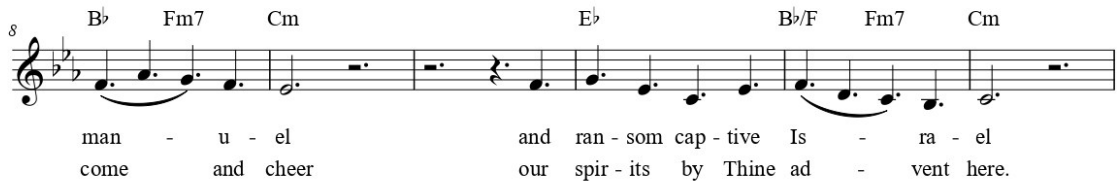
INTRO



VERSE 1 & 2



1. O come, O come, Em -
2. O come, Thou Day - spring,



CHORUS 1a

19 Fm7 B \flat E \flat B \flat Cm
 God ap - pear. Re - jice, re - jice. Em -
 put to flight.

24 Fm B \flat Cm E \flat Fm7 B \flat 2nd time to Coda Φ
 man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra -

TURNAROUND

28 Cm (N.C.) Cm
 el.

31 B \flat Fm7 Cm B \flat Fm7

Repeat Chorus

Interlude

Oh oh

Verse 3

O come Thou Key of David come
 And open wide our heavenly home
 Make safe the way that leads on high
 And close the path to misery

Repeat Chorus (twice)

PEACE

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

Whether by Blood or Baptism, we are family here. Let us share the peace of Christ with each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ELW p. 234

PRAYERS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

He Came Down

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forever more.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forever more.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forever more.

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

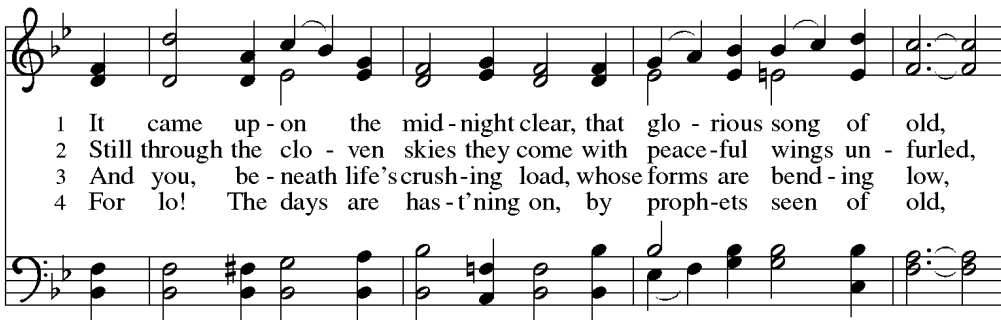
Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

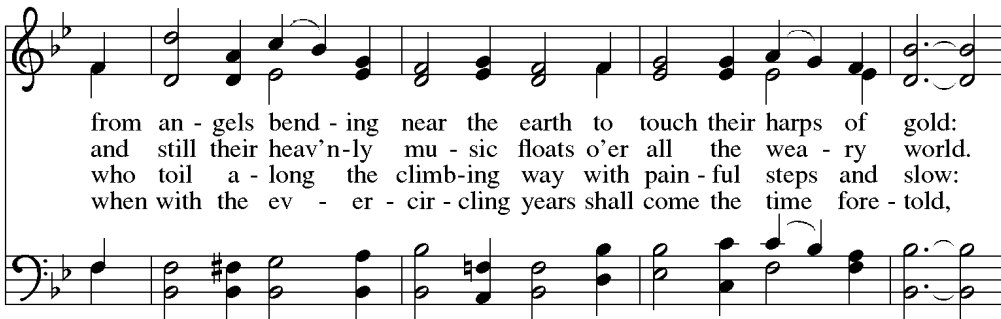
HYMN OF PRAISE

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

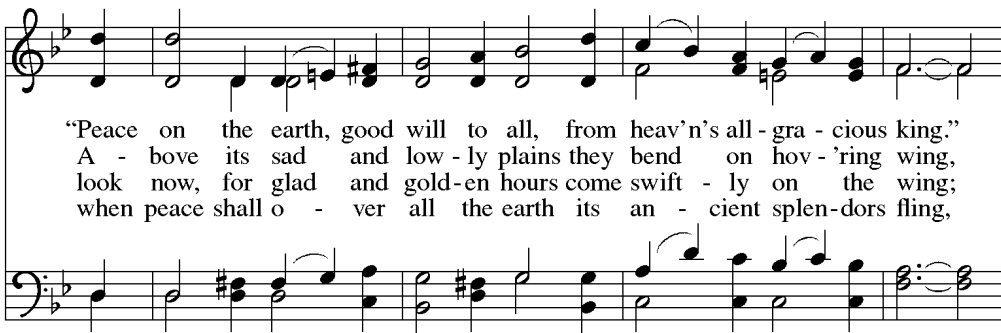
verse 1



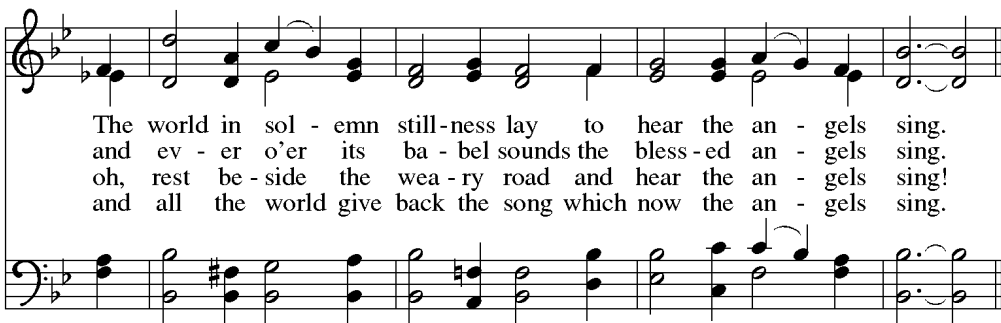
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

A READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANTHEM

Almost There

Smith, King, & Grant/arr. Sorenson

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Wade Roof

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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


Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

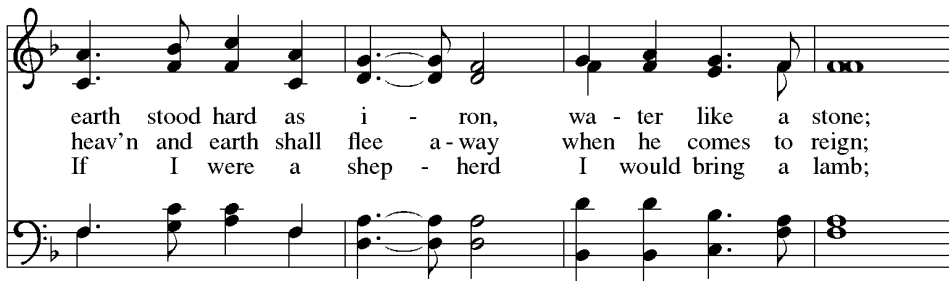
OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

verse 3



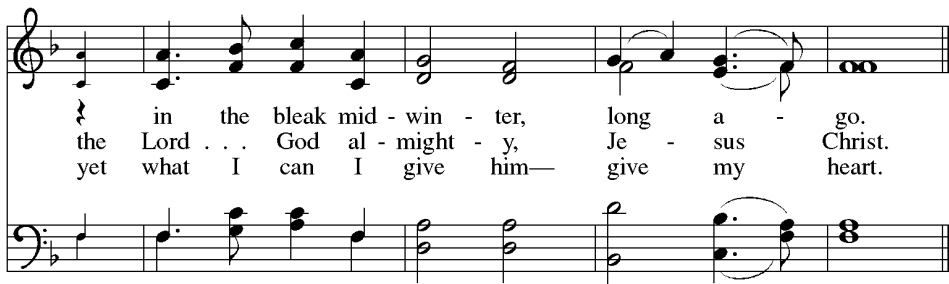
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p. 153

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

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 TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

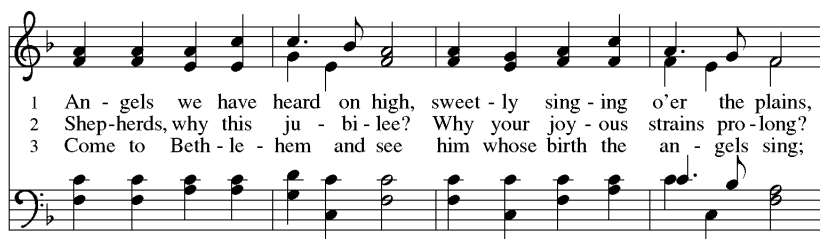
Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

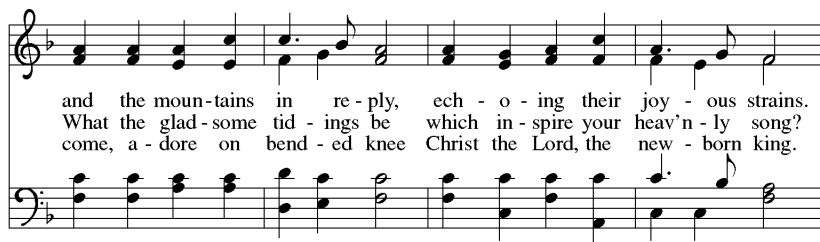
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Angels We Have Heard On High



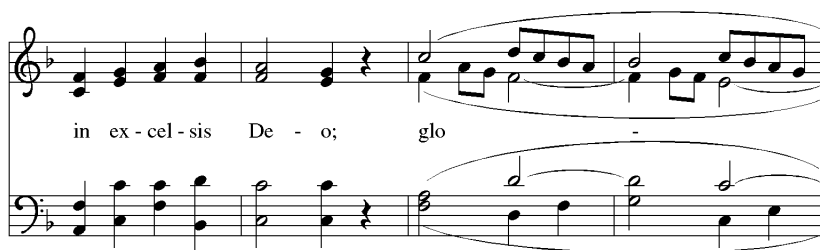
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
 Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



- ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

It's Christmas

(including Away in a Manger and Go Tell It on the Mountain)

Chorus

It's Christmas
The angels are singing
And I know the reason the Savior is born
It's Christmas
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting joy to the world

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash
CCLI Song #7050425

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DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Angel (Love): During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

Are you ready?

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

ALIVE! Musicians

Gale McLeod, Co-Director

Lyndsey Ebener

Ricky Lusk

Irelou Moye, Co-Director

David Moye

Julie Ann Payne

Beth Branham

Erin Hall

Ed Redmond

Leah Conrad

Vaughn Hall

Roxanne Rich

Brett Ebener

Steve Hamilton

Sarah Smith

Clark Ebener

Stephanie Liscusky

Jessica Gibbons

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant Julianne Jones

Lector Ray Conrad

Greeter Grace Fuson

Ushers David Yoder, Brandon Payne

Acolyte KateLynn Parker

Livestream coordinators Pam Hoskins, Kendrick Kerr



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the
Gayden Family: Julian and Ralphetta (Pud and Doodle)

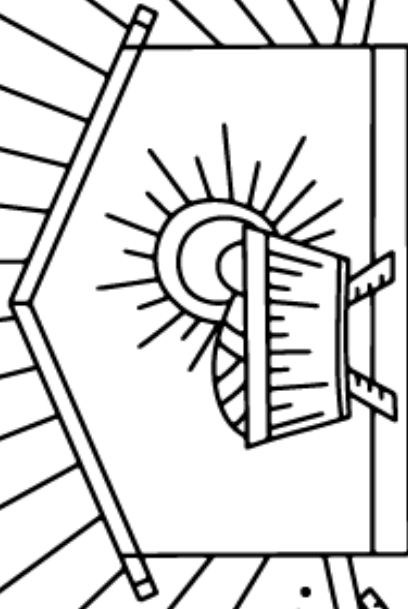
Julian Gayden III (Yogi), Julian Gayden IV (Chip) and Todd Gayden
by Pam Burnett & Linda Gayden.

Today's bulletin covers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory
of the Gayden Family: Julian and Ralphetta (Pud and Doodle)

Julian Gayden III (Yogi), Julian Gayden IV (Chip) and Todd Gayden
by Pam Burnett & Linda Gayden.

The Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God and in loving
memory of Mom and Dad, Aunt Eunice & Uncle Everette Hite and
my brother, John Bundrick, by Rachel Bundrick.

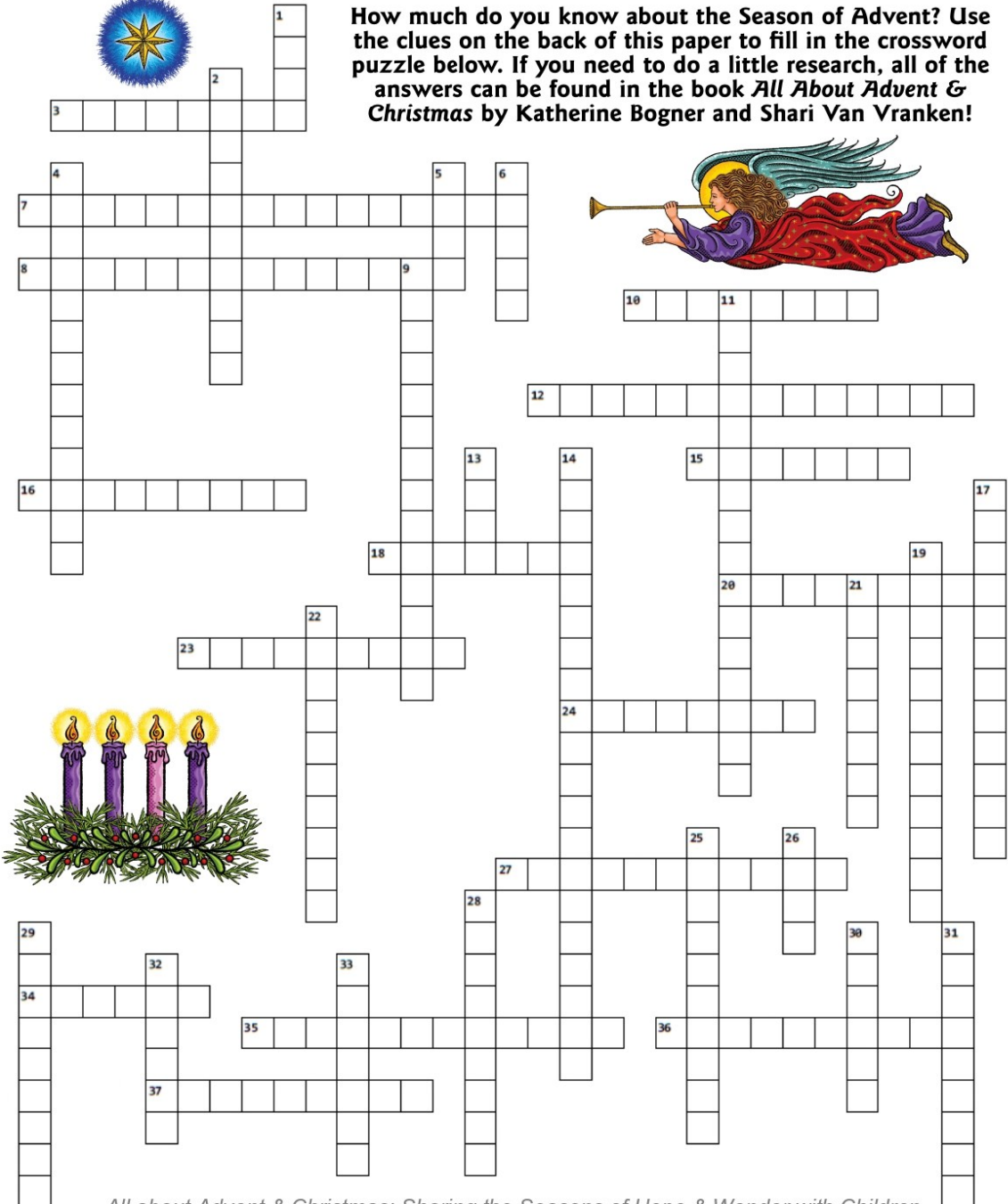
SAVIOR
of the Nations,
COME. MAKE HERE
YOUR HOME.



ALL ABOUT ADVENT CROSSWORD



How much do you know about the Season of Advent? Use the clues on the back of this paper to fill in the crossword puzzle below. If you need to do a little research, all of the answers can be found in the book *All About Advent & Christmas* by Katherine Bogner and Shari Van Vranken!



All about Advent & Christmas: Sharing the Seasons of Hope & Wonder with Children by Katherine Bogner, illustrated by Shari Van Vranken, is available at StPaulCenter.com

Across

3. Celebration of the visit of the wisemen
7. The story of God's plan to save us, as told in the Bible (two words)
8. Pattern of seasons throughout the year where we remember the events of Jesus' life (two words)
10. Feast day on December 6th
12. This Saint announced the coming of Jesus and called for repentance
15. The Israelites waited thousands of years for the _____ to come and save them from sin
16. Birthplace of Jesus
18. Means proclamation; tells how we are saved through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
20. Remembrance of the family tree of Jesus, telling stories from Adam & Eve until His birth (two words)
23. Father of John the Baptist
24. Shows connections between the Old and New Testaments
27. The truth that God became man in the person of Jesus Christ
34. Original Latin meaning is "to come"
35. Announcement to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of Jesus
36. Celebration on the 3rd week of Advent where the baby Jesus figure from a nativity scene is blessed, popular in Italy
37. Mother of John the Baptist

Down

1. Feast day on December 13th
2. Mary's song of praise after the Visitation
4. Display with figures telling the story of Jesus' birth (two words)
5. Number of Sundays in Advent
6. Gift of the wisemen, represents that Jesus will die to save us
9. Acts as a daily countdown during the Advent Season (two words)
11. The four symbolic meanings of each Advent candle (in order) First letters are H, P, J, L
13. Mother of Jesus
14. Solemnity in December celebrating Mary being free from Original sin (two words)
17. Circular decoration with four candles, lit each week of Advent (two words)
19. Gift of the wisemen, represents that Jesus is the great High Priest
21. Name of Jesus meaning "God is with us"
22. Seven days of prayer using specific titles of Jesus leading up to Christmas
25. Celebration in Mexico and Guatemala during the Christmas season, means "the inns"
26. Gift of the wisemen, represents that Jesus is the King of kings
28. Marian apparition in Mexico in 1531
29. Feast day on December 9th
30. Adoptive father of Jesus
31. Advent is preparation for this Solemnity
32. Novena prayed 30 times a day from November 30th until Christmas
33. Special name for third Sunday of Advent, means joy

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Gerald Shealy Allison Hostetter, Stephen Fulmer, Jack Latham, Julie Miller, Summer Insabella, Mallory Hartgrove, Meg Muir, Thomas Shealy, Adam Self, Robert Ward, William Wingard, Lev Taylor.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Melvin Manus, Paul Dufries, Addie Wilkerson Pinner, Natalie Cook
Karen Holton, Barbara Raulerson

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Jana Payne, Grace Kelly, Carolyn Dufries, Pastor Lavaughn Keisler, John Conrad, Linda Price
Bruce Merchant, Al & Judy Jordan, Luther Swicegood, Sandra Baker, Alice Pollock, Jimmy Williams
Mona Myers, Sadie Howard, Elmer Sundlie, Emma Lou Easley, Paul Addy
Paul & Jeanie Jacobs, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

William & Janet Wood, Judy Lazarczyk, Bobby LoVine, Robbie Burgess, Ronnie Boland
Tonia Boland, Andy Rauch, Peggy Roessler, Sherwood Williams, John Bailey, John Sharpe
Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Bobby Brown, Steve Blake, Zach Wash, Jack Hayde, Barbara
Antley, Ty Arlet, Bill Baney, Tyler Corbitt, Eddie Porter, David "Bubba" Martin, Jr.
Kimberly Chapman, Nancy Waugh, Emily Waugh, Sam Waugh, Laura Ann Merrill
Johnny Smith, Anne Moyer

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, Alex Morris

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Cory Fabian, Zachery Gayden, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Caleb Neff

The Family Of:

Otis Amick, Joe Bundrick, Fred Fetner

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music