

# Third Sunday in Advent

## Sunday, December 12, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
215 N. Warren St.  
Orwigsburg, PA  
570-366-2316

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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### GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

"Christ Be Our Light"

M. Hayes

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we wait the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**"Christ, Be Our Light"**

*[The third candle is lit.]*

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff is the refrain: 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the'. The second staff continues: 'dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your'. The third staff concludes: 'church gath - ered to - day.' The notes are: Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Staff 2: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Staff 3: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter).

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Have mercy on us, O God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls to keep away strangers.**

**We have hoarded earthly treasures and are not satisfied.**

**We have thought better of ourselves than we should.**

**Help us to love as you love,**

**to welcome everyone you send,**

**and to treasure mercy and demand justice for all people.**

**Amen.**

Know that for the sake of Jesus Christ, God has forgiven all our sins and remembers them no more. Rejoice and be glad for the kingdom of God is yours!

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the remaining lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic background for the vocal line.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing night.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE

**Leader**  
 In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Assembly**  
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
 For the reign of God, and for  
 mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the  
 Lord. For your  
 Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.  
 peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
 word, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have  
 Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.  
 mer-cy. A-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### **A Reading from Zephaniah**

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A Responsive Reading from Isaiah

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12:2-6)

## A Reading from Philippians

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

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

*Optional Repeat*

## **GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

(Luke 3:7-18)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
[See back of bulletin]

## **THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)**

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**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who will preach your good news in words and deeds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, inspire us to live in harmony with one another and with your good creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



Shepherding God, raise up men and women of faith who proclaim the dangers of greed and the joys of generosity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, comfort all who suffer in any way, especially everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, bless the ministry of church musicians and join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wise God, help us to seek justice not only for ourselves and for those we love, but for everyone regardless of their circumstances. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until you come to take us home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*(The Pastor concludes):* God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

(8:00 AM)

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

L. Smith

(10:30 AM)

"Angels Are Making Their Rounds"

P. Choplin

### OFFERTORY HYMN

"As the Grains of Wheat"

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were'. The second staff continues with 'gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from'. The third staff concludes with 'all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.' The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Patient God, we offer the gifts of our hearts and lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our pathway, and our peace. **Amen.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

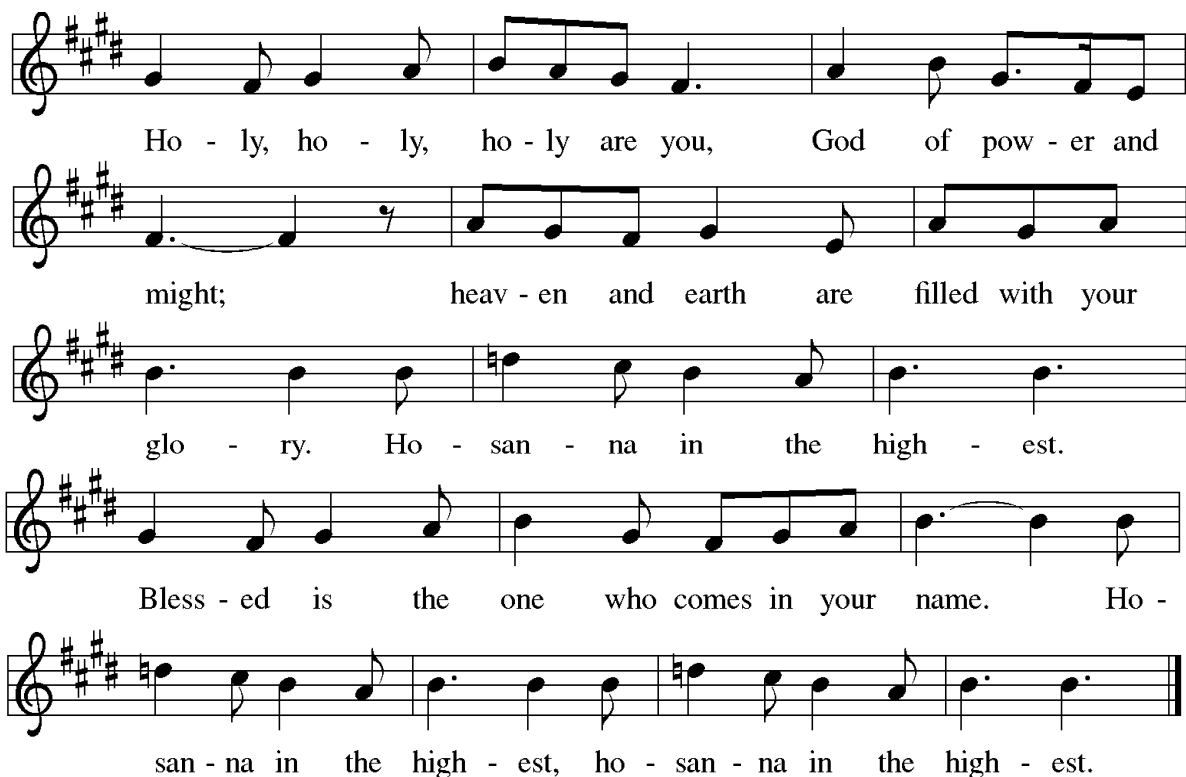
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup, we remember your living Word who dwelled among us, full of grace and truth. In his death and resurrection, we rejoice in our new birth and we look with hope for his coming again in glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Dwell among us and bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and fill us with your light.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)**

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 to Christ's banquet. There is heavenly food and drink for all!

## INSTRUCTIONS

*If you wish to receive the Sacrament, please move into the center aisle, Pulpit side first followed by the Lectern side. When you stand before the Pastor, please open your hand to receive a wafer of bread, and then move toward the Communion Assistant to dip the tip of the wafer into the chalice of wine. After you have eaten the wafer, you may return to your seat by the side aisle. Those unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament may receive in their pews. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please stand before the Pastor and say, "A blessing."*

## AGNUS DEI



1. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha-tred and fear;

have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

[See back of bulletin]

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God, you have come to us at this table. By the Spirit’s power, help us to carry your word into the world so that everyone might know your abundant mercy and amazing grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

May Almighty God protect you from all evil.

May you abide in hope and abound in faith.

May you love God and serve your neighbor with great joy  
until that day when Christ comes again. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### "Hark the Glad Sound"

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.

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### "Christians Be Joyful"

J. S. Bach

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**Altar flowers** are presented in memory of Clark “Duke” Schenck by Sue, Kurt, and Juli.

**Chancel flowers** are presented in memory of my parents: Francis and Margaret Piacine by daughter, Danielle Richards

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**Introduction to the day:** Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/12/21)**

**8:00 AM**

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: Amy Dewald

COMMUNION ASST.: Amy Dewald

**10:30 AM**

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Jeff Ritschel; LECTOR: Jeff Ritschel

COMMUNION ASST.: Sue Schenck

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/19/21)**

**8:00 AM**

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers

COMMUNION ASST.: Ruth Ann Withers

**10:30 AM**

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Juli Schenck; LECTOR: Leslie Guldin

COMMUNION ASST.: NONE

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Joyce O’Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Evens

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**AN ANGEL TREE REMINDER**

Today marks the deadline for our Angel Tree. Please return your wrapped gift, the Angel Tree tag, and filled stocking to church as soon as possible. Call Deb Bolinsky at (570) 789-3540 or send an email to her at bolinksy5@verizon.net with questions. Thank you for your generosity!

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 12	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Sunday School
Monday, December 13	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, December 14	11:30-3 PM	WELCA at Roman Delight Restaurant
Wednesday, December 15	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 16	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via Zoom
Saturday, December 18	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, December 19	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	"In-house" Christmas Concert

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### OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children ages 1-10 are invited to join us during the 10:30 a.m. service today, Sunday, December 12 for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. Teenagers are also invited to participate as helpers. Please contact Sarah Eger at 570-394-3522 for more information.

### PLEASE GIVE TO HELP US REACH OUR PLEDGE

Every year, our congregation makes a pledge of financial support for the work of the ELCA which reaches far beyond the walls of our congregation. This year we pledged \$9,000.00 in benevolence to help fund world hunger efforts, support our missionaries, fund our seminaries, provide for refugees, and continue many ministries in our synod, throughout our nation, and around the world. Please consider increasing your benevolence giving so we can meet this year's pledge!

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our WELCA Christmas luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Roman Delight Restaurant on Route 61. You may select your meal from the regular menu at your own expense. If you can attend, please place your name on the sign-up sheet at the WELCA bulletin board area by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Your in-gathering offering received at this time will be given to the Suicide Prevention task Force.

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Unison*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

*Refrain (Harmony)*

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



# COMMUNION HYMN

## “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*Unison*

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the world be - gan to be,  
2 O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when a vir - gin, blest with grace,  
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts his prais - es sing:  
4 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,  
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;  
powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and King;  
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be:

of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture  
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.