



4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024 (Worship: **8:30am, 10:00am, 5:00pm**)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Guests, please sign in at the “Welcome Table” and receive a gift. For young children, a nursery is available - sign in your child and grab a pager. We also love children in worship also. Sunday school is on Christmas break and resumes January 12, 2025 at both morning services.

TODAY is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Our theme during this four week preparation for Christmas is “A Weary World Rejoices.” Today we look at *Following Yonder Stars*, the art ministry’s latest artwork hanging in the center of our sanctuary. May the hope of Christmas shine through our hearts today!

PRELUDE: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Kristina Langlois
Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist (8:30am/10am)
Rachel Ehring, Worship Leader (5pm)

(The Sacrament of Baptism - Michelle Golsa Nowroozi - The Outdoor Font, 9:40am.)

THE WELCOME AND INVOCATION (People read/sing **bold** words.)

GATHERING HYMN: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #275 v. 1-2
**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain: **Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.** (Refrain.)

CALL TO WORSHIP
The Advent of our God brings light to our world.
May the light of Christ bring hope to a weary world.

The Advent of our God brings light into the darkness of sin.
May the light of Christ bring hope to a weary world.

The Advent of our God brings hope to places filled with violence.
May the light of Christ bring hope to a weary world.

The Advent of our God brings peace to those engulfed in sorrow.
May the light of Christ bring hope to a weary world.

Come Lord Jesus, we welcome Your Spirit into this place.
May the light of Christ bring hope to a weary world.

Come Lord Jesus, we welcome Your Spirit into our hearts.
May the light of Christ bring hope to a weary world. Amen.

THE HYMN: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #275 v. 3
**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.**

Refrain: **Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

(The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**)
THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

(Following the reading, we sing, *O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel* #257 vv. 1, 4)
**O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ransom captive Is-ra-el,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Branch of Jes-se, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.** (Refrain.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:30 & 10am)

Lisa Zylstra

THE FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight rulers. (Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

THE SECOND READING: Matthew 1:18-25

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

(Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand.)

Tune: *O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel*

Alleluia, alleluia. O come to us Emmanuel.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

(The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

ANTHEM: *Advent Peace Canon* Arr. Schram (10am)

Sanctuary Choir, Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF THE DAY: We Three Kings

**We three kings of Orient are: bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain: **O . . . Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, o-ver us all to reign.** (Refrain.)

**Frank-in-cense to offer have I; incense owns a de-i-ty nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.** (Refrain.)

MESSAGE: *Following Yonder Stars*

Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *We Three Kings* arr. by Christi Stills

Micaela Lum, Harpsichord

ADVENT OFFERTORY RESPONSE: (Taize)

(Sung 2x)

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(All who believe Christ is present in this Sacrament are welcome to receive. Non-communing children and others who wish to receive only a blessing may come forward also. For those who prefer, white juice is located in the center of each tray and gluten-free wafers are also available.)

HOLY COMMUNION MUSIC:

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

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The First Noel

#300

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.** (Refrain)

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wher-ev-er it went.** (Refrain)

**This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Beth-le-hem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right o-ver the place where Jesus lay.** (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three,

**full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.** (Refrain)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#279

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

THE BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Good Christian Friends Rejoice

#288

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heav-en's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!**

**Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

SENDING WORDS: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Carol Overture* by Richard S. Willis Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist (8:30am/10am)
Rachel Ehring, Worship Leader (5pm)

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GLORIA DEI STAFF: Rev. David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org); Minister of Art & Music Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org); Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas (preschool@mygloriadei.org); Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org); Deacon Daneen Pysz (deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org) Congregational Life Dir. Susie Boland (fellowship@mygloriadei.org); Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org); Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum (pianist@mygloriadei.org); 5pm Worship Leader Harrison Michael

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS provided by Sharon Miller in celebration of Steve Good's birthday!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24, 4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm.
Carols, candlelight, special music, & uplifting message.
Holy Communion celebrated 5:30/10pm.
Childcare available at 4/5:30pm
Invite a friend to worship with you!

PLANNING SURVEY INSERT - If you have not completed one online, please complete one today. Pick it up at the Welcome Table and place it in the offering boxes. Thanks for helping out!

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - Pick up your copy of January - March, 2025 devotional at the Welcome Table.

PIANO DUET CONCERT - January 5, 2025, 5pm. Come see Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi play four-hand piano! They'll be our guests during morning services. Come enjoy their amazing talents!

THE PSALMS AND HEBREW - Pastor David will lead a Bible study on the Psalms, while teaching some simple Hebrew. You can do it! Beginning January 9, 6:30pm, Knudson Hall (6 weeks).

SR. HIGH BOWLING - January 10, 6pm at Saddleback Lanes. Meet at the bowling alley for burgers & bowling. Invite a friend!

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI? Next Adult Inquiry Class (non-Lutheran background) (Jan. 11, 9am) and New Member Orientation (Jan. 12, 11:30am) for all joining. See sign-up for details or call the office.

LUNCH & LEARN (L&L) - Speaker from Alzheimer's Assoc. of OC - January 19 at 11:15am, Bankson Hall. Find support for yourself and learn new ways to communicate with loved ones with Alzheimers or Dementia. Donation for lunch. See sign-up.

NEW GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) GROUP - Starting Tuesday, Jan. 21, 10am, Knudson Hall. This group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday/month. Study - *John: Jesus-the-Word, The Messiah, The Son of God* & facilitated by Dennis & Deacon Daneen Pysz. Open to all. Sign-up.

WOMEN'S BUNCO - Back by popular demand! Girls and women of all ages come and play, January 24, 6pm, Bankson Hall. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Cost: \$5. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

OFFERING - Thank you for supporting Gloria Dei! Please place check/money in donation boxes or give electronically - Venmo app - @GloriaDei-DanaPoint or Zelle - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. You can also donate via credit/ debit card through Vanco, our secure site: mygloriadei.org/donate.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER 22 - 28, 2024

Today: Worship (8:30am, 10am, & 5pm); Nursery (8:30am & 10am); NA Meeting (6:30pm)

Monday: Al Anon (5:30pm); Alateen (5:30pm); AA Coed Meeting (7pm)

Tuesday: AA Men (7am); Christmas Candlelight Worship (4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm); Al Anon (7pm)

Wednesday: Merry Christmas! AA Men (7am); AA Group (6pm); 12 Step Couples Group (7:30pm)

Thursday: Office Closed; AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Al Anon Coed (5:30pm); AA (7pm)

Friday: Office Closed; Al Anon Meeting (10am)

Saturday: AA Men (7am); ACA Meeting (11:30am); NA Meeting (7pm)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Sr. High Valentine Making at Gloria Dei (February 1, 6pm);
- Prime Time Seniors - Nixon Library (February 13, 2025);
- L&L - Celebrating Life Community Health Center (March 2, 2025);
- Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 7-9, 2025);
- Los Angelitos Orphanage trip (March 15, 2025);
- Women's One Day Retreat (March 22, 2025);
- Annual Church Campout (June 6-8, 2025);
- Vacation Bible School (June 16-20, 2025)
- 60th Anniversary of GDLC (September 19)
- Women's Retreat (October 3-5)
- Oktoberfest sponsored by MGD (October 11)

THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!

8:30am: Advent Reader: Jillian Yeager; Coffee Prep: Bill Jonas; Communion: Bonny Gillespie & Sonja Krafcik; Lector: John Adams; Ushers: Bob Gaumer & Henri Nurminen; Welcome Table: Diane Kelly

10am: Advent Reader: Jillian Yeager; Coffee Clean-up: Dennis Pysz; Communion: Peggy Johnson & Melody Lieber; Lector: Jim St. Martin; Ushers: Donna & Jerry Combe; Welcome Table: David Warneke

5pm: Communion & Lector: Gary Bridge

