

Order of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Festival of Lessons and Carols
December 21, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude	Let the Christ Child In	Althouse & Albrecht
Reading	"The Coming of God"	J. Barrie Shepherd
Introit	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> Lareeta Ashton, French Horn	arr. Billy Madison

Call to Worship/Lighting of the Advent Candle (Responsive)

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that at the Lord's coming:

"The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped, then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert."

If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for, and more than we bargained for. We light our third candle to praise God, whose Spirit comes to us with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

(candle is lit)

Three candles shine as God's promise draws near, beckoning us to be the good news.
Justice awakens in us, a spark to light the way. Let us worship God!

*Carol	<i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?</i>	Hymn 104
Lesson	Isaiah 40:3-11 George Young	OT, p. 667
Reading	"First Coming"	Madeleine L'Engle
Carol	<i>We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom</i> (verses 1-2 and 4)	Hymn 378
Lesson	Isaiah 63:7-10; 64:1, 3-8 Angie Wester	OT, p. 693

Prayer for Forgiveness (Unison)

To you, O Lord, we bring our lives: troubled, broken, or at ease—a sacrificial offering for you to use. Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you loved. Take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility. Take away our blindness and show us the world through your eyes. Take away our greed and teach us how to give as you gave. Show us your ways; teach us your paths, that we might walk with you more closely: our hand in your hand, our feet in your footsteps, from the baby in a stable to eternity. Amen.

Canticle	<i>Listen Here, Listen Here</i>	Jay Althouse
Lesson	Luke 1:68-79 Joanna Sterling-Clutts	NT, p. 58
Carol	<i>The People Who Walked in Darkness</i> (verses 1 and 4-5)	Hymn 86
Lesson	Luke 1:26-38 LaDonna Bowers	NT, p. 56
Reading	"A Blessing for After"	Jan Richardson
Canticle	<i>No Wind at the Window</i> Danielle DeBraccio, Soprano	Columcille
Lesson	Luke 2:1-7 Andy Langston	NT, p. 58
Reading	"The Risk of Birth"	Madeleine L'Engle
Canticle	<i>Gentle Mary, Tender Mary</i>	Jay Althouse
Lesson	Luke 2:8-12 Christian Ashton	NT, p. 58
Reading	"When the Light Comes"	Unknown
*Carol	<i>People Look East</i> (verses 1 and 4-5)	Hymn 105
Lesson	Luke 2:13-20 Abigail Ashton	NT, p. 58
Reading	"Unexpected"	Ann Weems
Canticle	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	arr. Althouse
Lesson	Luke 2:25-33, 39-40 Ramona Perkins	NT, p. 59
Reading	"The Child Is Born Again"	Ann Weems
Carol	<i>Love Has Come</i>	Hymn 110
Lesson	John 1:1-14 Rev. Christie Ashton	NT, p. 91
Reading	"Light Looked Down"	Laurence Housman
*Carol	<i>Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn</i> (verses 1-3)	Hymn 107
*Benediction	"An Advent Blessing"	Whitney Wilkinson
*Response	<i>Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn</i> (verse 4)	Hymn 107
*Postlude		

Prayer Family of the Week:

Our prayer family of the week is **Susan and Rob Terry**. This week, we ask the congregation to remember Susan, Rob, and their family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.

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Let the Christ Child In

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Contributors: David Paxton, Paul Gerhardt

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We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

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Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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Church Calendar at a Glance

December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Worship
	11:30 a.m. Choir Practice
December 24	5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
December 28	7:00 p.m. Pajama Sunday

The Elder on Call for December is Brenda Brazier. She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at **256-883-5592**.

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's grace, we celebrate life with Hope by creating a loving Christian community, serving and worshipping God, and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We provide an open environment to explore God's will, to grow in commitment to Christ, and to be a refuge of healing.

A Community of Hope