

*Second Sunday of Advent  
Intergenerational Christmas Program  
December 10, 2023*



*Here is a picture of another church's Intergenerational Christmas Program!*

***Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)***

***10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134***

***"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"***

***Worship 9:00 a.m.***

***Bold type indicates Congregational responses.***

***Prelude***

***Announcements***

***Bell Choir "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" .....arr. Arnold B. Sherman***

***Ring of the Bell***

**\*Greeting**

P: 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.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Mothering God, enfold us in your loving arms as we prepare to confess our sin and receive your forgiveness. We know that we need your comfort now.

**Amen.**

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

*Brief pause for reflection*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned away from your comfort time and time again. We thought that we could go our own way and that we did not need you. We have made a mess of our lives and of our world. Have mercy upon us, we pray, Amen.**

Hear this good news! God, + forgives you all of your sin. Feel the loving arms of God wrapping around you now. Find comfort against God's bosom. Dry your eyes and be set free. Let us stand together, my siblings, as we cry, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" In Jesus' Name.

**Amen.**

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath Litany**

P: By the light of this second candle, we receive your *comfort now*. By your Spirit, may all of the pain and sorrow that we carry be shouldered by this beloved community. We are not alone, for you are with us and we are with one another. Through the power of mutual aid, we have everything that we need. Our *peace* comes through our willingness to share the abundance that you have given to us. In Christ Jesus, we pray.

**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with one another.*

*Please be seated.*

**Prayers of the People / Gathering Song**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.....ELW 257, v.1

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

L: God with us, you were born to free us from all that holds us captive.  
We pray for all people who feel entangled, trapped, and bound  
by their own sin, by their own fear, by their own despair.  
Release them into your arms of rescue and relief and  
surround them with your love and grace.  
Come, Lord Jesus. **Come now.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.....ELW 257, v.2

**O Come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

L: God with us, your wisdom and ways are higher than our own.  
We pray for a world where things often feel hopeless and people live in conflict.  
Bring justice to the oppressed and to those living on the margins.  
Usher in peace where war and violence entangle and ensnare.  
We also lift up to you those on our prayer list and the names we speak either aloud or  
silently in our hearts to you now...(pause)  
Come, Lord Jesus. **Come now.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.....ELW 257, v.7

**O Come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

L: God with us, you are our Shepherd King.  
We pray for your Holy Church, that we might live out the promise of your kingdom.  
Teach us to serve others instead of wanting to be served.  
Unite us as one body, broken for the sake of the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus. **Come now.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.....ELW 257, v.1

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Waiting expectantly for you to come and knowing you are already here, we offer these prayers to you and pray with one voice as you taught us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### ***\*The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### ***\*Thanksgiving at the Table***

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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 Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Communion Invitation**

P: Come taste and see that the Lord is good. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

### **Lamb of God**

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**

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray,

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. This day, as we tell the story of Christ’s birth and all the lives touched and changed by this story of good news, help us to see and feel anew the ways God breathes and brings new life into us, through the mysteries of life’s journey and the promise of God’s presence coming to us in the flesh. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem “Breath of Heaven”** ..... arr. Lloyd Larson

**“NO STRESS NO FUSS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM”**

*Introduction & Instructions (Lori Vandeventer): Welcome everyone to Bethlehem! Let us open our eyes and ears and listen to the story of when Christ was born.*

**Part I: Mary and Joseph**

*The Marys and Josephs are invited forward.*

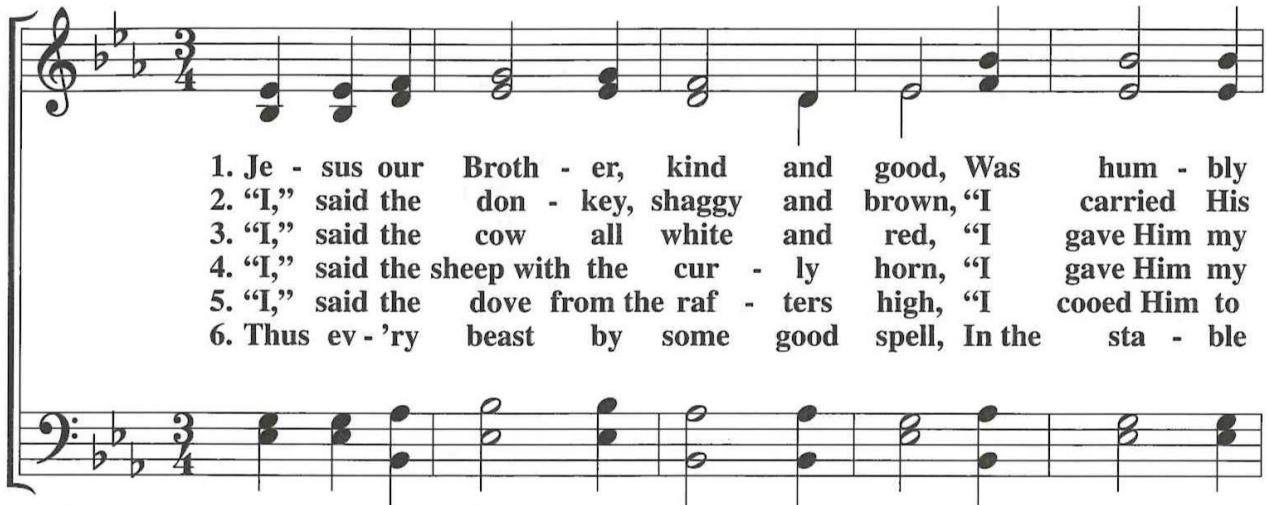
Narrator 1:

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight.  
So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright.  
Sickly or dying? What was the matter?  
“A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter!  
“My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.  
There’ll not be a room in all Bethlehem,” I said.  
But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.  
I couldn’t avoid them, so I tried a good deed.  
I cleaned up the stable: Rachel cooked up a meal.  
We helped all we could, at least, that’s how I feel.  
For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon!  
So we prepared for delivery right under the moon.  
The child came so quickly. His face seemed a light.  
As if God had shone God’s presence so bright.  
Joseph said softly, “It’s Jesus, my friend.”  
God sent him among us to bring to an end fear and hatred, darkness and sin.  
Instead, God gave light, to let God’s love in.

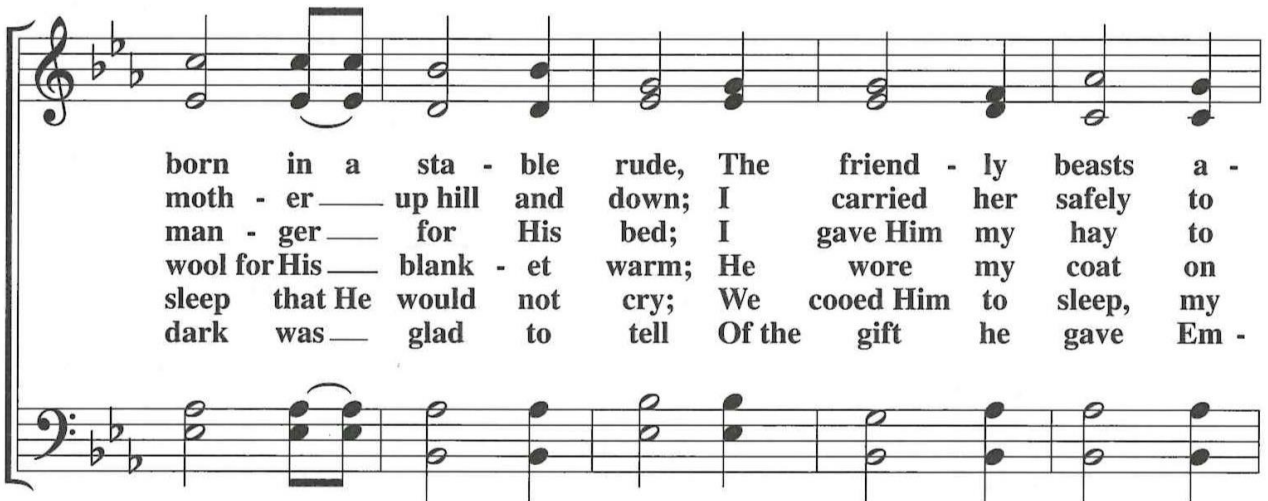
## Part II: The Animals

As the animals come forward, the congregation sings "The Friendly Beasts."

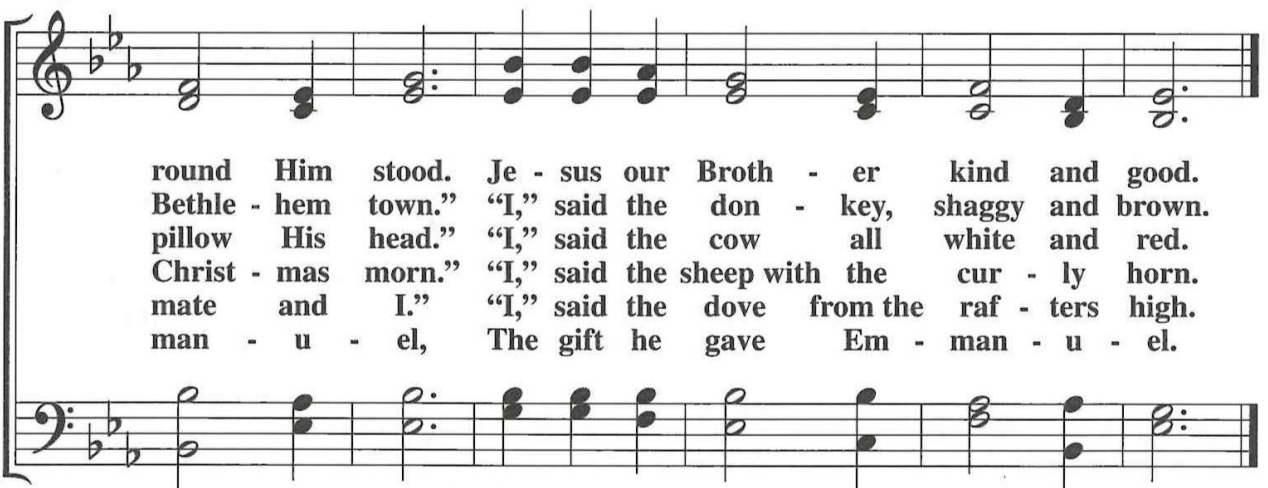
Hymn: "The Friendly Beasts".....



1. Je - sus our Broth - er, kind and good, Was hum - bly  
2. "I," said the don - key, shaggy and brown, "I carried His  
3. "I," said the cow all white and red, "I gave Him my  
4. "I," said the sheep with the cur - ly horn, "I gave Him my  
5. "I," said the dove from the raf - ters high, "I cooed Him to  
6. Thus ev - 'ry beast by some good spell, In the sta - ble



born in a sta - ble rude, The friend - ly beasts a -  
moth - er — up hill and down; I carried her safely to  
man - ger — for His bed; I gave Him my hay to  
wool for His — blank - et warm; He wore my coat on  
sleep that He would not cry; We cooed Him to sleep, my  
dark was — glad to tell Of the gift he gave Em -



round Him stood. Je - sus our Broth - er kind and good.  
Bethle - hem town." "I," said the don - key, shaggy and brown.  
pillow His head." "I," said the cow all white and red.  
Christ - mas morn." "I," said the sheep with the cur - ly horn.  
mate and I." "I," said the dove from the raf - ters high.  
man - u - el, The gift he gave Em - man - u - el.

Narrator 2:

My animals were calm, quieter than normal.  
They often were noisy, and never too formal.  
They always were eating, or else they were sleeping.  
The stable required continuous sweeping.  
But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe  
at the sight of the babe and all that they saw.  
It's as if they were aware that God had just hushed them,  
Had fed and watered and carefully brushed them.  
They knew, I believe, that God had been able to work a miracle there in that stable.

**Part III: Angels**

*As the angels come forward, the congregation sings "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."*

**Hymn:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" .....ELW 270, v.1

Narrator 1:

We don't often see angels in flight.  
But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.  
They appeared to the shepherds and, boy, were they scared!  
"Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?"  
"Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up?  
Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?"  
But "Peace on earth; goodwill to all" was the angels' sweet song; that was their call.  
With a light show that dazzled all who did see, the angels hallelujah'ed and sang out  
with glee.  
"To Bethlehem, shepherds!" the angels directed.  
"To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected."  
"Go worship the Lord and follow his ways.  
And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

**Part IV: Shepherds**

*As the shepherds come forward, the congregation sings "Go Tell It on the Mountain."*

**Hymn:** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" .....ELW 290, v.1-2

Narrator 2:

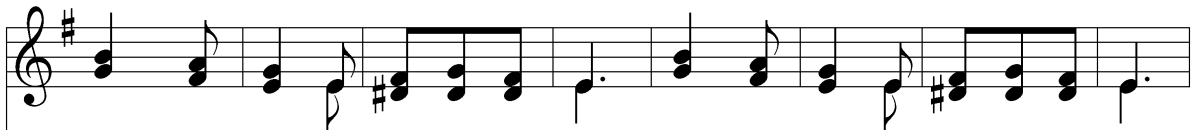
The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned.  
"Too much hard work or too much hot sun!"  
That's what they thought; that's how they explained.  
Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.  
But the angels' song calmed them, and then they believed.  
They rejoiced when they knew and they were quite relieved.  
They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord.  
Then they left and began to spread the good Word.



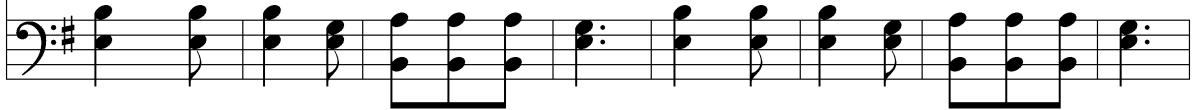
## Part V: Wise Persons and Star

The Wise Persons are invited to come forward and follow the "Star" around,  
while the congregation sings "We Three Kings."

Hymn: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"..... WOV 646, v.1, 2, 5



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



*Refrain*



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



Narrator 1:

The star that shone brightly led Wise Persons at night  
To Bethlehem’s stable, to the manger’s strange light.  
They came bearing gifts, in worship and love,  
praising God for God’s wonders from heaven above.  
The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on my straw.  
It was the oddest of things that ever I saw.  
If kings bring him treasure,  
then maybe you, too, can worship with pleasure  
the person of Jesus, who came to us all.  
So worthy of praise, for he brings us God’s call.”  
“I am the way, the truth, and the life,  
Come to God for healing from strife.  
Come unto me, all you who labor,  
And I’ll give you rest forever to savor.”

**Part VI: Conclusion**

Lori Vandeventer:

T’was the very first Christmas and there in the manger,  
The Christ-child was born; it couldn’t have been stranger.  
Shepherds saw angels; Wise Men, a star.  
They came to see Jesus; they came afar.  
They knew he was special – God’s very own son,  
He came to the earth to love everyone.  
He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord,  
To be worshiped each day, to be loved and adored.  
So now at Christmas we all take delight.  
In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.  
In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give,  
Let us never forget, it’s in Christ that we live.

We now invite everyone to join with us as we close by singing Joy to the World.

*After we finish singing, everyone will stay on stage for a group photo. Feel free to take photos.*

**Sending Song:** “Joy to the World”..... ELW 267

**\*Dismissal**

L: Go forth with hope, peace, joy, and love for Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Postlude**

***Thank you to everyone who participated  
in our Christmas Program this year!***

*Please return your “props” to the places you found them at as you exit.*

*If you would like to help continue the merry-making of this season with others, we invite you to please join us in the fellowship hall for service projects, crafts, and cards of love and the packing of cookies to share with others.*

**The Friendly Beasts**

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**“No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Program”**

by Carolyn Peters with contributions by Theresa Cho and Nevan Hooker.  
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**Why Wait?! Advent In A Box, Volume 1.**

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**Prayers of the People**

written by Kara Y. Farrow

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