

*Second Sunday of Advent  
Our Congregational Christmas Program  
December 8, 2024*



***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: “Lord of the Dance” ..... Arr. Jason W. Krug***

***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.**

**Advent Wreath Litany**

P: Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those who please God.**

Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

**Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.**

There in Bethlehem and here today at Lord of Love we are reminded anew of the wonder of God’s ways.

**Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem:** “Celtic Advent Carol” ..... Arr. David Angerman

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

L: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

*A brief silence.*

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you

in our hearts now... Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

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

L: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### ***Introduction to the Interactive Christmas Program!***

#### ***Prayer of the Day***

MC: Let us pray.

**Amazing God, long ago, you gathered a group of unlikely outsiders—Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Today, you have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a community of faith. We want to respond. Show us how. Help us receive your renewing love and everlasting peace as we recall the gift of presence coming to us in the flesh to bring good news to us all; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.****

**Reader 1: John 1:1-4, 9 – 13, 18b**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The true light, which helps everyone to see, was coming into the world. Jesus was in the world, and Word that shaped the world was in him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. It is Jesus, a child of God, who by being close to the Father's heart, has made God known.

**Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine" .....ELW 677 v. 1 & 3**

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Reader 2: Luke 1:26 – 38**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the messenger of God, Gabriel, was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to an unmarried woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young woman's name was Mary. And Gabriel said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But Mary was much perplexed by his words and wondered what sort of greeting this might be. Gabriel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary asked, "How can this be, since I am unmarried?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the messenger of God departed from her.

Hymn: "Here I Am" .....ELW 574 v. 1& 3



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

**Reader 1: Narration**

**Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" .....ELW 279 v. 1 & 2**  
**MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY ENTER SANCTUARY AND TAKE SEATS IN CHANCEL.**

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**Reader 2: Narration**

**Hymn: "Away in a Manger" ..... ELW 277 v. 1 & 2**

**\*THE FULL COSTUMED ANGEL AND STAR TAKE THEIR PLACE "IN THE SKY."**

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

**Reader 2: Luke 2:10-13** Now, it was night time and in the fields nearby, shepherds were watching their flocks. Then an angel stood before the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around all of them. And the shepherds were terrified. But the angel of the Lord said to them: Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Immediately after the angel stopped speaking, there were suddenly many angels praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."



Hymn: "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child" ..... ELW 297 Sing Twice

\*ALL OTHER "ANGELS" COME TO SURROUND THE BABY JESUS.

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

**Reader 1: Narration**

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

**\*ALL "SHEPHERDS" MOVE TO FRONT DURING SINGING.**

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



**Reader 1: Narration**

**Hymn: “Do You Hear What I Hear?” .....v. 1 & 2**

**\*ALL “ANIMALS” MOVE TO FRONT DURING SINGING**

Said the night wind to the little lamb,  
Do you see what I see?  
Way up in the sky, little lamb,  
Do you see what I see?  
A star, a star, dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite  
With a tail as big as a kite

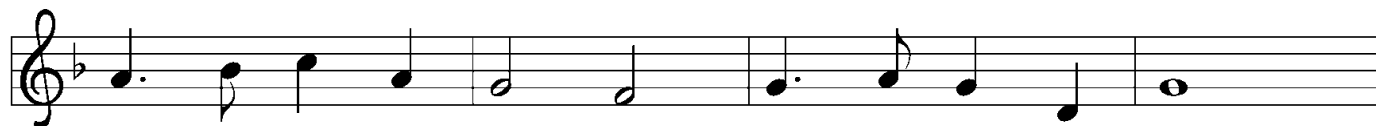
Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,  
Do you hear what I hear?  
Ringin' through the sky, shepherd boy,  
Do you hear what I hear?  
A song, a song, high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea

**Reader 2: Narration**

## Offering

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org).

*\*ALL "WISEMEN" BRING THE OFFERINGS FORWARD TO THE MANGER.*



What . . . can I give him, poor . . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## *\*Offertory Prayer*

MC: Let us pray.

**God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence, made known to us through Christ. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and glorify you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

## *\*Master of Ceremonies: Narration*

**\*Hymn: "Joy to the World"..... ELW 267 v. 1, 2, & 4**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

***\*Dismissal***

MC: Filled with the Christmas story, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Please stay in place until a new Lord of Love Nativity picture can be taken, and a special thank you to all who participated!***

***There is hot chocolate, donuts and coffee to be enjoyed in the fellowship hall, plus Project Linus blankets to be tied and children's crafts and cards to be made in the fellowship hall to get us ready for Christmas.***

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Special thanks to those who helped make this Christmas Program happen:

Program Directors: Claudia Rowen and Pastor Becky Sells

Sound Director: Jon Novak

Organist: Carol Novak

Technical Directors: Chris and Renae Rich

Master of Ceremonies: Claudia Rowen

Reader 1: Lorelei Rich

Reader 2: Payton Combes

Full Costumed Angel: Gracie Christensen

Star: Daniel Sells

**This Little Light of Mine**

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual: arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**Here I Am**

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

**Away in a Manger**

Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R Murray, 1841-1905

**Jesus, What a Wonderful Child**

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: African American traditional: arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953-2002

*Arr. from The New Century Hymnal (#136) © 1992 Pilgrim Press.*

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**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

Text: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

**Do You Hear What I Hear**

Text: Noël Regney and Music: Gloria Shayne, 1962 by Regent Music

Arr. By Lorie Line. ©2006, Jewel Music Publishing

**Text: Joy to the World**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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