



**November 28, 2021**  
1st Sunday of Advent  
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth  
*The Greening of the Church*

*The Greening of the Church is an age-old form of worship around the world. Celebrated at the beginning of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ by adorning our sanctuary with traditional decorations.*

*Advent is a season of preparing - not only to look back and remember Christ's coming as the baby Jesus, but also to anticipate Christ's coming into the world; God is coming to meet us - and be born in us - every day and in many ways.*

PRELUDE

*O Come, Divine Messiah*

arr. Robert J Powell

GATHERING HYMN

*Hark, the Glad Sound*

ELW 239

- 1) Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2) He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3) He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4) Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

ONE: Today is the First Sunday in Advent. Advent means *arrival*.

**MANY: In this Season of Advent, we prepare ourselves and the world for the coming Messiah.**

ONE: Advent means *appearance*.

**MANY: We practice patience as we wait to see, hear, taste, smell and feel Immanuel -- God-with-us -- appearing in the here and now.**

ONE: Consumerism and materialism dull our senses to the extraordinary beauty of the Divine becoming human flesh.

**MANY: We want Christmas now. Advent invites us to develop patience, to learn the power of hope, and the joy of expectation.**

ONE: Advent is not merely preparation for remembering the occurrence of Jesus' birth 2000 years ago.

**MANY: Advent points us to the hope of Christ coming again - every day.**

ONE: Advent makes prophets of us all.

**MANY: We are called to prepare ourselves, our church and our world for the approach of Christ, the Light of the World.**

ONE: This morning, as we prepare this sanctuary for our celebrations of Advent and Christmas,

**MANY: we practice preparing our homes, our lives and our hearts for the birth of Christ, here and now!**

## NARRATION

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*Blessed be the God of Israel*

ELW 250

1) Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

3) My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: The Lord be with you.

**MANY: And also with you.**

ONE: Let us pray.

Creator God, we look to the turning seasons and see your ever-changing beauty explode in splendor: the new life of spring becomes summer's full blooms. The grandeur of summer becomes autumnal richness. As fall mellows to winter, your whole creation invites humanity to rest, reflect and be renewed.

**MANY:** In this Season of Advent, embolden us to see you being born among us, again. Return our hearts to hope and joy. Turn us again to see the dawn of your New Day, your Light emerging on the horizon. Fill us with love and peace as you come to live among us, now. In Christ we pray. AMEN

### TRADITION: THE PARAMENTS & ADVENT COLORS

Exodus 25:1-8; 26:1

ONE: The LORD said to Moses: Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering... This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing-oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and gems. And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen, and blue, purple, and crimson yarns.

### NARRATION

### HYMN

*As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*

ELW 261

verse 1 = cantor

verse 2 = all

1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,  
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour

so we a - wait your light. O Star of  
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to

prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing  
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and

bright, till shades of fear are gone.  
wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.

### TRADITION: THE ADVENT WREATH & CANDLES

John 1:1-9

ONE: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The Word was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## NARRATION

ONE: As we light this first candle on the Advent wreath, we focus on being good listeners during this season of waiting.

ONE: What sounds will we hear? What does it mean to listen for love?

ONE: Listen, God is calling. Listen, Christ is coming. Listen, someone needs your love.

**MANY: Jesus is born in our listening. Above all things may we put on love, which holds all things together.**

ONE: Let us pause now to open our hearts and listen for love.

*[light the first candle]*

ONE: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, as we listen for love together.

**MANY: Open our ears to Christmas. AMEN**

## HYMN OF LIGHT

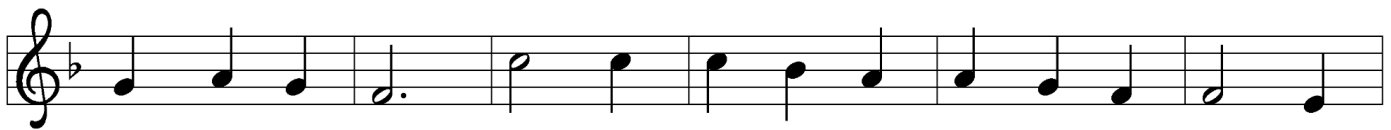
*Love Has Come*

ELW 292

**MANY:**



1. Love will come a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
3. Love will come and ne - ver will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sa - vior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
gift of Christ- mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

TRADITION: ANGELS & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Luke 2:13-14

ONE: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all peoples!’

NARRATION

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW 289

1) Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3) Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

TRADITION: EVERGREENS

NARRATION

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

ONE: As we remember these evergreens, symbols of peace and joy, we share God's peace among us. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**MANY: And also with you.**

TRADITION: THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Isaiah 11:1-2

ONE: A shoot shall come out from the seed of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. The spirit of YAHWEH shall rest on this One, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YAHWEH.

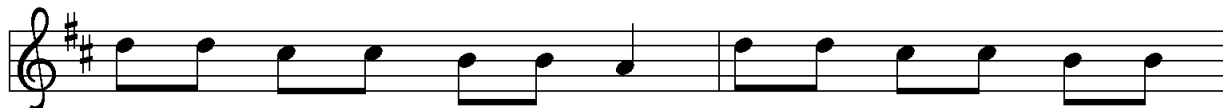
NARRATION



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.



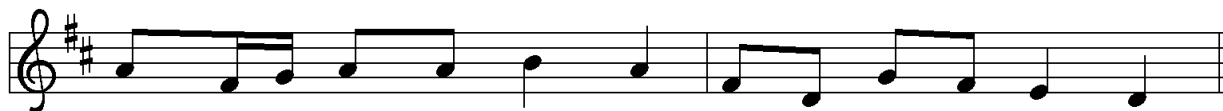
A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en



flow'r. On the bless-ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.

### TRADITION: THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2:10-12

ONE: When the Magi 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.

#### NARRATION

#### OFFERING

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Lynn Petersen

#### OFFERTORY

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

ELW 294

1) In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

3) What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can give him—give my heart.

TRADITION: THE NATIVITY SCENE

Luke 2:15-19

ONE: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

NARRATION

HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257

1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

4) O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

6) O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*



+PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**MANY: 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**

BENEDICTION

ONE: As the angels came near to Earth to share the good news, let us go and do likewise. As we go, we are sent with God's blessing:

May the turning seasons stir us to wonder and hope.

May the Divine-become-Human inspire us to return to God in joy and humility.

May prophetic witness embolden a cultural revolution toward justice and peace.

**MANY: AMEN**

SENDING HYMN

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW 242

1) Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

4) Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.

Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in peace. Christ is coming - prepare the way!

**MANY: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

*People Look East*

arr. Robert J Powell

Acknowledgements:

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**Serving today:**

*Presider*

*Organist & Pianist*

*Narrators*

*Advent Wreath Family*

*Worship Assistants*

*Zoom & Livestream Coordinators*

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

Anne Phillips

Pam Hughes, Matt Peterson

Nick, Annie, Ian, and Nora Bonow

Brooke Bickley, Donna Daubendiek, Bob Samuelson

Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Steve Johnson,

Scott Rusten, Bob Samuelson & Jason Tofteland



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021

### **TODAY**

9AM Worship with Holy Communion  
*Greening of the Church*

### **LET'S DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE - TODAY!**

Today is the Greening of the Church worship service . It is the first Sunday of Advent, and we will learn about the meaning behind some of our holiday traditions. Then, stay after worship to decorate the Sanctuary Christmas tree!! (Pageant participants will have some rehearsal and then are encouraged to help decorate as well.)

### **THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR: CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

Join the NLC this holiday season for the 36th annual Christmas Festival, The Earth Adorned. Concerts will be held December 10th and 11th at the Basilica of Saint Mary, and a livestream of the concert will be available during the 8pm concert on the 10th. See NLCA.com for details.

### **PEACEFUL NIGHTS**

We return to the normal Wed. schedule. Dinner at 5:30 and this week on the menu is chicken pesto and spaghetti bake.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS & INVITE YOUR LOVED ONES**

Consider how you might share Christ's LOVE as we worship. Bring a loved one to these events!

Sunday, December 12 - Christmas Pageant, 9:00am  
"Sing We All Noel"

Sunday, December 19 - Christmas Music Festival, 9am  
"A Child is Born"

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 4:00pm  
with Holy Communion

### **SERVING TODAY**

*Usher: Matt Peterson*  
*Greeter: Joni Sutton*  
*Offering Counters: Dean Renstrom, Carolyn Stark*

### **POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season. The plants come in 6-1/2" pots and are \$7.80 each. Orders will be taken through **TODAY**, November 28. If you would like to place an order please fill out the inserted form in today's bulletin and drop in the offering plate.

### **AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DONATIONS**

Peace has been notified that the Afghan families are in route and could be here in the very near coming weeks. It is now time for us to start gathering household goods to furnish an apartment for the family. It will take the help of many of us to make the family feel comfortable.

Pam Hughes and Holly Anderson will have a sign-up on Sunday, 11/14 after worship and will be able to answer your questions. There has also been an on-line signup created, to sign up for items. Go to the Peace website:

[www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org) and click on "Sign Up".

Feel free to connect with Holly Anderson with questions or donations:  
holly\_anderson@mac.com or call her at 612-804-5350.