



December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth
Word Made Flesh

A Child is Born...

Welcome to today's festival of music. As we enter into this time of worship, may we remember the joy of music in this season, and it's power to share the good news when we all lift our voices in praise.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Variations on Lasst uns das Kindelein wiegen

Franz xaver Anton Murshhauser

+GATHERING HYMN
verses 1-3: ALL

Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

*Clap your hands!
Tap your feet!
Listen to the rhythm,
Feel the beat!*

*Sing Alleluia, sing it loud and clear.
Sing Alleluia, Christmas time is here!*

*Dance to the music,
celebrate the song.
Come join the caroling
as we go along.*

*Find the joy of giving
in everything you do.
Then that special feeling
will be a part of you.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ONE: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we add a candle and remind ourselves to care with love.

MANY: We have been waiting. We have been listening. We have been looking for love.

ONE: God cares for all of creation, and God cares for each of us. God's love came to us in the form of Christ, as a baby. Let us care for others with the same love, and whatever we do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

MANY: Jesus is born in our caring. 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.

We light three blue candles and the pink candle.

ONE: With gratitude in our hearts may we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

MANY: Open our hearts to Christmas. AMEN

ALL SING:



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!

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: The Lord be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pray. God of all time,

Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MANY: AMEN

WORD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ONE: Word of God, Word of Life.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

He Comes to Us As One Unknown

ELW 737

arr. John Ferguson

1) *He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred,
a pulse of being stirred.*

2) *He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart,
of night within the heart.*

3) *He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home,
a voice to call us home.*

4) *He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving name,
for ev'ry child of earth,
for ev'ry child of earth.*

5) *He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord,
our Savior and our Lord.*

REFLECTION

ONE: Over the ages, God has appeared to believers in many ways; through wind and fire, through silence and music, through water and the word. In beauty and joy, and in heartbreak and tragedy, God comes to us in the form of other people who walk the path of life by our sides.

How different it is when God comes as a baby! We think we can prepare for a new baby in the family. There are clothes and household items to acquire so we can care for baby's basic needs. Mary and Joseph got by with next to nothing! But a baby brings so many changes; the family structure is altered, the focus shifts, and the elders get to experience the joys of the next generation.

The coming of a savior had been prophesied, a ruler and a king to free the nations. How can one possibly prepare for such a person, for such a being? How could Mary and Joseph prepare to be the parents to the son of God? Jesus took on a mortal frame through flesh and blood, and though he was fully human, he was also fully divine. As we wait for Christ's coming in this time and place, how are we being prepared for Christ to enter into our hearts?

MUSICAL OFFERING

For Unto Us A Child is born

Stephen Sturk

*For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14, 16-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ 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. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

ONE: Word of God, Word of Life.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

1) *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

2) *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

verse 3: ALL, in harmony

The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord

Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look

down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.

The musical score for verse 3 is written for a choir in harmony. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with many chords and some moving lines.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: In the silence following each petition, you are invited to share with God - through a single word, short phrase or mental image - whatever concerns lie on your heart placing that concern before God in the silence...

Let us pray, Emmanuel--God with us--in taking on a human body you showed us what infinite **love** looks like...

Word of Life, we **look** with love upon your creation...

Ruler of the Nations, we **listen** for your justice and righteousness...

Mighty Counselor, we **care** for our own soul, body and mind...

Healer of our Every Ill, we **speak** with love for those in need of healing in body, mind or spirit...

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

MANY: AMEN

+SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you all.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

MEAL

OFFERING

Now is Born the Divine Christ Child

arr. Kevin McChesney

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

ONE: Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

MANY: AMEN

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

MANY: We lift them to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

MANY: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+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

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Still, Still, Still

arr. Lloyd Larson

COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

REFLECTION

ONE: Christ's body. Christ's blood. We have just partaken of His holy meal. What does this mean for us ... at *Christmas*? It is natural to celebrate the arrival of baby Jesus, to honor his day of birth. But it is Christ's life, and ultimately, his death, that give meaning to our celebration. We know his arrival is only the beginning of the story. Mary and Joseph didn't know what would happen when they accepted God's will as the parents of Jesus. They couldn't know who their child would turn out to be. They had to wait to understand the importance of Christ's life on earth.

We are waiting, too. We wait for the child to come each year, Emmanuel, God with us, while also knowing that God is already always with us. We know that God cares for us with love, even when we do not feel it. Like Mary and Joseph, we don't know the effect that Jesus will have on our lives. We don't know how God will stir our hearts. Sometimes we wait.

For what, exactly, are we waiting? For captive chains to be released? For a broken heart to heal?

Perhaps we are meant to welcome this child -- who will give his life for us -- by listening and looking around us. By speaking and caring with love here and now. Not by waiting to see how God will put us to work, but by being the hands and feet of Jesus in our broken world. We pray, O Jesus, now appear. Our hope and expectation, set us free from our fears.

MUSICAL OFFERING

What Child

text by William Chatterton Dix
music by Paul W. Lohman

*1) What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*2) Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary*

*3) So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

BENEDICTION

ONE: The Lord bless you and keep you
the Lord make his face shine upon you
the Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace.

MANY: AMEN

ALL SING:

1) Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2) Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

3) Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

+DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in peace, care with LOVE.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Personent Hodie

David N. Johnson

Acknowledgements:

© Augsburg Fortress. All ELW elements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBL14294.

Other elements used under OneLicense.net #A-712130.

Reflections by Stefanie Fiser Kleven.

Serving today:

Preacher

Organist & Pianist

Musicians

Lectors

Usher

Greeter

Offering Counters

Zoom & Livestream Coordinators

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

Anne Phillips

Adult Bells, Adult Choir

Sonja Leppa, *violin*, Sylvi Leppa, *violin*

Don Davidson, Janelle Leppa

Terry Geffre

Monte and Evie Anderson

Jack Bacon & Jean Swanson

Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Steve Johnson, Scott Rusten,

Bob Samuelson & Jason Tofteland



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

TODAY

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9AM worship with Holy Communion

Music Festival: *"A Child is Born"*

PEACEFUL NIGHTS

There will be no Peaceful Nights for the next 3 weeks. Dinner and programming starts again on Wed., January 12, 2022.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & INVITE YOUR LOVED ONES

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

AED UNIT (automated external defibrillator)

The Peace AED unit is no longer working, not repairable and we currently have a loaner in its place. We need \$2,100 to replace the unit and it is not in our budget. If would like to donate, please email finance@peaceofplymouth.org or talk with Kjell or Jason.

AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

The Peace Welcome Circle met with the Afghan family that Peace is supporting this past week and found that there are still some household items that are needed. Please go to signup.com to donate.

Thank you!

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 27 - Friday, Dec. 31. If immediate Pastoral care is needed please call Pastor Kjell at 763-571-2919 or email the church at peace@peaceofplymouth.org

YEAR END GIVING

If you are planning to give any contributions to Peace before the end of the year, please have those to the office no later than Thursday, Dec. 30. If you need to drop off in person please email peace@peaceofplymouth.org to let us know and we will make arrangements to meet you at the office.