

**Peace on Earth?**

# **Peace in Our Hearts**



**Advent Evening Prayer**

December 6, 2023 6:30pm

**Scripture Readings**

Romans 5:1–11

John 20:19–23

# Advent 2023 – Peace on Earth?

## A Prayer before Worship

*O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.*

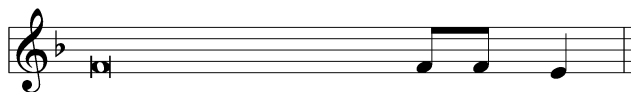
**Prelude:** SIEH, HIER BIN ICH (“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”), P. Grime

*Stand. Candles will be lit from the pastors as they pass by.*



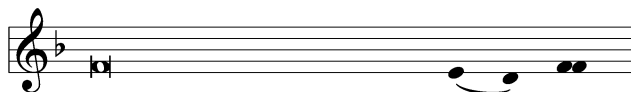
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

*[John 8:12]*

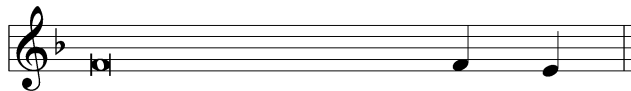


**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

*[John 1:5]*

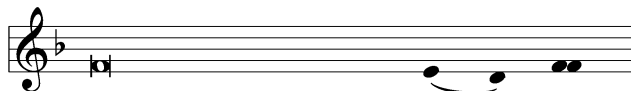


**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.

*Luke 24:29*



**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness

*1 Corinthians 4:5*



**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.

*[2 Corinthians 4:6]*

## Phos Hilaron



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:  
**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,  
bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the  
set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.  
We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:  
You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -  
ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:  
the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

## Thanksgiving for Light

**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in  
the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.  
Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



- L** Let us pray.  
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C** **Amen.**

*Candles are extinguished at this time.*



# Office Hymn: Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain



## The First Reading *Romans 5:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.





## The Second Reading *John 20:19–23*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word*

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**



The Small Catechism: *The Apostles' Creed—The Second Article—Redemption*

**L** As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household:  
The Apostles' Creed, The Second Article, Redemption.

**C** **And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Plate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**L** What does this mean?

**C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

The  
Apostles'  
+ Creed +

# Sermon Hymn: Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



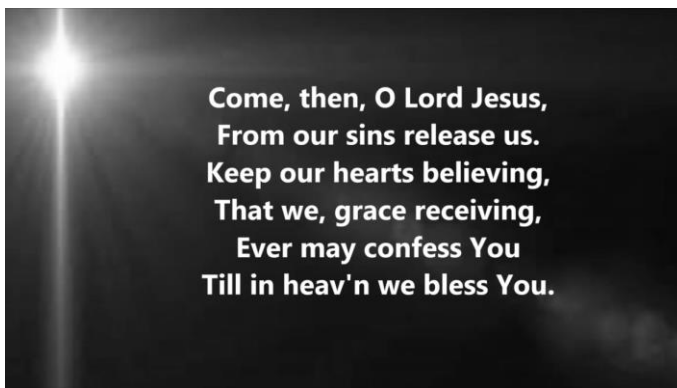
save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001376

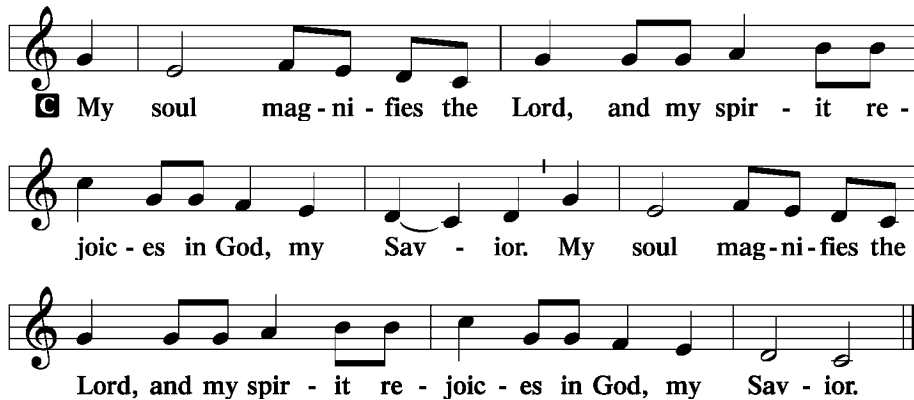
Tune (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain



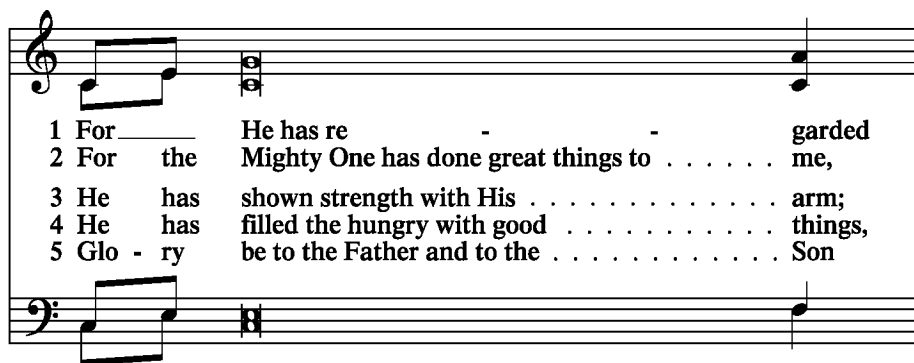
*Stand*

**Magnificat**

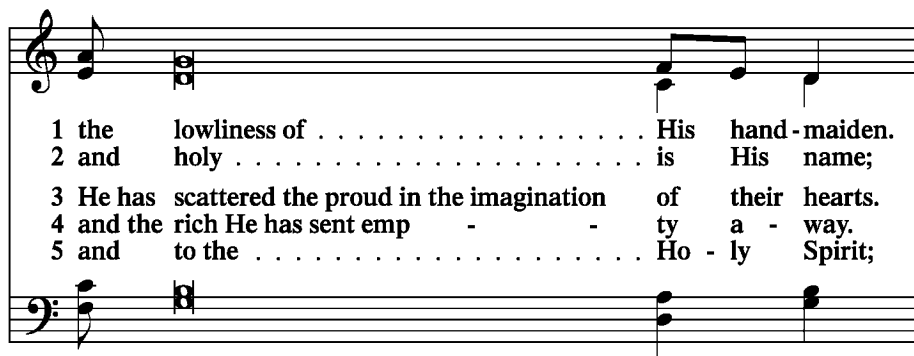
*Luke 1:46-55*



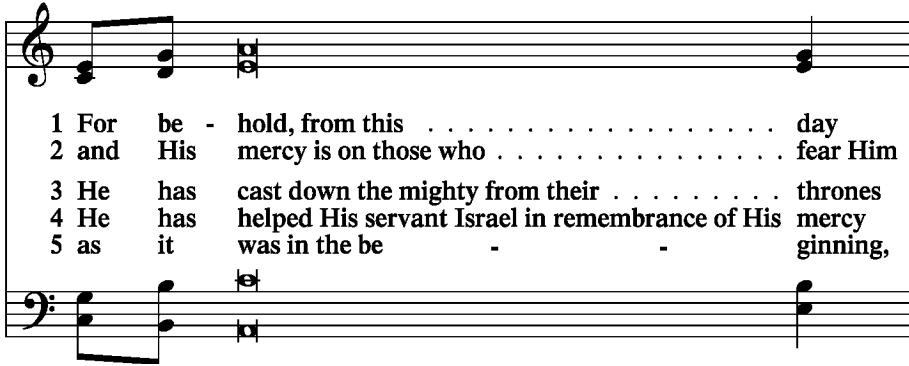
My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -  
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the  
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



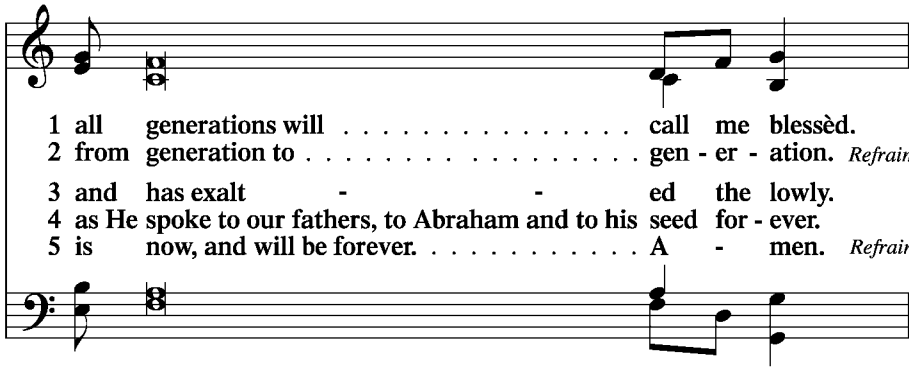
1 For He has re - garded  
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,  
3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand - maiden.  
2 and holy . . . . . is His name;  
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
4 and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.  
5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessed.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - men. *Refrain*

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## Litany

*The congregation's response begins just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

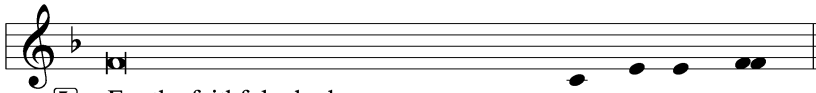
**L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

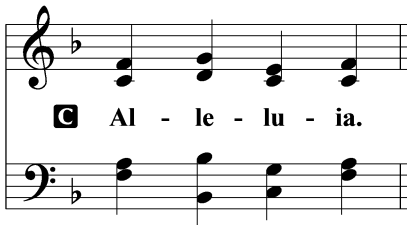
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

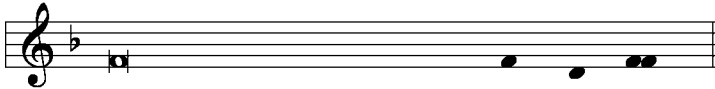
*A brief silence is observed. The following petitions and responses do not overlap.*



**L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

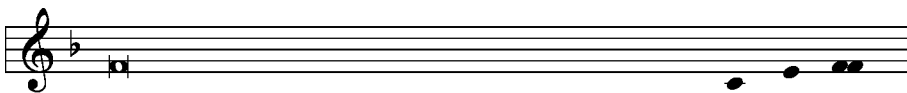


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.

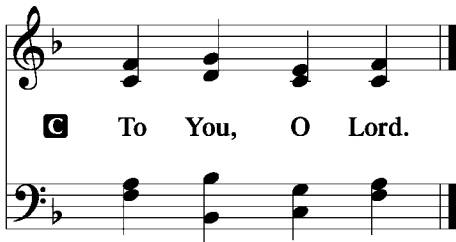


**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



**C** To You, O Lord.

## Collect For Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

The  
LORD'S  
Prayer



## Benedicamus



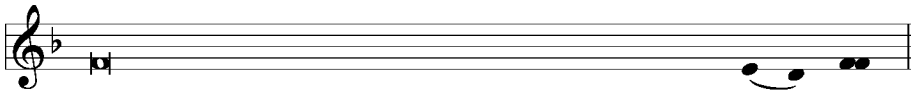
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

*[Psalm 103:1]*

## Benediction



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the  $\text{✝}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.



Closing Hymn: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
 4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scepter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

**Postlude:** MEINEN JESUM, LASS' ICH NICHT ("Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"), H. Gerike



**“BEHOLD,  
 YOUR  
 KING  
 IS COMING  
 TO YOU.”**

MATTHEW 21:5, ESV

## A Prayer after Worship

*Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

## Those Serving You Today

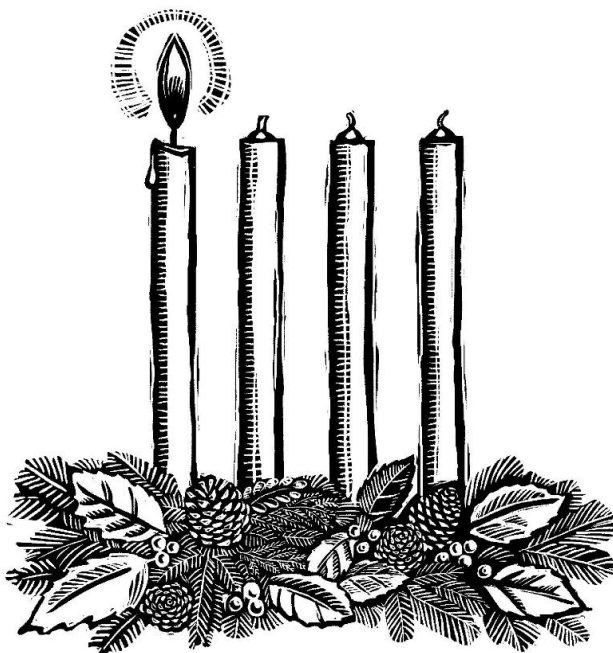
**Pastor:** Rev. Emmett Bartens

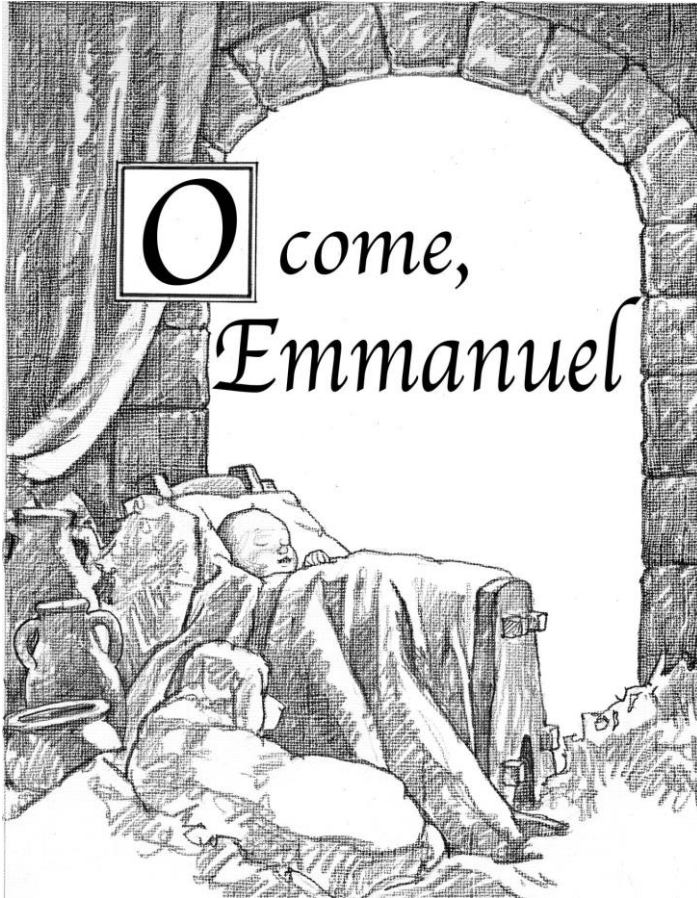
**Organist:** Kantor Jonathan Swett

**Live Stream Tech:** James Blasius

**Acolytes:** Gabriel Koenig, Emmy Ryan

**Ushers:** Paul Reimer, Rich Witkowski





**O** come,  
*Emmanuel*

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