



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looshcen

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024
9:30 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

ELW 257 v. 1,2,3

1. O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.
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.
3. O come, O come, O Lord of might. As to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the in could, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

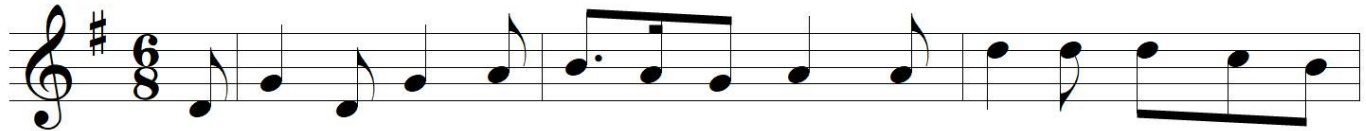
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

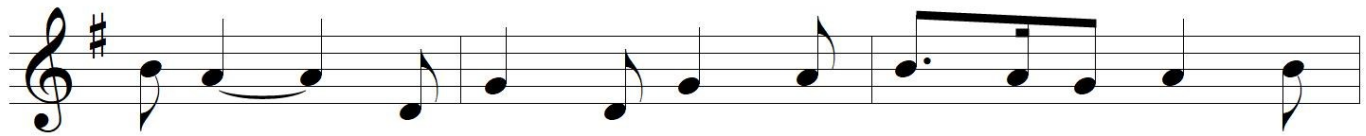
Amen.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

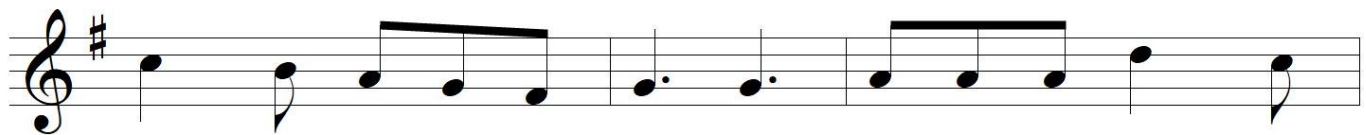
ELW 242



1. A - wake! A - wake, and great the new morn, for an - gels her - ald its
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u - el comes a -
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the world is de -
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though dark the win - ter and



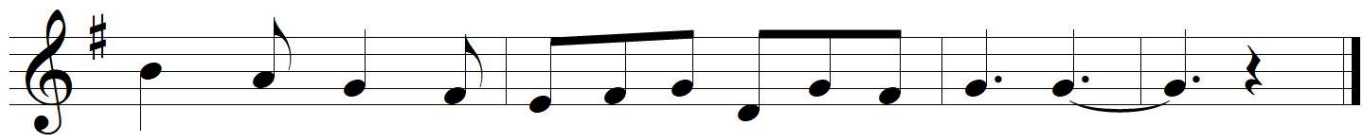
dawn - ing, _____ Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, be -
 sing - ing, _____ his hum - ble song is qui - et and near, yet
 spair - ing, _____ as morn - ing light so qui - et and free, so
 cheer - less, _____ the ris - ing sun shall crown you with light, be



hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal - the
 warm and gen - tle and car - ing; Then shall the mute break
 strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens wide the
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness, the thun - der of his
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be raised a -
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry



heav'n - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er. _____
 an - them's roll to shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness. _____
 bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der. _____
 day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry. _____

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE

98 98 87 89

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter"

Julianne Davis

Accompanied by Karlie Carter

WORD

READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter beginning at the 2nd verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Grace

Here our prayer

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Some Children See Him" by Alfred Burt

Julianne Davis

Accompanied by Karlie Carter

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Page 107

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. —

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Page 108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", includes the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Page 112

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 HYMNS

"Christ Be Our light"
"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"
"Lost in the Night"

ELW 715
 ELW 244
 ELW 243

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3. Long-ing for food man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5. Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone,
 wa-ter man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
 to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark-ness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church

gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

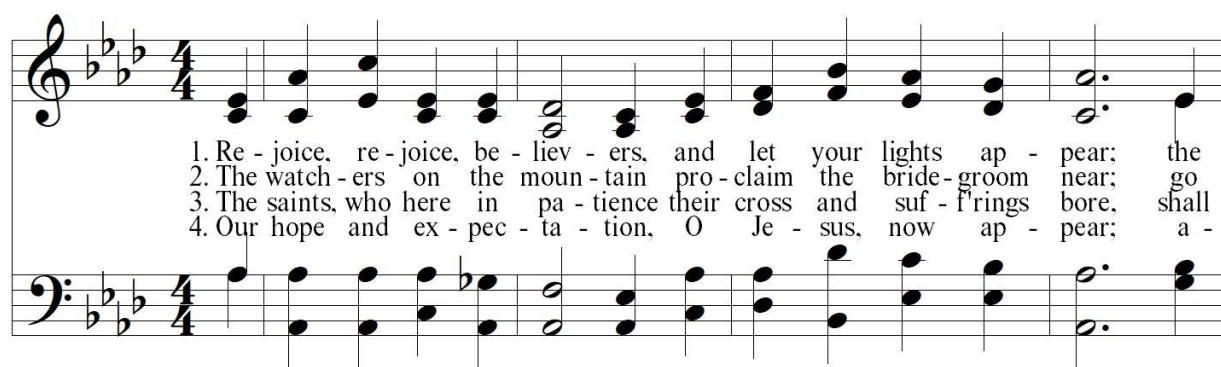
Music: Bernadette Farrell

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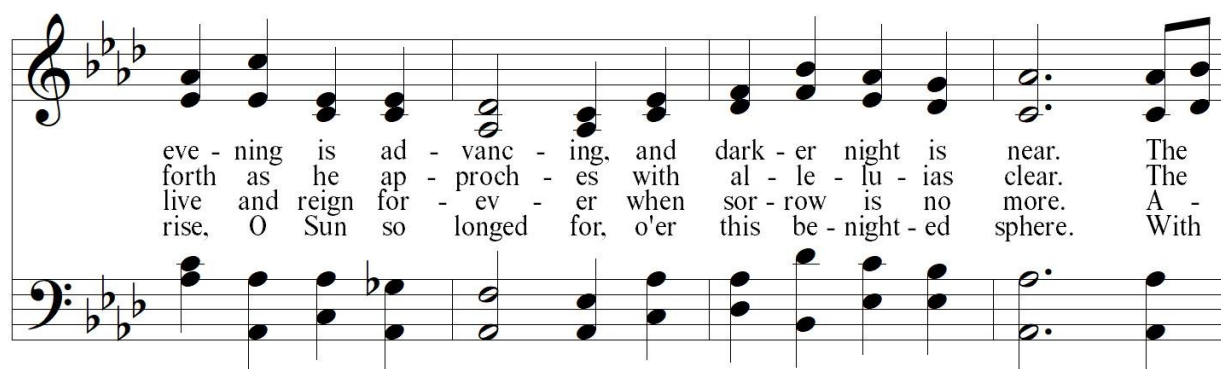
CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
 9 8 9 6 and refrain

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

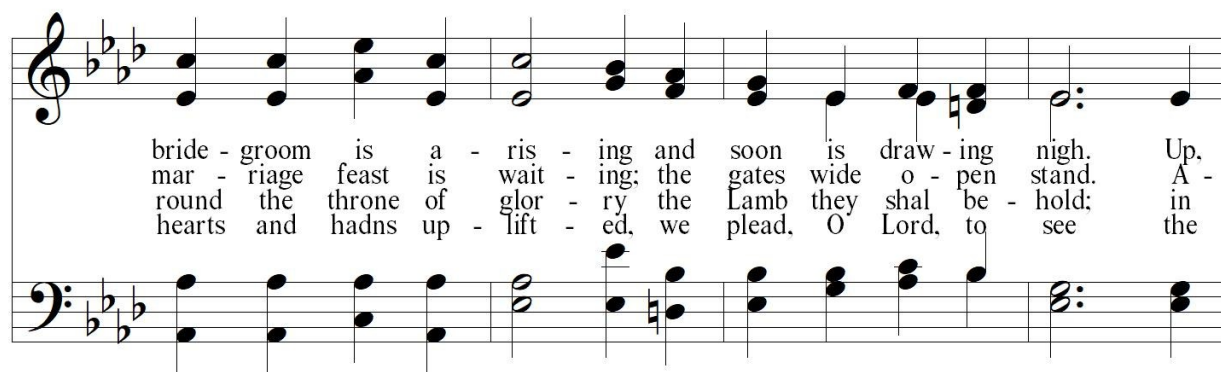
ELW 244



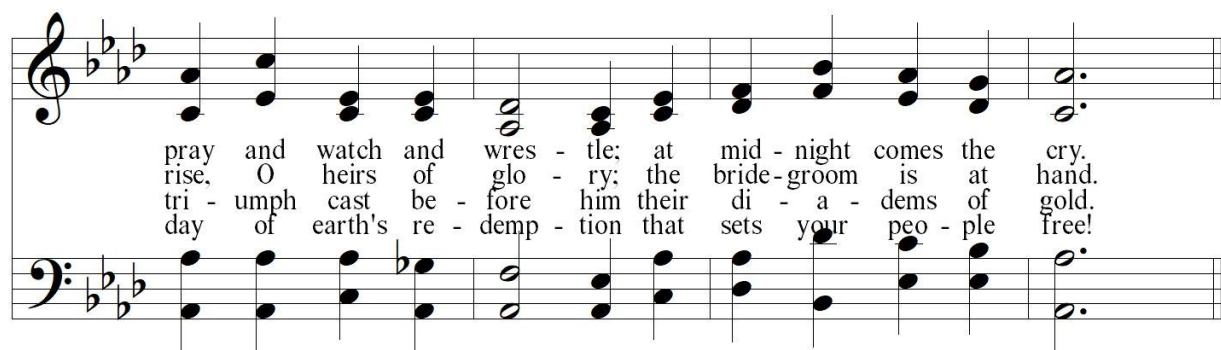
1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear; the
 2. The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near; go
 3. The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore, shall
 4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear; a -



eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near. The
 forth as he ap - proch - es with al - le - lu - ias clear. The
 live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more. A -
 rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere. With



bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,
 mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand. A -
 round the throne of glor - ry the Lamb they shal be - hold; in
 hearts and hadns up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see the



pray and watch and wres - tle: at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sara B. Findlater, 1823-1907 HAFTRONES LAMPA FARDIG
 Music: Swedish folk tune 7 6 7 6 D

Lost in the Night

ELW 243



1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"He Came Down"

ELW 253

SENDING

Go in peace. Keep awake

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME to Worship!

WELCOME to worship! We are so glad you are here!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP, and families can sit anywhere in the sanctuary, including the chapel near the front.

A NURSERY is available downstairs across from the Choir Room for children under 5. Follow the signs.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

We love seeing you in worship!

Preacher/Presider	Rev. Garrett Struessel
Worship Assistant	Deacon Korra Looschen
Council Hosts	Al Manley Bill Campbell
Ushers	Holly Keenan Tim King
Reader	Char Lemkee
Communion Assistants	
Organist	Jeffrey Hartmann

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He Came Down

ELW 253

1. He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2. He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3. He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4. He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev-er-more.
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: Cameroon traditional, arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

HE CAME DOWN

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