

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **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.**

### **ADVENT KYRIE:**

#### **Chorus:**

Light of heaven, shine upon us,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Promise given, shine within us,  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Hope eternal, shine before us, guide us with  
Your light

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

#### **Verse (Leader Only)**

For the peace that shines from heaven,  
and the hope your coming brings,  
For the church who walks in waiting,  
trusting you in everything, we pray:

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### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Candle of Love**

**Reader:** Today we light the fourth candle; the candle of love.

In Bethlehem, the promise became flesh.

Love came to dwell among us. God's love has come near!

## **(Light Candle 4)**

**READER:** And all God's people say:

**ALL:** The light of Christ shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

### **GATHERING SONG: Here I Am to Worship**

#### **Verse 1**

Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made  
This heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

#### **Chorus**

So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

#### **Verse 2**

King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

#### **Bridge**

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

Tim Hughes  
CCLI Song #3266032  
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### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** *(Sunday Tempe only)*

#### **Manger Throne**

#### **Verse 2**

You could have marched in all Your glory  
Into the heart of Rome  
Showed them splendor like they'd never known  
But You wrote a better story  
In humble Bethlehem  
Creator in the arms of common men

#### **Chorus**

Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-4

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth,

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ADVENT GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

#### Refrain:

On this road we walk in faith,  
Seeking signs of love and grace.  
Christ is coming, hearts prepare!  
Guide our steps with tender care;  
Oh Word of life, we meet you there.

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### (Sat 5PM) GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord

appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON:**

*"Bethlehem"*  
Pastor Andrea Cain  
(Sunday Tempe)

*"Bethlehem"*  
Pastor Thaddeus Book  
(Sat 5pm)

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**(Sunday Tempe) CHOIR MUSIC FESTIVAL - Songs for the Manger Throne**

**Gospel Matthew 1:18-23**

<sup>8</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

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and they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."

**Choir Song 1** Mary's Lullaby

**Message**

**Choir Song 2** Mary, Did You Know?

## Message

### Choir Song 3 Joy to the World

#### (Sunday Tempe) PEACE:

May the peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We share a word of peace with our neighbors.*

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#### (SAT 5PM) SONG OF THE DAY: ELW 292 Love Has Come

**1** Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

**2** Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;

Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

**3** Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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#### (Sat 5pm) APOSTLES' CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus.

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.  
That God may bring in the kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his scepter of peace and righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our gracious Lord.  
**Amen.**

**(SAT 5PM) PEACE:**

May the peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We share a word of peace with our neighbors.*

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

*The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for ELCA World hunger.*

*You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at [www.desertcross.org](http://www.desertcross.org) with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel*

**ADVENT OFFERING SONG: Waiting Here For You**

**Verse 1**

If faith can move the mountains  
Let the mountains move  
We come with expectation

Waiting here for You  
Waiting here for You

**Verse 2**

You're the Lord of all creation  
And still You know my heart  
The Author of salvation  
You've loved us from the start

**Chorus 1**

Waiting here for You with our hands  
Lifted high in praise  
And it's You we adore  
Singing alleluia

**Verse 3**

You are ev'rything You've promised  
Your faithfulness is true  
We're desp'rate for Your presence  
All we need is You

**Chorus 2**

Waiting here for You with our hands  
Lifted high in praise  
And it's You we adore singing alleluia  
(We're) singing alleluia

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Martin Smith  
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**OFFERING PRAYER:**

Mighty and faithful God,  
Your power brings light from darkness and hope from despair. As we bring our offerings, we trust in your enduring promises, believing that you will use these gifts to reveal your love and fulfill your purposes in the world.

**Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION:****(SAT 5PM) CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

We come before God, confessing our need for the One who brings true love.

*(Silence for reflection)*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have trusted in the powers of this world instead of your kingdom. We have chased after control instead of faith, and ease instead of hope. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may wait with open hearts for your coming among us.**

**Amen.**



Hear the good news: God's kingdom has drawn near.  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, +  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.  
All are welcome.

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:**

*Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.*

## LAMB OF GOD: ELW p. 201 *(Tempe Only)*

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.

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS: Light Of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

### Verse 1

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven  
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky  
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness  
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

### Verse 2

Light of the World from the beginning  
The tragedies of time  
were no match for Your love  
From great heights of glory You saw my story  
God You entered in and became one of us

### Chorus

Sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done  
Come and adore Him

Bow down before Him  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

### Verse 3

Light of the world crown in a manger  
Born for the cross to suffer to save  
High King of Heaven death is the poorer  
We are the richer by the price that He paid

### Verse 4

Light of the World soon will be coming  
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own  
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory  
And there He shall reign forevermore forevermore

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash  
CCLI Song #7163734

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## Remembrance (The Communion Song)

### Verse 1

Oh how could it be  
That my God would welcome me  
Into this mystery  
Say take this bread take this wine  
Now the simple made divine  
For any to receive

### Pre-Chorus

By Your mercy we come to Your table  
By Your grace You are making us faithful

### Chorus

Lord we remember You  
And remembrance leads us to worship  
And as we worship You  
Our worship leads to communion  
We respond to Your invitation  
(We respond to Your invitation)  
We remember You

### Verse 2

See His body His blood  
Know that He has overcome  
Ev'ry trial we will face  
And none too lost to be saved  
None too broken or ashamed  
All are welcome in this place

### Bridge

Dying You destroyed our death  
Rising You restored our life  
Lord Jesus come in glory  
Lord Jesus come in glory  
Lord Jesus come in glory  
Lord Jesus come in glory

Matt Maher, Matt Redman

CCLI Song #5484616

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## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Gracious God, as we gather at your table, we give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence in bread and wine. Renew our hope and awaken our hearts to watch and wait for his coming. Empower us to carry his light into the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BENEDICTION:**

May the love of Christ guide your journey,  
the peace of God guard your hearts,  
and the Spirit go before you, +  
as you wait for the Savior of the world.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG: ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain**

#### ***Refrain***

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

**1** While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

**2** The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

**3** Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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

### **DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE:**

**Thank you  
for supporting the Desert Cross mission.  
Here are the ways you can donate today:**

**ONLINE GIVING:**



Get your smart phone  
and scan the QR-code  
with your phone camera

**SECURE TEXT GIVING:**

Text "GIVE" to  
833-636-1502

**USPS:**

8600 S. McClintock Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85284

**Flower Donation:**

*The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given by Gene Frericks in celebration of Carol Frericks' birthday. Happy Birthday, Carol!*

*Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias to help decorate the Tempe Sanctuary – your generosity adds beauty and meaning to our Christmas celebrations.*