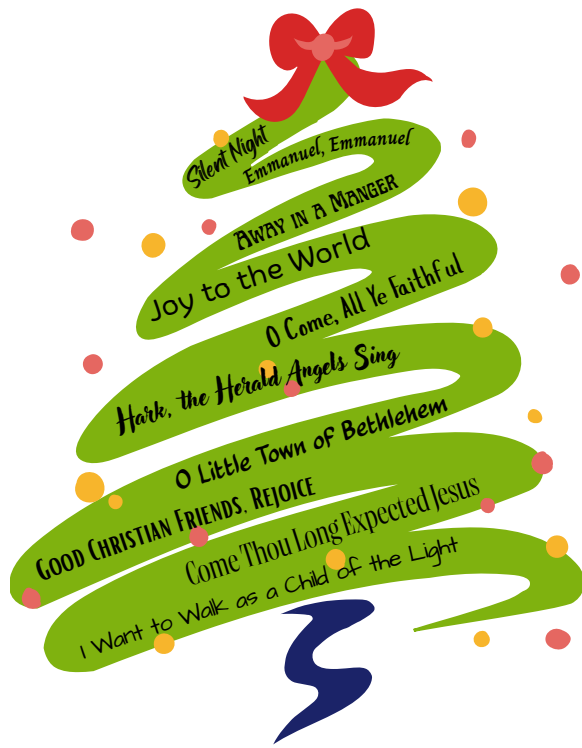




# Sing We Now of Advent and Christmas

The music of the season lifts the heart like nothing else. Christmas music carries us back – to "Silent Night" sung in candlelit sanctuaries, to voices rising together on "Angels We Have Heard on High," to the hush of "Away in a Manger." This is the time of year to sing these cherished songs with gladness!

Come, join your voice with us each Sunday as we celebrate with Advent and Christmas favorites. Let every verse draw you closer to the wonder of the season and the good news that Jesus Christ is born!

## November 8 - First Sunday of Advent

Matthew 25:1-13 Amos 5:18-24

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the day is drawing nigh. This week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids isn't about judgment, but about staying present with one another and keeping awake to what God is doing among us here and now.

## November 15 - Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 25:31-46 Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Meet the sheep and goats—and the question of whether good works earn God's favor or flow from it. As Wesley reminds us, these acts of mercy are the fruit of grace, not its price.

## November 22 - Christ the King Sunday

Matthew 25:31-46 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

We celebrate Christ's reign already among us even as we wait for its fullness. What does it mean to proclaim that Christ is King and Lord of our lives?

### Gratitude Baskets

Our church family gives thanks by giving to others during the month of November. God has blessed each of us, so we, in turn, bless others with our gifts. Donations accepted through November 22nd. Our partners this year are: Iowa City Women's Shelter; Cedar Bend Humane Society; and Systems Unlimited. Visit our website for details.

## November 29 - Fourth Sunday of Advent and Fifth Sunday Brunch Potluck

Bring a dish to share at 9:00am, and stay for Christmas crafts. Fun for all ages!

John 1:1-5 Psalm 146:5-10

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...  
Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being...  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

## **December 6 - Fifth Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:1-4, 26b-38    Luke 1:39-56

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

## **December 13 - Sixth Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program - One service 9:00am**

The story of the very first Christmas shared by the children of our church.

## **December 20, 2026 - Seventh Sunday of Advent**

John 1:9-14    Isaiah 63:7-9

God calls to us at Christmas and says, "Greetings, favored ones! I'm coming home, coming home for Christmas. Is there room for me in your crowded, busy lives? Is there room for me?" And like any baby born in our midst, he says, "I won't take up much room, just all that you have. Is there room for me? I'm coming home."

### **Special Holiday Fellowship and Worship Opportunities - All are Welcome!**

#### **December 12 9:00am - noon Cookie Walk**

All are invited to come and shop for cookies, candies and crafts prepared by members of the church.

#### **December 13**

##### **9:00am Children's Christmas Program**

Hear the story of the first Christmas through the eyes of our children.

**5:00pm Blue Christmas** A healing worship service of remembrance and hope.

#### **December 17, 7:00pm Christmas Eve Before You Leave**

Christmas Eve Service for those who travel over Christmas, with candlelight and Silent Night.

#### **Christmas Eve - December 24<sup>th</sup>**

4:00pm A family friendly Christmas Eve worship service with Silent Night and candlelight

7:00pm Silent Night, candlelight and our favorite Christmas songs.

11:00pm An unplugged Christmas Eve service with Silent Night, candlelight, and Holy Communion.



### **Why Seven Weeks of Advent?**

This year we're recapturing the fullness of Advent. For three weeks we wait and watch in hope for Christ to come again. Then we celebrate Christ, the true Light, the Word of God, who became "flesh and blood" and moved into the neighborhood (John 1:1-14).

Join us each Sunday as we sing our favorite Advent and Christmas songs  
praising God on the journey to Bethlehem!