

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Gift of Love*

**Introduction for the Day:** Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion — with high delight— "we proclaim the Lord's death."

## *Gathering*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Sheila Rawn

Call to Worship

*Advent Bell Chime* by Margaret Tucker  
Righteous Ringers

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Opening Dialogue

This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.

**Sometimes we are curious about what the future holds.**

"Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy."

**Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place.**

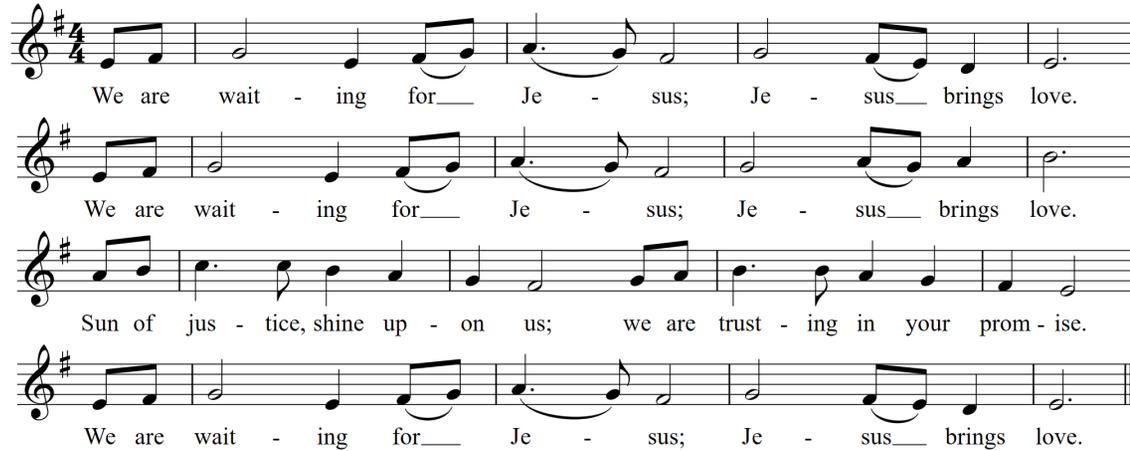
Let us make known what has been told to us about this child.

**And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.**

O God who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come,  
speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are  
thankful for all that you provide. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## Advent Proclamation

**We Are Waiting for Jesus**


We are wait - ing for\_\_\_ Je - sus; Je - sus\_\_\_ brings love.

We are wait - ing for\_\_\_ Je - sus; Je - sus\_\_\_ brings love.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

We are wait - ing for\_\_\_ Je - sus; Je - sus\_\_\_ brings love.

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## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing, hope, peace, joy, and LOVE.

**We are people of faith who wait for the light. We wait for Christ.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin and come quickly to save us.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of love.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Song

## #248 People, Look East

## Advent Greeting

May the love of this season embrace you with God's grace.

**And also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

## Advent Candle Lighting - The Gift of Love

On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

**Help us mend the brokenhearted with your LOVE.**

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

**We long for your peace and LOVE.**

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

**Today we strive for the LOVE that surpasses all understanding.**

Let us pray. O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of hope, peace, joy, and love. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your love throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

**Amen.** *[All the Advent candles are lit.]*

## Advent Response

**Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**

*[We will sing this response two times.]*

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! These are gifts you  
bring from above, Je - sus, Em - man - u - el, come to  
be light of your hope, re - flect - ed in me.

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## Word

### First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

A reading from Micah, chapter 5.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**  
 the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### Gospel Acclamation

**Emmanuel**

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is called  
 Em-man - u - el. God with us, re-veal'd in  
 us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

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Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

In the beginning was the Word,

**And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A reading from Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called

Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of God is scripture, among us,

**The Word of God is within us. Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

Sermon

Pastor Sheila Rawn

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Hymn of the Day

**#251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness**

*(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)*

Profession of Faith

The 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.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Prayers of Intercession

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Call to Prayer

**Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer**



Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

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...Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## Prayer Response

**Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer**

Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Meal*

*(Please be seated)*

## Musical Offering

*Magnificat* by Paul Tate

Senior Choir Sopranos & Altos

Soloist: Donna Gardner Manke

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## Offertory Response

**What Shall I Render to the Lord?**

1. With joy, O Lord, our gifts we bring, A tri - bute  
 2. Em - ploy, O God, the gifts here shared That in the  
 to our Ad - vent King, Who comes with - in our midst to  
 world may be pre - pared The way of Christ, whose name we  
 dwell As God with us, Em - man - u - el.  
 bless, Who comes, the Lord our right - eous - ness.

Text: Arden W. Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Tune: Puer Nobis, LM

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Creator God, you called upon simple folk to join your holy family; young Mary, quiet Joseph, and elderly Elizabeth. Despite their human frailties, you accepted them. Accept now these gifts of ours even as you have accepted us into your holy family. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

## Words of Institution

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your saving justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal the entire suffering world.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming with righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## Invitation to Communion

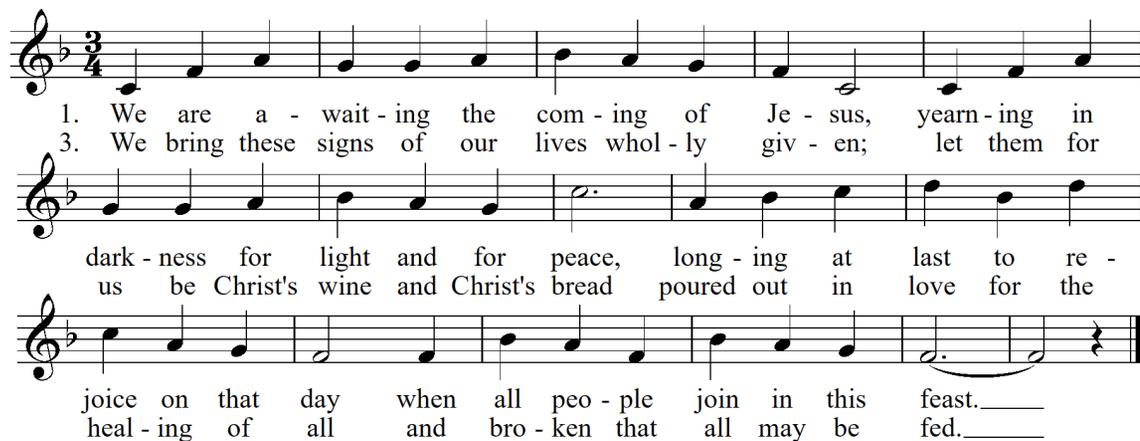
God fills the hungry with good things.

**The rich are sent empty away.**

Come with joy to the feast.

*(Please be seated)*

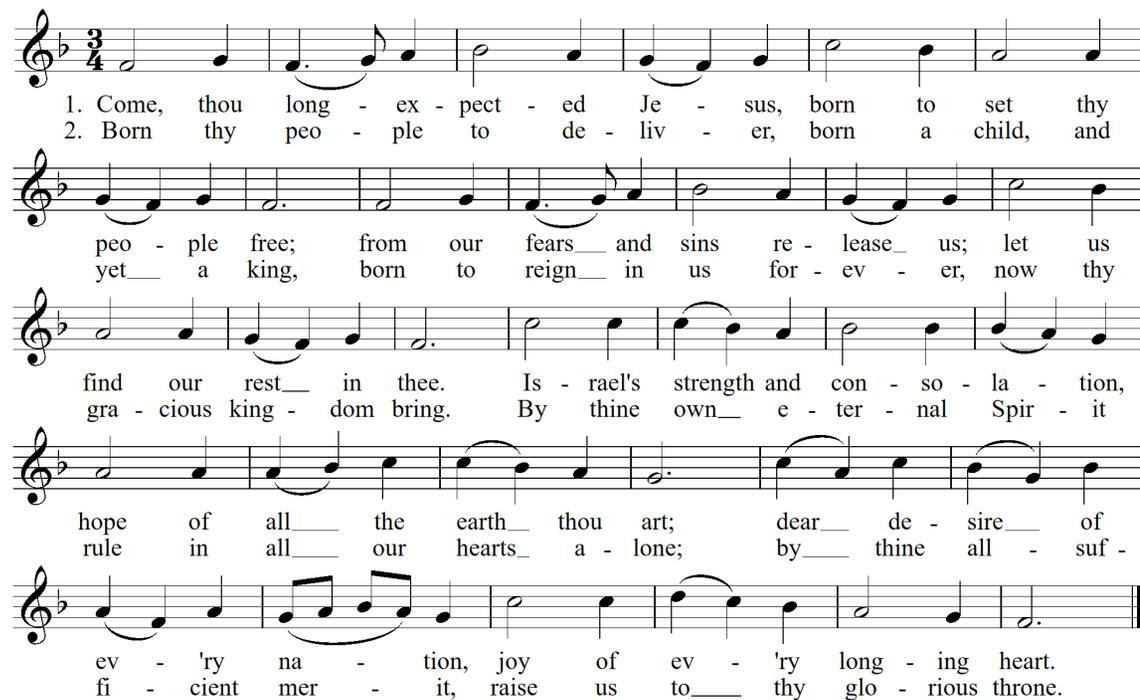
## Communion Response

**We Are Awaiting the Coming of Jesus [Stanzas 1 & 3]**


1. We are a - wait - ing the com - ing of Je - sus, yearn - ing in  
 3. We bring these signs of our lives whol - ly giv - en; let them for  
 dark - ness for light and for peace, long - ing at last to re -  
 us be Christ's wine and Christ's bread poured out in love for the  
 joice on that day when all peo - ple join in this feast.\_\_\_\_  
 heal - ing of all and bro - ken that all may be fed.\_\_\_\_

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## Communion Hymn

**Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**


1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and  
 peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us  
 yet a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy  
 find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
 gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it  
 hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
 rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -  
 ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Tune: Hyfrydol, 87 87D. Rowland H. Prichard, 1830. Text: Charles Wesley, 1744.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Post-Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now just received,  
strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

**Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

O Lord, Micah sensed your presence and proclaimed your coming with boldness.

**May we, too, sense your nearness here.**

Elizabeth felt her leaping child and sang in joyful celebration.

**May we, too, sing in happy joy.**

Mary believed you gave voice to her faith.

**May we, too, know that you are God.**

Through the saving power of this holy sacrament you come into our midst.

**Come still once more! Come quickly, Lord! Amen.**

## *Sending*

Blessing

The peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of ✠ Christ warm your hearts, and  
the joy of the Spirit fill you with peace.

**Amen.**

Dismissal

The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace, prepare the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Veni Emmanuel* arr. by Aaron David Miller