

**On this last Sunday of Advent we happily reach out to all who have come to approach the throne of Grace. Christmas will be truly Christmas when we center our minds on the Christ child who came to offer the world salvation and hope.**

This worship service can be watched live on YouTube, as it happens, anywhere you have an internet connection. Additionally, past services will be archived so you can stay up-to-date or relive your favorite Sunday morning moments. You can find the link on our website or check it out at <https://bit.ly/FPClive>

Worship Assistant: Jeff Krause  
Ushers: Anne Laubach  
Deacon Greeter: Yvonne Stauffer  
Nursery: Pam Melchior

Audio: Sally Heimbach  
Video: Mark Ingram  
Fellowship: Tracey Gill

**NOTE: Sheet music for the hymns can be found on the next page or pages.**



***Order of Worship  
December 21, 2025***

***Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus***

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**Did You Know?**

You can support the mission and ministry of our church by donating online at <https://bit.ly/39QO3dQ>. You can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the donate page on our website. We deeply appreciate your generosity and are so thankful for each of you!

**THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**10:00 AM**

**DECEMBER 21, 2025**



THE FIRST NOTE OF THE PRELUDE begins our worship.

Please use the prelude time to turn your attention to God's presence and help. Nurturing our relationships and friendships in fellowship is essential to our life as a congregation, so please continue to do so following our time of worship.

*\* Those who are able are invited to stand.*

**FOCUSING UPON GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
Faithful Ringers

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLELIGHTING**

**One:** Take a deep breath. We are not speeding into the season of Advent. We don't want to sprint so fast that we cannot catch our breath. This is a season to breathe. It is a season to remember. It is a season to wait.

**All:** In this season of joy, we wait with love.

**One:** The kind of love Jesus invites us to is agape love: an unconditional, all-encompassing love. It is more than the love between friends. It is more than the love of family. It is more than loving your partner. This is the love that helps us live for one another. Agape love is the love Jesus calls us to show God and our neighbors as ourselves.

**All:** As the song "Joy to the World" invites us to remember, Jesus will make the nations prove the wonders of his love.

*Reader: The wonders of Jesus' love never cease. The wonders of Jesus' agape love strengthen us to love one another the way Jesus first loved us. In this Advent season, we remember when God's amazing love came down and took human form. We lit candles for hope, peace, and joy. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle for love.*

He came down that we may have hope,\* he

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. Chords G and D7 are indicated above the treble staff. Triplet markings are present over the third and fourth notes of the melody and the corresponding bass line.

came down that we may have hope,\* he came down that we may

The second system continues the melody and bass line. Chords G and G7 are indicated above the treble staff. Triplet markings are present over the first three notes of the melody and the corresponding bass line.

have hope.\* Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

The third system concludes the piece. Chords C, Cm6, G/D, D7, and G are indicated above the treble staff. The final chord G is annotated with the text "(Why did Christ come?)". Triplet markings are present over the last three notes of the melody and the corresponding bass line.

\* peace, joy, love, life

*Reader: In this weary world, we sing for joy.*

**All: In this fragile world, we lift each other up.**

*Reader: In this beautiful world, we look for God.*

**All: In this tender world, we hold onto hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

\*HYMN

# O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

## LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

One: It is tempting to think that God is far away from us: that God put humans here on earth and stepped back to see what we would do. We can imagine a distant parent or absent teacher, not wanting to step in until there's trouble. And yet this is not the image Advent gives us of God. It's not the image our faith gives us of God. Advent reminds us again and again that God is God WITH us. God is Emmanuel, then, now, and always. Our time of confession invites us back to God: to stop imagining that God is far away and start living knowing God never leaves us. Let us pray.

**All: Holy God, every Advent we hear that you are Emmanuel: God with us. Your with-ness is your greatest gift to us that we often take for granted. Remind us again, Lord, just how close you are. When we stumble and make mistakes, remind us that you love us so we can reflect your love. When we are impatient or grumpy, remind us that you are patient so we can reflect your patience. When we are greedy or lacking compassion for our fellow human beings, remind us that your with-ness is in everyone. Help us to practice a with-ness, too, for you are our God, Emmanuel.  
Help us to not take that for granted.**

One: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

*(A moment is given for silent confession to God.)*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### \*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share our forgiven joy with one another.

\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*“Emmanuel”*

C /E F Dm G C(add2) /B  
Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,  
Am A/C# Dm7 G G7 C  
his name is called Em - man - u - el.  
C/E F Dm G7 C(add2) /B  
— God with us, re - vealed in us,  
Am A/C# Dm G G7 C (F/C)  
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

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**THE WORD OF GOD TO THE CHURCH**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

PSALM 96

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, “The Lord is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity.”

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar and all that fills it;

<sup>12</sup> let the field exult and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

<sup>13</sup> before the Lord, for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-16

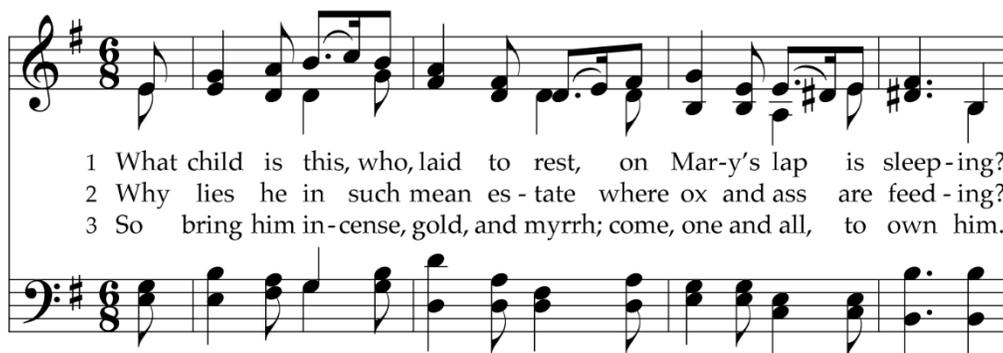
<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

## MESSAGE

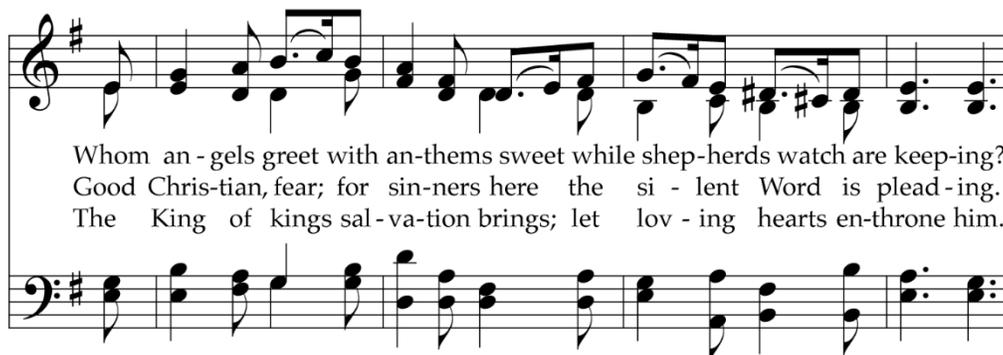
*“Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy”*

## 145

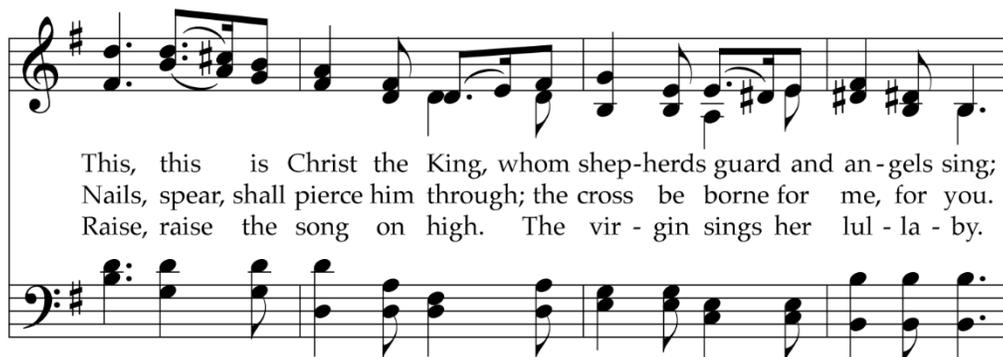
## What Child Is This



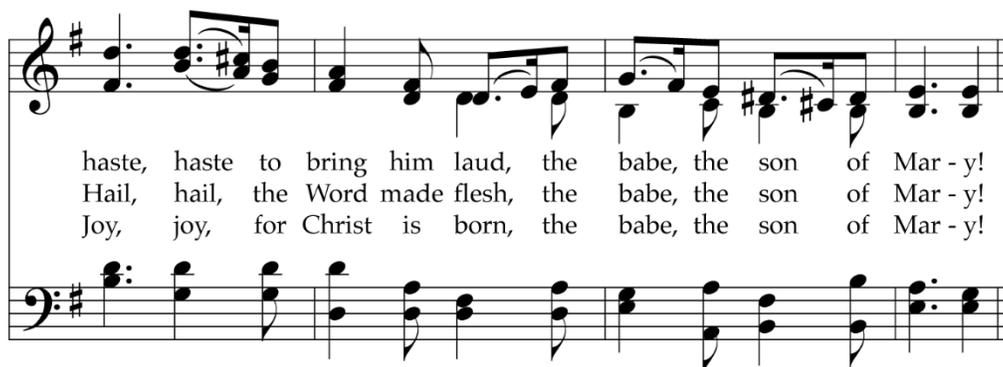
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS  
INTERCESSIONS AND PETITIONS  
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Glory to God Hymnal - Pg. 35  
*(Please use "debts & debtors".)*

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

CALL FOR OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY        *"The Seven Joys of Mary"*  
Faithful Ringers

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #100                                *"My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout"*  
*(see next page)*                                *(Canticle of The Turning)*

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE    *"Joy to the World"*

*Please feel free to sit and reflect during the postlude or depart and join us in Fellowship Hall.*



# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Through the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990  
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990  
 Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN  
 Irregular

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.