

*Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

*Christmas Eve Worship*



**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS**  
[www.dulutheran.org](http://www.dulutheran.org)

## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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### WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation. **In this evening's service, the pieces marked [L] are spoken by the leader, Elder Ryan Bogart.**

### FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For more announcements and event information visit the church website at [www.dulutheran.org/events](http://www.dulutheran.org/events) or sign up for our weekly email at [www.dulutheran.org/subscribe](http://www.dulutheran.org/subscribe). You can also view the church calendar at [www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar](http://www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar).*

**Tonight's Service:** Thank you to Ryan Bogart for leading our worship this evening! Also thank you to the Youth and Adult Choir, and the Tone Chime Choir, for using their talents to help beautify our service.

**Christmas Day Worship:** We hope you can join us again tomorrow morning at 9am for the Christmas Day worship service, led by Pastor Warskow.

**Office Hours:** Pastor Warskow will not be in the church office on Thursday this week. He will resume his regular schedule the following week. If you need anything during that time, please contact the church leaders or email [contact@dulutheran.org](mailto:contact@dulutheran.org).

**Envelopes:** Offering envelopes for 2025 are available by the mailboxes. Please take the envelopes that match your mailbox number.

**Giving Tree for the Women's Care Center:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree! We collected approximately 140 items, from books to toys to gift cards! The items were "shopped" by families who utilize the programs at the Care Center, and wrapped up for their families to enjoy on Christmas. The staff was overwhelmed by your generosity!

L: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

C: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.** [*Isaiah 9:2*]

L: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. [*Luke 2:11*]

C: **Mary and Joseph gave him the name Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins.**  
[*Matthew 1:21*]

L: Christ himself has come in the fullness of time. Born of a woman, born under law to redeem those born under law, that we would receive God's adoption as sons. [*Galatians 4:4,5*]

C: **To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God— but born of God.** [*John 1:13*]

L: Let us pray:

Almighty God, with your Word and Spirit you have made us ready for the celebration of our Savior's birth. With repentant hearts we come, cleansed by the forgiveness of sins he accomplished by his death on the cross. With joyful hearts we come, knowing that our redemption is drawing near. Christ Jesus has revealed himself as the Son of God and Mary's Son. He is our highest joy. Receive our hymns of praise for your greatest Gift, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## HYMN

## "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

CW 6



1 Come, O long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;  
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re - lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,  
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

*Please stand.*

## EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

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L: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ-Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child. But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ, and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, let us always remember the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another. To sum up all these petitions, let us hear the prayer Christ himself taught us:

## 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## ✠ NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS ✠

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### FIRST READING

#### **Genesis 3:8-15a: The Seed of the Woman will Crush the Serpent's Head**

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and

all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”  
CW 12 vs. 1-2

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
prom - ised on long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -  
pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18: God's Promises to Abraham

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup>and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”  
CW 12 vs. 3-4

3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal  
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

### THIRD LESSON

#### Isaiah 9:2,6-7: The People Who Walked in Darkness have seen a Great Light

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

### HYMN

#### "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

CW 65 vs. 1-2

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

### FORTH LESSON

#### Isaiah 11:1-9: A Branch from the Stem of Jesse

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— <sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.



3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

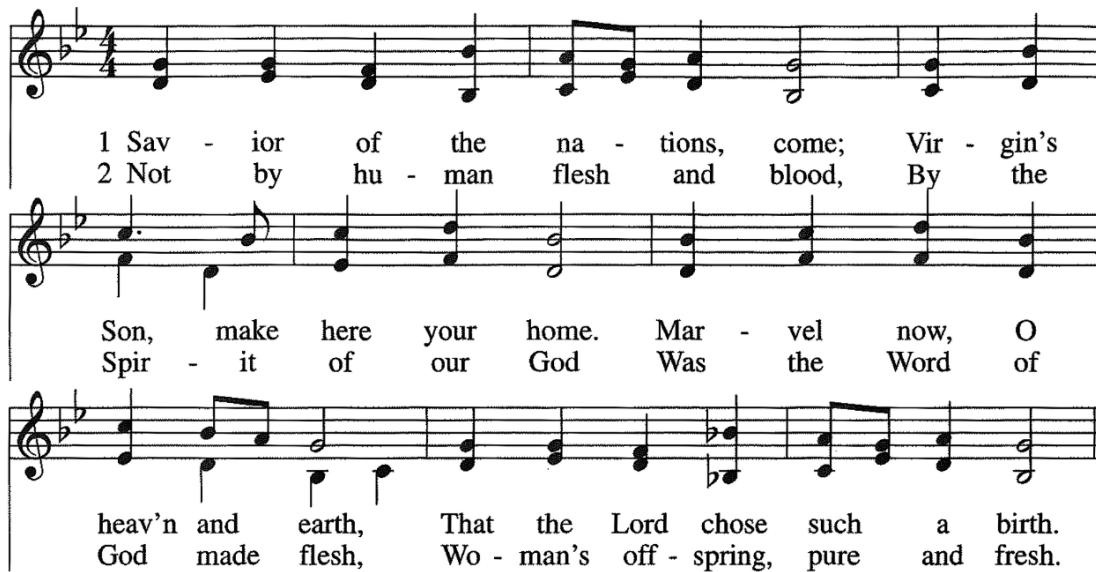
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## FIFTH LESSON

## Luke 1:26-35,38: The angel Gabriel visits Mary

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the  
Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of  
heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.  
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.

## SIXTH LESSON

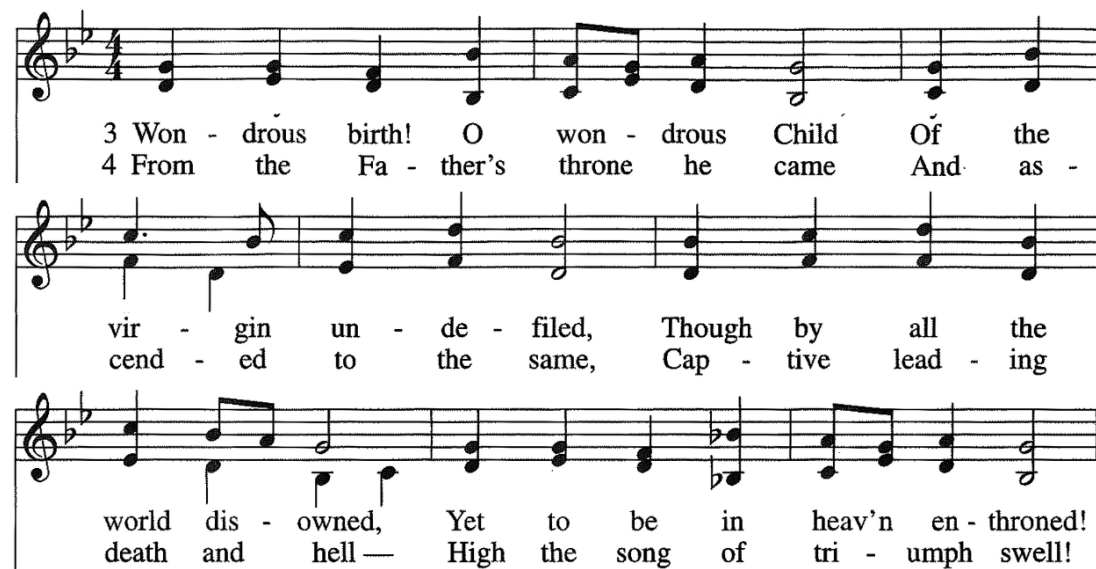
## Luke 2:1-7: The Birth of Jesus

<sup>2</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## HYMN

## "Savior of the Nations, Come"



3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the  
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -  
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the  
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing  
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
death and hell — High the song of tri - umph swell!



# SEVENTH LESSON

## Luke 2:8-20: The Shepherds Visit the Manger

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## HYMN

### "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

CW 23



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your  
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,

#### Refrain



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

# EIGHTH LESSON

## Matthew 2:1-12: The Magi Worship the Newborn King

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.<sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## HYMN

### "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

CW 61

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

## NINTH LESSON

### John 1:1-14: The Mystery of the Incarnation

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: [www.duluthlutheran.org](http://www.duluthlutheran.org) and click on the "GIVE" tab.*

## OFFERTORY

**"Away in a Manger"**

Tone Chimes Choir

*Please stand.*

## CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

**L:** When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious good will to all people on earth for he is god with us, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**L:** May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** Amen.

Verse 1 sung by Youth & Adult Choir, Verse 2 & 3 congregation joins after an interlude.

1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon  
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight. Glo - ries  
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia;  
 beams from thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.