



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023
9:30 am

You, Lord,
have lifted up the lowly.
Luke 1:52

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
11560 SE Market St, Portland, OR 97216
glcportland.org | (503) 256-1835
<https://www.facebook.com/gethsemaneportland>
Worship Leader: Pastor Sara Gross Samuelson
Cantor: Dale Banke
Accompanist: Brooke Benfield

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Let us be in the spirit of worship together.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! For the safety of our community, we ask that you sign in. Our worship service is broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook. We are now serving communion at the altar. If you wish to continue taking it at your seat, pick a kit up in the narthex or see an usher.

*** = Please stand as you are able.**

***GETHSEMANE VISION STATEMENT**

We are forgiven and called by God to proclaim the Good News of Christ. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our mission is to serve both the physical and spiritual needs of all people in our changing society. We welcome all races, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations.

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Fourth Week of Advent

One: We are courageous

All: When we are vulnerable.

One: We are courageous

All: When we are honest with ourselves.

One: We are courageous

All: When we extend words of welcome.

One: We are courageous

All: When we invite others to sit with us.

One: We are courageous

All: When we proclaim the love of God to a broken world.

One: We are courageous

All: When we say that love cannot wait.

One: So let us be courageous.

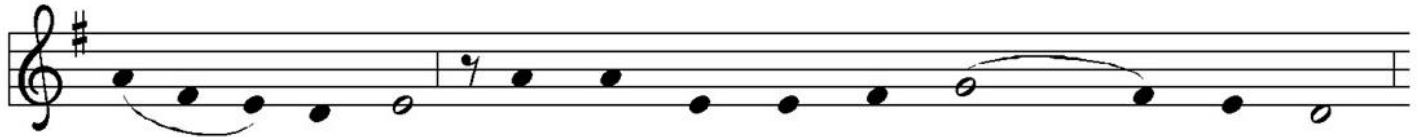
All: Let us worship Holy God.

¹ Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

***GATHERING HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, ELW 257, vs 3-4**



3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Sa-tan's



Si-nai's height in an-cient times you gave the law
tyr-an-ny; from depths of hell your peo-ple save,



in cloud, and maj-es-ty, and awe.
and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

***GREETING**

P: Greetings, favored ones. The Lord is with you and intends to do great things through you.

C: **How can this be? We are ordinary, everyday people.**

P: Yet you have found favor through God, and the Holy Spirit will come upon you, guide you, and work through you to care for this world and people God loves so much. For nothing is impossible with God.

C: **Here am I, a servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.**

Gracious God, We long to be as courageous as Joseph—Brave enough to trust your call, And strong enough to hold onto one another. There are so many places in the world that could use our courage. You know them, but we do too. So when fear takes over, forgive us. (PAUSE)

When our knees shake and our words fail, forgive us. (PAUSE)

When self-hatred is easier than self-love, forgive us. (PAUSE)

When walls are more convenient than peace, forgive us. (PAUSE)

When pessimism is more convenient than hope, forgive us. (PAUSE)

When our comfort is more important than our neighbor, forgive us. (PAUSE)

You invite us to be courageous. Forgive us. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH ²

Fourth Week of Advent

COURAGE CAN'T WAIT (LOVE CAN'T WAIT)

All: I will wait for the DMV.

One: I will wait for the right moment.

All: I will wait for the fire to grow.

One: I will wait for the popcorn to pop.

All: I will wait for political reform.

One: I will wait for the light to turn green.

All: I will wait to leave a message at the beep.

One: I will wait for my kids to come home.

All: I will wait for the paint to dry.

One: I will wait for the right words to say.

All: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

One: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for a chance to share love.

All: The world needs love. We need love.

All: So today we light the candle of love to remind us to spread love wherever we go. May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

² Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from 2 Samuel.

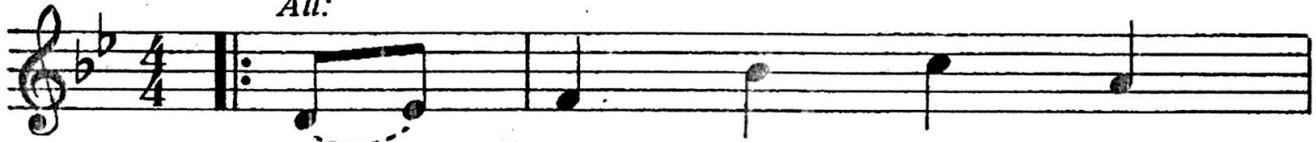
¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Living word from our Living God.
Thanks be to God!

The Magnificat
Luke 1: 46-55

All:



1.3. My _____ soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Romans.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Living word from our Living God.

Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Angels We Have Heard on High, ELW 289**

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

***GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Christ.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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 gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ALL AGES SERMON

All are invited to participate as we prepare the Nativity scene together! If you did not pick up a nativity character on the way in, we'll make sure to pass them out!

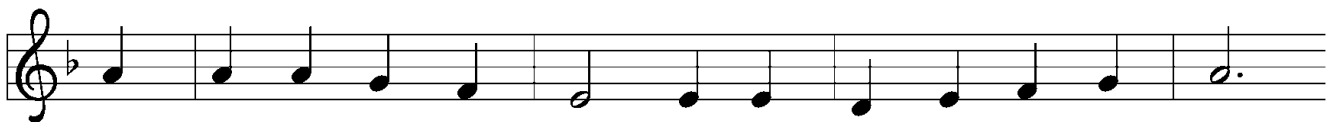
*HYMN OF THE DAY, *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* ELW 279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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.
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.



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



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

***ADVENT CREED** *written by Dave Hopwood*

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth. The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence, who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise. The one who is beyond bluster and flurry, and who does not jostle for attention.

We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation, who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed, who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry, who frequently took time alone with his patient Parent, who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant, who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers, whose silence overpowered their words, who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes, sometimes arriving with obvious power, sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper. We believe in one God who patiently waits for us, and who longs for us to do the same.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.



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.

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



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.

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



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.

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.



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.

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.



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.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.



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.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with a wave or a fist bump.

OFFERING

Please be seated for a quiet moment of reflection.

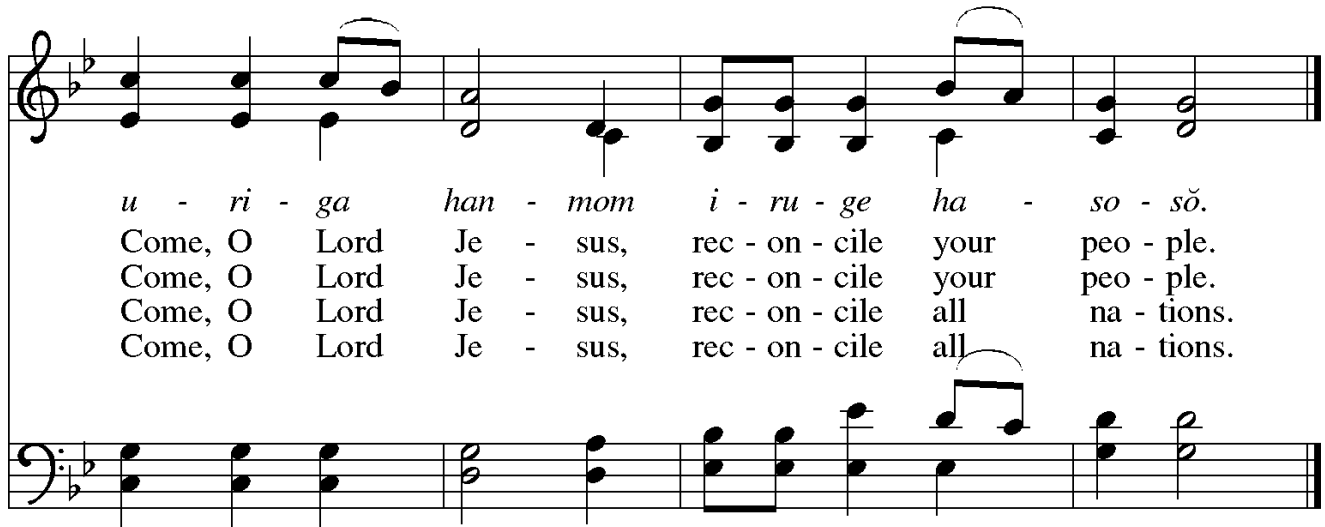
Thank you for your generous gifts to sustain the mission and ministry of Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The offering plates will be passed at this time; you also may give online at www.glcportland.org/give.

OFFERING RESPONSE: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*, ELW 247, verse 4
Ososö, ososö



O - so - sö o - so - sö, pyong - hwa - üi - im - güm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sö.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSÖ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand
 abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,
 through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface is sung or said.

P: It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

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, for ever and ever.**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ELW 272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the gifts of his body and blood
strengthen, keep and unite us,
now and forever.

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God,

in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Hold the lit candle upright; tip the unlit candle towards the flame to light it.
Flame-less candles are available from the ushers at the back of the sanctuary.*



CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN:

Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! ELW 281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

*BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

The candles are extinguished.

SENDING

SENDING SONG, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!* ELW 270



- 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 - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - 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, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep watch for the Christ child!
We will! We will!

POSTLUDE

Please leave the sanctuary quietly so that those who wish may remain to listen without interruption. Thank you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Bible Study** and **the Quilting Group** are taking next week off.
- **GLC book group** will be discussing *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass on **Thursday, January 4** (we changed the date from the one noted in the *Olive Press*) at 4:00 at Jim and Diane Liefeld's home. Everyone is welcome to join us. It's a great place to share ideas. You don't have to commit to attending each session since each time we discuss a different book/theme. You can borrow the book from the library or buy it online. I also have copies to lend out, so call, text, or email Barbie if you would like to borrow one.
- **Pastor Sara will be out on December 26** but in on Wednesday and Thursday.
 - Her general availability and office hours are as follows:
 - M - Sabbath/OFF
 - T-Th - Office Hours 9-11:30, available by appointment in PM
 - F - home visits and sermon prep and/or working from home
 - Sat- special events/OFF



- Sun - worship + visits
- **Sign up as worship assistants!** Signups will no longer be online; sheets for December to February are on the bulletin board in the narthex near the coffee bar. **PLEASE sign up!**
- **Join us at <https://www.youtube.com/@gethsemanelutheranchurch8452>.** Hit the “Subscribe” button on the GLC YouTube page to make sure you’re always kept up to date on our videos! If you have trouble finding it, please contact a council member, or church staff for assistance.
- **Church financials** are posted on the narthex bulletin board and on our website at glcportland.org/finances. If you don’t know the password, please contact Anna in the office.
- The **Change For Good** jar is designated for our Open Hands fund for community assistance with utilities and small incidental expenses.

This Week at GLC

- Sun., Dec. 24, 1:00-3:00 pm ~ Cristo Viene worship (Activity Room)
- Sun., Dec. 24, 10:00-11:00 pm ~ GLC Christmas Eve worship
- Mon., Dec. 25, Office CLOSED for Christmas Day
- Wed., Dec. 27, 5:30-6:45 pm ~ Clutterers Anonymous Eastside (Comm. Hall)
- Wed., Dec. 27, 7:30-9:30 pm ~ Cristo Viene prayer (Activity Room)
- Fri., Dec. 29, 7:30-9:30 pm ~ Cristo Viene Bible Study (Activity Room)

Worship Assistants

Worship Assistants are always needed!

Sign up on the sheets by the coffee bar in the narthex.

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild
Dec. 24	Dale Banke		Laura Britzius	Liz Blohm	
Xmas Eve	Dick Bemrose	Dale Banke	Laura Britzius	Mary Curtis	Sharon M.
Dec. 31	Ernie B.	Gloria Kelsay	Nona Paxton	Gloria Kelsay	Gloria Kelsay
Jan. 7		Mary Curtis	Laura Britzius		Marilee H.

Kids Celebrate

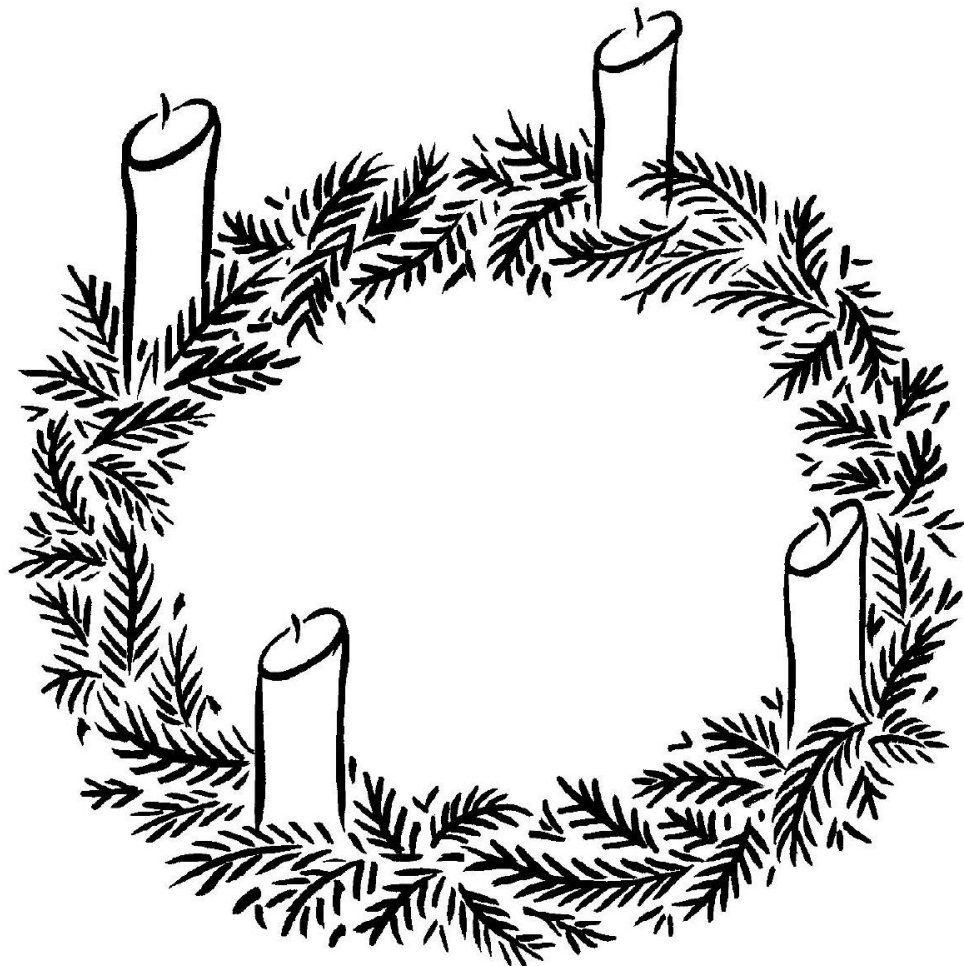
Fourth Sunday of Advent



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, and we continue to watch and wait for baby Jesus. It's almost time!

Color all four candles in the advent wreath shown below, then draw pictures of other things you have been waiting for during Advent.



Send

Joy to the world!

Joy to the World, *Silent Night*, and many other hymns help us celebrate Jesus' birthday. Sing them often, especially your favorites!

Match the title of the hymn on the left with the illustration on the right.

ANGELS WE HAVE
HEARD ON HIGH



AWAY IN A MANGER



GO TELL IT ON
THE MOUNTAIN



JOY TO THE WORLD



†this week

Celebrate Jesus' birthday with family and friends. Make a birthday cake and sing a few carols!