

The story of Advent is about God taking on a physical body like ours. As we wait with anticipation and prepare for Jesus to be born this Advent season, we are invited to discover the awesomeness of incarnation and what it means for God to move, act, and live with us. Today our children's voices will help us get ready for the arrival of Baby Jesus in our world.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

(Lisa Herlocker)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Tessa:* Welcome, friends! If you are ready to worship together, shout, "Amen!"

**All: Amen!**

*Hadley:* Angels are singing, the shepherds are rejoicing, because Jesus is born in Bethlehem. If you are ready to sing for joy, stomp your feet!

**All:** *(Stomp your feet!)*

*Gwen:* Mary and Joseph are happy and blessed. Jesus is born in Bethlehem. If you are ready to hear good news, clap your hands!

**All:** *(Clap your hands!)*

*Jacob:* God has sent Jesus to live among us all. If you are ready to worship together, shout, "Amen!"

**All: Amen!**

## GATHERING SONG: O, Come All Ye Faithful ELW 283

*Kids sing first verse & chorus alone; Congregation joins in with 2<sup>nd</sup> verse*

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

## OPENING PRAYER (Andrew Chan)

God, today we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus.  
He was born into the world as a human being just like us.  
Thank you for this amazing gift of Jesus.  
We choose to spend this moment in worship  
because Jesus knows what it is like to be a person.  
That is great news worth celebrating!  
**Amen.**

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*Tessa:* The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.

*Wendy:* Today, we light the candle of hope. *Light the first candle.*

*Jacob:* Advent reminds us the Prince of Peace came and lived among us. He felt stress within himself and conflict with other people, yet he chose his path of peace—peace within himself, and peace with humankind.

*Iver:* Today, we light the candle of peace. *Light the second candle.*

*Gwen:* There is joy in the anticipation of the Advent season. Just as Mary waited for the birth of her son, we count the weeks and days to celebrate Christmas. Waiting makes space for imagination and preparation, and joy fills our hearts in that waiting.

*Colton:* Today, we light the candle of joy. *Light the third candle.*

*Hadley:* Love is the purpose, the reason, the source. Love is the all-in-all of Advent and Christmas. Without love, Christmas is just a resounding carol, a clanging jingle bell. But love transforms us into joyful participants in the great story of a wondrous birth.

*Trip:* Today, we light the candle of love. *Light the fourth candle.*

*Andrew:* If you pay attention, Christmas has a smell, a taste, a sound, a look, and a feel. You can experience Christmas with all your senses. Christmas reminds us Jesus experienced life in a human body. With his body, he could smell, taste, touch, hear, and see. Jesus showed us that God is close to us, even on Earth.

## SONG: *Away in a Manger* ELW 277

*Kids sing first verse; Congregation joins in with 2<sup>nd</sup> verse*

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel*

## **GOSPEL:** Luke 2:1-20

*Andrew:* The Gospel according to Luke: <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Hadley:* <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

*Jacob:* <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Please be seated*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(Andrew Chan)

*Prayer petitions written by the congregation's children*

Let us pray.  
Loving God,  
just as you heard the prayers of Jesus when he had joys or concerns,  
you always listen when we pray.

Today we celebrate  
Families and new babies  
The ABC's  
Movies like the Grinch and games like Pokemon  
Our Teddy Bears and Stuffed Animals  
Pets like Daisy and Bo  
Music and songs like *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*  
Candy and especially Candy Canes  
Warm houses with roofs to protect us from rain

Today we pray for

Water and Food  
Moms and Dads,  
Sisters and Brothers,  
And all our family members  
Our sick friends  
People who are traveling  
Friends at school like Isaiah  
Patience and Forgiveness

**Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Colton Peckham & Iver Villanueva)

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING** (Collected by Logan Peckham & Ronin Villanueva)

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.*

*Thank you so much for your continued support.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER** (Hadley Gale)

God of grace,  
we give these gifts and offerings with joy because of your gift of Jesus. And as we give gifts to one another, help us remember the love you showed when you sent him to us.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Pr. Carolyn:* Loving God,  
**ALL: we confess that sometimes we do not share the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas. We forget about the good news of Jesus, and we begin to make unloving, unkind choices. You are a merciful, compassionate God and you forgive us when we confess. Thank you for your grace.**  
**Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Pastor Carolyn)

Friends, God is faithful to forgive us.  
And every day is a new, fresh day to start again.  
Glory to God in the highest heaven!

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

(Pastor Carolyn)

When we gather in worship, we remember Jesus.  
We follow his instructions as we eat bread, drink juice or wine,  
and think about him and his life.  
Jesus fed everyone at his table,  
so we welcome all today.

Angels sang when Jesus was born.  
Angels continue to sing praises to Jesus today.  
After all this time, we still tell the story of that special meal:

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**ALL: 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(Pastor Carolyn)

Glory to God in the highest!  
Here is Emmanuel come to dwell with us!

## COMMUNION

(Assistants: Tessa Boswell & Wendy Gale)

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

## **SONG AFTER COMMUNION:** *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!* ELW 270

*Kids sing first verse & chorus; Congregation joins in with 2<sup>nd</sup> verse*

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## **PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION** (Gwen Boswell)

Let us pray:

God our loving parent,  
thank you for sending Jesus to be born into a human family.  
Jesus, our friend and brother,  
thank you for caring for the poor, setting captives free,  
and showing us how to love one another.

Holy Spirit,

thank you for being with us at all times and in all places, comforting our hearts.

**Amen.**

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*All Kids:* Go forth and be merry,

*Gwen:* because Jesus is born, and there is no greater news!

*All Kids:* Go forth and be merry,

*Jacob:* because hope, peace, joy, and love are available to us today!

*All Kids:* Go forth and be merry,

*Hadley:* because the love that brought Jesus to earth remains with us always!

**ALL: Thanks be to God and we will!**

## SENDING SONG: *Go Tell It on the Mountain!* ELW 290

*Kids sing chorus; Congregation joins in with 1<sup>st</sup> verse*

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (Lisa Herlocker)

### SPECIAL THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Gwen & Tessa Boswell  
Andrew & Jacob Chan  
Hadley & Wendy Gale  
Colton & Logan Peckham  
Trip Schmidt  
Iver & Ronin Villanueva