



SOTC Worship  
December 19, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are seeking—  
**deeper faith,  
a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—  
**joy that overflows,  
the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

We are seeking—  
**the freedom to be,  
the courage to love,  
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,  
**We are found.**

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.  
**God is here. We are found. Amen.**



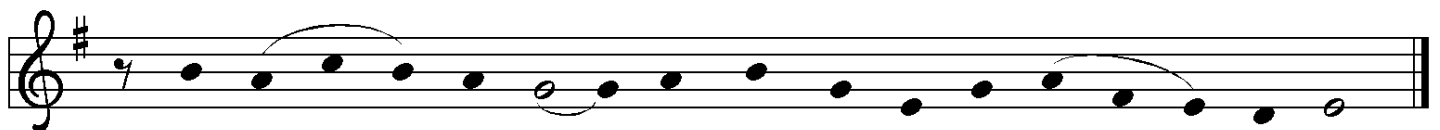
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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## WORD

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## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING/CHILDREN'S SERMON

A: God's love is like an open door.

B: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

A: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

B: God's love is a table with room for you.

A: God's love is a crackling fireplace.

B: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

A: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

B: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

A: God's love is a home for all.

**C: So today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.**

B: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

**C: We are close to home. May we carry God's love within us. Amen.**

## READING: MICAH 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
<sup>2</sup>before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup>**Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

<sup>4</sup>O Lord GOD of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
<sup>6</sup>You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup>**Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

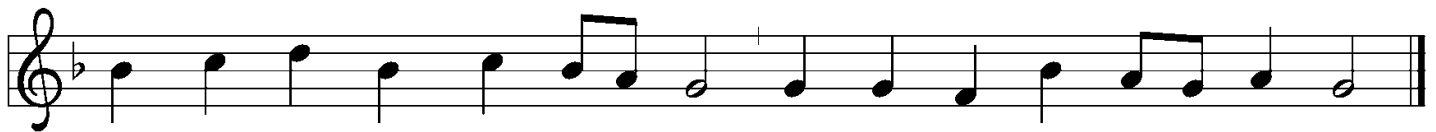
#### FIRESIDE CHAT AND REFLECTION

#### HYMN

#### SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at [pastor@shepherdofthecross.org](mailto:pastor@shepherdofthecross.org)*

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!  
**And also with you!**

*Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!*

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## MEAL

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### OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### SHARING GOD'S MEAL TOGETHER

*Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.*

*Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.*

### COMMUNION SONG

### UNEXPECTED AND MYSTERIOUS





1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
 2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
 ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
 com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
 ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
 sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
 God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
 in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we

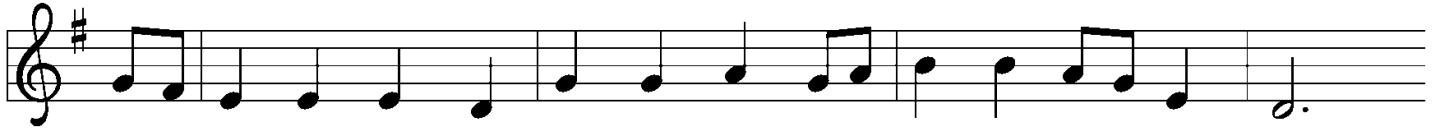


faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
 ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
 watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

————— SENDING —————

BLESSING



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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