



December 22, 2024

*We embrace our call to love and serve Jesus Christ
as we cultivate community and empower our neighbors.*

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A Service of Divine Worship on the Lord's Day

December 22, 2024

Prelude

Ding Dong Merrily on High!
Erin Holsinger, flute

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Song:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Call to Worship with Advent Candle Lighting:

A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. After his birth, Mary, his mother, was amazed at all that was being said about him and the community's outpouring of love.

First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

Today, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connection binding us together with each other and God.

As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, love is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.

--Light the first and second purple candles, the pink candle, and the last purple candle.

Advent Candle Sung Response *From the Manger*

***Unison Advent Prayer:**

God, our Provider, like a loving parent feeding their child at the breast, from the kitchen, and even from a snack stash, you sustain us from birth. Your love is unconditional, surrounding us through every stage of development, relationship, heartbreak, disappointment, and accomplishment. As we gather today in worship, we reach out to you once again. Whether we call you Father or Mother, Shepherd

or Friend, your character is unchanging, and your table is ready for us. Open our hearts and minds today to your words of wisdom, spoken and unspoken. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ, Sharing in Christ's Welcome**

Liturgist: Peace be with you.

All: And, also with you.

(Congregation shares peace with one another in the pew, over the phone, across the screen.)

Anthem

Christmas Medley

Lisa Addington, hand bells

Children's Moment

Love Grows

Musical Offering

Ode to Joy

Layke Katona-Pysz

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, as we approach the sharing of the good news in the word proclaimed, open our hearts and minds to your message to us today. Just as Simeon recognized your promise fulfilled in Jesus, we want to recognize your promises fulfilled among us. Illuminate our understanding of our sacred texts, so that we may grasp the depth of your love in Jesus' birth. Fill us with his compassion as he looked upon the crowds, and teach us to embody this love in our own lives. Here we listen and learn so we might mature in loving you and others, just as Jesus did. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 11:1-10, John 3:16, Matthew 1:18-25

Message

Love Grows

Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson

***Hymn of Affirmation**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling verses 1, 3, 4

Sharing Our Life Together and The Lord's Prayer

The Offertory

***Thanksgiving in Song:**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us. Revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel.

***The Sending Hymn:**

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love

He came down that we may have love

He came down that we may have love

Hallelujah forevermore!

...that we may have light

...that we may have peace

...that we may have joy

***The Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Offerings are received through a variety of ways – in the plate during the offering, online, by mail or via the office. May our offerings be reflection of God's abundance in our lives, for the glory of God and for the work of God's kingdom in the world. Thank you for being so generous and sustaining our ministry. To give online visit - <https://www.sampsonsmills.org/offering>

From the Manger

Words and Music by Amanda Meisenheimer

Arranged by Andrea Hamilton



1. A qui - et town called House of Bread,
2. A star - ry sky breaks forth with light,
3. From grass - y field to Je - sus' side
4. Mar - y's ba - by close - ly held,



a new-born ba - by falls a - sleep;
the an - gel says, "Be not a - fraid."
a hum - ble shep-herd runs back home.
wrapped up in sweet ex - pect - an - cy.



a bed of hay be - neath his head,
Glor - i - a to the high - est heights,
For - ev - er changed one ho - ly night,
Now the Mes - si - ah is un - veiled,



Im - man - u - el be - gins to dream.
hea - ven - ly hosts are sing - ing praise.
com - pelled to make these won - ders known.
em - bod - ied for the world to see.



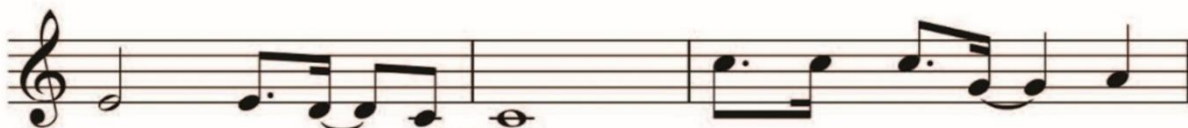
For all cre - a - tion to be fed;
You'll find him as the an - gel said;
From pas - tures green will all be fed;
So all cre - a - tion can be fed;



hope from the ground_ to the break-ing of bread.
peace from the heav'ns_ to the break-ing of bread.
joy from the fields__ to the break-ing of bread.
love will be found__ in the break-ing of bread.



From the man - ger__ hope grows; he will
From the man - ger__ peace grows; he will
From the man - ger__ joy grows; he will
From the man - ger__ love grows; he will

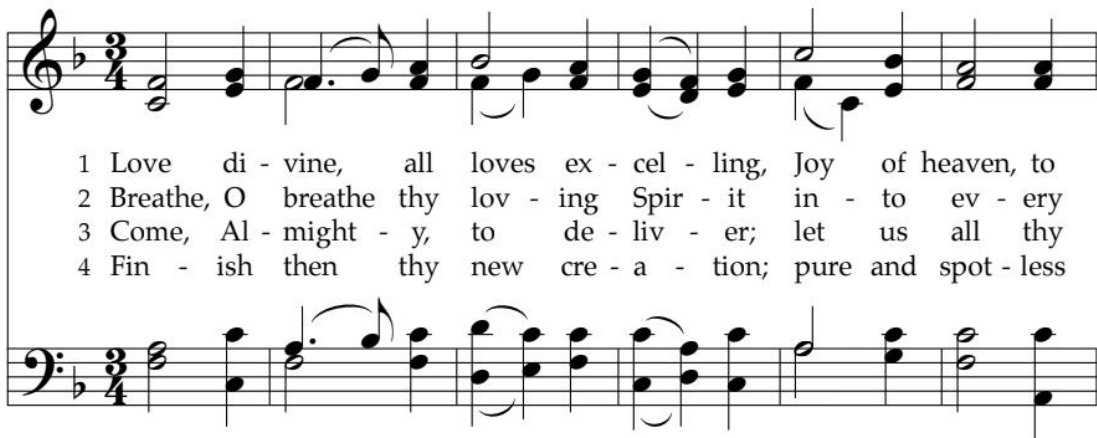


be God with us.__ From the man-ger_ hope
be God-with-us.__ From the man-ger_ peace
be God-with-us.__ From the man-ger_ joy
be God-with-us.__ From the man-ger_ love




grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.__
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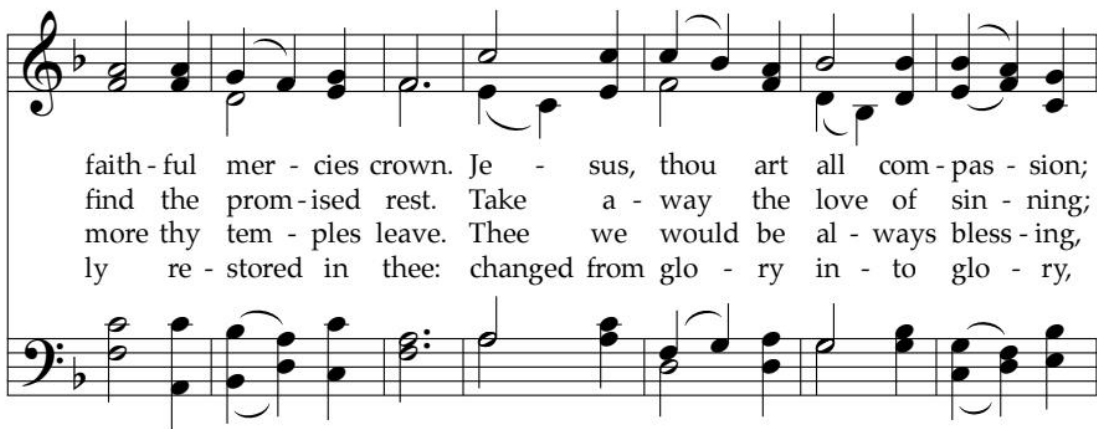
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.