



December 21, 2025

*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 21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Bethlehem Beginnings

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song:

What Child is This? verses 1&2

***Advent Candle Lighting:**

Liturgist: We gather this morning to listen.

People: To listen for the coming Christ.

Liturgist: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candles for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

People: We love because the Lord first loved us.

Liturgist: Love came down as a child... not a warrior, not a fighter, but a child, greeted by angels, guarded by shepherds.

People: What child is this?

Liturgist: The Christ child, born in a stable, among the livestock, with no grand entrance or fanfare. Born to embrace humanity: the good, the bad, and the ugly. The humanity that this child came to save would ultimately lead to his own human death. Yet, still, Love comes down...as a child.

People: Come, Savior, quickly come. With power and glory, Jesus Emmanuel.

All four candles are lit.

***Opening Hymn:**

While We Are Waiting, Come

Please be seated and join me in prayer.

Unison Prayer for Advent:

Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.

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

Liturgist: Today as we celebrate love, may we be reminded that our love comes from the Lord and we should share that love freely with each other. May the LOVE of Christ be with you.

People: And, also with you.

Liturgist: Let us stand and share the LOVE of Christ with one another.

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

Anthem: *The Coming of the Lord*

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, as we patiently wait for the Prince of Peace, open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds. Speak to us, Lord. We are listening.

Scripture Lesson Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55

The Message: *A Season for Listening: Have You Made a Bethlehem Beginning?*

Hymn of Affirmation: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Sharing Our Life Together

Offertory

Thanksgiving in Song:

*In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice
Look to God; do not be afraid.*

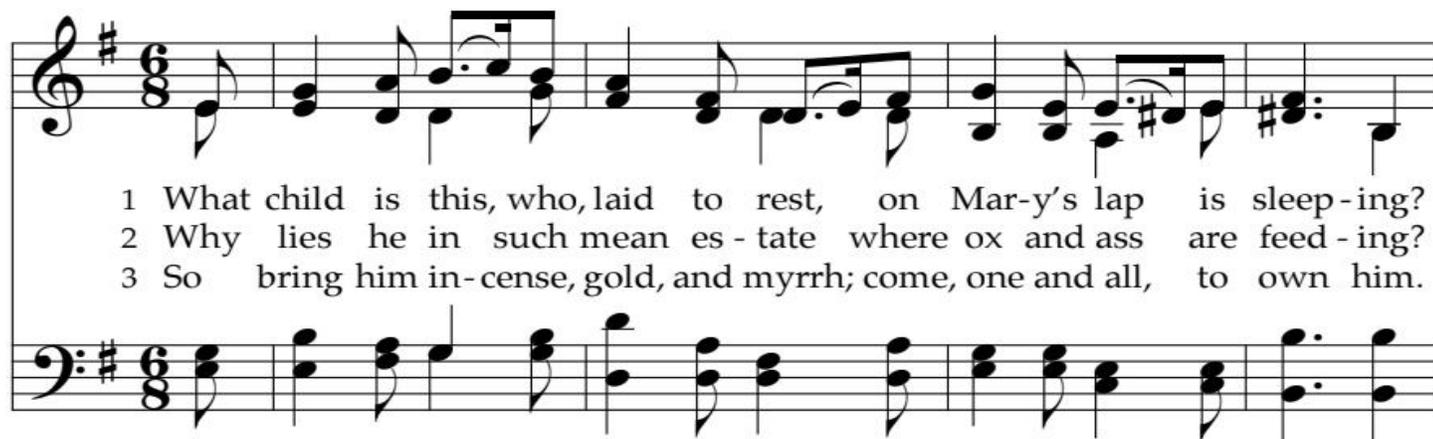
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

***Sending Hymn:** *Soon and Very Soon*

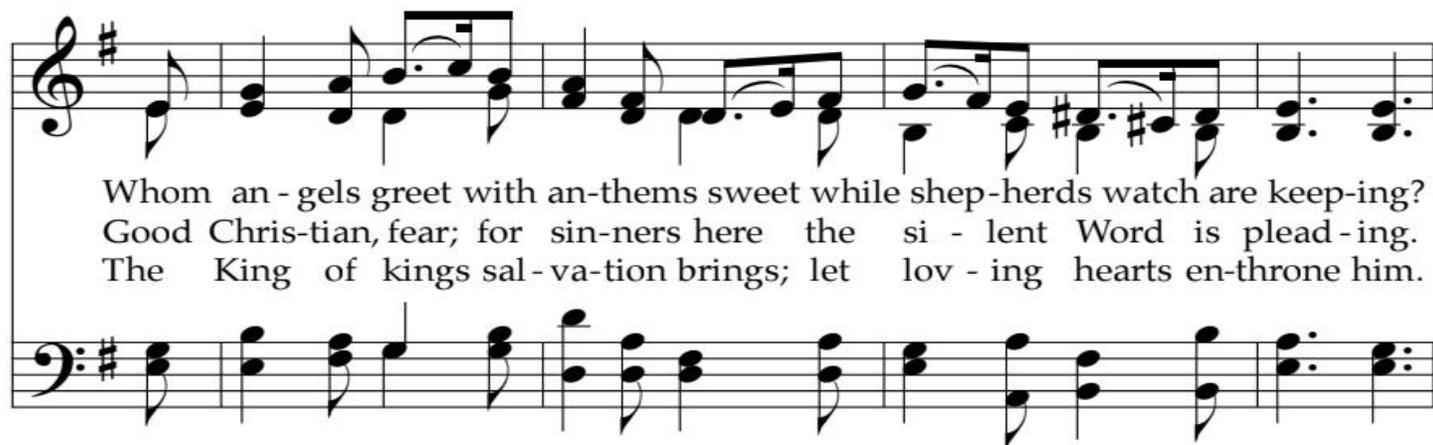
***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

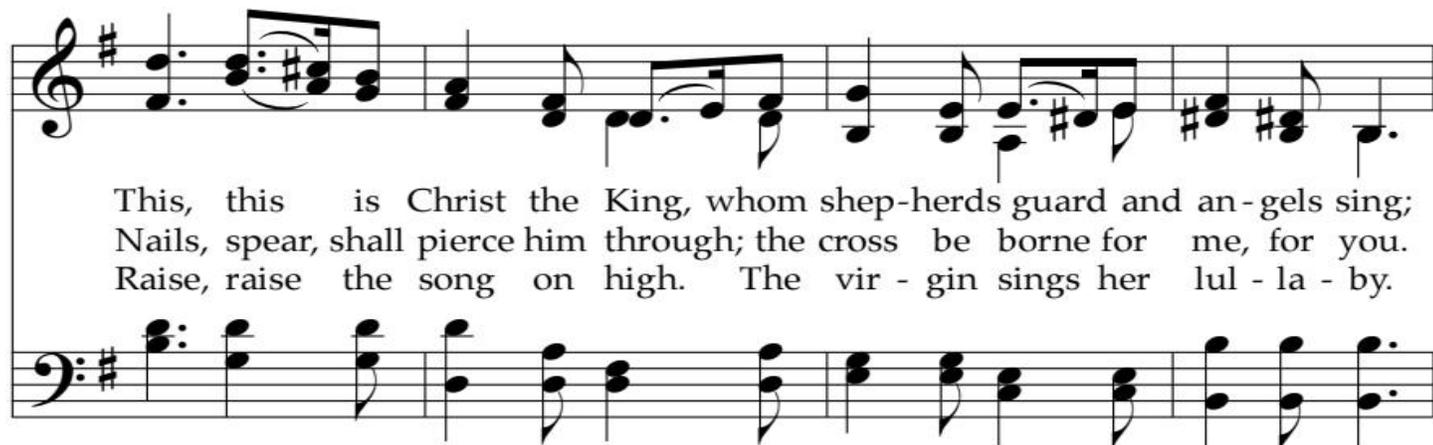
What Child Is This



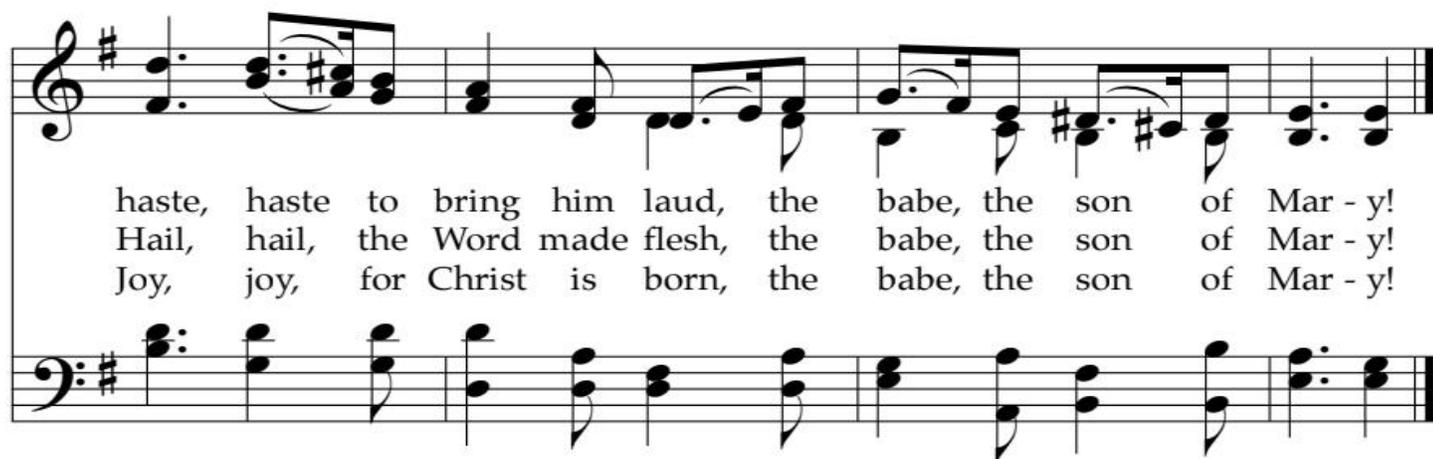
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

250 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bethlehem, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel. Micah 5:2

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,
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 on 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 men on earth.
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord, Em - man - u - el.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

384 Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!