

3rd Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025



[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)  
Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am



## Gathering

Music to Prepare Us For Worship

Opening Song – “Everyone is a Child of God”

# EVERYONE IS A CHILD OF GOD

Larry Olson  
Hans Peterson

G D/F# Em Cadd9 G

We are wait - ing, we are  
You are good - ness, you are

D/F# Em Cadd9

watch - ing, we are hop - ing to see in the  
mer - cy, you are deep mys - ter - y. In the

G D/F# Em

dis - tance, in the dark - ness a light that sets us free.  
si - lence you have spo - ken a love that sets us free.

Cadd9 G D/F# Cadd9

To see ev'-ry-one, ev'-ry-one is a child of God.

D G D/F# Cadd9 3rd time to Coda

See ev' - ry - one, ev' - ry - one, is a child, a

D G 2. D/F# Em Cadd9 G

beau - ti - ful child of God. Set us free.

Em Cadd9 D D.S. al Coda

Set us free to see ev' - ry - one,

D G D/F# Em Cadd9 G

beau-ti-ful child of God.

opt. vocal tag: We are wait - ing.

We are watch - ing.

Welcome \* Welcome Pads \* Post it Notes \*

## Welcome Litany

As we continue our worship, please join me in our welcoming litany. Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to the faith. Welcome to all who have never had a church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe.

Welcome to new visitors and old friends.

Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status, ability and challenge.

Welcome to believers and questioners, and to questioning believers. We come from different traditions and backgrounds, this is a place where we embrace all ways of worship.

This is a place where we are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new.

L: Let everyone who has ever felt cast aside, hurt, or lonely say,

**C: "I am welcome here"**

L: Let everyone who has experienced joy and beauty say,

**C: "I am welcome here"**

L: Let everyone who desires to find the goodness of God say,

**C: "I am welcome here"**

L: Come just as you are.

**C: Jesus promises to meet us here**

L: The amazing grace of Jesus, the extravagant love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

**C: And also with you**

## Prayer of the Day

*Let us pray,*

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

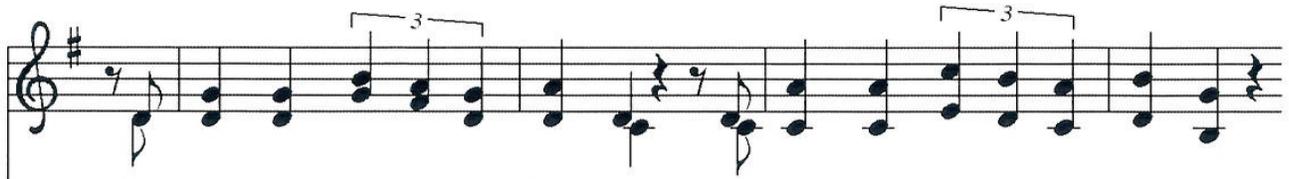
## Lighting of the Advent Candle

"He Came Down" vs. 1-3

Song Leaders: Change words of the next song to:

1. "He came down that we may have Hope"
2. "He came down that we may have Love"
3. "He came down that we may have Joy"
4. "He came down that we may have Peace"

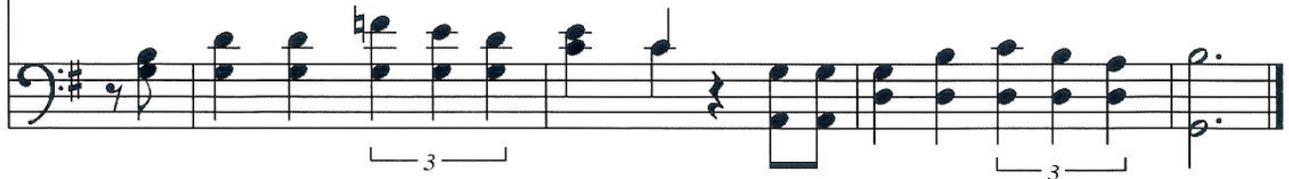
# He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional  
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949  
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## Greet Someone New

Music to bring us back together: "Everyone is a Child of God" Chorus

Children's Time

## The Word

(Reader): *Our story and God's story continues today with two readings. First, a reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-10.*

(Reader): *The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.*

*Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."*

**(Side 1): Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;**

**(Side 2): then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

**(ALL): For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;**

(Reader): *the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.*

*A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

(Reader): *Here ends the first reading. You are invited to stand in  
body or in spirit for our final reading from the Gospel of Matthew  
11:2-11.*

D Bm G<sup>2</sup> A<sup>7</sup>sus A<sup>7</sup>

*Optional introduction*

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O

D Bm<sup>7</sup>

Lord. Let your stead - fast love

G<sup>2</sup> A<sup>7</sup>sus D

come to us, O Lord.

Bm F#m<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup>sus

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your

G Em Bm A

word. Let your stead - fast love

E/G# G A<sup>7</sup>/G A/B D/E

come to us, O Lord.

A<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> A<sup>7</sup> D



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

(Reader): *When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him,*

**(Side 1): “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”**

(Reader): *Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,*

**(Side 2): ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’**

**(ALL): “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”**

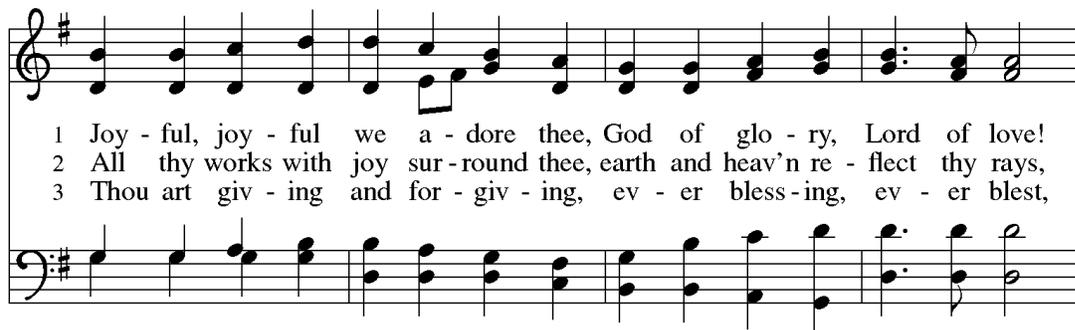
(Reader): *Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God’s story*

**(ALL): Thanks be to God.**

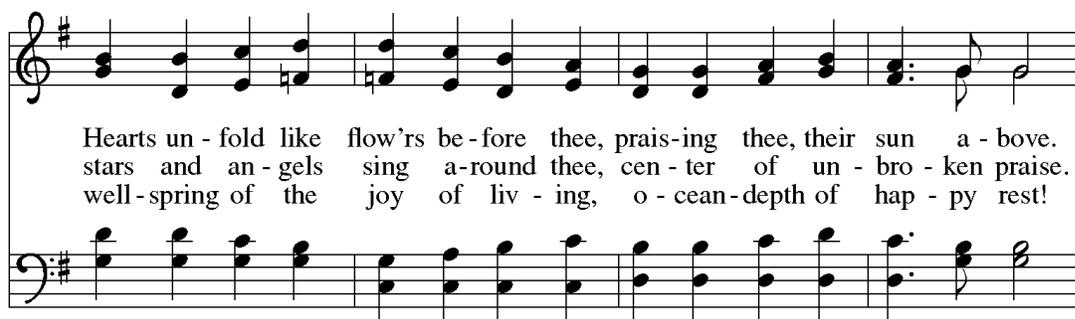
Sermon – Pastor Hans Peterson and Terry Kempfert

Song of the Day “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

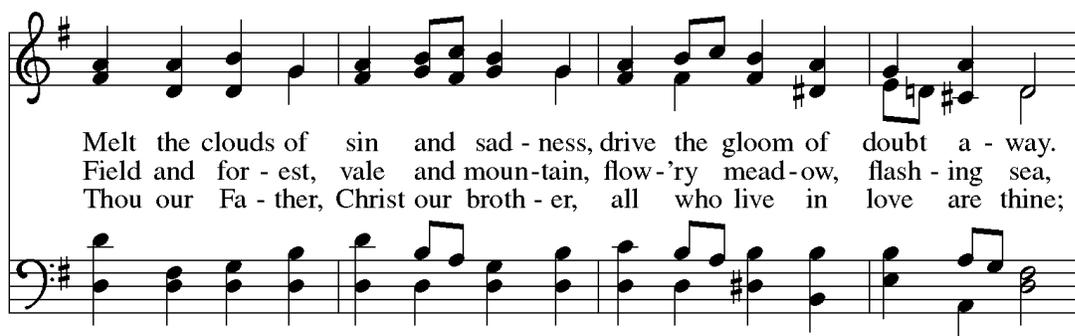
## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## Prayers for the World

*Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition will close with the words: Hear us, O God, as we sing:*

*Congregational response:*

### Let My Prayer Rise Up

All

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the  
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics are also written below the notes.

## Offering

*Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office. The watering can during November is for Operation Hope. Any children willing to help are invited to meet Pastor Hans in the back to bring forth the Communion elements.*

## OFFERING SONG – "I Wonder as I Wander"

# I Wonder As I Wander

642

Gm Cm Gm<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup>

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how  
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came  
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a  
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Gm Cm D<sup>7</sup> Gm Gm Cm

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like  
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a  
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in  
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

Gm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> Gm Cm<sup>9</sup> Gm Cm

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.  
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.  
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980  
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980  
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

I WONDER  
 12 11 11 12

# The Feast

(Pastor Hans): Setting the Table

*the children lead us as we sing together:*

**O Come Lord Jesus be our Guest  
and let these gifts to us be blest.  
All praise to God who is our bread,  
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is 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.**

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (Leader): *Our Creator, our Mother,*

**(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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...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.**

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth.

So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing.

The gifts of God are... **(ALL): Free**

Free indeed. And all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

Communion Songs "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

# Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by  
Charles Wesley

Music by  
Rowland Hugh Prichard

**VERSE**

♩ = 90

F C F B $\flat$ /F F C Dm C F/A C7/G F F/A B $\flat$  C

1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a

8 F F C F B $\flat$ /F F C Dm C F/A C7/G F F/A

free; From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our  
King; Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious

15 B $\flat$  C F Am Dm Gm C

rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it

21 F Dm Gm Csus C F/A F B $\flat$ /F C/E F G7/D

hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of ev' - ry  
rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf - fi - cient

28 C/E F F/A B $\flat$  F/C C7 F

na - tion, joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.  
mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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.

## Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.  
**Amen.**

# The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?  
**We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

## Purpose Sightings

**MILESTONES!** Sing "Light of the World" vs. 1  
*It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.*

E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

You are the light \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a cit - y on a hill. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a can - dle in the dark. \_\_\_\_\_

You are the light  
 You are a cit -  
 You are a can -

6 A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> sus4 B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ of the world \_\_\_\_\_  
 - - y on a hill \_\_\_\_\_  
 - dle in the dark \_\_\_\_\_

so shine, shine,  
 so shine, shine,  
 so shine, shine,

11 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D C<sup>m</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

shine where you are. \_\_\_\_\_  
 shine where you are. \_\_\_\_\_  
 shine where you are. \_\_\_\_\_

You are the light \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a cit - y on a hill. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a can - dle in the dark. \_\_\_\_\_

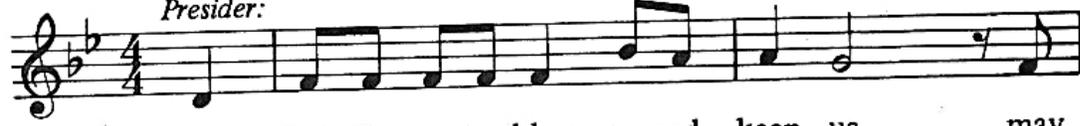
Final Blessing

*Leader:* *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

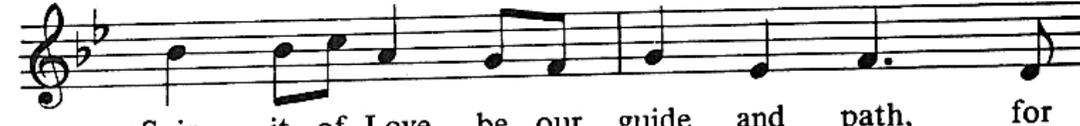
*Presider:*



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. \_\_\_\_\_

*All:*



A - - - - - men.

SENDING SONG: "This Little Light of Mine"

G C/A G/B

**1. This little light of mine** I'm gonna let it shine

C G

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine

G B B/D# Em

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine

G D C G

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Won't let no one blow it out...

3. Shine it all around the world...

4. Shine it here in Hutchinson

5. Everyone whistle while Charlie does solo

6. This Little light

*Last time:*

G D Em A

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

G D Em A

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

G D C G

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Music to Send You Out

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