



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

3rd Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word

December 12, 2021

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

There is great joy in gathering with one another to lift up praise and thanksgiving to God. Measures have been put in place to provide a safe environment for us to gather in church to worship.

+++++

NOTE: **Bold text indicates worshipers' response**, and *' means please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/MINISTRY MESSAGE

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 12/12/21 *SHARING IN LOVE*

Reader: As we continue our celebration of Advent, we remember how Jesus is our good Shepherd, who loves and cares for us always. The candy cane we see at Christmas time is shaped both like a "J" for Jesus, and like a shepherd's staff. The white color reminds us of Jesus' perfect purity and goodness. And the red stripe reminds us how Jesus, our Savior, died on the cross so that we could all live with him forever.

People: Dear God, **we are reminded of the example Jesus gave us of how to love and care for others. As a reflection of your love for all people, our congregation is sharing what we have with others by providing Christmas gifts for two families, adding light to the dark sky, and collecting hats, mittens, and other winter clothing for children in the area.**

Reader: All around the world, people get ready for Christmas and celebrate Jesus' birth with special foods and special meals. In Greece, families make big, sweet loaves of bread called *christopsomos*, or Christ bread. In Ecuador, families also bake special breads to share with one another, and they make another treat of bread too – they make all the figures in their nativity scene out of bread dough! After Christmas, they crumble the bread and throw it outside to share a treat with the birds.

People: Thank you, **Jesus, for all the good things you give me. Help me to be generous to others the way you are always generous to me. Amen.** By Lisa Komp. © Copyright 2021 by *Creative Communications for the Parish*, a division of Bayard, Inc. 1-800-325-9414.

www.creativecommunications.com

(Light 2 purple candles and the pink candle.)

Join in singing the 3rd verse of "*Away in a Manger*" (Blue #644)

**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.**

Text: USA, 19th cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919. Arr. Copyrighted 1960 Oxford University Press

GATHERING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP <https://cpcmc.org/stewardship-sunday-2/>

One: For this day set aside to worship you as a gathered faith community,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For your desire to have a relationship with us, your children,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For your saving grace given to us through the gift of your Son,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For your forgiveness that overcomes our guilt and shame,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For your caring love that knows no limits,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For the joy and blessings of serving you in community,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For the promise of eternal life,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

One: For all these things and more, we give you thanks, as your grateful people.

All: Amen.

* P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Stir up the wills of your faithful people, **Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GROWING

From the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 12, *read responsively*

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;

proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, f

or great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace. A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 4.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In a continuation of last week's gospel reading, John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter. **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

SERMON

Pastor Mary Eide

HYMN OF THE DAY "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" #34 verses 1-3 p. 5

GIVING

INTENT FORMS Each family unit has received a *2022 Intent Form* to be used to prayerfully consider your intentions for financially supporting God's work here at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church. Financial support/offering giving, is a faith practice that signifies our trust in God, and acceptance of an invitation to be part of what God is doing in the world. No annual amount of giving is too small, and completing an Intent Form provides an opportunity for conversation within your family surrounding how/why we give.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING As the beloved children of God, we should aspire to possess a gracious and generous heart. This is the most important thing we can claim to own. Everything we have is a gift from God. What we share of those gifts with the community is a witness to our generous hearts. Will those in our neighborhood, in our region, and in our world know of our gracious and generous hearts? Now is your opportunity to give. <https://cpcmc.org/stewardship-sunday-2/>

OFFERTORY PRAYER Gracious and loving God, **as a community of faith we share these gifts. We pray that you will bless them, and that they will promote justice, help the oppressed, give comfort to those alone or facing hardships, build up this community of faith. Help us to remember that our offerings to you do not end with this moment. They are a symbol that all we have, all that we do. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

<https://cpcmc.org/stewardship-sunday-2/>

- * PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Hear us, O God **All: Your mercy is great.**)
- * LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**
- * ANNOUNCEMENTS
- * BLESSING The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, **+** through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**
- * ELW #253 SENDING HYMN "He Came Down" p. 6 (*fairly new song, so Michelle will play through*)
- * DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**
- * POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

SCHEDULE

TODAY	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Worship
	11:00am	- Fellowship
MONDAY	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	3:20pm	- 7 th -8 th gr. Confirmation class
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	8:45am	- Sunday School Classes
	10:00am	- Christmas program day w/communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH/NYG CHRISTMAS SLEIGHS for sale after worship only \$10! Help us raise funds to send our youth and adult chaperones to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2022!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Wed., 12/22/21 12-6pm Save a life by making an appointment to give blood. Make an appointment by either calling 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter Elk Mound to the site.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP Friday, 12/24 at 4pm will be in person and livestreamed.

SUNDAY, DEC. 26th Join us at 10am for LESSONS AND CAROLS. The Christmas season is very short, so while we continue to celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas, let's make time to sing Christmas carols, and here the Bible stories behind the meaning of this season.

*NOTE: Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – as a 'bill pay' on your bank/credit union account – OR – go to www.sothem.org to **GIVE** tab to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus offers you control on amount and timing of your giving.*

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



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

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church **207 University Street, Elk Mound, WI 54739**
 Office Phone: 715-879-5115 Email: sothlc@sothem.org Website www.sothem.org Find us on Facebook, too!
 Pastor Mary Eide (H) 715-309-4065 meide@luthersem.edu Custodian, Terry Stamm 715-379-3728
 Sunday School Coordinators: Chris Miller at chrisbenelli.miller@gmail.com or Jaime Folczyk mjfolczyk@yahoo.com
 Financial Secretary: Barb Vadnais barbvadnais1@gmail.com

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS028313.
 New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License Podcast / Streaming License A-724679

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.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

"He Came Down" was reprinted with permission under One License #A-724679. All rights reserved