



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Program

December 17<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

NOTE: Bold text indicates worshipers’ response, and \* means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

Acolyte: Cade Larson

Video: Dave Young

Ushers: Rita & Keith Lee, Tim Jenson

PROCESSIONAL SONG

Joy to the World

LBW# 39 all 4 verses

### **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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ADVENT WREATH READING/ LIGHTING

### Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

Matthew 2:10-11:

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (NIV)

Lighting of candle 1,2 & 3                      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel                      LBW#34 verses 1-3

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** ELW#257

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:**                      Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. **Refrain**

O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai's height.  
In ancient times once gave the law In cloud, and majesty, and awe. **Refrain**

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710

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### Advent Wreath Prayer Week 3 — Joy

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. **Amen.**

“NOISY OFFERING” collected by Sunday school and Confirmation classes.

### Adult Choir: Go Tell it on the Mountain

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

\*OFFERING HYMN

We are an Offering

ELW#692

## **We are an Offering**

We lift our voices we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: We are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

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\* OFFERING PRAYER God our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**



Shepherd of the Hill 2023 Christmas Program:  
**Meaning of the Christmas Tree** by Susanne Hudson  
During program congregation will sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
~ Ushers have programs if you didn't get one.

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!



THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY: 12/17 8:45 am - Sunday School  
8:45 am - NO Adult Bible Study  
10 am - **Christmas Program**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

*~ Church wide Lefse & Bake Sale following the program ~*

MONDAY: 12/18 9:30-11:30 - Secretary in Office  
7 pm - AA Meeting  
TUESDAY: 12/19 4-6 pm - Food Pantry  
WEDNESDAY 12/20 3:20 pm - Confirmation  
FRIDAY: 12/22 10-Noon - Food Pantry  
SUNDAY: 12/24 8:45 am - NO Sunday School  
8:45 am - Adult Bible Study  
10 am - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent worship service  
4 pm - Christmas Eve candlelight worship service w/ communion

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO Sunday school 12/24 or 12/31.  
YES Adult Bible Study 12/24, NO Adult Bible Study 12/31.  
Service 12/31 will be Hymn Sing service.



**Effective 10/16 Secretary will be in office Mondays 9:30-11:30 am or occasional Wednesday 6-8 pm depending on her schedule.**



Christmas for Kids~ SOTH sponsored two families this year. Your wrapped and labeled gifts should be dropped off at church Sunday 12/18. Gifts can be put in or next to the boxes under the *Welcome* table. Thank you!

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care, concern, cheer or sympathy. **Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/or know someone who might like to be.**

- Audrey Bracher:  
Meadowbrook at Bloomer 1840 Priddy St, Room 112 B, Bloomer, WI 54724

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## **Habitat for Humanity "Faith Build"**

Shepherd of the Hill, as a partner in the Menomonie Area Mission Coalition, is being invited to join Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity in a "Faith Build" to help local families in need of safe, affordable housing. **Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity** is a Christian ministry based in Eau Claire with a "mission to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope."

Three twin-home builds are being planned for the Brickyard Road area in Menomonie and one is already in the process of being constructed!

Here are some ways we can get involved:

- Volunteer as an individual at the worksite (Activities may include framing, flooring, painting, trimming, siding, dry wall, landscaping, plumbing, electrical work, etc.)
- Organize volunteers within our faith community.
- Provide lunch for on-site volunteers.
- Make a financial contribution and/or lead a fund-raising group.
- Share updates on social media and with friends.
- Create a welcome basket or other special items for the family. Sign up to volunteer by creating an account (background check required) at: [cvh4h.volunteerhub.com](http://cvh4h.volunteerhub.com)

### **\*\*\* Volunteer Day\*\*\***

Volunteer build day opportunity listed on [cvh4h.volunteerhub.com](http://cvh4h.volunteerhub.com), Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.