



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LONG ISLAND

GLORIA DEI KING OF KINGS ST. PETER'S

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025 Christmas Pageant

PRELUDE

“In dulci jubilo”

Wilbur Held

ADVENT CANDLE

Advent Candle Litany

Candle 1 is the candle of hope,
it illuminates God’s promise.

Candle 2 is the candle of love,
its light leads us in God’s way.

Candle 3 is the candle of joy,
it shows us God’s healing and wholeness.

Candle 4 is the candle of peace,
it proclaims Christ’s coming reign of justice, when we will make war no more.

Please rise as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

With humility we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of promise and hope,

So often we fall short, failing to be all that you have created us to be. We pester you with questions, “Why?” and “Where are you?” We lack faith in your promises of deliverance and hope. Forgive us for all that we have done to harm you, others, and ourselves. Walk with us in the time of Advent, so that through our journey we may be made clean.

Our holy Lord God knows we are weak, frail creatures. Yet God loves us and refuses to give up on us. Because of God’s persistence we are made new again and again.

Receive today the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Walk with God on your human journey, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those who please God.

Once again, the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.

There in Bethlehem and here today at St Peter's we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!

GATHERING HYMN *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* ELW Hymn 257

1 **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.**

2 **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

3 **O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.** *Refrain*

4 **O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.** *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Amazing God, on this night so long ago,

**You gathered a group of unlikely outsiders—Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and others to
be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior.**

Today You have sought us out and brought us to the manger.

You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News.

**You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a
community of faith.**

We want to respond.

Show us how.

**Help us receive your renewing love as we praise You for offering us salvation
in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Narration

Welcome everyone to Bethlehem! Let us open our eyes and ears and listen to the story of when Christ was born.

HOLY FAMILY *Mary(s), Joseph(s) and baby come forward*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW Hymn 279

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.

Narration

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight. So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright. Sickly or dying? What was the matter? “A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter! “My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed. There’ll not be a room in all Bethlehem,” I said.

But their eyes told a story of hunger and need. I couldn’t avoid them, so I tried a good deed. I cleaned up the stable: Rachel cooked up a meal. We helped all we could, at least, that’s how I feel. For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon!

So we prepared for delivery right under the moon. The child came so quickly. His face seemed a light. As if God had shone God’s presence so bright. Joseph said softly. “It’s Jesus, my friend.” God sent him among us, to end fear and hatred, darkness, and sin. Instead, God gave light, to let God’s love in.

ANIMALS *Goats, sheep, cows, donkeys, or other animals are invited to line up to the sides of the manger.*

“We Are the Animals”

by L. Haddock

We are the animals, from Christmas long ago.

When Angels came to praise the name of a baby we all know.

We watched the baby sleep. His mom and dad were near.

Then people came from all around just to see our Jesus, dear.

Now listen very close. We want you all to know.

That love was born on Christmas Day so very long ago.

Narration

My animals were calm, quieter than normal. They often were noisy, and never too formal. They always were eating, or else they were sleeping. The stable required continuous

sweeping. But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe at the sight of the babe and all that they saw. It's as if they were aware that God had just hushed them, had fed and watered and carefully brushed them. They knew, I believe, that God had been able to work a miracle there in that stable.

ANGELS *Angels are invited to stand behind the altar.*
 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." ELW Hymn 270

**Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."**

Chorus: **Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Narration

We don't often see angels in flight. But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night. They appeared to the shepherds and, boy, were they scared! "Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?" "Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up? Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?"

But "Peace on earth; goodwill to all" was the angels' sweet song; that was their call. With a light show that dazzled all who did see, the angels hallelujahed and sang out with glee. "To Bethlehem, shepherds!" the angels directed. "To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected." "Go worship the Lord and follow his ways. And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

SHEPHERDS *Shepherds are invited to stand near the animals.*
 "Go Tell It on the Mountain." ELW Hymn 290

Chorus: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold through-out the heavens there shone a holy light. Chorus**

Narration

The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned. "Too much hard work or too much hot sun!" That's what they thought; that's how they explained. Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained. But the angels' song calmed them, and then they believed. They rejoiced when they knew, and they were quite relieved. They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord. Then they left and began to spread the good Word.

WISE PERSONS AND STARS. *Wise Persons and stars stand on the Steps.
“We Three Kings.”*

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain **Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia earth to the heaven replies.** *Refrain*

Narration

The star that shone brightly led Wise Persons at night To Bethlehem’s stable, to the manger’s strange light. They came bearing gifts, in worship and love, praising God for God’s wonders from heaven above. The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on my straw. It was the oddest of things that ever I saw. If kings bring him treasure, then maybe you, too, can worship with pleasure the person of Jesus, who came to us all. So worthy of praise, for he brings us God’s call.” “I am the way, the truth, and the life, Come to God for healing from strife. Come unto me, all you who labor, And I’ll give you rest forever to savor.”

T’was the very first Christmas and there in the manger, The Christ-child was born; it couldn’t have been stranger. Shepherds saw angels; Wise Men, a star. They came to see Jesus; they came afar. They knew he was special – God’s very own son, He came to the earth to love everyone. He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord, to be worshiped each day, to be loved and adored. So now at Christmas we all take delight. In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night. In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give, let us never forget, it’s in Christ that we live.

Everyone returns to their seats as we Sing. “Joy to the World” ELW Hymn 267

**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.**

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each petition will end “God of grace,”
to which the response is “Hear our prayer.”*

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

OFFERING

“See That Star”

*Judy Hunnicutt
Chancel Choir*

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please rise as you are able*

God thank you for the gifts you have given us.

Help us to see these gifts and to share them with others. We ask your blessing on these gifts that we offer today. Thank you for your love, mercy and grace. We pray these things in your name, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, let us pray:

**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, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

All are welcome at Christ's table. Please follow usher's directions.

Communion is offered in either pre-packaged communion kits, in the basket, or by wafer to be dipped in the chalice of wine.

COMMUNION HYMNS

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW Hymn # 251

Let All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

ELW Hymn # 461

Please stand if able.

POST COMMUNION LITANY

Praise God for showing lovingkindness to us!

For making the sun to rise and set,

Giving light and order to our daily lives.

For holding us in our fear and doubt,

And for sending friends to comfort us with hugs and hot food.

For children born or adopted,

And for care and support when our desires for children do not come to fruition.

For food, shelter, and safety for the most vulnerable among us,
And for the call to strive for justice for those still in need.
God's name is blessed forever.
Praise God for showing lovingkindness to us!
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand if able

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.**

SENDING HYMN

He Came Down

ELW Hymn #253

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 3 **He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 4 **He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”

J. S. Bach



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LONG ISLAND

GLORIA DEI KING OF KINGS ST. PETER'S

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

The Rev. Christian Cederstrom, Pastor
Rich Harris, Worship Assistant
Peter Teichmann, Reader and Communion Assistant
Richard Whitten, Minister of Music/Organist
Laurie Haddock, Minister of Music/Youth & Family

**United Lutheran Church is a collaboration of Lutheran Congregations
serving the Huntington/Melville Communities.
We gather for Sunday worship as one congregation and serve our communities
through our three unique campuses.**

Joint Worship at St. Peter's Campus
10 am Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School

Please visit our combined website @ <https://www.mnys.org/unitedlutheranli/> for
information on events and service times.

Pastor Christian can be contacted at 631-672-6625 or pastorccederstrom@gmail.com

Three campuses – one community of faith!

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**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.
We are blessed by your presence.**