



Rejoice and Sing!

2023 Advent Concert Worship
Saturday, 6p, Sunday, 9:30a, Dec. 9/10

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*
Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*
Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music*
Ben Janzow, *Praise Band Leader*

Acolytes: (9:30a) Max Stigler

Altar Guild: (6p) Joan Birner, Marge Schroeder; (9:30a) Marge Schroeder

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson

Communion: (6p) Diane and Rick Dowling, Jennifer Werner; (9:30a) Lynn Cleppe, Becky Hastings, Becky Pepper, Marge Schroeder

Greeters: (6p) Bob and Jan Zastrow; (9:30a) Buck and Carol Houston

Media: (6p) Cheryl Werner; (9:30a) Buck Houston

Ushers: (9:30a) Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Todd Schroeder

PRELUDE

Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 (“Christmas Concerto”), *Archangelo Corelli*

WELCOME

ADVENT 2—LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God. One candle to remind us of hope, the second candle to lead us in the way of peace, calling us to change our living to prepare for the coming of Christ.

C: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Let us pray... Holy God, a candle burns, the second marker of our Advent journey. As we continue, may we travel peacefully. As we continue, God of journeys, speak to us.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

All: Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Advent Alleluia, arr. Keith Christopher

(Based on "Salvation is Created", Pavel Tschesnokoff and "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence", 17th Century French)

Ascension Choir

Salvation is created. O Lord, God, Lord God almighty
We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord, holy Lord, God.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Alleluia
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand, Alleluia
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Alleluia, Alleluia. We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord.
Salvation is created. Alleluia.

READING

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle of the Turning, Irish Traditional, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Ascension Choir

Choir: My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

All: *Refrain - All*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to _ turn.

Choir: Though I am small my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy shall last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

All: *Refrain*

Choir: From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

All: *Refrain*

Choir: Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

All: *Refrain*

Choir: Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn.

All: Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

Lo! How a Rose, 16th Century German carol, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Ascension Ringers

READING

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Rejoice and Sing! Karen Marolli, based on Psalm 30:11; Zephaniah 3:14-17, 30

Ascension Choir

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you cast off my sadness and clothed me with joy!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing, and sing! The Lord is in your midst,
a great defender who saves, O rejoice, rejoice and sing!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing, and sing! The Lord is with you.
The Lord shall be your strength. O rejoice and sing a new song!

The Lord shall delight in you. God shall renew you in love and rejoice over you in song!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing, and sing! The Lord is with you.
The Lord shall be your strength. O rejoice and sing a new song!

The Lord shall embrace you and bring you home and restore you with a song!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing, and sing! The Lord is with you.
The Lord shall be your strength. O rejoice and sing a new song!

All: Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing: the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Night of Silence, Daniel Kantor

Ascension Choir and Children's Choir

Congregation, please join in singing "Silent Night" following Children's Choir verse.

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise,
fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon. (cont.)

Night of Silence *(continued)*

Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star, your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of the Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day, spirit we wait for the loving Son.

Children's Choir: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

All: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Sing We Now of Christmas, *French Carol, arr. Mark Patterson*

Children's Choir

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Hear our grateful praises to the Child so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest; Journey to the manger, find the Child so blest."
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow! *Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes*

Children's Choir

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn; rise up, shepherd, and follow!
It will lead to the place where the Savior's born; rise up shepherd and follow!

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs; rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your ewes and leave your rams; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Follow, Follow! Rise up shepherd and follow!
Follow the star of Bethlehem; rise up, shepherd, and follow!

HYMN **Joy to the World** *(v. 1, 2)*

ELW 267

All: 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.

Change Ring Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium," *Fred Gramann*

Ascension Ringers

We Have a Saviour, *Ben Glover, Reuben Morgan*

Praise Band

A child has been given, the King of our freedom
Sing for the light has come, this is Christmas
Come and adore Him and bring gifts before Him
Joy to the world, worship the Son, this is Christmas

This is Jesus, Emmanuel here with us, tell all the world
We have a Saviour, we have a Saviour
We are no longer lost 'cause He has come down for us
We have a Saviour, we have a Saviour.

Sing with the angels and lift up your voices
Join in the song of hope, this is Christmas.
His love will reign forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please say, "Hear our prayer" after each petition.

OFFERING

Sussex Carol, *English Carol*, arr. Elaine Hagenberg

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should all on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should all on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place;
angels and all with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
Then out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night,
"Glory to God in highest heav'n, now and forevermore," Amen!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

What Child Is This? *Greensleeves*, arr. Brenda Austin

Make Room, *Mark Hall, Matt Maher*

A family hiding from the storm found no place at the keeper's door
It was for this a child was born to save a world so cold and hollow
The sleeping town they did not know that lying in a manger low
A Savior king who had no home has come to heal our sorrows

Is there room in your heart, is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart for God to write His story

Shepherds counting sheep at night do not fear the glory light
You are precious in His sight; God has come to raise the lowly
You can come as you are; it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart

A mother holds the promise tight, every wrong will be made right
The road is straight the burden's light for in His hands He holds tomorrow

Angels We Have Heard on High, arr. Peter Anglea

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid: Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! (cont.)

Ascension Choir

Many Ways to Give



- QR code
- Vanco Giving app
- Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount

Ascension Ringers

Praise Band

Ascension Choir

Angels We Have Heard on High *(continued)*

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria!

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

All: 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!

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful *(v. 1, 3)*

ELW 283

All: Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God... in... the... highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

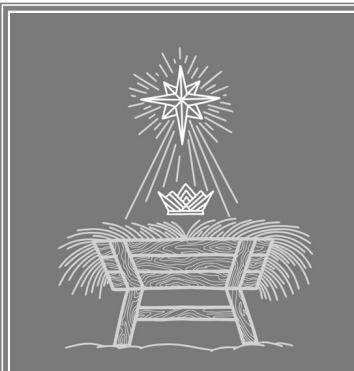
SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Break Forth Into Joy *(from the "Christmas Oratorio), J.S. Bach*



Join Us for Advent & Christmas Worship

Sun Dec 17 Advent 3

8:30a Worship S

10:45a Bilingual Worship

with Children's Program

Sun Dec 24 Advent 4

8:30a Worship S

Sun Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

1p Buena Noche EH

3p Worship S

5p Worship S

9p Worship S

Mon Dec. 25 Christmas

10a Worship S



Children Are God’s Gift: We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Kringle Pick-Up: Did you order a kringle? Kringles are in the conference room and should be picked up today.

CRASH Progressive Dinner Today: This special event for CRASH students meets at church at 4:45 p.m. today. Don’t forget to bring a \$10 creative gift for the gift exchange.

Annunciation Worship: Celebrate the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary on Tuesday, Dec. 12, with a 5:30 a.m. Spanish-language worship, followed by a potluck breakfast.

Offering Envelopes: 2024 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up. If you use envelopes, please check the table in the narthex for yours. If there isn't a box for you and you would like one, please contact the church office, 262-547-8518 or admin@ascensionelca.org. If you are a snowbird and want yours mailed, please let the church office know.

Las Posadas Dec. 16: Las Posadas reenacts the journey of the holy family through the streets of Bethlehem looking for a place to stay. It begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Children of all ages are welcome to be in costume. This event, hosted by our Spanish-speaking members, includes food, music and a piñata.

Children Run Joyfully! The Children’s Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17, during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please sign-up online, tinyurl.com/ChildrensProgram23 for your child's part in the nativity. Dress Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program is Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 to 11 a.m.

You're Invited! Ascension men are invited to Amen's annual Christmas gathering will be on Monday, Dec 18, at 5:30 p.m. (buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m.), at Tally's Tap, Waukesha. Please bring a donation of mens/women's long underwear tops/bottoms for Waukesha shelters. If you cannot attend, please put donations in the marked bin at church. Any questions, please contact Steve Boyer, 262-366-4078.

The Good Samaritan Fund at Ascension: For more than 30 years this fund has assisted families with the challenges of life such as rent, electric bills, food, gas, clothing, Christmas gifts. The brainchild of Ascension member Dorothy Heale, who died in 2017, the fund continues to support members and friends of Ascension from all walks of life at different times of need. The pastors have been made aware of a few families who could use some additional assistance as Christmas approaches. If you are interested in donating to this fund, please give a gift and mark it for Good Samaritan Fund.

Supporting Children in El Salvador: Ascension is collecting funds this month to send to San Jorge Church to purchase backpacks and shoes for the children. \$30 will provide a backpack and \$25 will provide a pair of shoes. You can donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALCSJES> or with a check that states El Salvador in the memo line.

The Musicians

Instrumentalists

Kathy Johnson, piano
Amy James, flute
Kaylyn Ruemler, oboe
Jerry Loughney, violin
Eric Segnitz, violin
Amanda Koch, viola
Braden Zitoun, cello
Grace James, percussion
Kurt Werner, percussion

Ascension Choir

Kathy Johnson, accompanist
Pam Baumann
Joan Birner
Ryan Birner
Jeff Britton
Vicki Dian
Linda Elder
Scott Greger
Kathy Hahn
Rande Hagen
Beth Hoffmann
Tom Hoffmann
Deb Izu
Jonathon Koenig
Sandy Koester
Sara Leatherwood
Al Maechtle
Linda Maechtle
Don Malchow
Kathy Malchow
Pastor Chris Marien
Ron Marien
Susan Otto
Michelle Shulfer
Julie Seavers
Karen Simington
Carol Spieker
Steve Spieker
Bonnie Thiesenhusen
Jeana Wagner
Sarah Wehmeier de Aparicio
Annemarie Wucker

Ascension Ringers

Cheryl Anspach
Gen Anspach
Pam Baumann
Scott Greger
Sheri Greger
Meredy Hase
Amy James
Grace James
Pastor Chris Marien
Carol Nelson
Susan Otto
Carol Spieker
Steve Spieker
Rebecca Whelpley
Cindy Zilske

Children’s Choir

Ashley Aparicio
Luisa Aparicio
Marta Aparicio
Emily Boales
Eli Greger
Lucy Hernandez
Grace Lytle
Lexi Lytle
Nora Nicklasch
Charlie Payne
Grace Paczesny
Madeline Paczesny
Amaya Schroeder

Praise Band

Saturday: Kristeen Morgenroth, Casey Janzow, Dave Chyla, Jeremy Poling
Sunday: Ben Janzow, Kristeen Morgenroth, Jim Finn, Ken Kasten, Jeremy Poling

Continued next page

Announcements *cont.*

Double Match Day for Waukesha Food Pantry: Shop at Meijer, 801 E. Sunset Dr., on Saturday, Dec. 16, and benefit the Waukesha Food Pantry. For every \$10 Simply Give donation card purchased, Meijer will provide an additional \$20 donation to the food pantry.

Safely Dispose of Christmas Lights: Do you have Christmas lights that are burned out? Instead of throwing them into the garbage where they will end up in a landfill and leach dangerous chemicals, put them in the box at church and our Creation Care Team will recycle them in the proper way.

Meru Holiday Coffee: The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is once again offering their special holiday blend and gift packs for your family gatherings over the next two months. See the display in the cabinet to purchase or order.

Newsletter: Read all about December! <https://ascensionelca.org/events/newsletter/>

Confirmation Posters: Posters from recent confirmands should be picked up from the Welcome Desk by Dec. 17 so we can be sparkling clean for Christmas!



Poinsettia Donations

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas season (\$12 each), please fill-out this form and place in the offering plate along with your donation or return the form with your donation to the church office.

Thank you for helping make the sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

In celebration of Jesus' birth

To the glory of God

Donated in honor of

Donated in memory of

Donor:

Donation amount \$ _____

Please return the completed form along with your payment to the church office or place in the offering plate. You may also pay on our website and mark it "Poinsettia."



Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you here?

How can we share the life of Ascension with you?

- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail?
- BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- CRASH (high school)
- Bible study (small groups)
- Choirs or other music ministries
- Serving others (local/global options)
- Starting Point class (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.