

# Rejoice, Rejoice Believers!

## Advent Concert Worship

December 14 & 15, 2024

### Worship Leadership

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

**Acolytes:** (6p) Hadley Marien; (9:30a) Grace Paczesny, Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder

**Altar Guild:** (6p) Joan Birner; (9:30a) Chris and Jimmy Loos

**Communion:** (6p) Jennifer Werner, Sue Mathews; (9:30a) Cathy Rapp, Mary Ellen Comp, Jim Hahn

**Greeters:** (6p) Ileen Marien, Jan Zastrow; (9:30a) Steve and Cara Boyer

**Media:** (6p) Anna Marien; (9:30a) Buck Houston

**Ushers:** (6p) 3 needed; (9:30a) Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Mike Rapp

## WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Lo, How a Rose

String Quartet

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**, *arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; Timothy Kile*      **Ascension Ringers & Choir**

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

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night, and turn our darkness into light.

O Israel, rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!  
God with us, Emmanuel. — *Latin Hymn*

### ADVENT 3—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, one candle to lead us in the way of peace, the third candle to call us to joy as we 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.**

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 1-3)

ELW 240



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

P: Let us pray... Holy God, a candle burns,

C: **The third marker of our Advent journey.**

P: As we continue, may we travel joyfully.

C: **As we continue, God of journeys, guide our footsteps. Amen.**

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (vs. 1, 2, 4), setting by K. Lee Scott

ELW 244

**All: Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets Your people free!**

— *Laurentius Laurentii, 17th century*

**Creator of the Stars of Night, Michael Burkhardt**

**Ascension Choir & Ringers**

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You, hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, You came, but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, chosen mother mild.

At Your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n shall call You Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen  
— *Latin Hymn, 9th century*

**Light of the World, Lauren Daigle/Paul Duncan/Paul Mabury**

**Praise Band**

The world waits for a miracle  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
O come, O come Emmanuel  
A child prays for peace on earth  
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt  
O come, O come Emmanuel

And can you hear the angels singing  
Glory to the light of the world  
Glory the light of the world is here

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother  
A baby's cry is the sound of love  
Come down, come down Emmanuel  
He is the song for the suffering  
He is Messiah, the Prince of peace  
Has come, he has come, Emmanuel

Glory to the light of the world

The world waits for a miracle  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
O come, O come Emmanuel

**READING**

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Comfort, Comfort, arr. Cathy Moglebust**

**Ascension Ringers**

**READING**

**Luke 2:1-7**

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten, *setting by Michael Burkhardt**Choir sings verses 1-2; all sing verses 3-5*

1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3. This is he whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; An - gel hosts, his



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him



He the source, the end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:  
 Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory  
 Evermore and evermore! — *Aurelius Clemens, 4th century*

## READING

Luke 2:8-14

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Angels We Have Heard on High, *arr. Peter Anglea*

Ascension Choir

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!

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!

### Noel, *Chris Tomlin/Ed Cash/Matt Redman*

Praise Band

Band: Love incarnate, love divine  
Star and angels gave the sign  
Bow to babe on bended knee  
The Savior of humanity  
Unto us a Child is born  
He shall reign forevermore

All: **Noel, Noel**  
**Come and see what God has done**  
**Noel, Noel**  
**The story of amazing love**  
**The light of the world given for us**  
**Noel**

Band: Son of God and Son of man  
There before the world began  
Born to suffer born to save  
Born to raise us from the grave  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
He shall reign forevermore (*Chorus, all*)

## HYMN

What Child Is This (*v. 1*)

ELW 296

All: **What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?**  
**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?**  
**This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**  
**Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

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**Noel:** Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Matt Redman © 2015 Capitol CMG Paragon, S. D. G. Publishing, Said And Done Music, sixsteps Music, sixsteps Songs, Thankyou Music, Worship Together Music, worshiptogether.com songs. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 90978

**May My Light Shine**, *Lynn Shaw Bailey/Becki Slagle Mayo*

**Children's Choir**

My my light shine like the star of Bethlehem. May the world see God's love through me.  
May my light shine for my Jesus and my King. May I shine so others see.  
Star of wonder, star of light, shining down for all to see.  
Star of wonder, star of light, shine your light through me.

My my light shine like the star of Bethlehem. May the world see God's love through me.  
May my light shine for my Jesus and my King. May I shine so others see.  
Star of wonder, star of light, may I keep my eyes on you.  
Star of wonder, star of light, shine in all I do.

My my light shine like the star of Bethlehem. May the world see God's love through me.  
May my light shine for my Jesus and my King. May I shine so others see.  
May my light shine, like the star of Bethlehem.

**Mary Had a Baby**, *traditional spiritual*

**Children's Choir**

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord!  
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! The people came to worship him in Bethlehem.

Where was he born?... Born in a manger...

What did she name him?... Named him King Jesus...

**HYMN**

**What Child Is This** (v. 3)

**ELW 296**

**All: So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Noël Nouvelet**, *traditional French carol, arr. Sonja Poorman*

**Youth Choir**

Noël nouvelet, chantons Noël ici.  
Noël nouvelet, crions à Dieu merci.  
Chantons Noël, pour le Roi Nouvelet.  
Noël nouvelet, chantons Noël ici.

Sing we all of Christmas, Noel sing we here.  
Bring your grateful praises to the child so dear.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel.  
Sing we all of Christmas, Noel sing we here.

**Estrella Brillante (Brilliant Star)**, *Mexican carol, arr. Nancy Grundahl*

**Youth Choir**

Estrella brillante, luz del peregrino, estrella ilumina, hoy este camino. Alleluia.  
(*Bright star, pilgrim's light, bright star illuminate our path today. Alleluia.*)

**Were You There on That Christmas Night?** *Natalie Sleeth*

**Youth Choir**

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night  
When the world was filled with a holy light?  
Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King  
With the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?  
Did you see how they bowed as they praised Him aloud at His birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?  
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?

Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,  
The salvation of the world begun?  
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?

**Brightest and Best**, *arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney*

**Ascension Choir**

Hail the blest morn when the great Mediator  
Down from the regions of glory descends.  
Shepherds go worship the Babe in the manger;  
Lo! For His guard the bright angels attend.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid.  
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,  
Odors of Eden and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gold would His favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. — *Reginald Heber*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

**Healing:** For Paul and Melody Maass' grandson George, removal of stent  
For Nancy Haker, healing after a fall  
For Arlene Madsen, Tod Kinunen's mother, complications of surgery

## OFFERING

### Night of Silence, Daniel Kantor

*(Please join in singing "Silent Night" following the Youth Choir verse.)*

Choir: 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.

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.

Youth 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.**

## 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 white grape juice are available.

**Joyful and Triumphant, Douglas Wagner**

**Ascension Ringers**

**He Shall Reign Forevermore, Chris Tomlin/Matt Maher**

**Praise Band**

Band: In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans  
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone  
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne

**All: (And) He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore**



Band: If I were a wise man, I would travel far  
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part  
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart (*Chorus, all*)

**A Christmas Blessing**, *Philip Stopford*

**Ascension Choir**

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,  
The worship of the wisemen and the peace of the Christ child be yours,  
Be yours this Christmas.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly,  
All things heavenly and fill you with joy, fill you with joy and peace.

And the blessing of God the Father and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

— *Church of Ireland Book of Common Prayer*

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Joy to the World**

**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.**

**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.**

**Many Ways to Give**



- *Vanco Giving app*
- *Online at [tinyurl.com/SupportALC](http://tinyurl.com/SupportALC)*
- *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Carol of the Bells

String Quartet

### The Musicians

#### Instrumentalists

Kathy Johnson, piano, percussion

Heidi Hess, oboe

Tatiana Pearson, flute

Jerry Loughney, violin

Christine Annin, violin

Amanda Koch, viola

Braden Zitoun, cello

Gen Anspach, percussion

Jaime Dringenberg, percussion

Amy James, flute, percussion

#### Ascension Ringers

Cheryl Anspach

Gen Anspach

Pam Baumann

Cathy Britton

Scott Greger

Amy James

Sofia Koenig

Pastor Chris Marien

Susan Otto

Carol Spieker

Steve Spieker

Chris Standley

Cindy Zilske

#### Praise Band

Ben Janzow, Leader

Dave Chyla

Dave Dringenburg

Jamie Dringenburg

Jim Finn

Paula Jean

Ken Kasten

Jeremy Poling

#### Ascension Choir

Kathy Johnson, Accompanist

Pastor Edwin Aparicio

Pam Baumann

Joan Birner

Ryan Birner

Jeff Britton

Vicki Dian

Darlene DiBrito

Linda Elder

Al Gilgenbach

Scott Greger

Rande Hagen

Beth Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann

Deb Izu

Sofia Koenig

Sandy Koester

Sara Leatherwood

Al Maechtle

Don Malchow

Kathy Malchow

Pastor Chris Marien

Ron Marien

Maggie Mulroy

Susan Otto

Julie Seavers

Carol Spieker

Steve Spieker

Bonnie Thiesenhusen

Jeana Wagner

Annemarie Wucker

#### Children's Choir

Ashley Aparicio

Jayden Aparicio

Luisa Aparicio

Emily Boales

Alisson Castro

Miri Dringenburg

Grace Lytle

Amaya Schroeder

#### Youth Choir

Marta Aparicio

Karla Aparicio Castillo

Bly Dringenburg

Addison Jahner

Shelby Leatherwood

Anna Marien

Hadley Marien

Grace Paczesny

Maddy Paczesny



**Children Are God’s Gift:** We are a noisy church. 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 if needed. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

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

**El Salvador:** Last chance to donate to our partners in El Salvador! Backpacks (\$20), shoes (\$40) and a simple food basket (\$50). You can donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALCSJES>, with a check to Ascension with a memo for El Salvador or with a credit card at the table in the lobby.

**CRASH Progressive Dinner:** CRASH meets here tonight at 4:30 p.m. for the start of this event. Don’t forget your \$10-or-less gift! Questions to Pastor Edwin.

**Young at Heart Christmas:** This group will meet on Wednesday Dec. 18, at noon for Christmas fun! Please bring a dish to pass.

**Children's Program Rehearsal:** BLAST families are encouraged to attend the program rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 9 a.m. There will be treats at the end of the rehearsal!

**Las Posadas:** Everyone is invited to join our Latino families to re-enact Mary and Joseph’s family journey to Bethlehem on Saturday, Dec. 21, beginning at 4 p.m. New this year — a live nativity!

**Mt. Meru Coffee:** Consider purchasing coffee for your holiday gatherings from Ascension's Mt. Meru Coffee Project. If what you'd like isn't available in the cabinet, please fill-out the order form.

**Christmas Light Recycling:** We are collecting broken or burned out tree lights for proper recycling. Place them in the marked bin in the Donation Center. Creation Care will recycle them.



## 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. You may also fill out the form online at <https://tinyurl.com/PoinsettiaALC> and pay online.

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?***

- E-alert
- 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 (membership)

**Please place in the offering plate.**

## Advent & Christmas at Ascension



### Activities

**Advent Book Study**, Mondays, 10a & 6p,  
through Dec. 23

**Advent Brunch**, Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:30a

**CRASH Progressive Dinner**, Dec. 15, 4:30p

**Young at Heart Christmas**, Wed., Dec. 18,  
12p

**Children's Program Rehearsal**, Sat. Dec. 21,  
9a

**Las Posadas** (*en español*), Sábado, Dec. 21, 4p

**Church Office Closed**, Dec. 24-27

### Worship

**Advent Concert Worship**, Saturday 6p & Sun-  
day 9:30a, Dec. 14 & 15

**Misa** (*en español*), Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:45a

**4th Sunday of Advent Worship**, Dec. 22,  
8:30a

**Worship with Children's Program**  
(*bilingual*), Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:45a

**Christmas Eve worship**, 3p, 5p & 9:30p, Tues-  
day, Dec. 24

**Nochebuena** (*en español*), 6p, Tuesday, Dec.  
24

**Christmas Day Worship**, 10a, Dec. 25

**1st Sunday of Christmas**, Sunday, Dec. 29,  
8:30a & 10:45a

**Misa** (*en español*), Dec. 29, 10:45a



Ascension Lutheran Church  
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262-547-8518 [ascensionelca.org](http://ascensionelca.org)