Receiving,
Living,
and
Sharing
the Grace given to us

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

Sunday Worship

December 14, 2025 | 9:30 A.M.

3rd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE — O Come, O Come Emmanuel — arr. by Larry Sue

GATHERING & GREETING

♦ OPENING HYMN #82 — Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — HYFRYDOL

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CONFESSION — John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. **Amen.**

♦ GLORIA PATRI — Glory Be to the Father — #581 GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son; and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

♦ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Word made flesh, speak to us now. Open our hearts to receive you. By your Spirit, help us see your light shining in the darkness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON — John 1:1-18 — New Testament, page 86

♦ *Everyone is invited to rise as able and speak the **bold** print in unison*

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Love Has Come — #110 BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

ANTHEM — I Wonder as I Wander — arr. by Larry Sue

SERMON — The Light Shines

RESPONDING

♦ OUR AFFIRMATION

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
The light is coming. The light is here. Both are true.
We are called to watch for light, even when darkness feels overwhelming.
We will not adjust to the darkness. We will keep looking for light.
God has given us eyes to see and voices to speak.
We bear witness to the light. We share the good news together. Amen.
Amen.

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE #127 — Hark! The Herald Angels Sing — WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your grace…**Hear our prayers.**

OFFERING — Voluntary: Simply Believe — Richard A. Williamson

Loose coins supports the Hunger Fund

♦ DOXOLOGY — Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow — #606 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

♦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION & THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

♦ SENDING HYMN #121 — O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv 1-3) — ST. LOUIS

Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School in Room 202 until 11:15 am

♦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Go as children of God, born of the Spirit. Bear witness to the light. Share the grace and truth of Christ. For the light shines in the darkness. **And the darkness will not overcome it. Amen.**

♦ POSTLUDE — Sussex Carol — arr. by Alfred V. Fedak

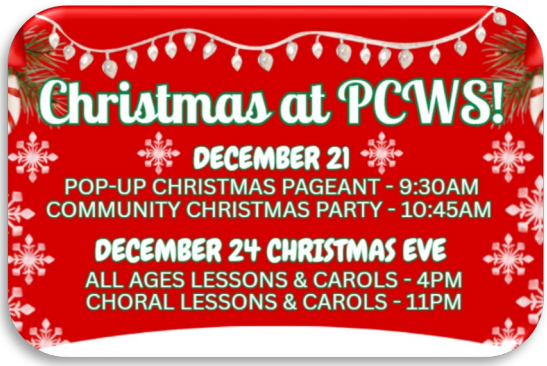
Please join us downstairs in the Jones Room for Fellowship!

Mission Statement

You are most welcome here.

We invite you to share in our faith journey as we walk and grow together.

We are committed to encouraging one another along the way as we seek to experience, express, and extend God's unconditional love.



Online Giving

STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND OUR WEBSITE

THANK YOU *to all for serving this morning:*

Pastor Dan Robertson / Robert Moynihan – Parish Associate / Stephanie Coates – Director of Music
Amber Clark – Director of Children & Family Ministry / Jim Koning, Mike Lobash & Dave Olsen – Bell Ensemble
Stephanie Carlisle – Liturgist / Roland Schleicher – Usher / Laurie Merrifield - Fellowship Host
Kim Fronk & Taylor Kelly - Deacons of the Day / Jim Koning - Sound Operator / Bob Cushman - Video Operator
Amber Clark & Amy Malone – Sunday School / The Cushman Family - Advent Candle Lighters

Assisted listening devices are available for worship; please ask an usher for assistance.

The nursery is available during worship and fellowship, staffed by Ms. Shaquirra & Ms. Siobhan!

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-713281 and CCLI (license numbers 1117008 and 20337417). Paul Banovic, writer of liturgist scripture introduction. Liturgy for today's service inspired by John 1.

This service is being streamed live and recorded for publication. Please sit in the balcony or the back pews if you wish to be out of camera view.

Please visit our website at presbyws.org or email us at pcws@presbyws.org

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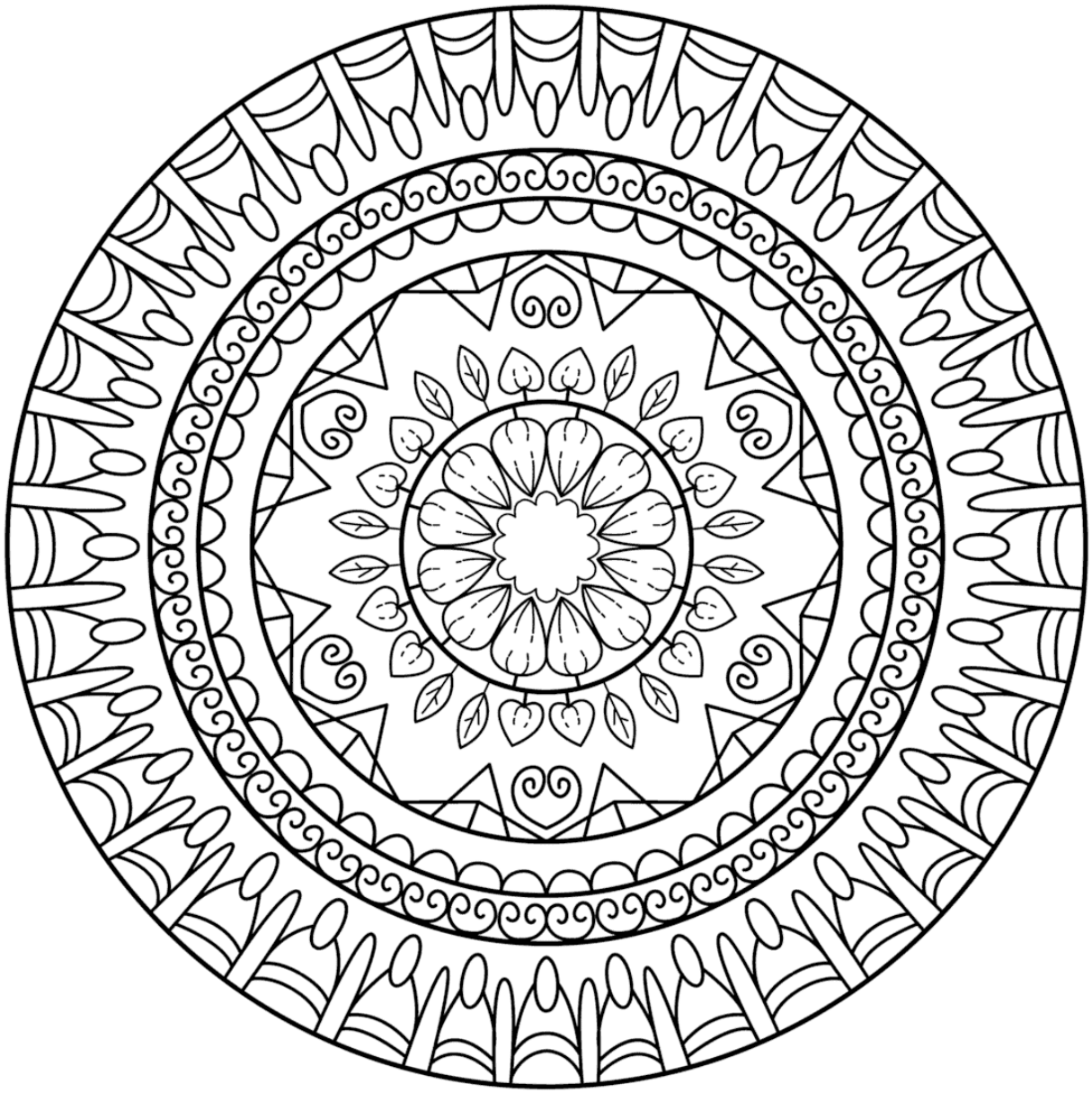


Notes:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

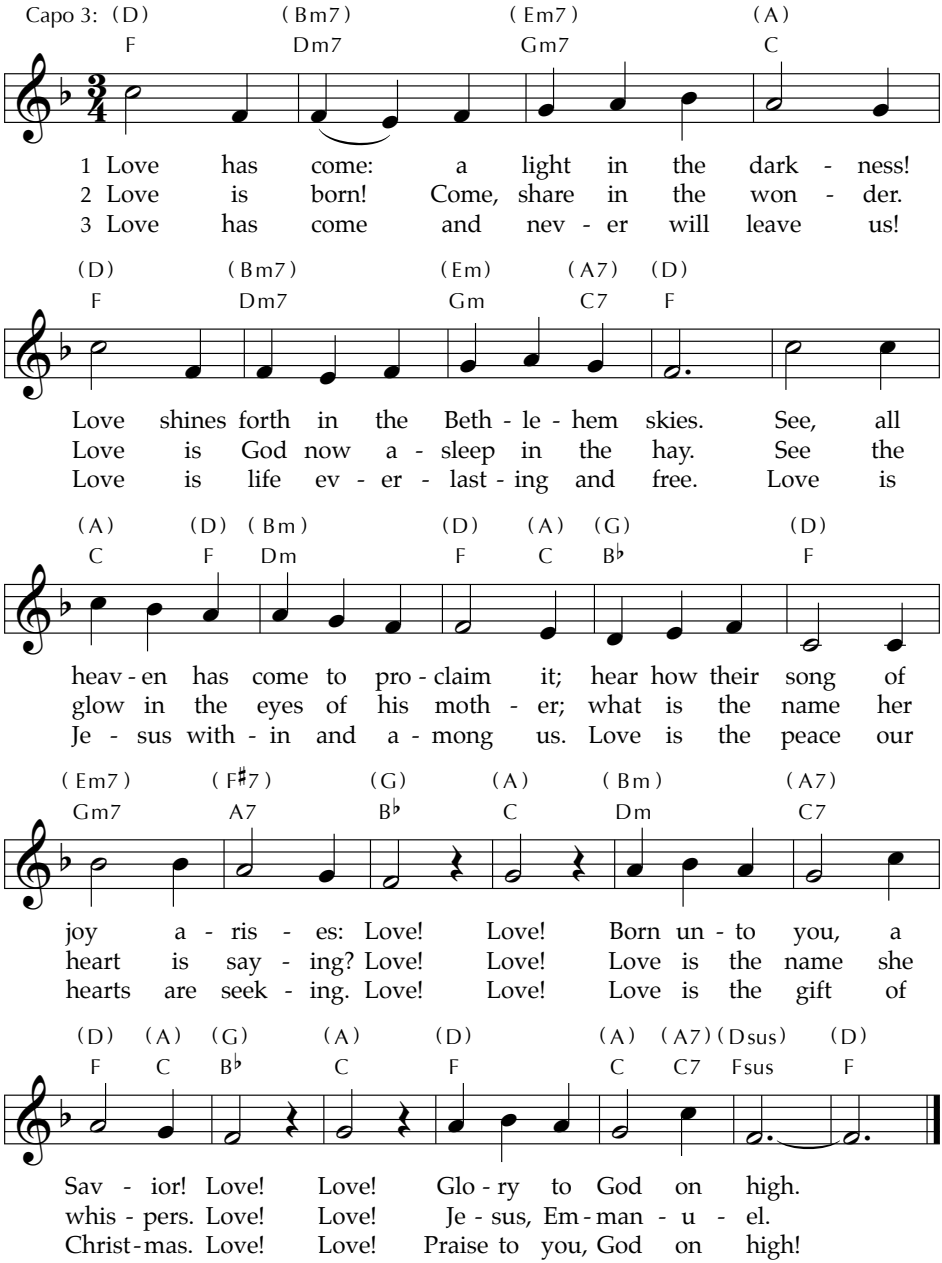
HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

Glory Be to the Father 581

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

Love Has Come 110



Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
9.9.10.9.9.8

127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Jesus, the Light of the World

This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

TEXT: Stanzas, Charles Wesley, 1739; ref., George D. Elderkin, 1890
MUSIC: George D. Elderkin, 1890; arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, 2000
Music Arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT
7.7.7.7 with refrain

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.
Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.
O, shine all a - round us by day and by
night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
(alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)