



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
34 South Main Street  
Rochester NH 03867



December 7, 2025

*Holy Communion for the Second Sunday of Advent*

*(†) The congregation will please stand as able*  
**(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds**

THE CHURCH GATHERS

*Silent Prayer and Time for Centering*

Prelude

† CALL TO WORSHIP

We continue our Advent series

inspired by the dear carol, "What Child is This?"

However, we are asking it this way: "What Child IS This?"

We are going "Beyond the Lullaby"

to ask many more questions of who this child was,  
especially in the time that he was born  
which was not really a peaceful time for all people,  
even though it was called the "Pax Romana."

† SUNG RESPONSE

**Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.**

## INVITATION TO CANDLE LIGHTING (CANDLE OF PEACE)

We light this candle of Peace for those who need it most.

**For all who are being silenced.**

For all who are afraid to speak out.

**For all who know that peace comes with justice.**

Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this:

“How will we cry out for true peace for ALL people?

How will we soothe the trauma of the world in our time?”

**What child IS this?**

**This, this, is the Prince of Peace**

**who invites us to proclaim his reign forever.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

**This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Here, at the nativity of your birth,**

**give us the courage to face this moment**

**with new air in our lungs.**

**Open us to new understandings of**

**the unfolding story of your presence among us.**

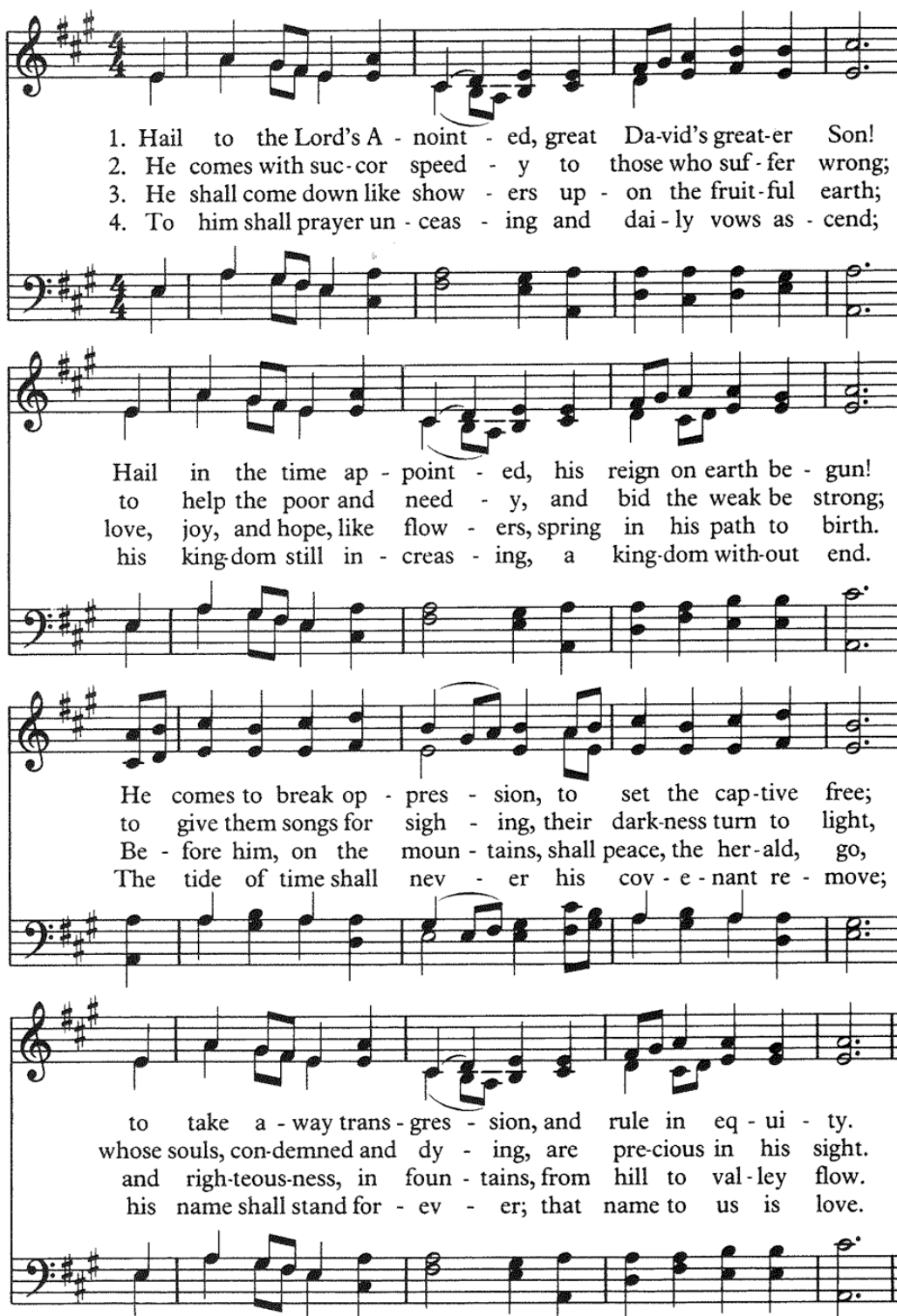
**Show us the true meaning of peace on earth,**

**good will for all.**

**We pray in the name of the Child,**

**the Prince of Peace in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

# 203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!  
 2. He comes with suc-cor speed - y to those who suf-fer wrong;  
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;  
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.  
 his king-dom still in - creas - ing, a king-dom with-out end.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap-tive free;  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,  
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her-ald, go,  
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans-gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.  
 and righ-teous-ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val-ley flow.  
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)  
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt;  
 adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE  
 76.76 D

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## Passing the Peace of Christ

### THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

#### ANTHEM

Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of Heav'n adore him!  
Angel hosts his praises sing!  
All dominions bow before him  
And exalt our God and King.  
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring—  
Evermore and evermore.

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.

*Words: Medieval Latin Plain-chant, translated by Mason Neal 1851, public domain; Choral setting is not licensed to be recorded, sorry for the inconvenience.*

#### A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL – Michele Leahey

# 158 Blessed Be the God of Israel

*Unison*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson (1933- )

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MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D.

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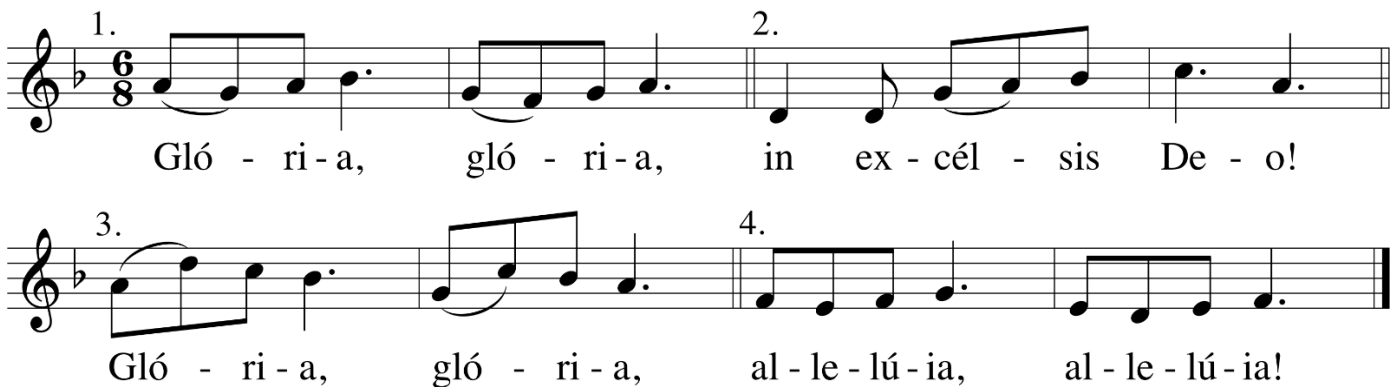


Leader: "The Word of God, for the People of God"

People: **"THANKS BE TO GOD."****\*GLORIA PATRI**

## Gloria, Gloria

Canon



1. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 2. in ex - cé - sis De - o!

3. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 4. al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia!

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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## SERMON

**What Child Is This**  
**"Silent Word"**

**THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

# Star-Child

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1 Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be-tween of God, love Child,  
 2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,  
 3 Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years, sad child,  
 4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,  
 5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -

*Refrain*

Christ Child, heav-en's light-ning rod:  
 used child no one wants to know:  
 lost child, sto - ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar -  
 faith child know-ing joy in store:  
 earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

rive when Christ-mas comes for ev-ery-one, ev-ery-one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931- )  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926- )

STAR-CHILD  
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# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

## PRAYER SONG

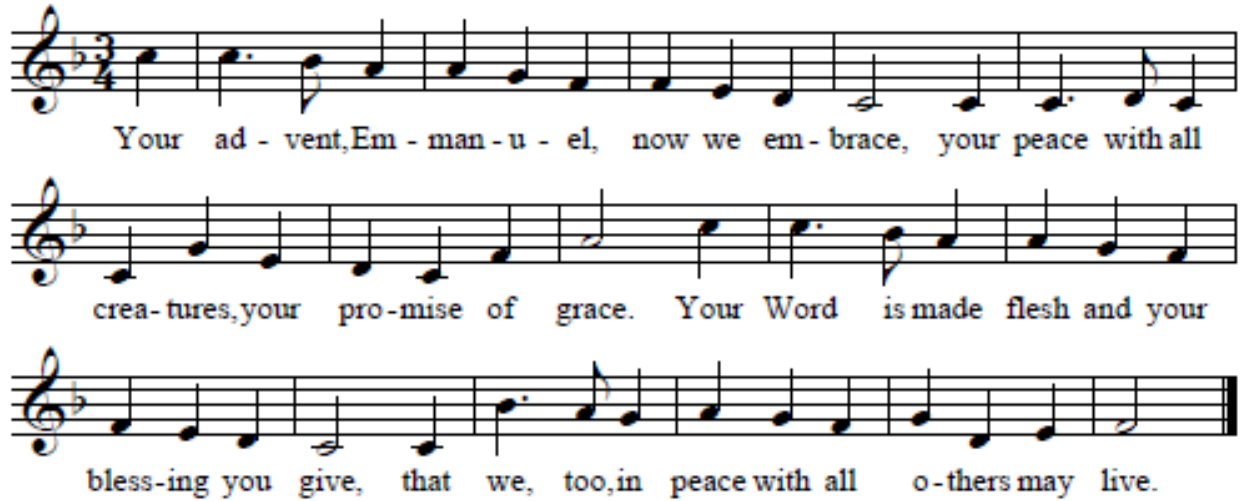
### Awaken Us, God

Responsorial Verses (invocation, scripture affirmation, prayer response, offertory, etc.)

*Advent: Peace*

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

"Away in a Manger"



Your ad - vent, Em - man - u - el, now we em - brace, your peace with all  
crea - tures, your pro - mise of grace. Your Word is made flesh and your  
bless - ing you give, that we, too, in peace with all o - thers may live.

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### Invitation to Prayer:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: **"And also with you..."**

## PRAYER SONG *(from above)*

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.*

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

## † DOXOLOGY

### Doxology

For Advent

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

here\_\_\_\_\_ be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL  
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

### Offertory Prayer:

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Music on pg. 221 In the Bleak...)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is good, Holy One, to give thanks to you,  
always and everywhere.

You created us, you loved us into being,  
you delivered us, and you spoke to us through prophets.  
And then the time came for you to be with us, Emmanuel.

*[sung]*

**In a time of trouble, poverty, and pain,  
Living was a struggle. Hoping was a strain.  
Fear and desperation robbed the world of joy.  
In a weary nation, Mary had a boy.**

And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*[sung]*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of pow' r and might.  
Raise we now, "Hosanna," to the highest height.  
Heav'n and earth proclaim it, in all time and space.  
Blest are we to meet you, in this holy place.**

Mary's boy became a man, compassionate and kind.  
He invited all to follow the way of the kin-dom,  
the commonwealth of God.  
Wherever he went, he tended to those who suffered.

*[sung]*

**Teaching, feeding, healing, Jesus showed the way,  
Sacred love revealing day by day by day,  
Practicing resistance, cultivating care,  
Centered in persistence, every act a prayer.**

His own suffering at the hands of the elite  
gave birth to a movement of your Spirit, O God,  
that would forge a new covenant of [hope/peace/joy/love/light].  
Jesus promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

*"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."*

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."*

And so,  
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*[sung]*

**Christ came to uplift us, by his life we give.  
Christ gave up his lifeblood, by his death we live.  
Christ comes to us now, still, as we gather here.  
Christ will come again, so, nothing shall we fear.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Amen.

*[sung]*

**So, my friends and neighbors, now it's up to us.  
May we welcome strangers, building faith and trust.  
May we live like Jesus in our time and place  
'Til this weary nation knows amazing grace.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(UMH p. 895)

Prayer Following Communion:

**THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE**

# † HYMN OF DEDICATION

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap - tive  
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high, Who or - der all things  
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on  
4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem, From ev - 'ry foe de -  
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge  
Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the  
liv - er them That trust your might - y pow'r to  
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on



here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
law, In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re -  
save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall



come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high      7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
And cheer us by your drawing night;      In one the hearts of humankind;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,      O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.      And be for us our King of Peace.

Text: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*; Latin 9th C.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: VENI VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain; Mode I; arr. by Gary Daigle, b.1956

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## † Benediction

### Voluntary

## *Assisting with Worship today:*

Liturgist: *Paul Blackadar*  
Video and Sound Engineer: *Charlie Devito*  
Cover Image: *Worship Design Studio*

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### **Looking Ahead**

#### Readings for December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

[Isaiah 35:1-10 / Luke 1:46b-55](#)

[James 5:7-10/ Matthew 11: 2-11](#)

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