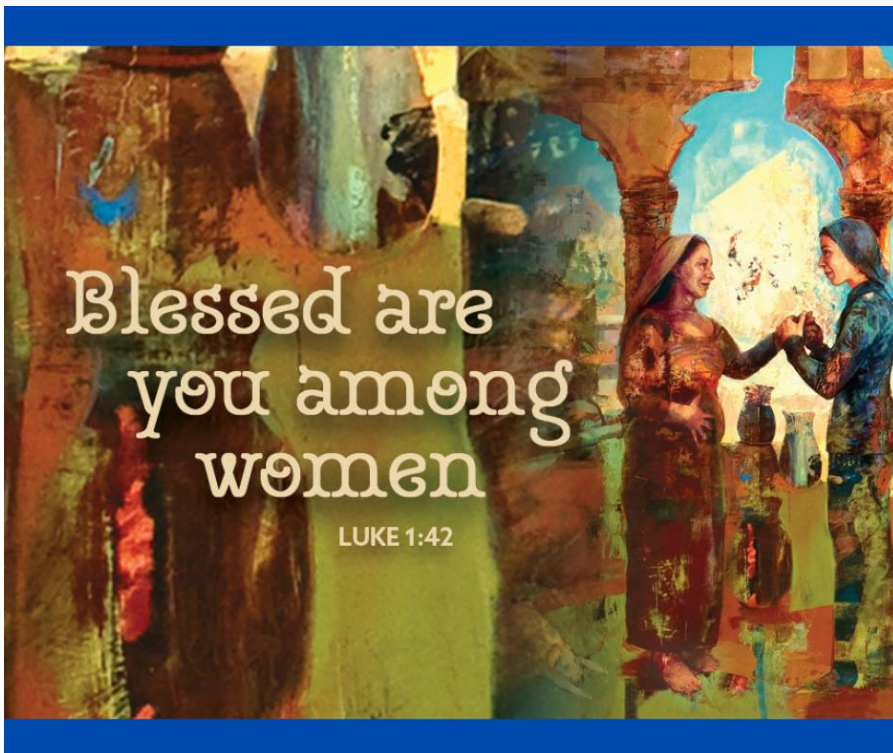


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is December 22, 2024*

+ + +

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Magnificat in G Major*

Alexandre Guilmant

*The assembly stands.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*All Earth is Hopeful*

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# APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## KYRIE –



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

HYMN OF PRAISE (HIGH VOICES, I; LOW VOICES, II)



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



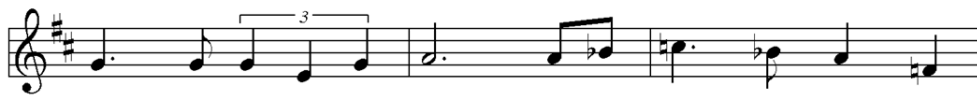
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

**C** Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.  
**C** Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

L: A reading from Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

*Psalm Tone*



My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:  
you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.

You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation.

You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,  
casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.

You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,  
the promise made | to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

L: A reading from Hebrews.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

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## APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

L: Lord, in your mercy; **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*Canticle of the Turning  
Choir*

Cooney

*The assembly stands.*

OFFERTORY

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### PROPER PREFACE

*Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on**



**us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have**



**mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the**



**sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### *Savior of the Nations, Come That Boy-Child of Mary*

page 17  
page 18

*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

***Joy to the World***

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## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*People, Look East!*

Kristina Langlois

The altar flowers for today are given by Jenni Rigot,  
*In loving memory of my father, the Reverend Joseph T. Webb...*

The Eternal Candle for the month of December is sponsored by Suzanne Lazar,  
*In loving memory of my sister, Theresa...*

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*All Earth is Hopeful, ELW 266*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra\_al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



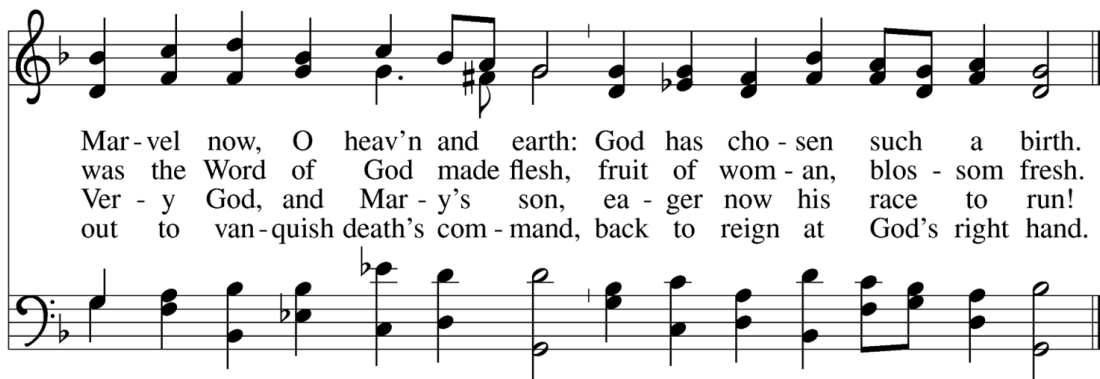
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."      Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."



*Savior of the Nations Come, ELW 263*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

## That Boy-Child of Mary, ELW 293


*Refrain*



That boy-child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,




a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?  
2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,  
3 How can he save us, how can he help us,  
4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,

*Refrain*



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?  
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.  
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?  
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,  
he is our Savior,  
heaven-sent helper  
in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,  
love and adore him,  
give ourselves to him  
in Bethlehem.

*return to page 13*

# Joy to the World, ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## **Introduction to the day:**

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## **Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's**

Pastor: Stephen Bohannon

sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org

Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren

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Congregation Council President: Dave Strand

councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org

Lector: Ronald Trostel

Tech Volunteers: Joyce Forbes, Finn Riley, Tom Meier

Ushers: Dave Carr, Mike Fink

**For more announcements and upcoming events,  
please visit [www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org)**

- **December 24, 5:00PM and 8:00PM** – Christmas Eve worship services; a reception will be held between the services at 6:30PM. Sign up to help with the reception on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.
- **December 25, 10:00AM** – Our Christmas Day worship service will be held with a light reception following the service. Sign up to help with the reception on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.
- All cash and checks received as offering on or after Sunday, January 5, 2025 will be considered 2025 gifts regardless of the check date. Checks received by mail or in person by Friday, 01/03/2025, will be considered 2024 gifts. The checks received must be dated 12/31/2024 or earlier.