



## ***Third Sunday of Advent***

*December 13, 2020*

# **Emanuel Lutheran Church**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350**

**(209) 523-4531** [www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org)

# Welcome to Emanuel

## **WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!**

*Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by introducing yourself to those you encounter and please be sure to sign our guest book (located on the stand in the Narthex).*

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available. •  
(Please ask an usher)

### Children/Youth & Family/ELDC:

Council members – Pat Smith, Fanney Bjargardottir

### Spiritual Life:

Council member – Suzanne Wilke

### Worship:

Council member – Martha Strand

### Outreach:

Council member — Elaine Ixcot

### Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship — Josh Hollinger

Property — Dennis Strand

### Fellowship:

Council member—Janice Watkins

### Social Media:

Council member – Suzanne Wilke

### Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Pastor Lyn, Dennis Strand

Josh Hollinger, Pat Smith

## Staff

### **Presiding Minister**

Rev. Dr. Lyn Crase

### **Organist & Choir Director**

Barbara Vukich

### **Administrative Assistant**

Paula Braxton

### **Day Care Director**

Laura Marquez

### **Bookkeeper**

Maria Ojeda

## Council Officers

### **President**

Dennis Strand

### **Vice President**

Pat Smith

### **Treasurer**

Bob Reuter

### **Secretary**

Josh Hollinger

### **OFFICE HOURS**

*Monday through Thursday - 8 am to 3 pm*

*Friday - 8 am to 2 pm*

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

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**PRELUDE**

*Savior of the Nations Come*

*Anton Heiller*

**WELCOME**

Pastor Lyn Crase

**OPENING HYMN**

*People, Look East*

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**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Candle of Joy)**

SING after Reading: *He Came Down*

He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen**

**P:** Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are not awake for you.**

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger;**

**we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen**

**P:** People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## **THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11**

Chuck Rowland, Dan Johnson

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

## **LUKE 1:46-55**

Chuck Rowland, Dan Johnson

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## THE SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Chuck Rowland, Dan Johnson

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Gospel according to John, chapter 1.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is

coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”<sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (REPEATED)**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Lyn Crase

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Christ, Be Our Light*

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### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s Creed:

**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**

- 1) God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.....
- 2) God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- 3) God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- 3) God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give

them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

- 5) God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- 6) God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- 7) God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- 8) Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

*The sharing of peace is an individual and communal act of forgiveness.*

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

In recognition of God's forgiveness, mercy and grace let us continue with the Great Thanksgiving.

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

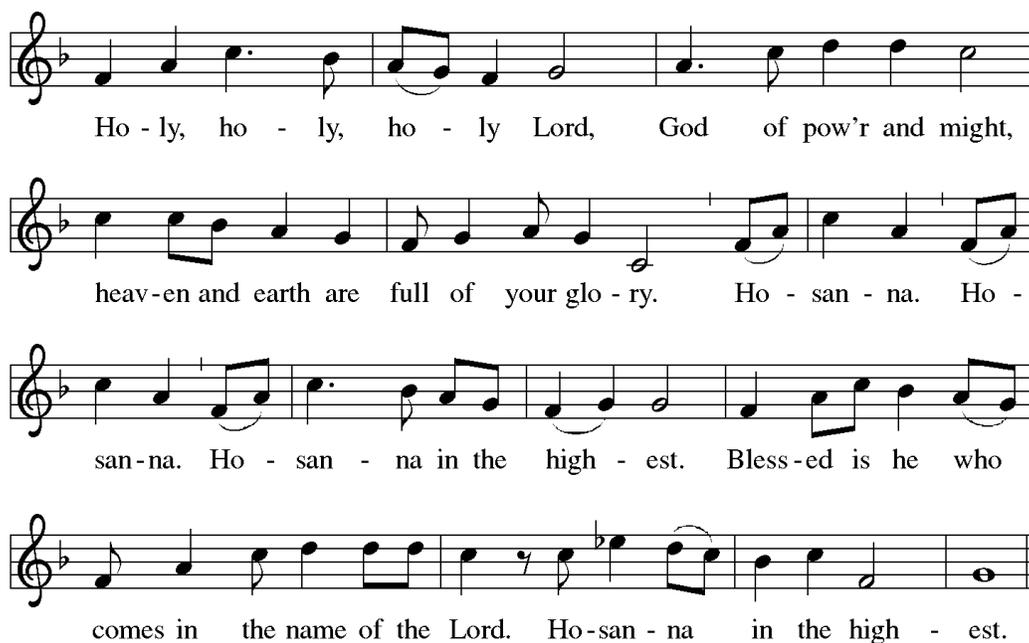
## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY—SUNG



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

**P:** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**P:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**P:** With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P:** Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P:** All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

## LAMB OF GOD—SUNG

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.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## BLESSING

**P:** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**Amen**

## SENDING HYMN

*Joy to the World*

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## SERVICE NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Announcements:** Please check [emanuellutheran.org](http://emanuellutheran.org) and remember to watch your email for updates & news from the church. If you have prayer requests, please call Pastor Lyn or the office.

We are now in the season of Christmas! As the end of 2020 nears and a new fiscal year begins, I am reminded of my financial commitment to Emanuel Lutheran Church. Our congregation has been so blessed to have an outstanding staff committed to the work and mission of Emanuel and Pastor Lyn who continues to guide us in creative ways to “do church together”. My pledged financial commitment – and yours – will ensure that this can continue.

After a long absence due to Covid – since the season of Lent – Pastor Lyn is again leading our Sunday worship services in the sanctuary, accompanied by Barbara Vukich’s magnificent organ music. Throughout the week, the work of our church and Emanuel Day Care could not be accomplished without the expertise and dedication of Administrative Assistant Paula Braxton and Bookkeeper Maria Ojeda. Amazingly, this work, and the work of ministry at Emanuel, has continued throughout the pandemic restrictions.

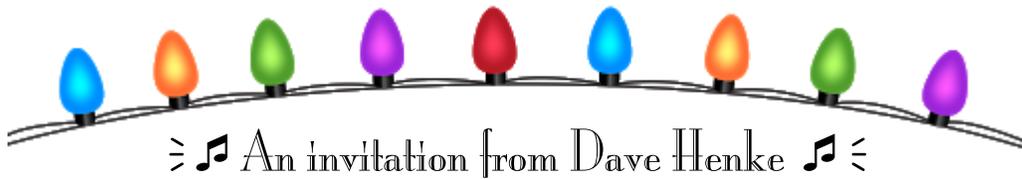
At this time of year, the council asks each membership family to prayerfully consider making a pledge of financial giving for the coming year. The council relies on the pledges received to be able to make responsible and realistic plans for 2021. We need to know that we can continue to meet our financial commitments for staffing, supplies, building maintenance, and general operations, as well as our building loan. And most of all, we need to be confident in our ability to continue our projects of outreach and ministry for our members and the wider Modesto community.

As treasurer I personally thank all members who have continued to financially support our church and staff during this unbelievably trying year. Many members, including the elected council, have continued to generously donate time and talent to the continuing operations of our church, even when our programs and schedules seemed to be especially challenged by conditions beyond our control. Thank you for all you have done in 2020! Thank you for all you pledge to do in 2021!

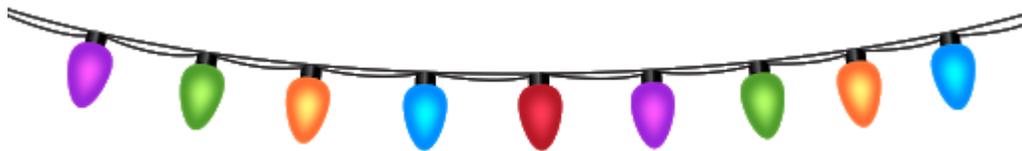
Robert Reuter, Treasurer  
Emanuel Lutheran Church

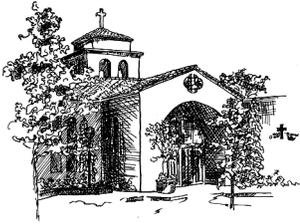
FORWARD ANEW

## Christmas Lights Display



*For those looking for something to do during this pandemic, and if you like Christmas lights, I have a display that is synced to 14 different songs. With 6 talking and singing characters, an animated mega tree and much more. It is very kid friendly, so the whole family can enjoy the show. My address is 2521 Piazza Court, Modesto, CA 95356. You can just stay in your cars and tune to 87.9 F.M. The show starts at 5:00 everyday and ends about 10:00 or 11:00 on the weekend.*





### **Our Mission**

*To share Christ's unconditional love with everyone.*

### **Our Vision**

*Emanuel's vision is to be loving, supportive, and welcoming, as we reach out in service and in witness to our neighborhood and the city beyond.*

*We share a passion to nurture people in all stages and circumstances of life.*

*We, as disciples of Christ, minister to our changing community in challenging cultural times.*

*God is calling us to joyfully follow the Holy Spirit in ministry to others.*



# Entrance Hymn

## People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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# Hymn of the Day

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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# Sending Hymn

## Joy to the World



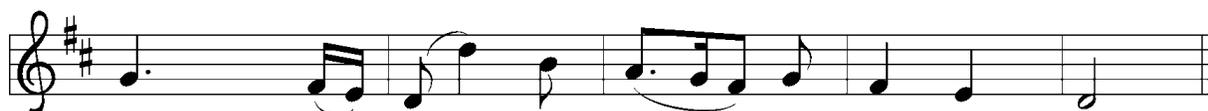
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Prayer Requests – December 13, 2020

- ✠ Prayers for recovery for Chrisi King, daughter of Dwight King & daughter-in-law of Mary Martin, a nurse at Doctor's Hospital with COVID.
- ✠ Prayers for healing, comfort and well-being for Lisa Poston's brother-in-law Ron Frieberg who needs a heart operation.

**On-going Prayers:** Frances Medina & family—comfort; Sabrina Hill & family—comfort; Jane Espland and family—comfort & peace; the Skustad family—comfort; Allen, Angie and family—healing & well-being. Jim—comfort (Tisdell); Nicolas Rubatino—recovery & healing (Silva); Mya—peace of mind and guidance (Fritts); Pat & Jack Smith and family—comfort & peace; Lois Silva—healing & recovery after eye surgery; Dianne Changnon—healing of West Nile virus (Waggoner); Christine Paulsen—prayers of comfort; Andrea Olson—healing & recovery from eye surgery and follow-up treatment; Tom Norquist—healing & well-being; Justin Egesdal, Linda Nelson's grandson—health & well-being; Bill Beasley—healing & comfort; Connie Petersen—healing and well-being; Claire—comfort & peace (Paulsen); Fred Wiechmann—continued healing from a stroke (Waggoner)

### **Pray for the church, the world and all those in need:**

Doctors, nurses, technicians and all hospital personnel who care for patients & their needs. For scientists, researchers, medical equipment manufacturers, corporations & employees who have stepped up to help during this crisis.

For those who are awaiting diagnostic tests results; for those already diagnosed with COVID-19 that healing will be complete.

For those who are dying and for those who grieve that they may be comforted with a sure and certain knowledge of Resurrection hope.

For all others who suffer from physical, emotional, mental or spiritual distress during this time we pray they may be sustained in love and grace.

For all this, and for whatever else you see that we need – we pray to you, O Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen

