

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent



December 21, 2025
10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

I Wonder as I Wander Handbell Choir
Gramann

arr.

Worship Song

Lord, I Need You

Nockels, Carson, Reeves, Stanfill, Maher

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus 1

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Chorus 2

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Confession

P: Our God is patient, merciful, and filled with grace. God desires to be in an all-embracing relationship with creation, yet we fall short. Let us turn towards God with repentance and confess our sins.

(Sitting, kneeling, or standing as you feel called)

P: Everlasting God, you love justice, and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

C: **O come; o come Emmanuel...**

P: We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty.

C: **O come; o come Emmanuel...**

P: In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.

C: **O come; o come Emmanuel...**

P: Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

C: **Amen.**

P: Our God sent God's Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to embody forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Our Emmanuel was born for you. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **AMEN.**

Prayers of the Church

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

(Refrain)

This Advent season, let us lift our prayers for a hurting world, for your church, and for all in need—kneeling, sitting, or standing.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, you are our hope in a messy and uncertain world. In these Advent days, slow our hurried hearts. Help us listen for your voice and focus on what truly matters. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, we place our hope in you.

You entered our world at Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, reveal your presence wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. Where the world is torn apart, sow your deep and abiding peace.

Let the light of your love shine always in our hearts. As Christmas draws near, we marvel at the depth of your love for us. Transform our lives by that love, and let it touch every person we encounter. Stir your Holy Spirit within and among your church, that we may shine your light to all the world.

And together we sing...

(Refrain)

Emmanuel, God with us,

You heal the sick and give hope to the hopeless. Though we do not command your power, we pray for all who long to be made well. Mend their wounds, soothe their fevers, and make broken people whole again. We remember those on our congregation's prayer list and those we name aloud or in our hearts.

(Pause for congregation)

We lift to you all who grieve and all whose hearts are broken. Your love never fails; you turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us receive your word with believing hearts, so that, trusting your promises, we may be lifted from sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence.

In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in unity, that our praise might echo not only within these walls but throughout our lives. Draw us together in mission, that the hope within us becomes the song we sing. Draw us together in service, that the path we follow may lead us to share our gifts with a hurting world.

As we lift these prayers, keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas and the promise of a Savior. In the name of Jesus Christ, we sing our amen...

(Refrain)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The fourth candle reminds us that God demonstrated His love by sending His Son Jesus to be born in a manger and suffer and die for our sins, so we may live forever with Him.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."- John 3:16

An Advent Devotional Unwrapping the Names of Jesus pg. 88-89

(Children may head out for C&C Kids)



This Week's Story: Jesus is Born!
Icebreaker Question: Are you traveling for Christmas or are you staying home?

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Welcome Home and Announcements *(See back page for additional announcements.)*

THE WORD

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love

Held

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above, Unto which must every knee Bow in deep humility. Jesus! Name decreed of old, to the maiden mother told, Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel. Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen sons of earth For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save." Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below. Jesus! Only name that's given Under all the mighty heaven Whereby man, enslaved, Bursts his fetters and is saved. Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above; Pleading only this, we flee, Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Offertory Response

253 He Came Down (st. 1, 2)

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Statement of Belief

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION

Come to the Table-- Everyone's Invited!

Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!

Words of Institution

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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

OR

Our Father, who is of heaven,
Holy is your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
and deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom
And the power, and the glory
now and forever, Amen.

Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be 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



Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Future/Past

McMillan

Verse 1

You hold the reins on the sun and the moon
Like horses driven by kings
You cover the mountains the valleys below
With the breadth of Your mighty wings

Pre-Chorus

All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
Are hidden inside of Your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be Your friend
You ask me to be Your friend

Chorus

And You You are my first You are my last
You are my future and my past
And You You are my first You are my last
You are my future and my past

Verse 2

The constellations are swimming inside
The breadth of Your desire
Where could I run where could I hide
From your heart's jealous fire

Bridge

You are the beginning and the end
You are the beginning and the end
You are the beginning and the end
You are the beginning and the end

Interlude

Oh oh oh oh
(REPEAT)

The Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting,
peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song Higher

Simpkins

Verse 1

It's harder and harder to walk in this mud
Where I lost everything but my name
Dig me up and out of this mess
Set my feet on solid ground

Pre-Chorus

You alone are worthy
You alone are God
You alone are my refuge
So run, run to me

Chorus

Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is, Your love is

Verse 2

I built this darkness all around
Took my hope and buried it deep
I lost everything you gave me
It wasted me, now I see

The Doxology (sung a capella)

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

Sending

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Pre-Chorus

You alone are worthy
You alone are God
You alone are my refuge
So run, run to me

Chorus

Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is, Your love is

Tag

For I am convinced that there is
Nothing that can separate
From your love, your love, your love
For I am convinced that there is
Nothing that can separate
From your love, your love, your love

Chorus

Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher

Children are invited for music with Mr. Larry in the choir room following worship.