



1537

# ADVENT

A Season of  
Expectation

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Advent



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanymala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239  
804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) [wrcob@wrcob.org](mailto:wrcob@wrcob.org) [www.wrcob.org](http://www.wrcob.org)

## Welcome

## Prelude Duet

## *Sweet Peace of Christmas*

Gregg Sewell

*Sweet Peace of Christmas* by Gregg Sewell  
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# GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

## **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

## \* Advent Candles

## “Give You a Sign”

One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, 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" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

All: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

All: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

\* **Opening Carol**    *Angels We Have Heard on High*    # 249 VT  
(lighting all four of the advent candles)

*Verse 1:*

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Verse 2:*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?

*Refrain*

*Verse 3:*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

*Verse 4:*

See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Time with our Children

#### Special Music    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Traditional

#### Congregational Prayer

**Carol**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

# 252 vt

*Refrain:*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Verse 1:*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

*Verse 2:*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

*Verse 3:*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

**Thoughts on Giving**

Matthew 2:10-12 (*CEB*)

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

**Carol**

*Away in a Manger*

# 257 vt

*Verse 1:*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*Verse 2:*

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

*Verse 3:*

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25 (*CEB*)

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. <sup>20</sup> As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

<sup>23</sup> *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, And they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

### Carol

*The First Noel (vv. 1-2)*

# 250 vt

*Verse 1:*

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay—

in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*Verse 2:*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

**Sermon**

“Family Secret”

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* **Carol**

*Joy to the World*

# 240 VT

*Verse 1:*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

*Verse 2:*

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Verse 3:*

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

*Verse 4:*

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*People, Look East*

traditional French carol

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.  
People, look east; Love, the guest, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers .....</b>	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Terrie Glass
Special Music .....	Zherina Whitten
Children's Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Organist/Pianist .....	Bob Phillips
Dir. of Technology and Media .....	Kevin Beers