

# *First Sunday of Advent*

## *December 1, 2024*



***St Andrew's & Unity Lutheran Church***  
San Mateo & South San Francisco, CA

[www.unityssf.org](http://www.unityssf.org)

[www.standrews.org](http://www.standrews.org)

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Linda Underwood

**Welcome**

Pastor John Kuehner

**Call to Worship**

Choir and/or Handbell Choir

**Advent Hymn** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW 240



- 1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dim - ness. *dim*
- 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dim - ness. *dim*
- 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dim - ness. *dim*
- 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness. *dark*

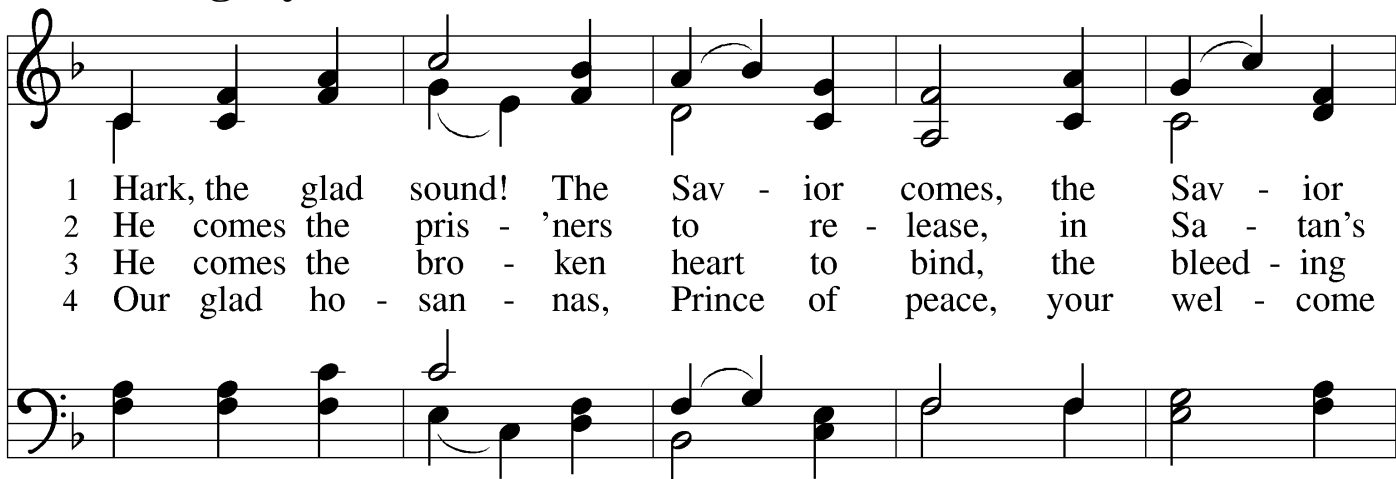


He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

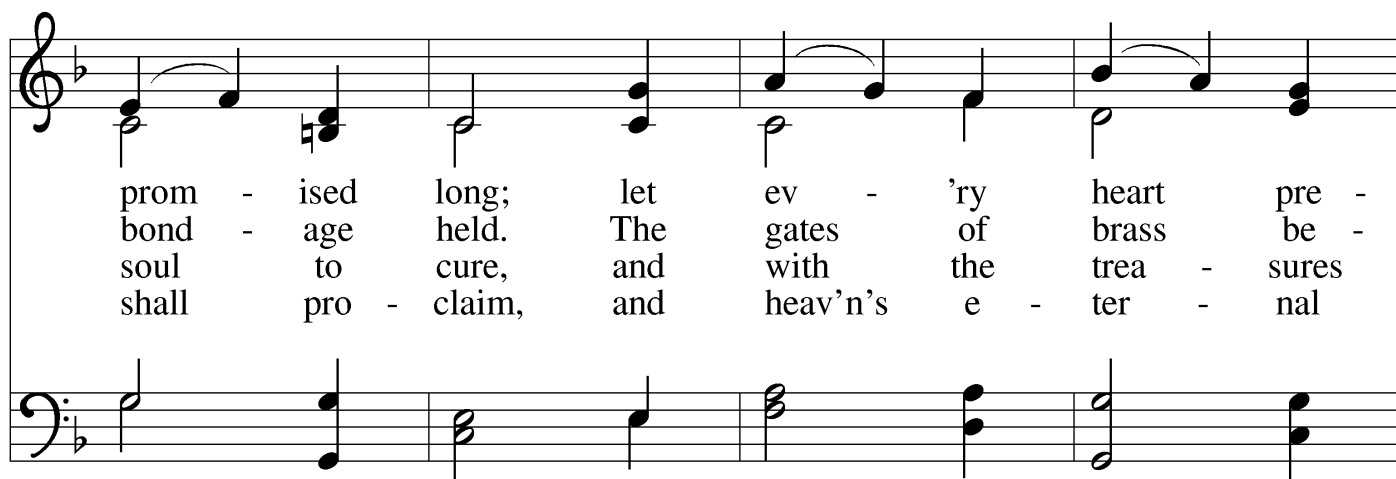
# Gathering Hymn

## *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

# Advent Greeting

P: We wait for the word of the God as we wait for the rains  
C: and our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

## Hymn of Praise - *The Magnificat* – *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

*Refrain*



☐ My soul pro - claims your great-ness, O God,



my spir-it re - joic - es in the love of my Sav - ior.



You have looked with fa - vor on my sim - ple ways,



and I will praise you all of my days.



1 You have called me bless - ed, done great things for me.  
2 You have hum-bled the might - y, scat-tered earth-ly pride.



You have shown your mer - cy, set my spir-it free.  
You have strength-ened your ser-vants, kept us by your side.



You have lift - ed the low - ly, sent the rich a - way.  
You have hon-ored your prom - ise made so long a - go.



You have filled the hun - gry, and ho - ly is your name.  
You have blessed your chil - dren from age to age, and so:

*Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## WORD

### First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

### Call and Response Reading: Psalm Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.  
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## Gospel Verse

P: The Gospel according to Luke

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

## Gospel – Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:]

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Humanity coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap.

For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Humanity.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor John Kuehner

Hymn of the Day

*Come, Thou long Expected Jesus*

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was  
buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right  
hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

*Response to each petition*

**A:** God in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

### **Offering Time and Reflection**





## Offertory Response

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dim streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

## MEAL

### Offertory Prayer

### Holy Communion

P: God be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: And also with you.**

**C: We lift them to God.**

P: Let us give thanks to our God.

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

### Communion Preface | *Words of Thanksgiving*

# Holy, Holy

see screen



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n 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.

## Words of Institution | *Jesus' Invitation*

### Lord's Prayer

see screen

**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.**

# SENDING

## Post Communion Prayer

### Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the dimness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice*

*ELW 244*

*(Turn to final page)*

### Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Linda Underwood



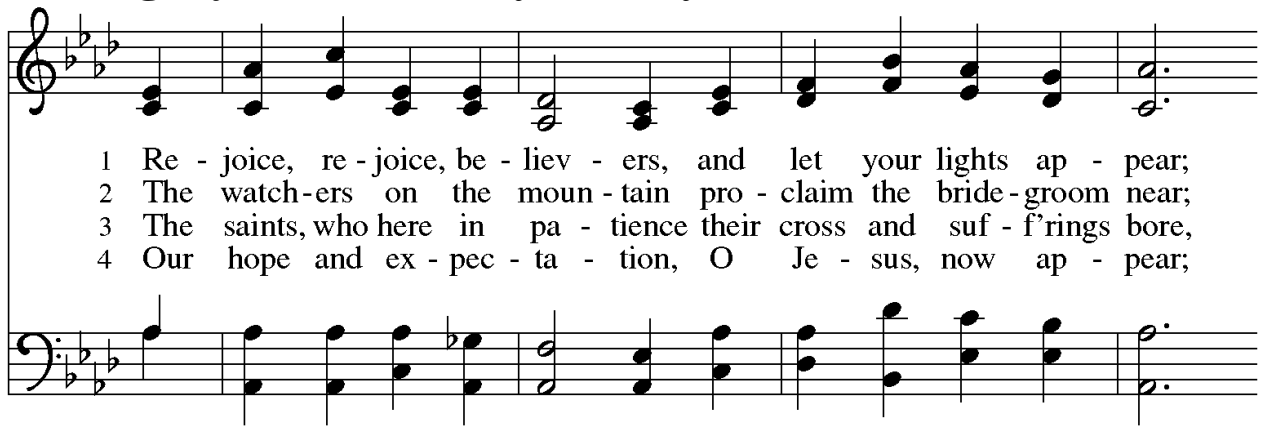
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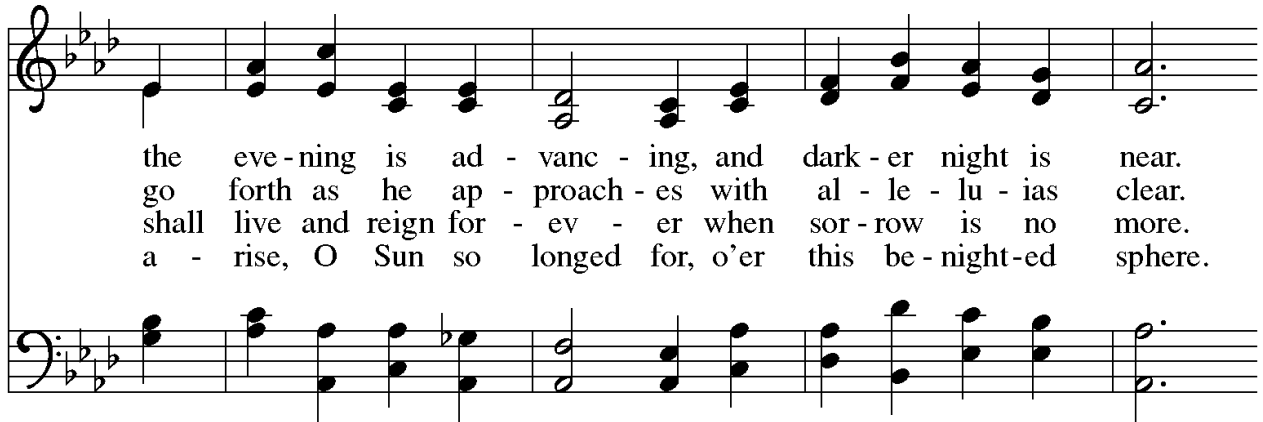
# Sending Hymn

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

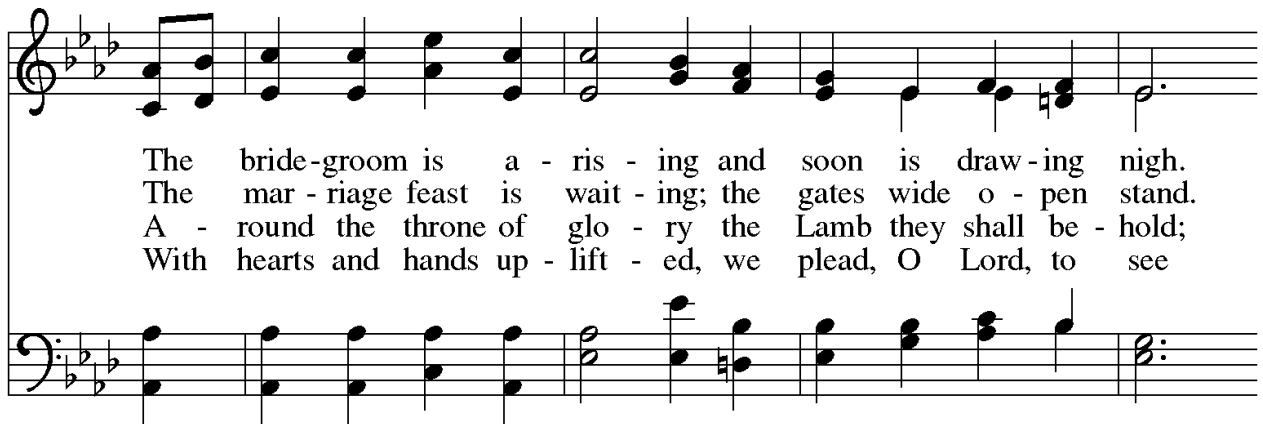
ELW 244



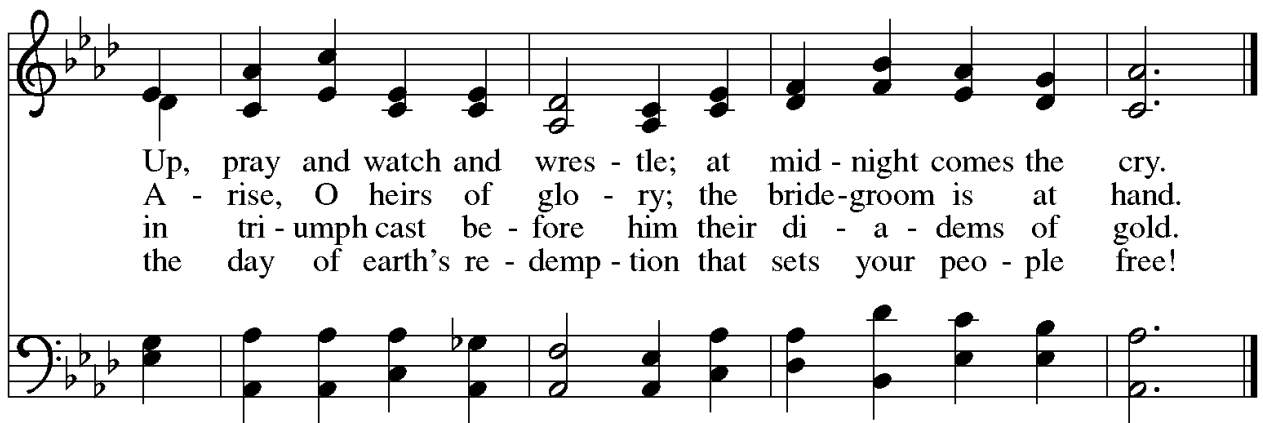
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!