



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

+

+

+

DECEMBER 3, 2025

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

“WELCOMING EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

7:00 PM

Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Improvisation on ‘Now the Heavens Start to Whisper’”

Welsh melody SUO GAN; Organ setting by David Sims

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as you are able

Gathering Litany

The pastor begins

In this Advent season, a voice cries in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

preparing us for the birth of Jesus the Savior of the world.

In this Advent season, we await Emmanuel: God with us.

In a world of isolation and exclusion, competition and fear,

we await Emmanuel: God with us,

who will open our hearts to God and to our neighbor.

In a world that races after money and success,

that hoards and consumes,

we await Emmanuel who will help us share with others,

who will scatter the proud and fill the hungry with good things.

In a world that hides from death by pursuing youth and beauty,

we await Emmanuel who gives us true life amid places of despair and death

so that we might give life and hope to others.

In a world where many live in darkness, war, and destruction,

we await Emmanuel who will guide our feet in the way of peace,

who forgives our sins so that we might forgive others,

who dwells in us so that we might be his light in the darkness.

Lord God, bless our time of Advent watching and waiting.
 Reveal to us your love for this world in Jesus Christ
 and help us to be Christ to others.
 You call all people your children. As we wait, help us to see ourselves and our
 neighbors as beloved members of your holy family.
Amen.

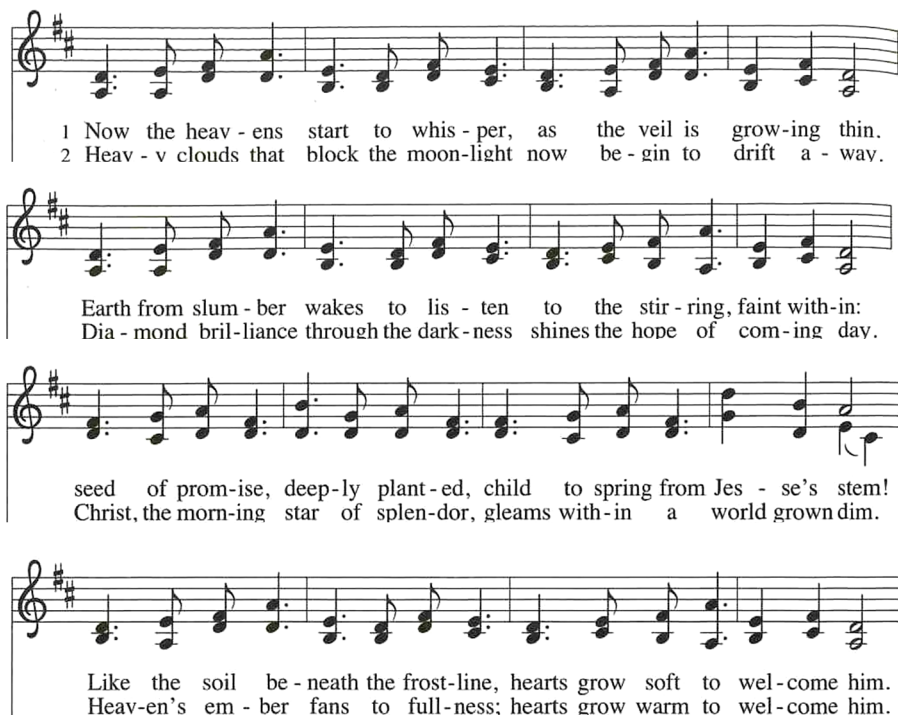
Gathering Hymn

The assembly joins together in the song below.

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” ACS 901 stanzas 1 & 2

SUO GAN

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Welsh melody; arr. Hymnal version © 2020 Augsburg Fortress



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
 2 Heav - v clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.

Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.

seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.

Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.

Thanksgiving for the Family of God

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God,

for you have created humanity in your own image

and breathed into us the breath of life

by which we all become living beings.

You are the God of all nations, welcoming all people,

the hungry, the stranger, the sick and the outcast,

because we are all your children, beloved members of your family.

May Emmanuel, God with us, be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

this we pray through your Son Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Silence

During this time of silence we quiet ourselves, entering into the mystery of God's presence. The beginning and the end of this period of silence is marked with the sound of a bell.

Responsive Reading Isaiah 11:1-5

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist

and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reading Luke 1:30-28

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Advent Reflection

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord"

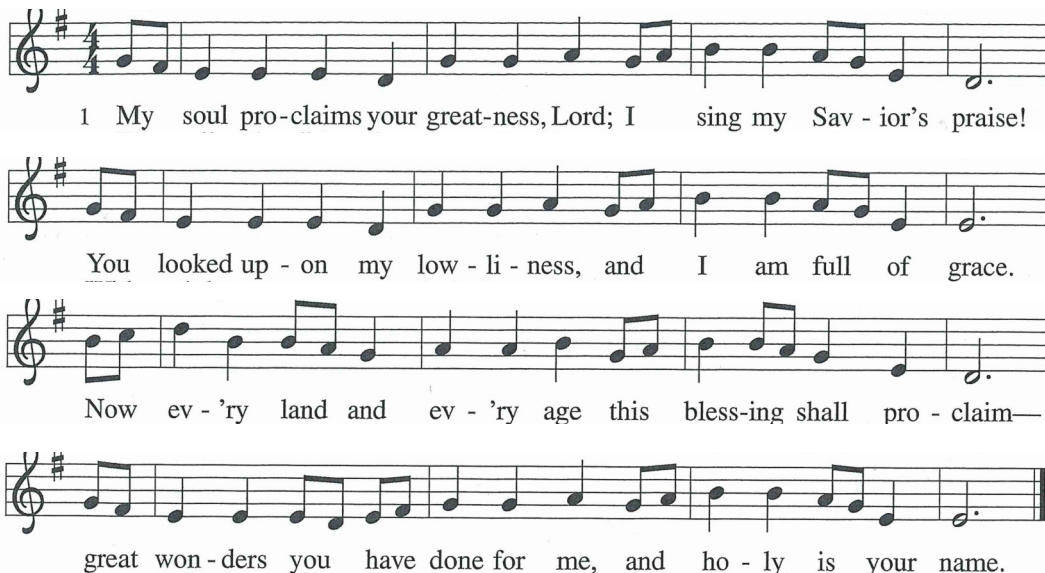
Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Canticle

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW 251 stanza one

KINGSFOLD

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.; Music: Annabeth Gay, b. 1925; T&M © 1971 United Church Press



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

Prayers

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Emmanuel, God with us, for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, all of creation, the church, and the coming of your kingdom.

A brief silence.

O Lord, teach us the faith of Mary who said, "Here am I, a servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." We pray for the church that in all it does it would serve Jesus Christ and rejoice in his love. May we your church embody Christ as servants who help and lift the weak that they might be comforted by you.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord, during Advent grant us a spirit of wisdom and understanding so that we might grasp your great vision of love for this world, which, though greater than us, includes each of us working as your hands and voices in this world.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord, during Advent help us to think of others who are in need, those who face illness, pain, grief, or death. Help us like Mary to have a servant's heart, always responding to the needs of others with mercy and steadfast love for all who suffer.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord, during Advent as we wait, may Emmanuel be with us, helping us to point to you with lives of compassion and charity; may we work for peace and an end to war, and may we be light in the darkness, reflecting your light of divine love for the world.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord, teach us the faith of Mary who said, "he has filled the hungry with good things and rich he has sent away empty." We pray for those who do not have enough, that they would receive what they need, and for those who have more than enough, that they would find joy in sharing from their abundance.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray that all people, made in your image, would be transformed to embody the presence of your Son Jesus, who was born to reveal you as a light to the nations. We offer these prayers in the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come, Jesus Christ, who is bringing in the kingdom of God.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May God's peace attend you this night;
whatever challenges you face, know that you are not alone;
whatever divisions you face, know that you are a child of God;
whatever fears you have, know that you are surrounded by God's family;
May Emmanuel, God with us, bless you;
and may Christ the Prince of Peace grant you peace.

In the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“All Earth Is Hopeful” ELW 266

TODA LA TIERRA

Text: & Music: John Helgen, b. 1957, © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music with lyrics in Spanish and English. The first system has four vocal parts (1-4). The second system continues the melody. The third system includes a repeat sign with first and second endings. The fourth system concludes the hymn.

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.

Dismissal

Go in peace knowing that Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, goes with you.

Thanks be to God.



This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; musician: Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry and Organist

St. Mark's Prayer List

Sandy Rach, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!			
ADVENT AT ST. MARK'S	11 / 30, 12 / 7, 14, 21	Sundays of Advent 8:30 & 10:30 am	
	12 / 3, 10, 17	Advent Midweek Worship 7 pm	
CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S	12 / 24	Christmas Eve	5 pm Family Christmas 8:30 pm Nativity of Our Lord Holy Communion. Music begins at 8 pm
	12 / 28	First Sunday of Christmas 10:30 am only	
	12 / 7	"Lessons and Carols" - 10:30 am Service	
WINTER MUSICAL OFFERINGS	12 / 12	Carolina Pro Musica Christmas Concert 7:30 pm	
	12 / 14	Christmas Soprano Concert 2 pm	
	12 / 21	Queen City Ringers "A Winter Star" 5 pm	

Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator
admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

**Eileen Johnson, Interim Financial
Administrator**
finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org