

ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

“Advent” is our theme for the next two weeks.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: People Look East

Besancon

**People Look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People look east and sing today: Love the Rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.
People look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.**

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

Gathering Prayer

One: We come from a world of darkness.

All: **Into Christ’s world of light.**

One: We come from a world of weariness.

All: **Into God’s strength and hope.**

One: We come from a slumbering world.

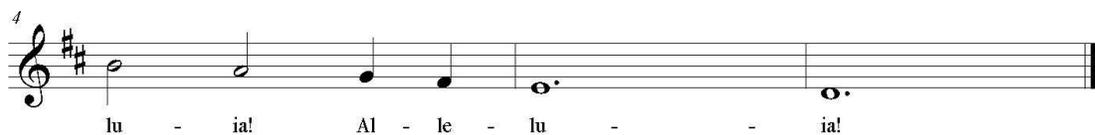
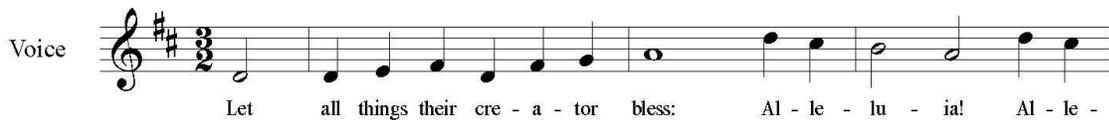
All: **Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and
watch for the coming of Christ.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

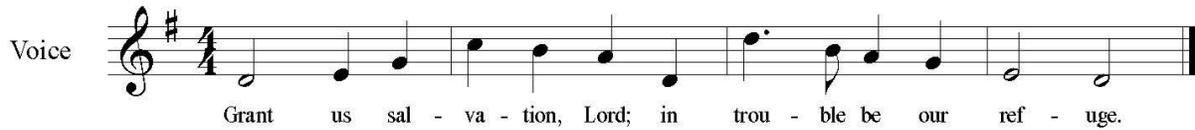
Psalm 4:1-8



Psalm 31:1-5



Psalm 91 1-14



Prayer after the Psalms

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reflection and Response

During our time of Reflection and Response, you are invited to enter into contemplative prayer. You can walk around, light a candle, or do whatever makes you most comfortable.

Gospel Canticle: My Soul Gives Glory to My God Azmon

**My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.**

**My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is his name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

**From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.**

**Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.**

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Emmanuel

McGee

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

Benediction

Erin Racine, Pastor for Spiritual Formation
Matthew Phelps, Minister of Music