

***Love Came Down at Christmas --- Christmas Eve Choral Services
December 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm***

Opening Prayer

Choir: *“He Shall Reign Forevermore”*

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C:** *Amen!*

Opening Hymn: *(Tune 362)*

O Come, O Lord, Come down from heav’n, Bring to us love that’s new
O Come enrich, enlighten us Bind our hearts to what’s true
Bring now Your hope, Your joy, Your Son Pour Your grace over all
Enable us now to receive Freedom from mankind’s fall.

Bring Your love to every nation Bring help to all in need
Come down to Your own creation Come and lead us indeed
Uplift, renew, bring true blessings Grant Your Hope through Your love.
Come into my heart renewing My faith in You above.

Christmas Litany: *(Tune 374)*

P: Gentle Mary laid her child **C:** *Lowly in a manger;*
P: There He lay, the Undefined **C:** *To the world a stranger.*
P: Such a babe in such a place **C:** *Can He be the Savior?*
P: Ask the saved of ev’ry race **C:** *Who have found His favor.*

P: One long promised came to earth **C:** *He came to bring blessings*
P: To all those who’d lost their worth **C:** *By their sin possessing*
P: He came to bring us His love **C:** *To be the One Savior*
P: Born to set His people free **C:** *By His grace and favor!*

Confession and Absolution: *tune 606 (Congregation)*

I lay my sins before You I humbly place before
Your feet all my transgressions Iniquities and more
I know that I’ve offended You in so many ways
I’ve failed to give You honor I’ve failed You ev’ryday.

I know I deserve temp’ral and Eternal judgment
I am heartily sorry and humbly do repent
I pray Your boundless mercy And for our dear Lord’s sake
You will in mercy grant me Forgiveness by Your grace.

(Pastor)

Upon this your confession I Who am called to say
By The loving grace of God For you He's come to save
By His command I tell you, Your sins are now forgiven
In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Christmas Psalm: Psalm 98 (Tune: 361 "O Little Town")

Oh sing to the Lord a new song For marvelous things He's done
His right hand and His holy arm Work'd sal-va-tion for Him
The Lord made known salvation Revealed His righteousness
In the sight of all nations His blessings freely giv'n.

He remembers His steadfast love Faithfulness to His house
All the ends of the earth have seen Salvation of our God
Make joyful noise to our Lord With lyre and melody
With trumpets and the sound of horn Joyful noise for the King

Let the sea roar-- all it contains The world and those who dwell
Let rivers clap their hands to Him The mountains sing for joy
Before the Lord He's coming To judge all humankind
He will judge all in righteousness, And people with fairness.

Give glory to God the Father And glory to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit give All praise and honor too.
As was in the beginning, Is now and ever be.
Our Triune God, the Only One The God we'll ever see! Amen!

Collect: (tune 358 "From Heaven Above")

Dear Father, whose in heav'n above, We ask Your blessing bound in love,
We seek Your guidance and Your care, We call out to You in our prayer.

Bring us Your Spirit and embrace, Each one of us show'r on us grace,
And lead us to give praise to You, And honor You in all we do.

We thank and praise You for this Child, The Christ our Lord "Immanuel"
May we be humble, meek, and mild, Serving You Lord in all we tell;

Through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, Who lives and reigns Who we adore;
And with the Holy Spirit, God, Christ-Child both now and evermore. Amen.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 357 vs. 1, 5, 7

O. T. Lesson: *Isaiah 7: 10-14*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask for a sign of the Lord your God; let it be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And He said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Choir: *“It Was a Starry Night”*

Epistle Lesson: *I John 4: 7-16*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God has been made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

Hymn: *“A Great and Might Wonder”* 383

Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 1: 18-25 “Joseph Told of Jesus”*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name, Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Hymn: *“Joy to the World”* 387 vs. 1-3

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2: 1-7 “Mary Gives Birth”*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn: *“What Child is This?” 370*

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2: 8-14 “Shepherds are Told of His Birth”*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed* (back of Hymnal)

Choir: *“Love Came Down at Christmas”*

Sermon

Offerings brought to the Altar

Prayers **Lord’s Prayer**

Blessing of the Elements

Distribution Hymns: *379, 363*

Closing Litany: *(tune 386)*

P: We give praise for His blessings C: *We honor Him confessing*
P: He is Lord and Christ-Child C: *God’s one and only Child*
P: He was born of Mary C: *He was born “undefiled”*
P: He is Lord our King! C: *He is Lord our King!*

P: He is the Lord the Christ C: *He is the true Messiah*
P: He was born in Beth- le- hem C: *The holy One of promise*
P: Humble He came to the world C: *Yet He was King of earth*
P: He is Lord of all! C: *He is Lord of all!*

Choir: *“Evermore-Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Violinist- Addie Russell*

Benediction: Choir *“Blessing”*

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