



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!
DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 10:00 AM

“WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE, AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU.”

ROMANS 15:7

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ANY AGE, RACE,
NATIONALITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE, AND PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CAPABILITY.

Please silence your cell phones. * Denotes stand. Please note there are cameras at the rear of the worship space. This worship service is being livestreamed to [Facebook.com/gslcwoodstock](https://www.facebook.com/gslcwoodstock).

GATHERING MUSIC

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Alan Boda, Violin

GATHERING/WELCOME

*GATHERING HYMN

“What Child Is This?”

ELW #296

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,

the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH-ADVENT 4 LOVE

- ☐ Advent is a time to celebrate God's love.
- ☒ God's love is pure.
- ☐ We celebrate by loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- ☒ God's love is everlasting.
- ☐ We celebrate by loving the Lord our God with all our hearts.
- ☒ God's love is all-powerful.
- ☐ We celebrate by spreading God's love to a world in need.
- ☒ God's love is freely given to all.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- ☐ Today we light four candles – the candle of hope, the candle of peace, the candle of joy, and the candle of love. The light of this fourth candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, and that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life. And God did not send his Son to condemn the world, but to love the world, and to set it free.

PRAYER

- ☐ Gracious God, as we ponder your great and eternal love, we think of our own limited understanding. We think of the words of Nelson Mandela: “People must learn to hate, and if they learn to hate, they can be taught to love.” Teach us to love as you have loved, and help us learn to share that love with the world around us. ☑ **Amen.**

SERVICE OF LIGHT

“HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER” liturgy booklet pgs. 2-4

PSALM 141

“HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER” liturgy booklet pgs. 4-8

TODAY’S READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, AND MEDITATION

Pastor Karen Boda

- ☐ The Light Shines in the darkness ☑ **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

THE ANNUNCIATION and MAGNIFICAT

“HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER” liturgy booklet pgs. 8-9

LITANY AND PRAYERS

“HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER” liturgy booklet pgs. 10-11

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD’S PRAYER

- ☑ 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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- ☐ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. ☑ **Amen.**

*FINAL BLESSING

“HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER” liturgy booklet pg. 12

SENDING MUSIC

Pam Weinelt

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We are called, gathered and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time?

WE WELCOME YOU!

Come worship with us tonight as we celebrate the birth of the newborn Savior!

Traditional Candle-light Service 4 & 9 PM | Praise Candle-light Service 7 PM

Christmas Day | Lessons & Carols | Come as you are. | 10 AM

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