



What do
you fear?

IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE
LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on I Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Gathering Music

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”
GBC Worship Band

FESTAL SONG
Words by Paul Gerhardt
trans. John Welsh (alt.)
Music by William H. Walter

“Fear Not”

Words and Music by Ellie Holcomb
and Nathan Dugger

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
Words and Music by Bernadette Farrell

“Wait for It”

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2017

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Pam Weis

Traditional German Carol
arr. Pepper Choplin

Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

†Call to Worship

One: On Sundays and Mondays,

All: on good days and bad days,

One: early in the morning and very late at night,

**All: here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.**

One: Meet us in this space.

All: Surprise us with your presence.

One: Fill this room with your good news.

All: With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Keith Vaughn and Walker Alston

†Opening Carol #244 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL
Words by Charles Wesley
Music by Rowland H. Prichard arr. Robert Harkness

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Children's Sermon

April Alston

†Centering Song #250 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Stanza 1)

ST. LOUIS
Words by Phillips Brooks
Music by Lewis H. Redner

**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 dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

Pastoral Prayer

Christian McIvor

Giving Moment

Bo Prosser

Offertory Anthem

“Heaven's Song”
The GraceTones

Words by Pepper Choplin

There's a place in every heart never filled by things of earth.
In every soul there is a part that longs to hear what can't be heard.

Far away, yet ever near, there's a tune that's playing now.
Though not heard by human ear, open hearts can feel its power.

People search for happiness, with cluttered lives they travel on.
Still they hold an emptiness, only touched by heaven's song.

Refrain:

Heaven's song, heaven's song, Spirit sing it clear and strong

'Til our emptiness is gone away.

Spirit breathe, sing it clear. Quench our yearning and our fear

'Til our emptiness is gone. Touch our hearts with heaven's song.

No composer has begun to craft the beauty of its tune.

All the music ever sung is just an echo of its truth.

Still we sing, still we pray, for we know the music comes

And the open hear can hear all the joy of heaven's song. (Refrain)

†Doxology for Advent

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise Christ, all people here below;

praise Holy Spirit evermore;

praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

VENI EMMANUEL
Words by Thomas Ken
15th Century French Melody

†Prayer of Dedication

Sandra Hunt

Scripture

Luke 1:5-13

Lou Dawson

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hope: God Breaks In

Bo Prosser

†Carol #245

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL
Latin Hymn trans. John M. Neale
and Henry S. Coffin (alt.)
Music Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore (alt.)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show;
and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

Celebrating Community

Steve Rose

†Benediction

Bo Prosser

†Sending Song

"What Do You Fear?"
(Excerpt - see insert for notated lead sheet)

Words and Music
by Christian McIvor ©2025

In times of doubt and worry, there's a longing in the soul;
We hold tight to our deepest aches and things we can't control.
But if we stop to listen and face what lies within,
Resilient hope will lift our hearts to find God breaking in.

In this uncertain world, we're asked each day, "What do you fear?"
The answers move us closer to our God, who's always near.
With courage, trust, and action, we'll live into our call;
Through darkness, we'll cry, "Here I am!" to share the light with all.

Postlude

"Let All Things Now Living"
Susan Gardner

ASH GROVE
Traditional Welsh Melody

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