

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

December 24, 2021

4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 PM

### The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve



## PRELUDE

**Kountze Brass** (4:00 pm, 7:00 pm)  
Scott Quackenbush, Jaime Tyser, *trumpet*  
Jason Stromquist, Jay Wise, *trombone*

**Cellist** (11:00 pm)  
Samuel Pierce-Ruhland

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all earth.
- G** **Amen.**
- P** In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

- P** Holy God,
- G** **we confess our sin before you.**  
**We replace compassion with competition.**  
**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**  
**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**  
**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**  
**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**  
**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**  
**that all we do, in word or deed,**  
**may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**
- P** I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.
- G** **Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN***“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”***ELW 283 vs. 1-3**

**1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:**

**2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

*Refrain*

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain***

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786;  
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

- ☐** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑** And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***ELW 270**

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

*Refrain*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Almighty God,

**C** you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9:2,4-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

**T**he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 96** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
will judge the peoples with equity.”**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
**and the peoples with your truth.**

## SECOND READING

**Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

**T**he grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

**ELW 257 vs. 5**

**5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord!

## THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

**I**n those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "*Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.*" <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "*Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.*" <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

### CHILDREN'S BLESSING (4:00 pm)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward. Then, they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

- 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

*(stand)*

### THE NICENE CREED

**P** With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

*(continued on next page)*

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response:   **℟** Merciful God,  
                  **☩** receive our prayer.

## **THE CHRISTMAS PEACE IS SHARED**

**℟** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**☩** And also with you.



# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**4:00 pm**

*“Coventry Carol”*

Stephanie Ann Stephens, *soloist*

**7:00 pm Kountze Choir**

*“Let There Be Christmas”*

Joseph M. Martin

Let there be music. Let there be praise. Let there be singing to fill ev’ry space.  
Let there be starshine, dazzling and white.  
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Let there be carols. Let there be song. Let there be angels to sing loud and strong.  
Let there be candles, gentle and bright.  
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Christmas, come now, and fill us with love.  
Bring your Spirit of grace from above. Christmas, come let our hope be restored.  
Bring us news that a Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!  
Oh, let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Let there be glory. Let there be peace. Let there be promise. Let justice increase.  
Heaven has spoken, “Let there be Light!”  
Come, all ye faithful. Let there be Christmas tonight.  
Let there be music. Let there be worship. Let there be singing.

Let there be Christmas tonight.  
Come to the manger. Kneel and adore Him.  
O let there be Christmas tonight. Silent night.

**11:00 pm**

*Suite Française: Bourrée d’Avergne*

by Paul Bazelaire  
Samuel Pierce-Ruhland, *cello*  
Mark Jones, *piano*

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

ELW 279 vs 1 & 4

**1** 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.

**4** O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Gracious God,

**G** your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

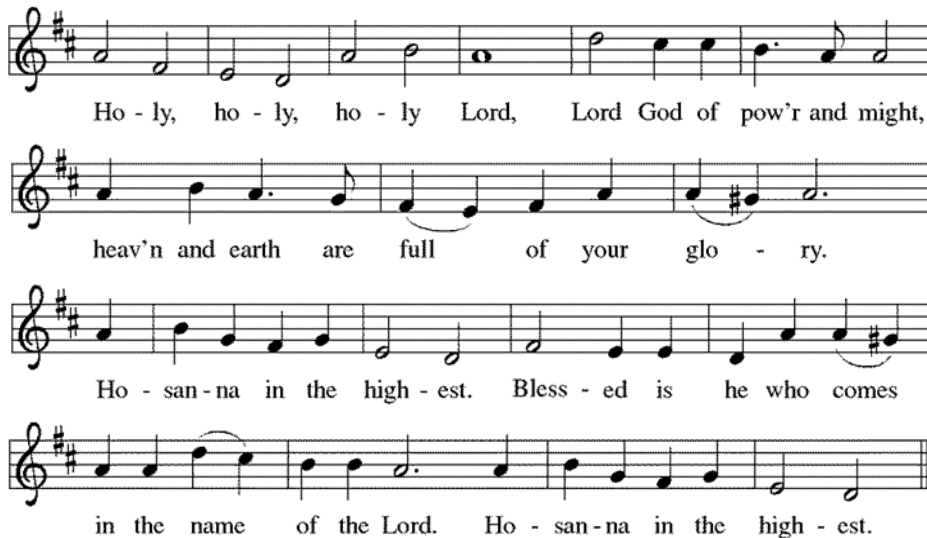
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

- It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

tune of "Away in a Manger" ELW 277

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your Name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same  
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:  
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;  
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.  
To you be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
- ☑ **come, see what God makes known for you.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.*

(sit)

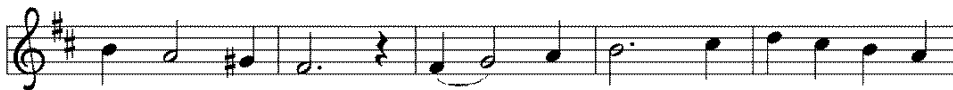
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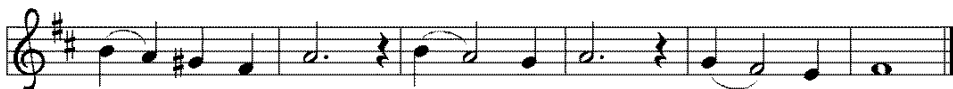
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**1** What feast of love is offered here,  
 what banquet come from heaven?  
 What food of everlasting life,  
 what gracious gift is given?  
 This, this is Christ the king,  
 the bread come down from heaven.  
 Oh, taste and see and sing!  
 How sweet the manna given!

**2** What light of truth is offered here,  
 what covenant from heaven?  
 What hope of everlasting life,  
 what wondrous word is given?  
 This, this is Christ the king,  
 the sun come down from heaven.  
 Oh, see and hear and sing!  
 The Word of God is given!

**3** What wine of love is offered here,  
 what crimson drink from heaven?  
 What stream of everlasting life,  
 what precious blood is given?  
 This, this is Christ the king,  
 the sweetest wine of heaven.  
 Oh, taste and see and sing!  
 The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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*"Away In a Manger"*

ELW 278

**1** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
 the little Lord Jesus  
 laid down his sweet head;  
 the stars in the bright sky  
 looked down where he lay,  
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**2** The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
 but little Lord Jesus,  
 no crying he makes.  
 I love you, Lord Jesus;  
 look down from the sky  
 and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

**3** Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
 close by me forever  
 and love me, I pray.  
 Bless all the dear children  
 in your tender care  
 and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

- 1 **Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
and come your lowly bed to see;  
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
that we the way to you may find.**
- 2 **With songs we hasten you to greet,  
and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.**
- 3 **Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
and to us all your grace accord;  
true faith and love to us impart,  
that we may hold you in our heart.**
- 4 **Until at last we too proclaim,  
with all your saints, your glorious name;  
in paradise our songs renew,  
and praise you as the angels do.**

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764;  
tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

*(stand)*

## BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,  
☞ **God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING *(7:00 pm & 11:00 pm)*

## HYMN

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

ELW 281

- 1 **Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2 **Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**
- 3 **Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Al-le-lu-ia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849;  
John F. Young, 1820-1885

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia!
- G** Alleluia! To us is born a Savior, Jesus Christ! Alleluia!

*The Gospel is read.*

## THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

**John 1:1-5, 9-14**

*The congregation will stand and face the reader as the Gospel is read from the center of the nave. Listen in wonder and awe.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** And also with you.
- P** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we will walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

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# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Joy to the World”*

**ELW 267 vs. 1,2,4**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!</b><br/>Let earth receive her king;<br/>let ev'ry heart<br/>prepare him room<br/>and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> | <p><b>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!</b><br/>Let all their songs employ,<br/>while fields and floods,<br/>rocks, hills, and plains<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> |
| <p><b>4 He rules the world with truth and grace<br/>and makes the nations prove<br/>the glories of his righteousness<br/>and wonders of his love,<br/>and wonders of his love,<br/>and wonders, wonders of his love.</b></p>             |   |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Glory to God in the highest!      ☑ **Peace to God's people on earth!**  
☐ Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.      ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**Kountze Brass** (4:00 pm, 7:00 pm)  
Scott Quackenbush, Jaime Tyser, *trumpet*  
Jason Stromquist, Jay Wise, *trombone*

**Cellist** (11:00 pm)  
Samuel Pierce-Ruhland

