

Sunday, July 19, 2026
Christmas in July

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music O Come O Come (VU 1)

Lifting the Water

Introit **Spirit of the Living God** (Voices United 376)

Words v.1: Daniel Iverson 1926, v.2: Michael Baughen 1982

Music: Daniel Iverson 1926, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987

Words (v.1) and Music © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music

Words(v.2) © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.

- 1 Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me,
fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love:
humble, caring,
selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

God of angels and shepherds,
we look for you among us.

**God of Love and Wonder,
this candlelight reminds us that you are here!**

Creator God, let us find you in each other
and in the stars.

Hymn **Hope is a Star** (Voices United 7)

Words: Brian Wren; Music: John Collier Fogg

Words and Music copyright 1989 Hope publishing Company

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.

- 1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

- 2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. *Refrain*
- 3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. *Refrain*
- 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. *Refrain*

Morning Prayer and Solo 'O Holy Night' (VU 43)

Adolphe Adam

A Time to Wonder

Scripture Readings

Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 2:7-16

Choral Response

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

(46 Voices United v2)

Words: Joseph Simpson Cook 1919

Music: Alta Lind Cook, arr. Scott Wilkinson

Harmony Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE: License # A-605244

Copyright Cleared Music for Churches. All rights reserved.

Angels sang about his birth,
wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth,
glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night,
all the hills were ringing.

Reflection 'The Work and Blessings of Christmas'

Hymn of the Day **When We Seek Language**
(More Voices 49)

*Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 2005; Music: Carl F. Schalk, 2006
Words © 2005 and music © 2006 Hope Publishing Company.
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

- 1 When we seek language to praise you, O God,
all we can utter seems stale, tame or odd.
Tongue-tied and word-lost, we struggle to find
phrases that slight neither heart, soul, nor mind:
Infinite intimate unbounded friend,
cosmic companion who loves without end,
nearer than heartbeat, more subtle than breath,
keener than insight, and stronger than death.
- 2 Steadfastly loving, you gave us your Word,
living among us on earth, seen and heard,
teacher and healer whose promise came true,
dying and rising to make all things new:
Infinite intimate unbounded friend,
cosmic companion who loves without end,
nearer than heartbeat, more subtle than breath,
keener than insight, and stronger than death.
- 3 To be our guardian, supporter, and guide,
you sent your Spirit to stay by our side,
source of community, wellspring of prayer,
power to strengthen, and courage to dare:
Infinite intimate unbounded friend,
cosmic companion who loves without end,
nearer than heartbeat, more subtle than breath,
keener than insight, and stronger than death.

Invitation to Offering

Offering Music Advent Medley Excerpt
Arr. Marilynn Ham

Offering Response **In the Bleak Midwinter** (Voices United 55)

*Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872
Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906*

- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Offering Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers with **Joy to the World** (Voices United 59)

*Words: Isaac Watts 1791, alt.
Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742, arr. Lowell Mason 1836
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Our Father / Mother, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as 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,
for ever and ever.
Joy to the world! AMEN.**

Parting Hymn Go, Tell it on the Mountain (Voices United 43)

Words: John Wesley Work II 1907

Music: African American spiritual 19th century, arr. United Reformed Church (U.K.)

Arrangement Copyright © United Reformed Church. Used by permission.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.

Refrain Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. ***Refrain***
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! ***Refrain***
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. ***Refrain***

Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

G.F. Handel, Arr. by Marilyn L Thompson

Worship Leadership – Rev. Hilde J. Seal
Music Leadership – Karen Shumka
Solo Performance – Erich Schulz
Welcoming and Announcements – Stephen Godfrey
Morning Prayer and Scripture – Arlene Box
Greeters – Sue Christensen and Jocelyn Jones
Technical Support – Sam Boehner and Louise Johnston
Fellowship Time – Ethel Wilson Women's Group