

OFFERTORY *There Is No Rose* arr. Ian Higginson
The First Church Choir

†DOXOLOGY
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here
below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy
Ghost. Amen.

†OFFERTORY PRAYER
Generous God, we rejoice in your endless capacity to fulfill the desires of those
who hunger and to satisfy the hearts of those who are in need. Receive the gifts
we offer and multiply them. May they signal your coming kingdom. Amen.

†HYMN 140 [*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*](#) AURELIA

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Rejoice! Rejoice!* VENI EMMANUEL
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* David Paxton

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025
10 o'clock

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation

PRELUDE

Magnificat I: My Soul Magnifies the Lord, Op. 18
Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn
(O Thou of God the Father)

Marcel Dupré
Johann Walther

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Julia Rosa

One: During the season of Advent, we anticipate Emmanuel – God with us. We watch and wait, trusting that God has promised salvation to all who walk in the light.

All: This morning, we kindle the third candle to remind us that weeping may linger for the night, but JOY comes with the morning.

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

God, our redeemer, you release us from the prison of selfishness and lead us into the promised land of blessing and joy. Thank you for sending your beloved Son and our Savior – long-expected Jesus – to set your people free. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128)

[One Candle Is Lit \(verse 3\)](#)

CRADLE SONG

Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high and thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

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†CALL TO WORSHIP

Court Lewis

One: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say, Rejoice!

Many: We will rejoice in the Lord, for our salvation is near.

One: Be encouraged, for the Christ-child is coming!

Many: Let us worship the one who reveals God’s love for us.

One: God is making a highway for us to walk in freedom.

Many: Let us walk with God toward hope, peace, and joy!

†HYMN 119

[O Come, O Come, Emmanuel](#)

VENI EMMANUEL

† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

†OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you break into our busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Kindle our imaginations with holy trust in your goodness. Inspire us with the kind of patience that sees beyond our usual longing. Move us beyond our familiar criticism of one another and of ourselves. Open our eyes to see your compassion at work in the world: healing, strengthening, and telling the good news of your great love. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose nearness we proclaim. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

[Gabriel’s Message](#)

arr. David Willcocks

The First Church Choir, Liz Oman-Wilfrid, Ben Cantor, soloists

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Isaiah 35:1-10 \(OT p. 811-812\)](#)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134)

[Emmanuel, Emmanuel](#)

MCGEE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

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SERMON

[The Fabric Sermons \(2 of 2\): Joy Like Pink Cashmere](#)

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 135

[Blessed Be the God of Israel](#)

MERLE’S TUNE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

With patience and perseverance, we wait for the coming of God’s kingdom and we work to make God’s kingdom known. The gifts we offer this morning reflect our trust in God, who promises to provide more than we can imagine.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!