

PRELUDE

Selections

The Quiet City Brass Quintet

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, VENI EMMANUEL Arr. by Karissa Dennis

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Maria Soaft and Miles Lawrence

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 fourth candle to remind us that LOVE is a flame that burns in our hearts – love lives in us!**

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

UNISON PRAYER

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to care for each other and how to reflect your love for the world. Creator God, who separated the light from the darkness on the first day, come into the midst of darkness this day. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128)

[One Candle Is Lit \(verse 4\)](#)

CRADLE SONG

**Come wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes.
One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.**

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†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dawne Quinn

One: We lay our burdens before you, O God.

Many: **with readiness to receive your light and your love.**

One: Lead us toward your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel,

Many: **as we continue to walk with you in faith.**

One: Thank you, O God, for the many signs of your love, sent in your infinite wisdom.

Many: **May we follow the example of Mary and Joseph, and may we be your angels, eager for the entry of your light once again.**

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

†HYMN 148

[O Come, All Ye Faithful](#)

ADESTE FIDELES

†OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, you offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago – signs that their child would be the Messiah. May the spirit of wisdom visit us, that we might understand the signs of salvation in our lives. We come with open hearts and minds to experience the sacred story of love coming into the world. O God, bless our final preparations to receive your presence! Amen.

ANTHEM

A Christmas Tapestry

Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

PASTORAL PREAMBLE

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM: A CHRISTMAS STORY (See insert, view the monitor)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

God gives us responsibilities in the church and in the world to carry good news; to build and not destroy; to feed those who are hungry and shelter those who have no home; to be faithful in all things.

OFFERTORY

Gloria

Hyun Kook

The First Church Choir

†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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†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of Heaven, accept these gifts from our hearts, that they may reflect your great love for humankind. As the light of Christ shines upon us, we rejoice in the opportunity to share our abundance with others. Bless these offerings in the holy name of Emmanuel. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!

†INTERLUDE

Selection

The Quiet City Brass Quintet

(Please come forward using the side doors if you wish to join in the Hallelujah Chorus.)

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

The Hallelujah Chorus

The First Church Choir, Quiet City Brass Quintet, & congregation

POSTLUDE

Selection

The Quiet City Brass Quinte

G. F. Handel

t

John Charles Thomas, Michael Flynt, trumpets

Robert Hoyle, horn

Scott Cranston, trombone

Stephen Perry, tuba

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

10 o'clock

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor

Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts

Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation



The poinsettias were given by...

Tandy Jarvis in loving memory of **Grace Medlin Elsey.**

Julia Rosa and Family in loving memory of **Domenic Rosa.**

Matt, Sadie, and Melinda Dore Asensio in loving memory of **Pete Asensio (a much loved father, father-in-law, and grandfather)**

Matt, Sadie, and Melinda Dore Asensio in loving memory of **Linda Dore (a much loved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother)**

Barbara Laurain and David Simpson in loving memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Simpson.**

Diane and Larry Bohman in honor of **Marie Feiske and Gaye Feiske Hart.**

Jim and Liz Kuhn in honor of **Rev. Fredd (We are thankful for Rev Fredd!)**

Nancy in loving memory of **Ethel & John Woodworth; Beatrice, Elizabeth, & D.A. Ferguson; The Reverend Jim Blanning; and The Reverend John P. Webster.**

Kathi and Jim Boratko in loving memory of **Mildred Boratko and Jane Sabatelli.**

Beverly and Paul Truebig in loving memory of **Sue and Dale Wolfe.**



The Christmas wreaths adorning our entryways were given by...

Tandy Jarvis in loving memory of **Tandy Shad Medlin.**

The Lorenzo Family in loving memory of Tom's Dad and Brothers: **Joseph A. Lorenzo, Joseph A. Lorenzo Jr., and Nicholas P. Lorenzo.**

Kathi and Jim Boratko in loving memory of **Joan Arman**

Carolyn V. Lind in loving memory of **Peter Lind.**



The following donations were made to the Organ and Carillon Reserve Fund by...

Tandy Jarvis in loving memory of **Josephine Riley Medlin.**

Ginny and Bob Vocelli in loving memory of niece, **Stephanie Sharifi.**

Barbara Laurain and David Simpson in loving memory of **Kristine M. Simpson.**

Diane and Larry Bohman in loving memory of **Marge and Frank E. Bohman.**

Kathi and Jim Boratko in loving memory of **John Boratko.**

Nancy and Bob Ball in loving memory of **John and Dorothy McClelland & George and Helen Ball.**

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM: A CHRISTMAS STORY

Mary and Joseph

[Carol 144](#) [O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1 & 2](#)

ST. LOUIS

The Animals

[Carol 162](#) [What Child Is This, v. 1 & 2](#)

GREENSLEEVES

The Angels

[Carol 150](#) [Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, v.1 & 2](#)

MENDELSSOHN

The Shepherds

[Carol 167](#) [Go, Tell It on the Mountain, v. 1-3](#)

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Wise Ones

[Carol 172](#) [We Three Kings, v. 1 & 5](#)

KINGS OF ORIENT

Conclusion

[Carol 155](#) [Angels We Have Heard on High](#)

GLORIA