



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 21, 2025

PRELUDE

“What Child is This?” (Terry Osman)
“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” (Terry Osman)

INTROIT

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

PRELUDE

“Sussex Carol”
(Lani Smith)

OPENING PRAYER

Emmanuel, God with us,
you folded your infinity into an infant’s body
to share in human life.
Hold us as close as Mary, your mother, held you.
Whenever we struggle to love others
or love ourselves,
help us to feel your presence
and assurance that we are all
fearfully and wonderfully made in your love. Amen.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Anderberg family

One: Let us pray together:
**Lord, we prepare the way for your coming.
Shower us with love in these advent days,
as we await the appearance of Emmanuel, God with us.
Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“A Christmas Hymn”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of our souls,
we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready.
We have done too much, and not done enough.
We have focused too much on ourselves,
and not enough on others.
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine,
that we might be saved through grace.

We pray in name of Emmanuel,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*RESPONSE

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo”

*PASSING THE PEACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“The Hands that First Held Mary’s Child”
(Dan Forrest)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our joy and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your love fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible pg. 889)

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Love has Come”

MESSAGE

God with Us: “Why Shepherds?”

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“King of Kings”

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Mary had a Baby”
(William Dawson)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” (#271 vs. 1-3)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(Joel Raney)