



ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 21, 2025
Order of Service
for the Worship of God

The Fourth Sunday of Advent *Mary is Everyone: A New Song of Liberation* “Birthing the Light”

Gathering Music

Daniel Self, Music Director

Choral Introit

Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord

Stephen Schwartz

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel

Centering Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

(Revised with lyrics for Palestine)

*O come, o King of Peace and Justice, break
All weapons down, and from them ploughshares make.
Let all tears dry, all peoples respond:
“We are each other’s magnitude and bond.”*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! God’s justice is at hand
To liberate the people and the land.*

Call to Worship

Brett T-L, Liturgist

(responsive)

Blessed are those who carry the promise of Christ.
Blessed are those through whom miracles are born.
Holy are the messengers that point us toward God.
Holy are the prophets who call us to account.
With hope and anticipation, we await the birth of Christ.
Eager and expecting, we tend and prepare.
Come, Holy One, and make your home with us.
Come, Love, and let us build the world anew.

Opening Song

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness Bernadette Farrell (music at end)

Advent Candlelighting

Special Music

Christmas Lullaby

Jason Robert Brown, from *Songs for a New World*
Alki UCC Community Choir

Scriptures

Psalm 80: 1-7; 17-19

reimagined by Nan C Merrill in *Psalms for Praying*.

Eternal Listener, give heed to your people, You, who are our Guide and our Light! You, who dwell amidst the angels, shine forth into the heart of all nations! Enliven your people with compassion that peace and justice might flourish. Restore us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us to love! Gentle Teacher, help us to turn to You in prayer, fasting from our negative thoughts. In your steadfast Love, You weep with our tears, tears that rise from fear, doubt, and illusion. You uphold us when we feel the sting of pride, when our anxiety threatens to paralyze us.

Restore us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us to love! May those who have borne the fruit of love radiate your Spirit into the world! May we always walk and co-create with You; Receive the gratitude of our hearts, as we share in the Great Plan! Restore us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us to love!

Matthew 1:18-25

NRSVue

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

Quiet Meditation

Song

#168, O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

Prayers of the People

Time, Talent & Treasure

Mission Updates

Offering Invitation

Online: Please donate generously through alkiucc.org or through a mailed donation to the church office. Your support for Alki UCC is more important than ever.

Offertory *Unexpected Grace* David Lantz Alki UCC Community Choir

Doxology for Advent Sung to tune of *What Child is This?* (music at end)

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Song

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (Christmas Version)

Come now see the God of Heaven
In a lowly manger laid
There with Mary in a stable,
Born a poor, powerless babe
Oh the myst'ry, oh the wonder
Somehow God is one of us
Such is greatness in the kingdom
he descended to our dust

Christ the Word, holy expression
Of the humbleness of God
Herald of a prideless kindom
One of sacrificial love
Mighty One who made the heavens
Knelt to wash his siblings feet
And the earth that he created
he bestowed unto the meek

Come now church, let us adore him
Tune your heart to sing God's grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Raise your voice this Christmas season
Singing songs of peace and love.

Benediction

Postlude

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Liturgy adapted from enfolded:
spiritual nourishment for collective liberation
Order of Worship Subject to Change
Music Covered by One License.net #A-7 10529
Image: *Insurgent Peasants* by Stefan Luchian
Portions of today's service recorded
for Alki CC's YouTube Channel

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Advent Doxology

(to the tune of What Child Is This)

Traditional



Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.