

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

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**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Cantata

December 18, 2022

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Whoever you are, wherever you are, come!

People: **We come ready to share God's love with the world.**

Leader: How do we respond to God's love? In the Bible, God's love is often shared through song.

People: **Music plays an important role in our faith. Some of those songs are joyful, others are lamentations. All of them guide us to God.**

Prelude

Veni Emmanuel

Richard Purvis

Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
 2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

*Lighting the Advent Candle

The Dennis Family

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you love the world so much, that you gave us your only Son. We now prepare to welcome that Son into our lives. This is how the world will know that we follow him; by how we love each other. Let all that we do be in done in love. Help us to love all of your children, even our enemies. Help us to love the way that you first loved us; unconditionally. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Christmas Lullaby

arr. Albin C. Whitworth

*Offertory Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

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

Let the Whole World Sing

by Joel Raney

Let the Whole World Sing

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
Angels We Have Heard on High

Come, Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

In the Bleak Midwinter

Still, Still, Still

Christ Is Born, Sing Noel!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Rise Up, Shepherd

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Silent Night

Hear the News of Christmas

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child
O Come, All Ye Faithful

Let the Whole World Sing (Reprise)

Chorus

All Hail, King Jesus

(sing twice)

All Hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel,
King of kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises,
And I'll reign with You throughout eternity.

Postlude

Finale in D Major

John Ernst Eberlyn

* **Holiday Worship Schedule:**

- Christmas Eve:
 - 5 PM (Contemporary Candlelight Service in Great Hall)
 - 7 PM (Traditional Candlelight Service in Sanctuary with *Acolytes Circle of Light*)
 - 11 PM (Traditional Candlelight Service in Sanctuary)
- Christmas Day and New Year's Day: 10 AM in the Sanctuary (*On Christmas Day, remember to wear your Christmas PJs and/or ugly Christmas sweaters!*)

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CCLI: CSPL099122

Our Cantata Choir

Soprano

Linda Babcock
Lynn Caterson
Niki Giberson
Jean Killian
Carole Lyons
Kileen McNeill
Patti Dee McNeill
Sue Reitmeyer

Alto

Bette Alsobrook
Sue Brownhill
Jan Cobb
Susan Hackett
Naamah Leary
Carol McMahon
Diane Miller
Freida Riblet
Sharon Wilson

Tenor

Jim Caterson
David Cobb
Jack Cobb
Jim Keeping
Ernie Roberts

Bass

Jim Daly
Ray Glanville
Brian Southrey

Narrator: Reverend Dave Ledford

Piano: Priscilla Cunningham

Violin: Susan Elsayed / **Drums:** Adrian Padayhay



Our Cantata is in memory of John and Valerie Civera and their son Johnny, with gratitude for their generous contribution to the music program of our church.

Our Cantata flowers are donated by Priscilla in honor of the choir who have worked long, hard hours to present this Cantata.