

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— YOU ARE A BLESSING —

*welcome*

lake harriet  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Walking Together the  
Words and Ways of Jesus

# Inclusive, Intergenerational, and In Community

Walking together the words and ways of Jesus. We welcome all God's children whatever their race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability. Following Christ's example, we open our hearts, minds, and doors to welcome all.

## No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If you are young or old, you are welcome.

If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin, or any color of skin, you are welcome.

If you are married or single, you are welcome.

If you are gay, straight, transgender-whatever pronouns you use, you are welcome.

If you are sick or well, you are welcome.

If you are a perfect person, then you probably don't need a church, but if you are like us and are imperfect, mistake-making, still-trying, need all the encouragement I can get kind of person, then this is a community for you and you are welcome.

If you sing like a rock star or an opera singer, or you can not sing at all, you are welcome.

Whenever you arrived and however you came here, you are welcome.

If you believe in God some of the time or all of the time, or you're just beginning to explore who God is, you are welcome.

Come with your gifts, your pain, your hope, your fears.

Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.

Come with a mind, ready to engage, and a heart, open to discern.

Come and listen for the Holy Spirit that calls you to love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice, create peace and practice compassion.

## You are welcome here!

*Adapted from a welcome by Gordon Brown, published in Shaping Sanctuary*



# Connect with Us



## Let Us Know You Are Here

Please register your attendance through the welcome pad.



## Enewsletter

Stay informed by subscribing to our enews and view the latest enews.



## Visit Us Online

Stay informed, register for ministry events, give online, and more.



## Prayer Requests

Let our staff pray for you and others in your life (prayers are confidential).



## Share your talents

The opportunities abound to help your community, find where you fit.



## WiFi

Access the church's WiFi with the password: LHUMCGuest.



## Hearing Enhancement Aids

T-coil hearing assistance is available throughout the Sanctuary. Turn your hearing aid to the T (telephone) position or see a sound team member at the back of the sanctuary for wireless headphones.

# welcome to worship!

*Please note the following, the congregation reads/sings/prays the words in bold-faceprint and the ↑ symbol invites you to rise in body and/or spirit.*

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

A: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

B: Let us bring with the good news!

Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God.

Let us begin with music and singing!

Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

A: Yes, let us begin with hope.

B: Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

May this be our foundation.

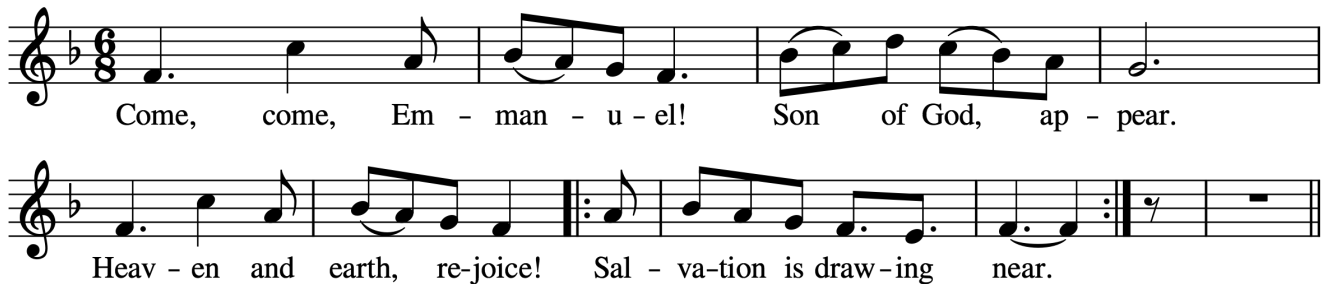
May this be our fresh start.

May this be our new beginning.

A: May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

## CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

Emmanuel



## ↑ CALL TO WORSHIP

*Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-4 and Luke 1:26-29*

One: God says,

**All: "Do not be afraid."**

One: God says,

**All: "I have called you by name."**

One: God says,

**All: "I will be with you."**

One: God says,

**All: "You are precious and honored in my sight."**

One: At the beginning of this season,

**All: at the start of this week,**

One: at the top of this hour,

**All: may we wrap ourselves in these words.**

**May we begin again.**

One: Let us worship our Holy God!

## ↑ SONG

## Emmanuel

*Refrain (All sing)*



*Verses*



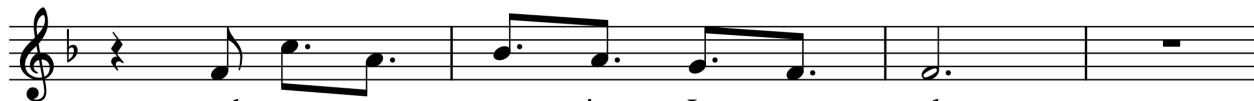
*Treble voices* 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,

*Low voices* 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,

*Treble voices* 3. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem;

*Low voices* 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind

*All* 5. Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el



and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
who or - dered all things might - i - ly;  
from ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them  
in one the hearts of hu - man - kind;  
shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
to us the path of know - ledge show,  
that trust Your might - y pow'r to save  
make all our sad di - vi - sions cease,  
Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
and be for us the King of Peace.  
shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## SHARE A GREETING

## RAINBOW CHAT

Ariel Johnson

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



## SONG

*Burrito de Belen*

Con mi burrito sabanero voy camino de Belén (x 2)  
Si me ven, si me ven voy camino de Belén. (x 2)

(With my little savannah donkey, I'm on my way to Bethlehem.  
If they see me, if they see me, I'm on my way to Bethlehem.)

## SPECIAL SONG

I'm A-Waitin'

(Sherry Landrud)  
Cherub Choir

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY



### OFFERING BOX

is found in the back  
of the sanctuary



### GIVE ONLINE

by visiting our website  
at lakeharrietumc.org



### SCAN THE QR CODE

with your  
smartphone camera



### MAIL IN TO

4901 Chowen Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN  
55410

## OFFERTORY

My Heart Is Ready

(Eugene Butler)  
LH Children's Choirs  
Festival Bell Ensemble

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-7

Common English Bible

*Don't fear*

But now, says the Lord—  
the one who created you, Jacob,  
the one who formed you, Israel:  
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched  
and flame won't burn you.  
I am the Lord your God,  
the holy one of Israel, your savior.  
I have given Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in your place.  
Because you are precious in my eyes,  
you are honored, and I love you.  
I give people in your place,  
and nations in exchange for your life.

Don't fear,  
I am with you.  
From the east I'll bring your children;  
from the west I'll gather you.  
I'll say to the north, "Give them back!"  
and to the south, "Don't detain them."  
Bring my sons from far away,  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,  
everyone who is called by my name  
and whom I created for my glory,  
whom I have formed and made.

Luke 1:26-29

Common English Bible

*Jesus' birth foretold*

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

One: This is a Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

"You Are a Blessing"

Pastor Karen Bruins

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

(One) Friends, Advent is a season of waiting.

We wait for Christ to be born.

We wait for the feeling that love is near.

We wait for God's promised day. Advent is a season of waiting.

And while we humans are good at many things, waiting is not high on that list.

We are an impatient and anxious bunch, eager for the hope of what comes next.

Maybe that's why this Table is such a gift.

For when we come to this Table, for just a moment, the waiting stops.

When we come to this Table, for just a moment, we get a glimpse of God's promised day. We get a glimpse of a world where all are fed and all are welcomed. And for just a moment we can believe the angels when they say, "Be not afraid."

For just a moment, Mary's words tumble through our minds—

words of justice and hope, words like, "the hungry have been filled" and "the humble have been lifted." So come to this Table.

Come catch a glimpse of what could be.

Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close.

This is what it's all about. God is all around us.

So come. This good news is for you. All are welcome here.

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,

We come to this Table today longing for a new beginning. In a world that so often feels like it's ending, we crave the hope of a new beginning.

We long to heal from the endings and crash landings of our hurting world and start again, rooted in your good news.

So week by week, bit by bit, we return to your Word.

Week by week, bit by bit, we return to each other.

Week by week, and bit by bit, we repeat the truths that we so often need to hear, trusting that by your grace, it is never too late to start again.

So in this spirit of beginnings, we come to your Table.

Once more we ask that you would meet us here.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary meal, that in this bread and cup we may glimpse a new day.

May the sight of everyone being welcomed at this Table remind us that all are loved by you.

May the evidence that there is food for all remind us that no one is meant to go hungry.

May the fact that our own sin, shame, and doubt do not keep us from this Table remind us that you welcome and love us as we are.

And may all of these Communion truths serve as building blocks for a new day, for a new beginning.

With hope in our hearts, we pray.

With hope in our hearts, we gather.

With hope in our hearts, we begin again.

Meet us here.

Allow this joyful feast to be the start of something new. With joy and hope, we weave our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying...

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Unison) **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION MUSIC

Prepare Ye the Way

(arr. Michael Barrett)

By Faith



**verses**

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
 From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our  
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and  
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious

1. peo - ple free.  
 rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
 yet a King.  
 king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it

hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of  
 rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart. (back to v. 2)  
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne. (to bridge)

1. D.C. 2. **bridge**

You draw the hearts of shep - herds, You draw the hearts of kings.

Ev - en as a ba - by, You were chang - ing ev - 'ry-thing. You called

me to Your king - dom be - fore Your lips could speak, and ev - en as a ba -

- by You were reach - ing out for me. And now we are a - wait - ing the day

of Your re - turn when ev - 'ry eye will see You as heav -

- en comes to earth. Un - til the sky is op - ened, un - til the trum - pet sounds,

the bride is get - ting read - y, the Church is sing - ing out. (back to v. 1)

*D.C. al Fine*

## **↑ BLESSING**

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other. May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.

So start here.

Start now.

Start with love and begin again. In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

## **POSTLUDE**

# Worship Leaders

**Pastor:** Rev. Karen Bruins

**Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries:** Ariel Johnson

**Director of Music Ministries:** Jungjoo Park

**Bell Choir Director:** Thomas Johanson

**Musicians:** By Faith, Cherub Choir, LH Children's Choirs, Festival Bells Ensemble, Shout Band

**Liturgy & Scripture Reader:** Cammy Finn

**Candle Lighting:** Holley/Houts Family

**Communion Liturgist:** Angela Holley

**Communion Prep and Servers:** Mary Yee, Kinner Family

**Sound Technician:** Dave Bruins

**Streaming:** Chris McPartland

**Slides:** Ginger Mateer

**Greeters:** Shelley, Cammy & Nolan Finn, Jane Kammerman, Ken Larson

**Hospitality:** Page Kinner

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**Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; arr. Meredith Andrews and Jacob Sooter ©2017 Curb Songs; Mesmerized Music; Hipgnosis Songs Essential; Jacob Sooter Music; So Essential Tunes; Vertical Church Band Publishing. All rights reserved. Reprint under CCLI License # 1628344

## SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

# This Week at Lake Harriet

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 1

- 9:30am All ages Communion In Person and Online Worship - First Sunday in Advent
- 10:30am Advent Fair (3yrs - 5th Grade) - Reception Room
- 10:45am LH Men's Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 11:00am Worship at the Waters
- 11:00am Science & Faith Book Study - Zoom

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

- 10:00am Knitting(crafting) Group - Commons
- 7:00pm Men's Forum - Wesley Room

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

- 5:15pm Family Dinner - Reception Room
- 5:30pm Prime Chimers (4th Grade & Up) - Bell Room
- 5:30pm Wee Chime & Sing & Gods Kids Choir (2nd - 5th Grade) - Sanctuary
- 5:50pm Cherub Choir (Pre K - 1st Grade) - Godly Play Room
- 6:30pm Festival Bells Rehearsal - Bell Room
- 6:30pm Shout Band Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Youth Night - Youth Room
- 7:30pm LH Men's Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 7:45pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

- 11:00am Senior Christmas Luncheon - Reception Room
- 7:00pm UWF Book Club - Zoom

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

- 9:00am Beyond the Nest Class - Fireside Room

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

- 9:30am In Person and Online Worship - 2nd Sunday in Advent
- 10:30am Godly Play (3yrs - 3rd Grade) - Godly Play Room
- 10:30am Bible Black Belts (4th & 5th Grade) - BBB Dojo Room
- 10:30am UWF Soup & Bake Sale - Reception Room
- 10:45am LH Men's Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 11:00am Science & Faith Book Study - Zoom
- 6:30pm Good News Big Band Concert - Sanctuary



#### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## TODAY! Advent Fair

**Stations of the Wreath, December 1, 10:30am**

Kids Min (3yrs - 5th Grade), learn about the Advent Wreath and celebrate the start of the Advent Season!

Help us turn the fellowship hall into a big festive wreath and participate in different crafts, games, and more!



#### YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS SUPPORT MANY

## 2025 Stewardship

Thank you to those who turned in their pledges or filled out the online form!

If you haven't turned in your pledge, there is still time to complete it and we appreciate you taking the time to fill it out so we can plan for our goals in 2025.

God is calling us to exciting things!

For the online form, scan the QR code or visit [lakeharrietumc.org/givepaypledge](https://lakeharrietumc.org/givepaypledge)



#### DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## Poinsettia Orders

Help Beautify Our Church This Advent and Christmas Season with Poinsettias! Plants may be taken home after the 10pm Christmas Eve worship service.

**Ordering deadline is Monday, December 2.**

To purchase a plant(s), grab a form from the church office or fill it out online by scanning the QR code with your smart device or visiting our events page [lakeharrietumc.org/events](https://lakeharrietumc.org/events).

If you fill out online, you'll be directed to the payment site or you can pay by check payable to LHUMC with "poinsettia" on the memo line.





DECEMBER 8 6:30PM

## Good News Big Band Christmas Concert

*Hosted at Lake Harriet UMC*

Get in the Christmas spirit this season with the big band sounds of the Good News Big Band!

The concert is free. Everyone of all ages are welcome! Learn more, [www.gnbb.org](http://www.gnbb.org).



GATHER 'ROUND THE TABLE WITH US

## Christmas Luncheon

**For Seniors age 75 and up**

Thursday, December 5th - 11:30 am

**Location:** Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

Come gather for lunch, carol singing and a short program. **RSVP** to [church@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:church@lakeharrietumc.org) or call 612-926-7645 by Sunday, December 1st.

## Wreath of Love

A community initiative of  
**TRUST Inc**



**Wrapped gifts are due back on  
December 12th to the church.**

Questions: Call Steve Huderle  
612-669-6543.

A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OF TRUST INC.

## Wreath of Love

As Christmas wreaths are without a beginning or end, so the Wreath of Love encircles both givers and receivers in this project of caring.

TRUST Incorporated's Wreath of Love initiative has been providing gifts for seniors and nursing home residents in our community for 33 years. This year we are focusing on the TRUST Inc client base of community neighbors as well as identified senior residents from Redeemer Care Facility to receive these gifts. In total, we are giving gifts to 145 recipients.

The giving name tags are available for your choosing. Each recipient will receive two gifts, a larger (\$10-\$20) and smaller gift (\$5-\$10). For many, these will be the only gifts of kindness they receive during the holidays.





United  
Women  
in Faith

## CALLING ALL SOUPMAKERS AND BAKERS



**EVERY MEAL**  
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8 8:30AM-12PM**

## Soup and Bake Sale

The United Methodist Women of Faith (UMWF) warmly invite you to join their annual bake sale on Sunday, December 8, from 8:30AM to 12:00PM in the Reception Room.

This year's event promises to be extra special as 100% of the proceeds will benefit Every Meal. If you enjoy baking or crafting delectable treats, consider donating your specialties. Kindly label your contributions with your name, price, and either the recipe or a list of ingredients. It's important to note any items containing nuts and those suitable for dietary restrictions, like gluten-free options.

Excitingly, soup is back on the menu this year! If you're a soup enthusiast, we encourage you to donate your favorite creation. UMWF will provide pint-sized containers for you to package your soup, ensuring it's ready for sale. **Please inform Lorrie Sandelin at [sandelin.lorrie@gmail.com](mailto:sandelin.lorrie@gmail.com) by December 5 if you plan to contribute soup, and you can collect the soup containers from the upstairs Kitchen at LHUMC.**

Roger Meredyk's Christmas ornaments will be for sale and as a new addition, Kay Halverson will offer her beautiful plants for sale—perfect gifts for the holiday season!

Whether you're contributing soups, quiches, baked goods, or simply coming to purchase these fantastic homemade items, your support is invaluable. UMWF is excited to support Every Meal this year and their mission of feeding kids! We will accept cash, checks, and credit cards at the sale. **Please drop off your donations on Saturday, December 7, between 8:30AM and 11:30AM, or by 8:30AM on Sunday, December 8. Thank you for your support!**



### CELEBRATE THE SEASON

## Get Your Own Nativity Set

**A Host of Holy Families, a Crush of Creches,  
Numerous Nativities!**

There are over 200 Nativity scenes on display in the Reception room and Commons. Please enjoy, and if one calls to you, label it with your name and you can take it home after Sunday the 22nd.

Blessings and Merry Christmas, Julie and Bill Konrardy

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## Connect with Staff

**Rev. Karen Bruins** Pastor [karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Søren Bijnagte** Business Administrator & Facilities Manager [soren.bijnagte@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:soren.bijnagte@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Kay Halverson** Office Administrator [kay.halverson@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:kay.halverson@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Thomas Johanson** Bell Choirs Director [thomas.johanson@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:thomas.johanson@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Ariel Johnson** Dir. of CYF Ministries and Cherub Choir [ariel.johnson@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:ariel.johnson@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Tami Zvolena** Communications [communications@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:communications@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Elizabeth Melton** Volunteer Coordinator [elizabeth.melton@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:elizabeth.melton@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Jungjoo Park** Director of Music Ministries [jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Andrea Wright** LHUM Preschool Director [awright@lakeharrietumpreschool.org](mailto:awright@lakeharrietumpreschool.org)

**Buffy Ess** LHUM Preschool Assistant Director [bess@lakeharrietumpreschool.org](mailto:bess@lakeharrietumpreschool.org)

## Land Acknowledgement

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church is located on the land of the Wahpekute, one of the seven council fires of the Ojibwe (commonly Dakota) peoples. We recognize and pay tribute to the indigenous people who called this land home for centuries before us.



**Address** 4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55410

**Office Hours** 9a–4p, Tuesday–Thursday

**Connect** 612.926.7645 | [church@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:church@lakeharrietumc.org) | [lakeharrietumc.org](http://lakeharrietumc.org)