



LOVE

God With Us | Advent Week Two
Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

WELCOME, FRIENDS.

We began our Alternative Worship Expression last fall, together pursuing a way of living faith that speaks to the real of our lives and those of the world around us. In our weekly services, we gather around themes of the Christian faith, aiming to integrate them into our lives and being.

Together we explore

what it means that God and faith are about the whole of our lives and everything we do - that spirituality isn't relegated to church but an invitation into a way of being human.

Together we seek

to live responsibly in view of reality: the struggle, suffering, beauty, and pain of our world. We want to be good grownups, living out a faith that helps to heal our world and to be "good news" in it.

Together we bring ourselves,

showing up with the expectation that Christian faith, at its heart, is the invitation to become... to live differently than we did before, to become people who live love in our world.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here

AWAY IN A MANGER

Morning Invitations

**WELCOME | LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE
| SARA WG & TIM, LEAH, JOSIE,
HENRIK, & ELIZA WELLS**

CAROL: AWAY IN THE MANGER

Lyric Highlight: "Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with thee there"

From Sara WG: Christmas carols bring up memories and feelings for us. And if we sit with them anew they can also invite us to consider what/if anything it means to us that God lived and walked amongst us in Jesus.

Wonder: What memories of this carol come to mind as you sing it? How, if at all, do these words shaper your life?

KIDS TO GOD'S GARDEN | GEORGE & BAND

BREATHE-IN | AWAY IN THE MANGER

Wonder: Share with one another memories you have of singing this Christmas carol (or others). What comes to mind? How does this song or memory make you feel?

SONG: WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU? [DREW HOLCOMB & THE NEIGHBORS]

Lyric Highlight: "A decade goes by without a warning
There's still a kindness in your eyes
Amidst the questions and the worry
A peace of mind always takes me by surprise"

From CCW: Peace often comes through the mundane. Shalom, that sense of wholeness of which Scripture speaks, isn't always something that comes through a dramatic event. This song speaks of the ways that everyday companionship can often be the pathway through which God's shalom can reach us, and conversely, it reminds me that we also are supposed to play a role in bringing little bits of shalom to others through simple acts of care and presence.

Wonder: Who has been a conduit of shalom in your life? Are there ways that you also can play that role for others?

TEACHING | MEDITATION | SARA WG

Luke 1:46-55 Read by John and Barb Seaberg

BREATHE-OUT | COMMUNION

SONG: CHIP OF A STAR [CHATHAM COUNTY LINE]

Lyric highlight: "For you were born when the world first turned
The flames flickered and the first fires burned
You are the phoenix and the heavens clear
Let you be mine and I'll call you dear"

From Genevieve: This song makes me think of love because true love is seeing and celebrating the way someone shines simply because they exist!

Wonder: It's common to experience conditional love, but how well can we embody unconditional love?

ANNOUNCEMENTS | OFFERING

CAROL | AWAY IN THE MANGER

SENDING

A Few Notes & Prayers

Welcome, Beloved. We're so glad you're here. If you are visiting or want to plug in deeper, we'd love to meet you at the Connection Corner.

Advent + Christmas: Our Advent journey toward Christmas begins today. Learn about how we're gathering - from worship services to adult ed to festive gatherings - by visiting meetinghouse.church/xmas. You will also find a link there to order poinsettias to honor loved ones during this season.

Advent Devotional: Follow along the Advent journey with Meetinghouse community members sharing daily reflections on the season. Sign up today by scanning the QR code or visiting meetinghouse.church/devo.

Bonhoeffer and Advent: TODAY at 11:00am. Who is Christ for us today? Engage the Advent season of waiting by exploring Dietrich Bonhoeffer's lifelong question in this 2-week class led by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale.

Giving Voice Concert: This Friday, December 9 at 11:00am in the Great Hall. Join the Giving Voice Chorus for a "Back to Broadway" concert featuring songs from the Sound of Music, The Music Man and more! A freewill donation will be accepted to benefit the work of Giving Voice Crosstown.

Advent Get-Together & Organ Recital: Wednesday, December 14 - 5:30pm. Join us as we ground ourselves in community and the meaning of Advent in this simple get-together, featuring a pizza dinner. Then at 6:15pm join our organist and past and present organ scholars as we celebrate our pipe organ with some lively repertoire and music for the Advent and Christmas seasons. And stay for a Christmas party in the North Common with cocoa bar and fire.

Faith & Family: This Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:30pm at Gathering Room 1. Join Jenni Brätulich from Amazeworks for a discussion on anti-racism work and how to raise our kids to champion inclusivity and belonging.

Lessons and Carols: December 18 at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse. Get lost in the wonder of the Christmas miracle at this all-church service that weaves together songs and passages from Scripture.

Christmas Festival: December 18 at 11:00am. And join us after Lessons and Carols for a fun and family-friendly event featuring all your Christmas faves: live music, Santa, crafts, games, reindeer, and a \$5 all-you-can-eat pancake & sausage bar courtesy from Chris Cakes. Gluten-free option available, Children under 5 eat free! Learn more by visiting meetinghouse.church/xmas.



Mission Highlight: This December, we are highlighting our mission partners who work to address housing insecurity in the Twin Cities. Learn more about how you can participate in their work this holiday season by visiting meetinghouse.church/mission-highlight.

Missions Matching Gift: Between now and the end of the year, financial gifts designated for "Missions Matching Gifts" (via check or online via Pushpay) will be matched up to \$25,000, thanks to the gift of a generous donor.

www.meetinghouse.church

PRAYERS OF HEALING: Pat Kreuziger, Jeanne Mastain, Penny Anderson

Band: Sesay, Al Church, Genevieve Kalland

A/V: Matthew Hayes, producer; Kale Larson, Sara Hudson Courtney VanderTop

Others: Michele Steinke, Cheryl Southard, Shelby Wagner, Alice Loddigs