



The First
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor

fccannarbor.org

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here

We Gather to Worship God

~ Hearing assistance devices are located in the back entrance area of the church ~

**Welcome and
 Announcements**

Rev. Darcy Crain
 Rev. Eric Hausman

Prelude

Meditation on a Medieval Hymn-Tune (Divinum Charles Callahan
 Mysterium -"Of the Father's Love, Begotten" Timothy Huth, organ

*** Gathering Hymn**

"What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest" insert

*** Call to Worship**

Sheryl Kurze

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we gather with hearts full of hope,
 For the promise of peace is near, in the light of God's love.

Many: **We come in anticipation, longing for the fullness of God's presence,
 Waiting with joy for the birth of hope in our hearts.**

One: As we wait for the coming of Christ, we remember that peace dwells
 with us, In the quiet, in the stillness, in this moment.

Many: **Let our hearts be open to the peace that surpasses understanding,
 And may we share that peace with the world around us.**

One: Let us worship God, who brings peace to all people,
 Together, may we prepare the way for God's presence in our midst.

*** Prayer of Invocation**

**Loving God, as we gather in this season of waiting, help us to be
 aware of your presence... not in the past or future, but in this very
 moment. Fill us with your peace and love, and open our hearts to the
 joy of being fully present with you. We are here, God, in the gift of
 now, waiting with hope for your presence to be revealed. Come,
 dwell with us in this moment, and guide us to dwell in you. We pray
 together:**

*** Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
 the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*** Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
 without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Lighting of the Advent
Candle**

The Swinburn Family

Unison Prayer

Dear God, as our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love. Love for the unexpected challenge, Love for the vulnerable one. Love for the presence of God. Amen.

Children's Circle

Rev. Darcy Crain

*Kidz 0-8th grade are invited downstairs for FCC Kidz.
Activity bags are available for kids who wish to stay in worship.*

Passing of the Peace

Please turn and greet your neighbor.

Give, Share, Rejoice

Offertory Sentences

Rev. Darcy Crain

Offertory Music

Little Town

arr. Gary Maki
Gary Maki, flugelhorn

*** Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Darcy Crain

*** Hymn of Preparation**

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

insert

We Grow in Our Faith

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:23

Sermon

"Gifts that Matter: Presence"

Rev. Eric Hausman

Solo

Nocturne in B-flat minor, Op. 9, No. 1

Frédéric Chopin
Joshua Marzan, piano

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Darcy Crain

We Go Forth to Live and Serve

*** Parting Hymn**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

insert

Charge and Benediction

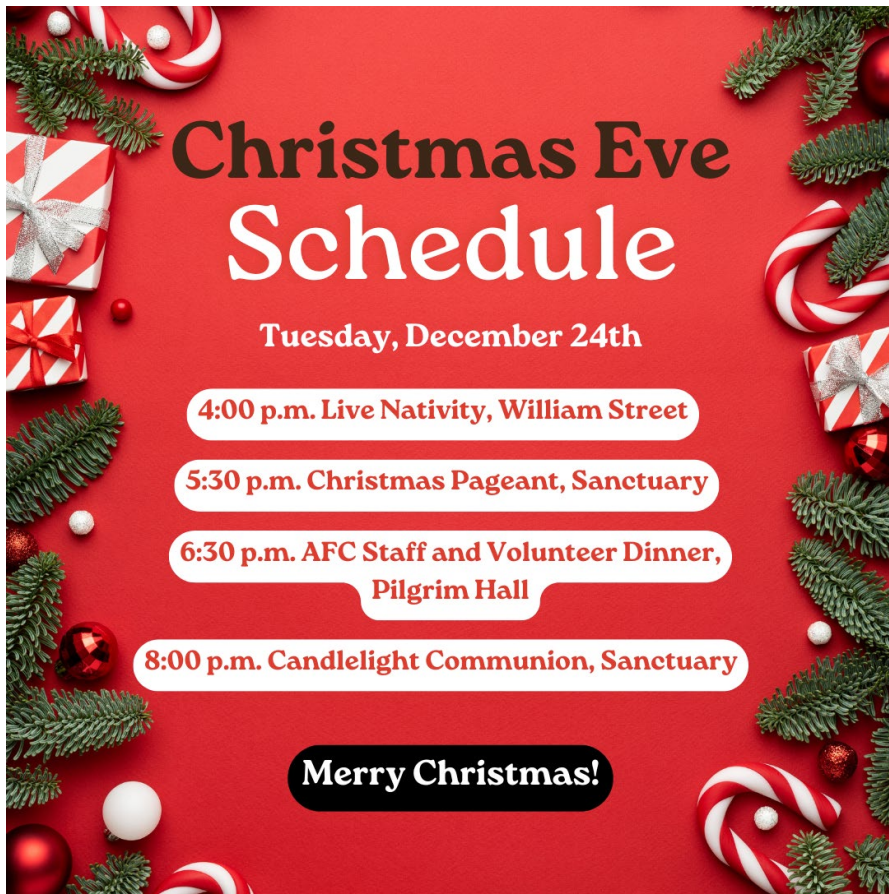
Rev. Eric Hausman

Postlude

Rejoice and Be Merry!

Robert J Powell
Timothy Huth, organ

* Congregation standing. Please feel free to remain seated if standing is difficult for you.



Celebrate Christmas Eve with us on Tuesday!

Join us for a day full of joy, reflection, and togetherness. Here's what's in store:

- 4:00 PM - Live Nativity on William Street
- 5:30 PM - Christmas Pageant with Live Animals in the Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM - AFC Staff & Volunteer Dinner in Pilgrim Hall
- 8:00 PM - Candlelight Communion in the Sanctuary

Let's celebrate the season of love, hope, and peace. See you there!



Join Jennifer German at 11:15 a.m. in the Mayflower Room for a fascinating presentation on the Christmas Star from an astronomical perspective. Explore the wonders of the night sky as Jennifer delves into the scientific mysteries behind this iconic celestial phenomenon. Whether you're a stargazing enthusiast or curious about the cross between science and tradition, this engaging talk promises to illuminate the story of the Christmas Star.

What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

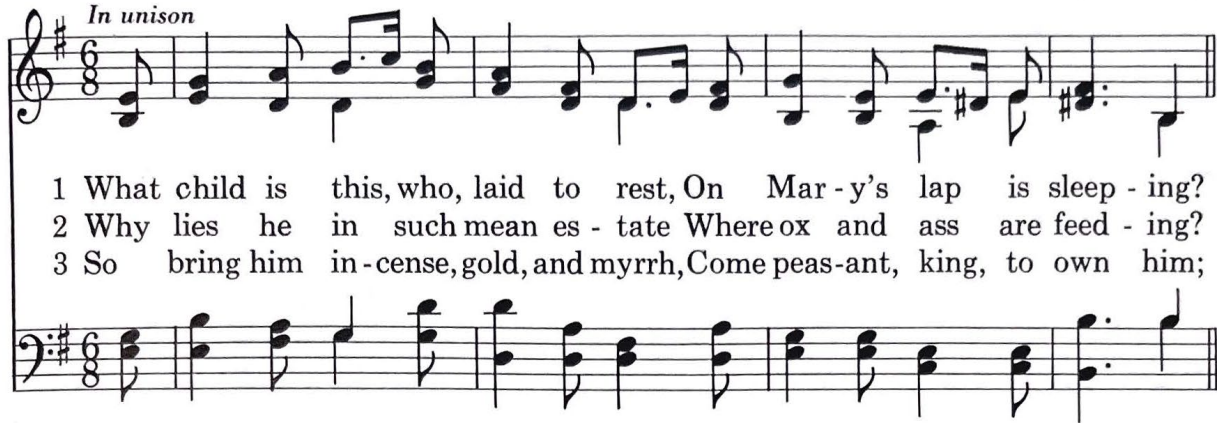
140

William C. Dix, 1837-1898

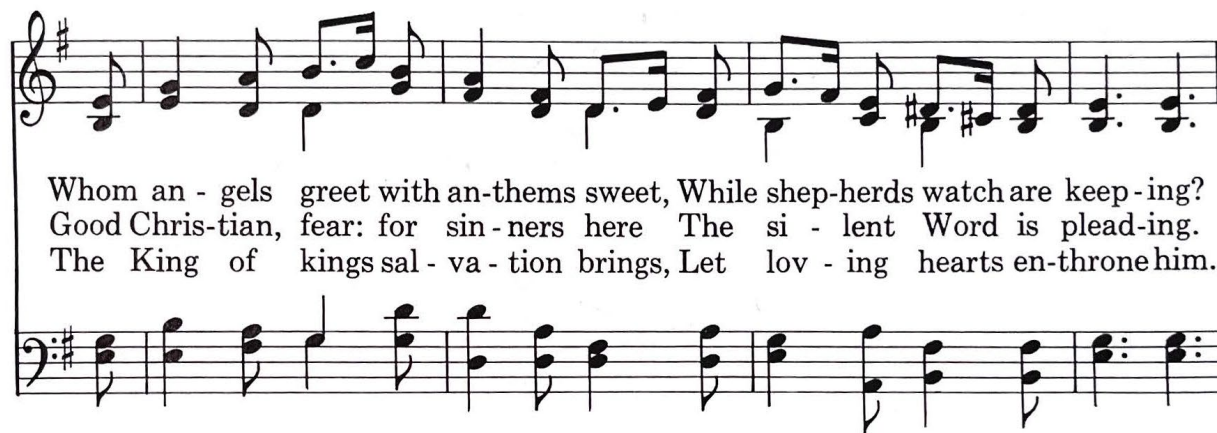
GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7. with Refrain

Traditional English Melody

In unison

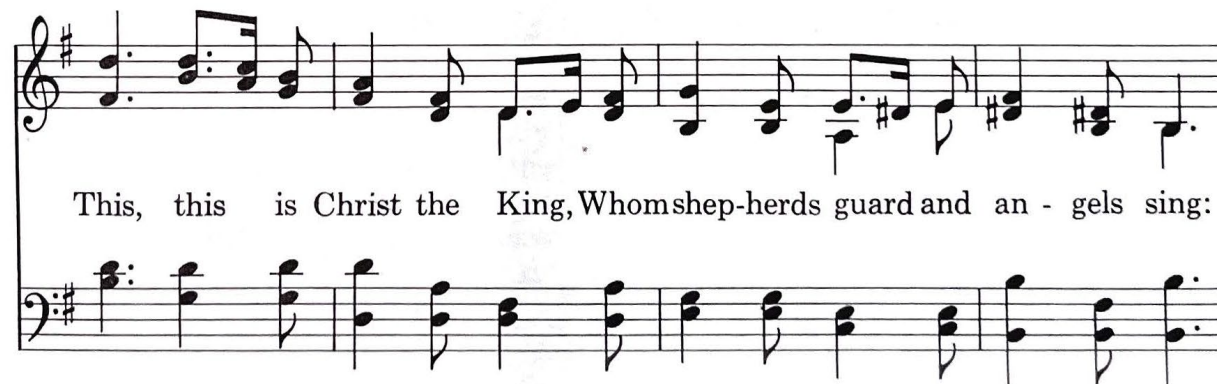


1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to own him;

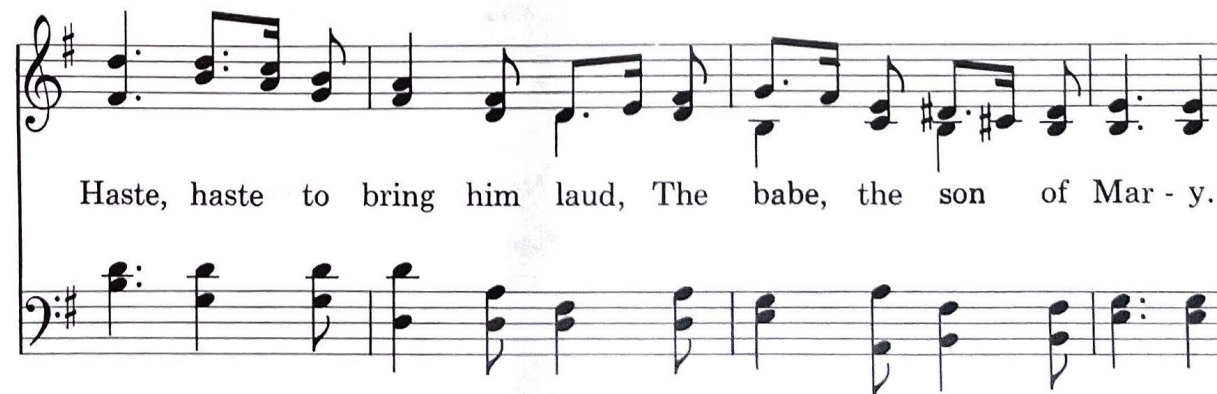


Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

REFRAIN



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 123

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, with
 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be, all
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born in

wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise and hon - or thee, thy
 me be as it pleas - eth God," she said. "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, and

hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry," Most
 son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name." Most
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: Most

high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

WORDS: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834 - 1924), alt.
 MUSIC: Basque carol; harm. Anthony Prower, 1989, adapt.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE
 10 10.12 10

The Basque community struggles to preserve its heritage in the mountainous territory at the border of Spain and France. Here they tell the story of the Annunciation, found in Luke 1:26-38.

Harm. © 1989 Concordia Publishing House

1 An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

BIRTH

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Sunday, December 22nd– 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.	Change of Pace Service, Pilgrim Hall
9:00 a.m.	COP Special Music, Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Pageant Leads Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	Christmas Star: An Astronomical Perspective, Mayflower Room

Sunday, December 29th

9:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Hymn Sing, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time, Pilgrim Hall

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

12/24		Christmas Eve!
12/24	4:00 p.m.	Live Nativity – William Street
12/24	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant - Sanctuary
12/24	6:30 p.m.	AFC Staff and Volunteer Dinner – Pilgrim Hall
12/24	8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion - Sanctuary
12/25		Merry Christmas!
12/25		Office Closed
12/26		Office Closed
12/27	8:00 p.m.	Violin Recital - Sanctuary
12/31		New Year's Eve – Office Closed
01/01		Happy New Year's! – Office Closed

FCC STAFF EMAILS

Senior Minister	Darcy A. Crain	darcy@fccann Arbor.org
Associate Minister	Lily Tinker Fortel	lily@fccann Arbor.org
Adjunct Minister	Eric Hausman	eric@fccann Arbor.org
Office Manager	Jared Peterson	office@fccann Arbor.org
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Marina Baker	marina@fccann Arbor.org
Congregation Liaison	Nancy Sauve	nancy@fccann Arbor.org
Bookkeeper	Crystal McBride	bookkeeper@fccann Arbor.org
Director of Music	Benjamin Gaughran	ben@fccann Arbor.org
COP Music Director	Terry Farmer	terryfarmermusic@gmail.com
Organist	Timothy L. Huth	timothyhuth@gmail.com
Pianist	Joshua Marzan	pianist@fccann Arbor.org
Hand Chimes Director	Cindy Bylsma	cjbylsma@gmail.com
Wedding Coordinator	Betty Jahnke	weddings@fccann Arbor.org
Minister Emerita	Dorothy Lenz	
Director of Music Emeritus	Willis Patterson	
Minister Emeritus	Robert Livingston	

