



# community **WORSHIP**

January 4, 2026

## *Gather*

10B4

Welcome Video

Hymn: We Three Kings

Greet Your Neighbor

Welcome and Announcements

### **Call to Worship**

One: From distant lands and faraway shores,  
God calls us together.

Many: Like a shepherd tending his flock,  
God gathers us in.

One: Along straight paths and cleared byways,  
God guides our journey.

Many: Like a mother taking her firstborn's hand,  
God leads us home.

One: Praise the Lord, O people! Shout for joy!

Many: Let us sing aloud with gladness.  
Let us worship the Lord!

Hymn: Here in This Place #401

## *Engage*

## Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who recognizing the Mystery of God Incarnate, brought gifts, dreamed dreams and followed stars. We would like to claim that we recognize God's Word made flesh, and that we have been transformed by the Christ Child, who came to make all things new. But most of us have already gone back to business as usual, unchanged and oblivious to the wonder of Christ among us. Thaw our cold hearts. Open our eyes to Your mystery all around us. Fill us with your light, that we may worship You, Emmanuel, Light of the World, with all that we are. Hear us now as we pray...

## Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King #15

## Prayers of the People “Peace Salaam Shalom”

## *Explore*

## Scripture John 1-9, 10-18

# “In the Beginning”

## *Go Out*

## Communion

## Benediction

## Jude's Benediction

## GATHERING

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,  
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;  
 brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.  
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and  
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,  
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to enter the song.

The “you/your” mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God’s witnesses and for God’s purposes.

## CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

## 15 All Creatures of Our God and King

*Unison*

1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice  
 2 O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts  
 3 O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shade  
 4 All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain

*Harmony*

and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*

O brother sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon make mu - sic for  
 O sis - ter wa - ter, flow-ing clear, Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -  
 Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, 1225; trans. composite  
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 LM with alleluias  
 (this tune in a higher key, 327)

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

*Harmony*

*Unison*

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!