

What Child IS This?

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025**

"Enthroned by Love"

GATHERING

Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.

We Gather at the Scene

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come peasant, king to own him
The King of Kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him**

candle lighting

**This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing!
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with a steadfast love that casts out fear.
Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us how to be with and for one another
in ways that add to the flourishing of all creation.
We pray in the name of the Child,
the Love Enthroned in our hearts and lives.
Amen.

***Bring Him Laud** Love Came Down at Christmas UMH #242
Hymn by Christina Rossetti; Tune: GARTAN

Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely, Love divine
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign

Worship we the Godhead
Love incarnate, Love divine
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token
Love be yours and love be mine
Love for God and neighbor
Love for plea and gift and sign

Sharing Signs of Love

PROCLAIMING

We open ourselves to the full story of Christ's birth, knowing that his story is the ground of our faith and the light for our path

Haste Haste!

The children gather for Small Talk & Noisy Offering. Noisy Offerings will purchase chickens and rabbits for families through Heifer International.

**Be near us, Lord Jesus; we ask Thee to stay
close by us forever, and love us, we pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and make earth a heaven, where all have a share.**

***We Hear the Story**

A Child, A King
celebrating Love Enthroned

by Marty Parks

O Come, Emmanuel!

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

Son of the Father's Love

The First Noel

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to the heavenly Lord
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught
and with his blood our life hath bought
Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel!
Born is the King of Israel

Winter Snow

As Lately We Watched

Child of the Poor/What Child is This

***Advent Doxology**

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

God With Us, Emmanuel

*soloists: Quinn, Rose, Emilie,
Noelle, Lily, Rosalyn*

Finale

O Come All Ye Faithful

UMH #234

Hymn by John F. Wade; Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him, born the King of angels

**REFRAIN: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest (Refrain)

Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be all glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing (Refrain)

Special thanks to the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, pianist Kim Spivey, and guest instrumentalists Faith Ruth Marquez, Aissa Maese, and Nadia Diaz De Leon

RESPONDING

Our faithful response is to praise God for this story of Emmanuel, God with us, even and especially in the midst of difficulty. For God is indeed with us even still.

We Keep Watch

a time of prayer as we prepare to meet Christ at the Lord's table.

The Great Thanksgiving

see screen

Receiving Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

***The Lord's Prayer**

SENDING FORTH

Just as our theme carol asks, "what child is this?" we too have come with our questions this day. We go into the world with answers of Good News, being the body of Christ through our words and deeds.

***Closing Chorus** Midnight Clear (Love Song)

**Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God evermore!
Good news, great joy for all!
Melody breaks through the silence,
Christ the Savior is born
Jesus, the love song of God**

***We Ask, We Answer**

As we prepare to go into the world,
let us ask and answer the question we came with.

What child IS this?

This is the Son of the Father's Love.

What child IS this?

This is the one who would go on to great sacrifice in the name of
Love.

What child IS this?

This, this is the one "Enthroned by Love" who invites us into
more love than we thought was possible.

***Benediction**

**This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing!
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

