

What Child IS This?

**First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
9:00am**

"King of Kings"

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

**What child is this who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

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 humility and hope.**

**Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us the true meaning of the kingdom on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives.
Amen.**

***Bring Him Laud**

**All Hail the Power
of Jesus' Name**

UMH #154

Hymn by Edward Perronet; Tune: CORONATION

**All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.**

**Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.**

**Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.**

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song

Sharing Signs of Hope

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.**

Anthems Sweet

Advent Hope

Chancel Choir

***We Hear the Story**

Luke 2:1-5

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

The Word of God for the people of God: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

King of Kings

Rev. Jon Snape

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.

***Hymn**

O Come O Come Emmanuel

UMH #211

Latin Hymn; Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

**REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and
order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show;
and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

We Keep Watch

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

Offering & Offertory

***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.**

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 Hymn**

Precious Name

UMH #536

Hymn by Lydia Baxter; Music by William H. Doane

Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe;
it will joy and comfort give you; take it then, where'er you go.

REFRAIN: Precious name, O how sweet!

Hope of earth and joy of heaven. (2x)

Precious name, O how sweet!

Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

Take the name of Jesus ever, as a shield from every snare;
if temptations round you gather, breathe that holy name in prayer.
(Refrain)

O the precious name of Jesus! How it thrills our souls with joy,
when his loving arms receive us, and his songs our tongues
employ! (Refrain)

At the name of Jesus bowing, falling prostrate at his feet,
King of kings in heaven we'll crown him, when our journey is
complete. (Refrain)

***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 one born into a time when hope was hard.

What child IS this?

This is the one whose lowly status would send a message of hope that alleviation of oppression is a holy endeavor.

What child IS this?

This, this is the “King of Kings” who shows us the way of true hope for all people.

***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!**