

The Morning Worship

Minneapolis Campus

Liturgists

9:00 & 10:00am - *Pastor Hammersten*

11:00am & 12noon - *Pastor Kalland*

The Prelude *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Frank Voltz
Emily Gerard, harp & Julie Johnson, flute

The Processional Hymn - - - - - **283:1, 3, 4**
(Please stand as you are able as the pastors enter the Chancel)

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 in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

The Invocation
Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*

The Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness
Pastor and Congregation: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen.** *(please sing)*
Pastor: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.** *(please sing)*

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: And also with you. *(Please sing)*
Pastor and Congregation:
Stir up your power, O God, and come. Come to bring peace to our homes. May their walls resound with laughter and their rooms be filled with hope. Cause our homes to be a shelter for the defenseless, a resting-place for the weary, and a foretaste of our eternal home in you. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.** *(Please sing)*
(Please be seated)

The Lighting of the Advent Candle
Pastor: Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace and Light of the world. As we light this candle, kindle in our hearts the desire to nurture peace in our homes and to pray for peace in homes across our land.
Pastor and Congregation: Come, Lord Jesus, and bring us peace.

The Hymn of Advent
O Come, O key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the path that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The Lesson - - - - - **Isaiah 61:1-4** *(page 603)*
Isaiah promises the coming of One who will bring good news, healing, comfort, and blessing. It is this one, Israel's Messiah, whom John the Baptist anticipates and proclaims.

The Gradual Hymn - - - - - **276:1**
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

(Before the reading, please stand as you are able and sing)
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel - - - - - **John 1:6-8, 19-28** *(page 862)*
John the Baptist defied many of the expectations of the day regarding what a prophet and leader should look and act like. Why? Because his leadership was defined by his commitment to follow Jesus, the lamb of God, who was coming into the world to take away our sin.

(After the reading, please sing)
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Christmas Litany
Pastor: To those who wait in darkness, a light dawns from on high to announce God's favor to all.
Congregation: For unto us a child is born; unto us a promise is given.
Pastor: To those who struggle to believe or find hope, Emmanuel, God-with-us, approaches to remind us that we are not alone.
Congregation: For unto us a child is born; unto us a promise is given.
Pastor: Born in Bethlehem so long ago, he comes again to claim a place in our hearts. Let us rejoice and receive him.

Pastor and Congregation: Come, Lord Jesus, to abide in our hearts and rule our lives, that we may depart this place to share the glad tidings of Christmas joy with all. Amen.
(Please be seated)

The Welcome

The Offertory
9:00 and 10:00 *All Is Well* - - - - - John Leavitt
Cathedral Choir
11:00 and 12:00 *The First Noel* - - - - - Dan Forrest
Senior Choir

(Please stand as you are able and sing)
The Offertory Prayer
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.
(Please be seated)

The Pulpit Hymn - - - - - **263:1**
Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

The Sermon **Pastor Lose**
"Jesus, John & the Alpha Male"

(Please stand as you are able)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Words of Institution
The 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Distribution of the Elements
The Communion Anthem *Silent Night* - - - - - Deborah Friou

The Communion Hymns
Away in a Manger - - - - - **278:1, 3**
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

O Little Town of Bethlehem - - - - - 279:1, 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

What Child Is This? - - - - - 296:1, 3

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?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

The Communion Prayer

Pastor and Congregation: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction and Threefold Amen

(The congregation is asked to pause for a moment of silent prayer)

The Postlude *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* - - Jeffrey Blersch

PASTORS

David J. Lose, Senior Pastor
Kurt P. Kalland, Stephen J. Cornils,
Monica M. Hammersten, William B. MacLean
Anna K. Helgen, Pastoral Associate

Director of Worship & Music, Beverly Claflin
Principal Organist, Richard Owen
Director of Senior & Cathedral Choirs, Beverly Claflin

*Please be so kind as to leave your bulletin at the end of the pew
or place in the recycle bin as you leave. Thank you.*

Welcome Guests

We are delighted you are worshipping with us today. We warmly welcome you and are grateful for your presence and prayers. If you have any questions about the ministries of Mount Olivet Church, please come to the Information Desk in the Narthex. Large print bulletins and hearing devices available at the Information Desk located in the Narthex.

Baptisms

Evelyn Elizabeth Tousignant, daughter of Molly and Dan; and Kyla Annabelle Morgenstern, daughter of Sara and Robert; will be received into the fellowship of Christ and His Church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism today.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar in the main sanctuary are in loving memory of Helen Forsyth on the anniversary of her birthday, given by her daughter, Sue Nelsen.

The flowers by the pulpit are given in loving memory of Julia Marie Schnacky on the anniversary of her birthday, given by husband Paul; mother, Elaine Krantz; and her sons, Joseph and Steven.

The flowers by the lectern are in loving memory of Donald Kockx, given by Opal, Kim, Bill, Kurtis, Erik, Kevin and Jason.

If you would like to donate Sunday morning altar flowers in loving memory or in honor of someone you know, please contact Mary Lindberg, 612-767-2200/maryl@mtolivet.org. Orders are appreciated two weeks in advance of your desired date. The cost is \$50.00.

Next Sunday, December 24, at Minneapolis:

The Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Peace in our Hearts

Sunday morning worship services will be at 9 and 10am. Pastor Kalland will be preaching on *"Favored One."* Holy Communion will be observed at 8:30am. No Sunday Church School, The Way, or nursery--please worship as a family.

Christmas Eve Services ~ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11pm

Pastor Lose preaching, *Songs of Rebellion, Hope, and Peace*

Music by Mount Olivet Choirs and Orchestra

Nursery at 2, 3 & 4pm

The 11pm service will culminate with the choir and congregation singing *Silent Night* to candlelight.

The Third Sunday
of Advent
& Christmas
Communion
Peace in Our Homes
December 17, 2017