

## Sunday, 14 December 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

The season of Advent also marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in the church calendar. Our liturgical calendar is organized into three yearly cycles, labelled A, B, and C. Today is the beginning of year A. <https://pcusa.org/theology-and-worship/advent>

*Advent* means *coming* or *arrival*. During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

The Advent candle lit this morning is rose/pink colored instead of the purple lit on the other three Sundays of Advent. This candle represents JOY. In some traditions this Sunday is referred to as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. The name comes from Philippians 4:4, *Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.*

### Prelude

Craig Phillips (b. 1961) is Director of Music at All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills and a graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

### Processional/Recessional Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is a translation of the Latin *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*. The text of the hymn is drawn from the *O Antiphons*, a series of antiphons (responsories/responses) to be sung in the week preceding Christmas. Each antiphon references a name of Christ (Wisdom, Lord, Root, Dayspring) from scripture.

### Choral Anthem

*A New Magnificat* - Carolyn Jennings

Text adapted from *The Song of Hannah*, 1 Samuel 2 and *The Song of Mary*, Luke 1

Carolyn Jennings (b. 1936) is a Professor Emerita of Music at St. Olaf College. Her husband, Kenneth Jennings (1925-2015), was the long-time conductor of the St. Olaf Choir.

### Postlude

The Advent hymn *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* is based on the hymn tune CONSOLATION, which dates from 1812. The tune is referred to with the name MORNING SONG in some hymnals. David Johnson (1922-1987) was an American organist who taught at several colleges and universities, including St. Olaf College, Syracuse University, and Arizona State University.