



SUNDAY, NOV. 30, 2025, 9 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent

This worship experience will be livestreamed and recorded.

Prelude

Carol Arrangements
Hugo Gehrke

Mark Edwards, organ

Welcome

Pastor Mary Zajac

Advent Candle Lighting

Karen Binkerd, Harry Chase

*Opening Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
(verses 1, 4, 5 and 6)

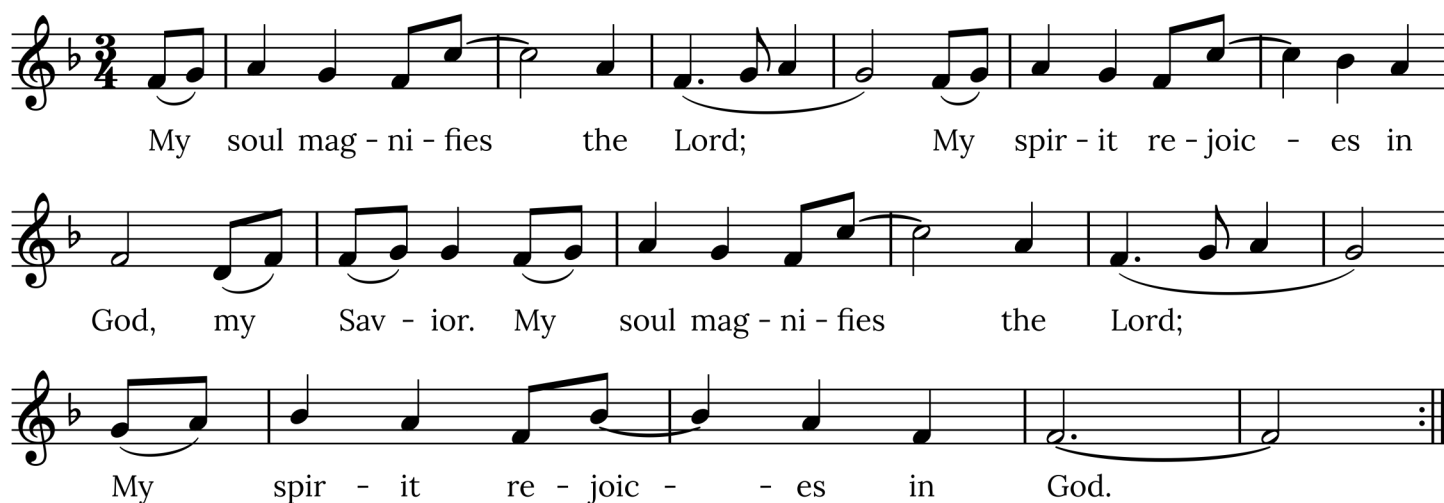
Hymnal 154

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Steve Conger

The Magnificat



CCLI Song # 5107766. © 2003 Gill, Randy. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 980480

Children's Time

Carey Williams Bebar

Reflection

Wonderful Counselor

Pastor Daniel Cochran

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

(continued)

Prayer of Confession[†]

Merciful God, always with us, always coming, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Words of Assurance[†]

Friends, hear, proclaim, and believe these wonderful words...
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Passing of the Peace

*Reflection Hymn Wonderful Words of Life Hymnal 600

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Come, Come Emmanuel Men’s Chorus
Lynn Shaw Bailey, Becki Slagle Mayo

Gifts can also be made at garychurch.org/give or by texting “give” to 630-320-0668.

*Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal 94

Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

*Sending Hymn People, Look East Hymnal 202

*Benediction

Postlude From Heaven High
Johann S. Bach

**You are invited to stand in body or spirit.
†adapted from Fourth Pres, Chicago*

Announcements

This morning, Sun., Nov. 30, at Gary Church:

- **In-Person Worship:** 9 and 11:11 a.m. Assisted listening devices and large print hymnals are available by asking an usher. Livestream and recorded worship are available at garychurch.org.
- **Sunday School:** 10 a.m. for all ages.
- **Special Blend Fellowship:** 10 a.m., Commons. The Green Team invites you to bring your own small reusable cup with a lid.
- **Names for the Messiah:** 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room, led by Rev. Steve Conger. This study from Walter Brueggemann invites participants to ponder Christ's four royal titles. Participant guides available for \$20 per person through the Church Office

Stewardship: Love courageously: We invite you to love courageously and prayerfully consider how sharing your spiritual gifts and financial resources can help you to continue to grow in joyful faith and serve all in love. Turn in your 2026 stewardship card or go to garychurch.org.

Men begin study of Scrooge: Tuesdays, starting Dec. 2, 6:30 pm., Anderson Room, led by Steve Novy. The Men's Bible Study will discuss *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawle. Books are available through the Church Office.

Advent Soup Suppers: Wednesdays Dec. 3-17, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Commons. Enjoy soup and fellowship during Advent. The Green Team invites you to bring your reusable dishes. Sign up to participate and/or to provide soup at garychurch.org.

Voices of Advent: Wednesdays, Dec. 3-17, 6:30 p.m., Anderson Room, led by Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran. This study helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian church year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus. Books are available through the Church Office. Register at garychurch.org.

Anti-Racist Book Club: Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Commons, led by Rev. Dwight Stewart. Read the book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone, and join the discussion. Register at garychurch.org.

Bakers and buyers needed for Cookie Walk: Sat., Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Commons. Joy Circle and the United Women of Faith invite you to our second annual Christmas Cookie Walk to raise money for missions. If you can donate homemade cookies, contact Juanita Hobbs, Ida Whitcomb or Suzy Wible through the Church Office (office@garychurch.org).

Donate fresh produce: Drop off apples, carrots, potatoes and sweet potatoes in the bin in the Commons for the People's Resource Center.

Help with Outreach Senior Christmas Luncheon: Fri., Dec. 19. For many seniors, this luncheon is their only celebration. A \$15 donation will provide a senior a place at the table and can be made at garychurch.org/give. Volunteers needed to bake, serve and clean up. Sign up in the Commons.

Donate to Heifer Project International: A gift of farm animals helps families around the world become self-sufficient. See the display in the Commons. Donate at garychurch.org/give.

(continued)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*continued*)

Ways to help with Christmas Sharing: Sat., Dec. 13. For over 50 years, Christmas Sharing has helped needy families in CUSD 200. Look for the angel tree and collection boxes in the Commons.

- **Donate toys, coats and diapers:** Grab an ornament off the angel tree. Each ornament represents a need. Diapers and gifts for teens are especially needed.
- **Buy books:** Through Gary's "Sharing A Story" mission, we will be offering a new book to each preschooler.
- **Give financially:** Monetary contributions will be used to buy food, sundry items and gift cards. Donations can be made through your offering or at garychurch.org/give.

Technical difficulties: The monitor on the left side of the Chancel has stopped working. Repairs are scheduled for this week. Thanks for your patience.

11:11 a.m. playlist: If you've been wanting a way to worship through singing at home or on the road, there is now a playlist of songs used in worship at 11:11 a.m. Go to garychurch.org/ministries/music for the YouTube and Spotify links.

Music Ministry suggestion box: You are welcome to provide ideas, feedback, or requests for a favorite hymn, worship song, or piece of music, as our worship through music is an integral part of our shared community. Share your thoughts at garychurch.org.

Get church merch! T-shirts and sweatshirts with the 2025-26 church theme, "Love courageously," are available to purchase at garychurch.org/registrations.

Flowers for altar: If you'd like to give flowers on a Sunday, fill out the form on the registrations page at garychurch.org, or contact the Church Office (office@garychurch.org). Cost: \$35.



At Gary Church, our mission through Christ is to grow in joyful faith and serve all in love.
224 North Main Street, Wheaton, IL 60187 630-668-3100 www.garychurch.org