



To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who mourn and need comfort,
To all who are lonely and need friendship,
To all who are complacent and need disturbing,
To all who sin and need a savior,
To all who are glad and would serve,
This church opens wide its doors.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

OPENING WORDS

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel
Pastor

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRELUDE

"Joy to the World"

Jesse Warkentin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in worship—
we pray together,
we stand together,
we sing together,
we listen together.
Here in worship—we are not alone.
So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,
remember this moment.
We are not alone.
Let us worship our with-us God.

PRAYER

Cat Fernando-Rizzo
Deacon

*HYMN

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

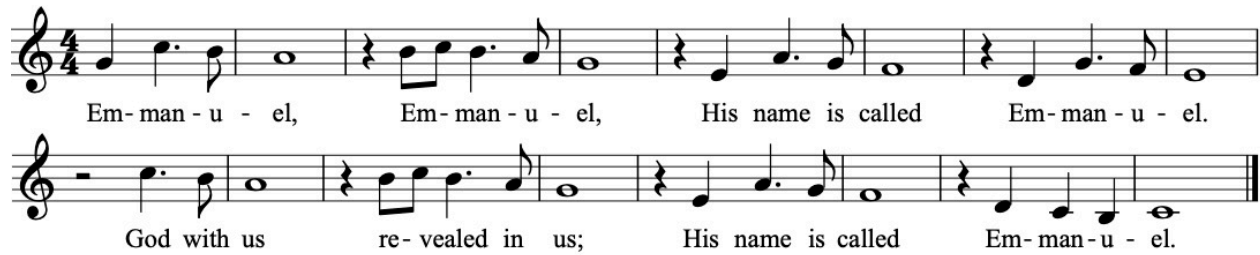
Chalice 149

** Please stand as you are able.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Congregation

Response



LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Cat Fernando-Rizzo



Welcome Survey

<https://forms.gle/XQuFx98vDEUvyHy>

GENOROSITY MOMENT

Dan Henkel

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Carol Collins and Leslie Lowe

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

We see love all around us.

We see love when people hold open the door.

We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade
casserole, a phone call after a long day.

We see love in random acts of kindness
and intentional acts of empathy.

We see love all around us.

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that
even in a fearful world, love is here.

Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright.

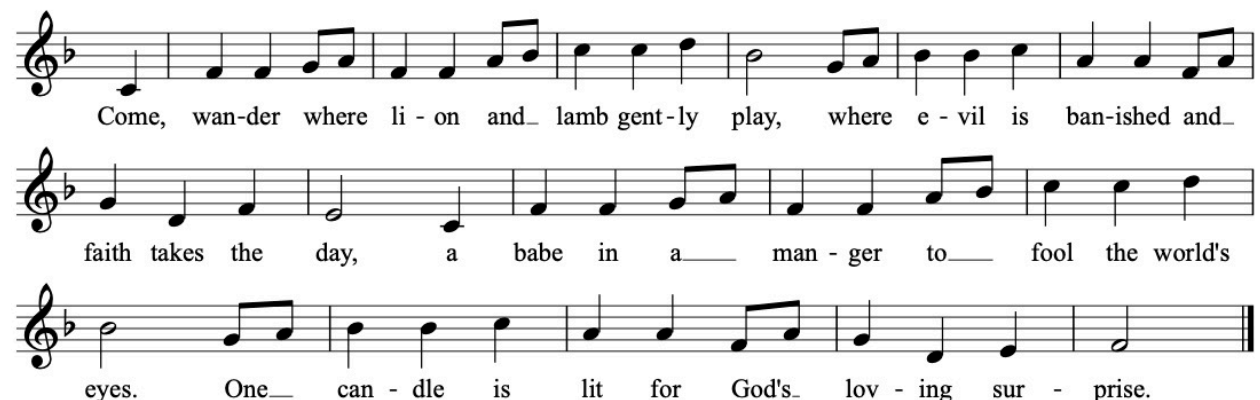
We only have to look for it.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

Amen.

Response

"One Candle is Lit" (Verse 4)



COVENANT OF CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel

OFFERTORY "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" / "Mary Did You Know" Alan H. Green



Online Giving

<http://mbcnyc.org/get-involved/give>

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, praise God all crea-tures here be-low.

Praise God all ye heav'n - ly hosts. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Glo - - - - - ri - a, In ex-cel-sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Donna Thompson

SERMON

"When You're Afraid, Give Me Your Hand"

Rev. Jana Dye

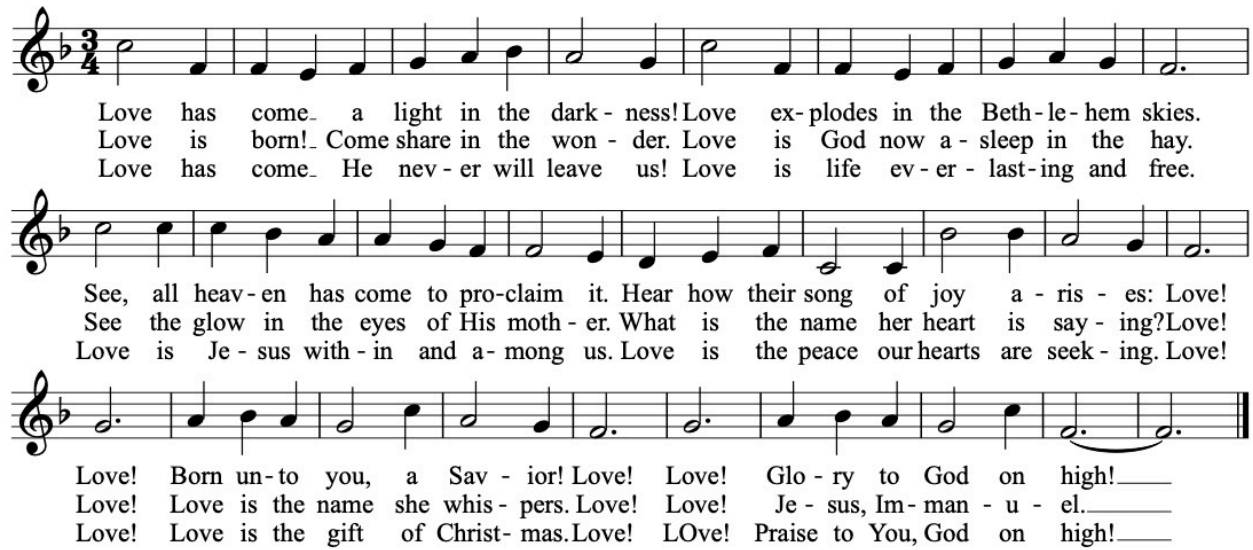
Associate Pastor

COMMUNION

Metro Pastors

*HYMN

"Love Has Come"



Love has come_ a light in the dark - ness! Love ex - plodes in the Beth - le - hem skies.
Love is born!_ Come share in the won - der. Love is God now a - sleep in the hay.
Love has come_ He nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free.

See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it. Hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love!
See the glow in the eyes of His moth - er. What is the name her heart is say - ing? Love!
Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love!

Love! Born un - to you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high! ____
Love! Love is the name she whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el. ____
Love! Love is the gift of Christ - mas. Love! LOve! Praise to You, God on high! ____

CLOSING WORDS & BENEDICTION

Rev. Jana Dye

POSTLUDE

"Silent Night" / "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Insert

Service Notes

The Cover Art is "In Too Deep" by Nicolette Faison. Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prelude is arranged by Jay Rouse.

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting liturgy are written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" is by James Montgomery (words) and Henry T. Smart (music).

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel" is by Bob McGee (words and music).

"One Candle is Lit" is by Mary Anne Martin (words) and William J. Kirkpatrick (music).

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" is by Robert MacGimsey (words and music).

"Mary, Did You Know?" is by Mark Lowry and Buddy Green (words and music).

"Love Has Come" is by Ken Bible (words and arrangement). Music is a French Carol Melody.

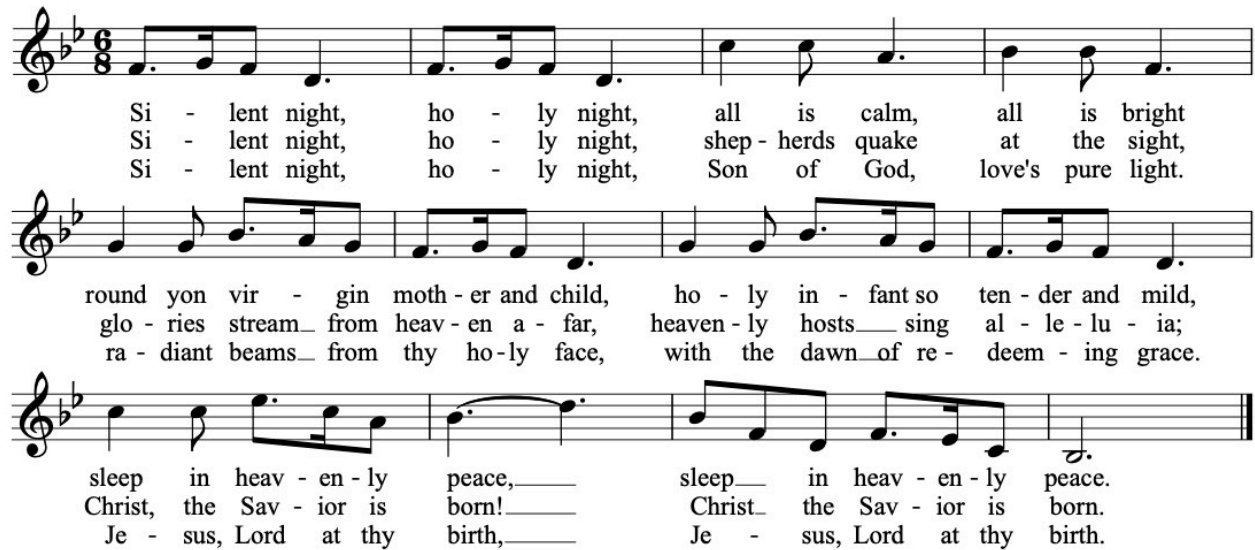
"Silent Night" is by Joseph Mohr (words) and Franz Gruber (music).

"O Come All Ye Faithful" is by John Francis Wade (words and music). Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, desc. By David Willcocks.

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POSTLUDE

"Silent Night" / "O Come All Ye Faithful"



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light.

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child, ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace.

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born.
 Je - sus, Lord at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord at thy birth.



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant, O
 Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O
 come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24, 2025

While Metro will NOT be hosting a Christmas Eve service, we encourage you to worship with our sister church - Madison Avenue Baptist Church (129 Madison Ave.) on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM in person or streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/MadisonAvenueBaptistChurch>.

Sunday, December 28, 2025

ZOOM ONLY: <https://mbcnyc.org/congregational-life/worship-at-metro>

Please note that next week's Sunday worship service will be **FULLY VIRTUAL (no in-person worship in Metro's physical sanctuary)** at 11:00 AM Eastern via Zoom. Join us from wherever you will be during this holiday season. *Alexis Tardy, Alliance of Baptist Staff member, will be our preacher.*



Advent Devotional Guide

This year's Metro Advent Devotional Guide has been such a blessing to our community, and new daily devotions will be posted through Christmas Day. Many thanks to all of you who contributed reflections and meditations. You can continue to access these devotionals throughout the year at <https://metroadvent.wordpress.com/> or scan the QR Code here! And special thanks to Paula Nance for helping to coordinate the guide again this year!



Winter Clothing Closet will Reopen on January 5, 2026

Mondays (January 5 - March 22, 2026; CLOSED ON DEC. 2 & 29)

Distribution: 10:15-11:30 AM | Volunteer Needs: 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

RMM's Winter Clothing Closet is open and we need YOUR HELP!

CLOTHING DONATIONS: We are in great need of the following new or gently used clothing items for adults: heavy winter coats (**LARGER MEN'S COATS ARE MOST NEEDED**), sweatshirts/sweaters, joggers/jeans, t-shirts, hats, gloves, scarves and underwear. You can drop off donations here at Metro.

VOLUNTEERS: Each Monday, we could use up to 10 additional volunteers to help distribute clothing to those in need. You can sign up for one or more volunteer opportunities by scanning QR above.



Church Office Holiday Closure

Please note that Metro and RMM offices and programs will all be **closed December 24, 2025 - January 2, 2026** (mail and packages will still be collected). Pastors Tiffany and Jana will be on vacation during those dates.



Annual Giving Monthly Update

Thank you for supporting the ministry and work of Metro Baptist Church through your tithes and offerings. For more questions regarding our stewardship efforts & focus, please feel free to reach out to Metro Trustee Sara Day (saraday468@gmail.com).

General offerings through end of November 2025: \$230,124.06

Total Amount Budgeted for 2025: \$230,000.00

Charitable Giving Statements

2025 Giving Statements will be **sent out by email only** by January 31, 2026. If you do not receive the weekly church e-letter, if you have a new email address, or if you have any doubt the office has your email address, please send it to billing@mbcnyc.org.

Metro Baptist Church

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www.mbcnyc.org | mbc@mbcnyc.org

Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries: www.rmmnyc.org

Hell's Kitchen Farm Project: www.hkfp.org

Affiliated and partnered with the Alliance of Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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Rev. Jana Dye	ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Stephena George	MINISTRY ASSOCIATE
Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel	PASTOR
Anita Massengill	WORSHIP LEADER
Cathy McGaughey	FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
Rev. Dr. Troy Messenger	HYBRID WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Aaron Moore	FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR
Yonier Hurtado Urrutia	CUSTODIAN
Jesse Warkentin	WORSHIP LEADER