



Service of Worship December 15, 2024 9:30am
Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. — Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE "Savior of the Nations Come" by J.S. Bach
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

CHORAL PROCESSIONAL "Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn" The Sacred Harp
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers setting by Mack Wilberg
Chancel Brass, Percussion, & Organ
Rebecca J. Prater, director

*Awake, arise, and hail the morn, for unto us a Savior's born, Halle, hallelujah.
See how the angels wing their way, to usher in the glorious day, Halle, hallelujah.
To us a child is born in heav'n, Halle, hallelujah. To us the Son of God is giv'n, Halle, hallelujah.
His name the wonderful shall be; Halle, hallelujah. His wonders heav'n and earth shall see, Halle, hallelujah.
Come, join the angels in the sky, Halle, hallelujah. Glory to God who reigns on high, Halle, hallelujah.
Let peace and love on earth abound, Halle, hallelujah. While time revolves and years roll 'round.
Hark! What sweet music, what a song, Halle, hallelujah. Sounds from the bright celestial throng!
Sweet song whose melting sounds impart, joy to each raptur'd, listn'ing heart, Halle, hallelujah.
Our faith in grateful triumph boast, Halle, hallelujah. These wonders of the Lord of Hosts,
and trust the zeal that form'd the plan, Halle, hallelujah. To perfect what that zeal began,
Halle, hallelujah. (Text by John Dobell, adapted)*

(Sung)

**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.**

(Spoken)

The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more joy.

Life can be so complicated and filled with distractions.

We are a people who simply want Good News.

We need a marker on the journey to tell us to stop and notice
the wonder of the moments along the way.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

Holy and Living God, we pray for the refocusing
of our lives on what really matters.

Too often, we allow the complexity of modern life to take over,
and we fail to sense your presence in our everyday lives.

Call us to a simplified joy.

Call us to simply pause in the midst of our scheduled mania
and breathe in the possibility that you are asking for our attention.

We pray this in the name of your Son,
Jesus, the Christ, the Joy of Our Lives. **Amen.**

Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction:

God is with us every step of our way toward the Joy of Bethlehem.

Jesus is being born into our lives even now.

The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

(Sung)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 143, *stanzas 1 & 4* “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral"

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Josie and Nolan Noran
Amanda & Nick Noran, parents

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 15:12–13 (NRSVue)

Jane Knoche

Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

SONG OF JOY

+ "Awake My Love, Arise and Sing!"

by Debra Scroggins

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Bob Dover, clarinet ~ Jill Endaya-Allen & Keith Langabee, percussion

Awake my love, arise and sing! My eyes have beheld a newborn king!

The babe is cradled in manger low. Arise my love, we'll go!

Awake my love without delay! Such wonders await you! Remember this day!

A king is born in Bethlehem! Arise my love, arise! (Repeat)

Awake! Arise! Such marvelous wonders will open your eyes!

Awake! Arise! Our King is now with us! Arise!

Awake my friends, arise and sing! Our eyes have beheld a newborn king!

The babe is cradled in manger low. Arise my friends, we'll go!

Awake! Arise! Such marvelous wonders will open your eyes!

Awake! Arise! Our King is now with us! Arise!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will

come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SONG OF ANNUNCIATION

+“The Angel Gabriel”

19th Century Basque Carol

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. John Leavitt

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:

“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady!” Gloria!

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,

Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady!” Gloria!

Then gentle, Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.

“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria.

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on Christmas morn,

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, “Most highly favored lady, Gloria!”

SERMON

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

After prayer concerns are raised, we will join in singing “Lead Me, Guide Me” before the prayer and again following the Lord’s Prayer.

740 Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D) (A7) (Em)
 Refrain E^b B^b7 Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you
 lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Fine*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

Music by Morten Lauridsen

"Sure On This Shining Night"

Words by James Agee

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

*Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round,
 kindness must watch for me this side the ground, on this shining night.
 The late year lies down the north, all is healed, all is health.
 High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole. Sure on this shining night.
 I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone of shadows on the stars.
 Sure on this shining night, this shining night, sure on this shining night.*

*DOXOLOGY

(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

MUELLER

**Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
 and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
 Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
 the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.**

Sending

*HYMN 134, stanzas 1 & 4

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it “The Messiah’s coming and kingdom.” So “the Lord” here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

(Sung)

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
cast out our fear and draw us near; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

POSTLUDE

“A King Is Born”

by Sy Gorieb and Tim Hosman

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Tim Sarsany

David Sutherland, tenor ~ Linda Dover, pianist

Jill Endaya-Allen & Keith Langabee, percussion

A King is born this day in Bethlehem, hallelujah.

No crown is worn, but angels worship him, hallelujah.

Almighty God so meek, so mild, salvation comes through this holy child.

*A King is born, he is in the manger now; A King is born, humbly come and humbly bow;
the tiny Lord, reaching out his tiny hand. A King is born this day in Bethlehem.*

His palace is lowly, his throne is made of hay. Hallelujah!

The shepherds bow down to see his holy face, halle, hallelujah.

Heaven is singing of peace on earth, filled with the wonder of this birth.

*A King is born, he is in the manger now; a King is born, humbly come and humbly bow;
the tiny Lord, reaching out his tiny hand. A King is born this day in Bethlehem.*

Come humbly and humbly bow; he's in the manger now.

(Repeat to the beginning)

**Stand in body or spirit*

+“Awake My Love, Arise and Sing!” by Debra Scroggins was donated
in honor and celebration of Tom and Anne Stroud’s 50th Wedding Anniversary.

+“The Angel Gabriel” arr. John Leavitt was donated by Gene Wilson
in memory of Jerry Kenefake, husband to Jo Anne Kenefake.

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

Songs of the season

Swinging & Singing into Christmas

Chancel and Exaltation! Singers

Sopranos

Lauren Bond, Liz Chandler, Barbara Douglas, Lexie Fleeman, Cheryl Johnson,
Karen Kesler, Beth Lillian, Chris Lindsay, Terri Monrad,
Cindy Schendel, Lara Schesser, Anne Stroud, Kathy Williams

Altos

Kathy Bures, Lindsay Callender, Emily Dixon, Esme Dixon, Susan Hayden,
Diane Hevener, Pam Kelly, Connie Richards, Kelly Scarborough, Melanie Townsend

Tenors

Linda Bruns, Jim Kelly, Keith Langabee, Darryl Prater,
Ellin Schoenfeld, David Sutherland, Cal Sweeten, Gene Wilson

Basses

Paul Bruns, Bob Dover, Mac Fechtling, Edwin Fukunaga,
Mike Hockley, Rob Schendel, Conor Schesser, Allen York

Clarinet, Chancel Brass, and Percussion

Bob Dover, clarinet ~ Charles Graves and Russell Thompson, trumpet ~ Jim Kelly, horn
Mike Hockley and Lara Schesser, euphonium ~ Jill Endaya-Allen and Keith Langabee, percussion

Leadership

Bob Dover, assistant director ~ Edwin Fukunaga, assistant accompanist ~ Connie Richards, music librarian
Rebecca J. Prater, director ~ Linda Dover, organist

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