



# GRACE COVENANT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship December 19, 2021 9:30am  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Gathering

PRELUDE "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL  
Plain-song melody, c. 1200; Op. 80, No. 4 by Camil Van Hulse  
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mitch Trigger

INTROIT "Rise, Shine!" Negro Spiritual  
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers arr. Marques L. A. Garrett  
Patrick O'Halloran, director – Beth Lillian, descant and Tom Trenney  
***Oh, rise, shine! for the light is a-comin'; my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.***  
*This is the year of jubilee, my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.*  
*My Lord has set his people free, my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.*  
*I intend to shout an' never stop, my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.*  
*Until I reach that mountain top, my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.*  
*Wet or dry, I intend to try, my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.*  
*To serve the Lord until I die, my Lord says He's comin' by an' by.*  
***Oh, rise, shine! for the light is a-comin'; my Lord says he's comin' by an' by. Rise an' shine!***

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather in preparation,

**ALL: for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

ONE: We gather in expectation,

**ALL: for joy is about to be sung in "Alleluias."**

ONE: We gather in celebration,

**ALL: for we know good news is coming,**

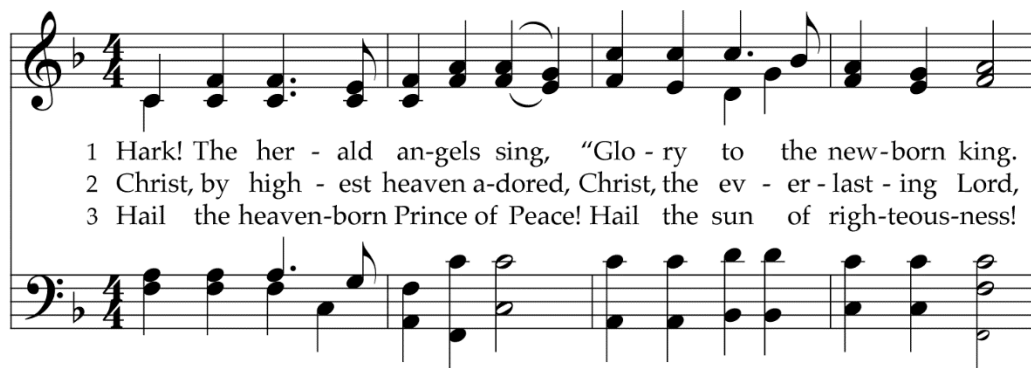
ONE: We gather in anticipation,

**ALL: for hope is about to be born anew.**


ONE: With preparation, expectation, celebration, and anticipation, let us  
worship God!

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

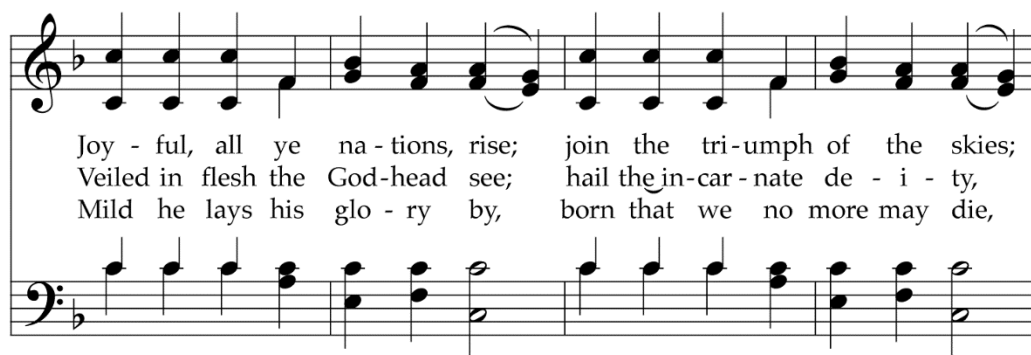
## 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



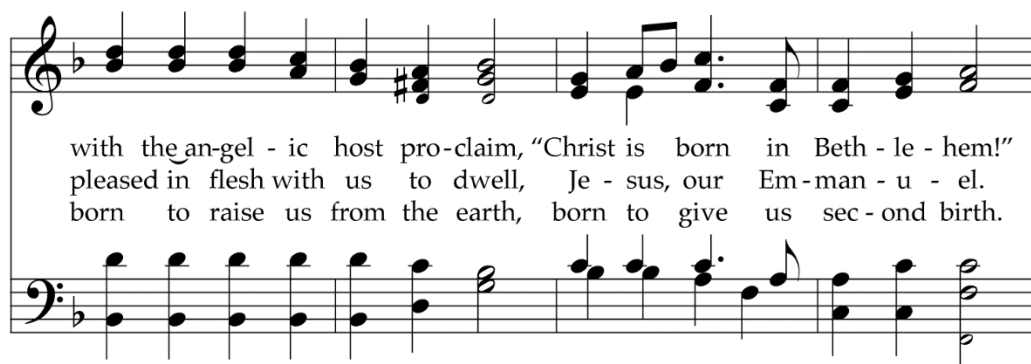
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.  
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN  
 7.7.7.7.D with refrain

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Susan & David Sutherland

SUNG RESPONSE, *Stanza 4 soloist* "Live into Hope"

Text by Jane Parker Huber  
 TRURO

TIME WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Gracious God, you are always with us and always coming. We confess that we do not know how to truly prepare our lives for that reality. We have forgotten how to hope. We have ignored your promises. We have been distracted by the busyness of us. Forgive us Lord. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the courage of the magi, and the quiet faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them toward Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you and all others!**

SONG OF MARY, JOSEPH, & THE CHRIST CHILD

Scottish Folk Song, *adapted*

"What Strangers Are These?"

arr. Dan Forrest

*featuring* Katie Hearn, flute & Christopher Callender, guitar

Patrick O'Halloran, director

*What strangers are these that wander through the town? Hush, 'tis Joseph and weary Mary.  
 And what does he seek so hopeless and in vain? He is seeking shelter for Mary.  
 For she is the blest and chosen of the Lord, who will bear to us a goodly King.  
 And who is this King of whom ye proudly sing? Know ye not the Christ, Jesus the Savior?*

*What wee child is this that in a manger lies? Hush, 'tis Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.  
 Say what fair maid is this whose joy is mixed with awe? O 'tis Mary, mother of Jesus.  
 O these are the shepherds and these the magi kings who have brought him their gifts of gold and myrrh.  
 But why kneel in homage here before a babe? They adore their King, Jesus the Savior.*

*Who are these that march from death into life? These are they who love Jesus the Christ child.  
 And how do they triumph o'er the gates of hell? Through the grace of him, Jesus the Savior.  
 He is born to redeem mankind from sin and strife, to bring peace, joy, love and brotherhood.  
 O where shall I find him? Where shall I seek? He is here and now, Jesus your Savior.*

## Equipping

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Leviticus 25:1-13 (CEB)

Terri Monrad

The Lord said to Moses on Mount Sinai, Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Once you enter the land that I am giving you, the land must celebrate a sabbath rest to the LORD. You will plant your fields for six years, and prune your vineyards and gather their crops for six years. But in the seventh year the land will have a special sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the LORD: You must not plant your fields or prune your vineyards. You must not harvest the secondary growth of your produce or gather the grapes of your freely growing vines. It will be a year of special rest for the land. Whatever the land produces during its sabbath will be your food—for you, for your male and female servants, and for your hired laborers and foreign guests who live with you, as well as for your livestock and for the wild animals in your land. All of the land's produce can be eaten. Count off seven weeks of years—that is, seven times seven—so that the seven weeks of years totals forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet blown on the tenth day of the seventh month. Have the trumpet blown throughout your land on the Day of Reconciliation. You will make the fiftieth year holy, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a Jubilee year for you: each of you must return to your family property and to your extended family. The fiftieth year will be a Jubilee year for you. Do not plant, do not harvest the secondary growth, and do not gather from the freely growing vines because it is a Jubilee: it will be holy to you. You can eat only the produce directly out of the field. Each of you must return to your family property in this year of Jubilee.

### SONG OF THE SHEPHERD \**"Shepherd, Softly Play Your Pipes"* Words by Jayne Rasmussen

*featuring* Bob Dover, clarinet

Music by Mark Shepperd

Rebecca Prater, director

*Shepherd, softly play your pipes. Let their song drift on the night.  
 May their simple, sweet refrain ease a mother's birthing pain.  
 Dance your song to stable far on glowing light of prophet's star.  
 Greet the child of humble birth in lilting notes proclaim his worth.  
 As joyous song on starlight soars, angels from the heavens pour.  
 Join the choir's jubilation! Play your pipes in celebration!*

*Shepherd, play your pipes tonight. Let their song be filled with light.  
 Your pipes foretell his destiny, who shall the greatest Shepherd be.  
 Shepherd, softly play your pipes. Let their song drift on the night.*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:16-21 (CEB)

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to liberate the oppressed,  
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

"Proclaim Hope"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

## A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

"Peace On Earth"

Lyrics by Jill Jackson

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Quoting Melody by Sy Miller

Rebecca Prater, director

Music by Christopher G. Krug

*Let there be peace, peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

*Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God as our Father brothers are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now, with every step I take let this be my solemn vow:*

*To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

Sending

## \*HYMN 382

"Heaven is Singing for Joy"

ALEGRÍA

Stanza 1 Choir ... Stanzas 2 & 3 ALL

# Heaven Is Singing for Joy 382

*El cielo canta alegría*

Capo 3: (Am) Cm (C) E $\flat$  (F) A $\flat$  (G) B $\flat$  (C) E $\flat$  (E7) G7

1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,  
 2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,  
 3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,  
 1 El cie - lo can - ta a - le - grí - a, ¡a - le - lu - ya!

(Am) Cm (E) G (Am) Cm

for in your life and in mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.  
 for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.  
 for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.  
 por-que en tu vi-da y la mí - a bri - lla la glo - ria de Dios.

## Refrain / Estribillo

(G7) B $\flat$ 7 (C) E $\flat$  (G7) B $\flat$ 7 (C) E $\flat$

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 ¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!

(G7) B $\flat$ 7 (C) E $\flat$  (F) A $\flat$  (Em7) Gm7 (Am) Cm

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 ¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!

2 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!,  
 porque a tu vida y la mía  
 las une el amor de Dios. Estribillo*

3 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!,  
 porque tu vida y la mía  
 proclamarán al Señor. Estribillo*

Written in 1958 for a picnic of theological students in Argentina, this piece represents the first Christian hymn in the 20th century to use Latin American folk music. The text is based on Jesus' saying that heaven rejoices at the repentance of each sinner (Luke 15:7).

SONG OF THE ANGELS      “Angels We Have Heard on High”      arr. Mack Wilberg  
Chancel and Exaltation! Singers – Lauren Bond & Karen Kesler, soli  
*featuring* Linda Dover, organ – Rebecca Prater, director

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      “Rise, Shine!” (*Recap*)      Negro Spiritual  
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers      arr. Marques L. A. Garrett  
Patrick O’Halloran, director – Beth Lillian, descant      and Tom Trenney

*\*Today’s anthem, “Shepherd, Play Your Pipes Tonight”  
by Mark Shepperd was donated by Mike & Celia Nicholas  
in honor of Linda Dover, GCPC’s organist.*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

proclaim hope

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## The Participants Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

### **Sopranos**

Lauren Bond  
Liz Chandler  
Barbara Douglas  
Karen Kesler  
Beth Lillian  
Terri Monrad  
Conor Schesser  
Lara Schesser  
Cindy Schendel  
Carol Syers  
Kathy Williams

### **Altos**

Kathy Bures  
Susan Hayden  
Pam Kelly  
Madeline Mahoney  
Rebecca Prater  
\*Connie Richards  
Kylie Sutherland  
Susan Sutherland  
Sue Trigger

### **Tenors**

Andrew Alka  
+Linda Bruns  
Jake Cummings  
Jim Kelly  
Darryl Prater  
Patrick O'Halloran  
David Sutherland  
Cal Sweeten  
Gene Wilson

### **Basses**

Chris Alka  
Paul Bruns  
+Bob Dover  
Mac Fechtling  
Mike Hockley  
Joe Hoffman  
Tom Jennings  
Mitch Trigger

*\*Music Librarian  
+Rehearsal Assistance*

### **Instrumentalists**

Bob Dover, clarinet  
Christopher Callender, guitar  
Katie Hearn, flute

### **Tech Crew**

Joel Kesler  
Miles McDonald  
Ray Kowalczewski

### **Program Promotion**

Patrick Bell – office, publishing, website  
Kim Krueger – newsletter, marketing, website

**Linda Dover**, organist and accompanist  
**Patrick O'Halloran**, assistant director  
**Rebecca J. Prater**, director of music ministries