

# The Songs of Christmas

Service of Worship    December 18, 2022    9:30am  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Gathering

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(video)*

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative "amen." Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Mitch Trigger

### CHORAL PROCESSIONAL

#### +“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers  
Chris Krug, piano – Linda Dover, organ  
Rebecca Prater, director

***Latin Translation: Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**Therefore, glory to God in the highest.**

PERSONENT HODIE

arr. Bryan L. Greer

Luke 2:6-14, Matt. 2:1-12

*On this day, earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him. Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*God's bright star o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King,  
born on earth to save us, peace and love he gave us. Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Brandon, Katie, Mallory, and Charlotte Hearn

Reader: For Mary and Zechariah, one angel was required, but for the shepherds, the sky erupts with a joyful host of angels praising God and singing, “See! Good news! Great joy for all people! To you a savior is born! Glory! Peace! Favor!

Reader: The shepherds were surely astounded by what they saw and heard, but they were not deterred, they were filled with joy. When the angels had returned to the heavens, they left for Bethlehem to see what had taken place.

Reader: The angel's joyful song has not died. As our Advent season comes to a close, we would do well to contemplate the present world we live in and remember that in the midst of all things, the holy child is born. May our hearts be filled with joy.

Reader: Today we relight the candles of hope, love and good news. And we add the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of Joy.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest and peace to all, the angels sang. Wondrous God, we praise you for the song of the angels and the unshakable faith of the shepherds who, after an encounter with a host of angels, still traveled to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus. May we seek him with such unshakable faith. Amen.**

\*HYMN SING      *A time to sing a stanza of your favorite songs of the season*

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION PRESENTATION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence, reawaken in us the awe of Christmas. As we hear again the story of a woman and a man chosen to care for a surprising child, remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways. And when we leave this place, may we be willing to sing praises for a young woman who said YES and the birth that we prepare to celebrate. We pray in the name of the child who was born so long ago, and yet still lives today, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*HYMN 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

## Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The vocal line begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, and A3. The bass line consists of a half note chord G2-Bb2-D2, followed by quarter notes G2, Bb2, and D2.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, and A3, followed by a half note G3. The bass line has quarter notes G2, Bb2, and D2, followed by a half note chord G2-Bb2-D2.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, and A3, followed by a half note G3. The bass line has quarter notes G2, Bb2, and D2, followed by a half note chord G2-Bb2-D2.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, and A3, followed by a half note G3. The bass line has quarter notes G2, Bb2, and D2, followed by a half note chord G2-Bb2-D2.

## SONG OF PEACE

### “Sing We Now of Christmas”

NOËL NOUVELET

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Kyle Pederson

Bob Dover, clarinet

Traditional French Carol

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.*

*Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel; sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.*

*In stillness lays the world in silent reverie; longing for the birth of love and mercy.*

*Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls; turning to the manger that grounds all mystery. Noel!*

*Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee, Wise Men from the east, all have come the child to see.*

*All of creation where love has come to dwell; sing we now of Christmas, the good news that we tell. Sing Noel!*

## Equipping

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Nancy Kalesz

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

## SONG OF JOY

### “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Music by Henry T. Smart

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Text by James Montgomery

Chris Lindsay, violin – Daniel Cole, percussion

arr. Dan Forrest

Linda Dover & Edwin Fukunaga, piano four-hands

*Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.*

*Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,*

*God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.*

*Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar.*

*Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen his natal star.*

*Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.*

*Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal three in one!*

*Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:8-14 (NRSVUE)

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"A Song of Joy"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

arr. with new music by Marianne Forman

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

CAROL, by Richard Willis

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Text by Edmund Sears

Chris Lindsay, violin

*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men from heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.  
Look, now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold!  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

Sending

\*HYMN 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gate"

TRURO

Linda Dover, organist – Darryl Prater, trumpet

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**+“Brightest and Best”**  
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers  
Chris Lindsay, violin & Trey Bures, string bass  
Linda Dover, organist

Southern Harmony, 1835  
arr. Shawn Kirchner  
Text by Reginald Heber

*Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for his guard the bright angel attend.  
**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid. (Refrain)***

*Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining low lies his bed with beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all. (Refrain)*

*Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and off'rings divine,  
gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?  
**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.***

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

**+The anthem, “On This Day Earth Shall Ring” arr. Bryan L. Greer,  
was donated in memory of Jane Weaver from the  
Mary Ann Wilson Memorial Choral Music Grants.**

**+The anthem, “Brightest and Best” arr. Shawn Kirchner, was donated by  
Celia & Mike Nicholas in honor of the music program at GCPC.**

Some music is reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.  
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.  
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504397326.

## RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD:

Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



# The Songs of Christmas

## Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Linda Dover, organist – Rebecca Prater, director

### Sopranos

Lauren Bond  
Liz Chandler  
Barbara Douglas  
Cheryl Johnson  
Karen Kesler  
Sylvia Littlejohn  
Terri Monrad  
Cindy Schendel  
Lara Schesser  
Anne Stroud  
Kathy Williams

### Altos

Kathy Bures  
Susan Hayden  
Jan Horosz  
Pam Kelly  
Angela Krug  
Morgan Krug  
\*Connie Richards  
Sue Trigger

\*Music Librarian

### Tenors

Jim Adams  
^Linda Bruns  
Joel Ilten  
Darryl Prater  
Conor Schesser  
Ellin Schoenfeld  
David Sutherland  
Cal Sweeten  
Gene Wilson

### Basses

Paul Bruns  
>Bob Dover  
Mac Fechtling  
Edwin Fukunaga  
Jim Kelly  
Nathan Littlejohn  
Patrick O'Halloran  
Mitch Trigger

^Assistant Accompanist

>Assistant Director