

# The Songs of Christmas

Service of Worship   December 4, 2022   9:30am  
The Second Sunday of Advent

## Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP *(video)*

WELCOME

Rev. Mitch Trigger

INTROIT

+“Symphonic Prelude on ADESTE FIDELES”  
GCPC Orchestra – Pam Smith Kelly, director

by Claude T. Smith  
arr. Joseph Earp

*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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Trey & Jesse Bures

Reader: Finally, after 400 years of silence, when everything was ready, God spoke again through a messenger of God. Zechariah and his wife were going to have a baby!

Reader: This child would be the one that the prophet Malachi promised would come. He would be like Elijah, powerful and influential.

Reader: Zechariah understood that it was God at work in their lives, but the news was still heavy. He and his wife were getting on in years. He questioned the messenger and provoked God to silence him. He could not speak for many months.

Reader: When the time came for the child to be born, Elizabeth and Zechariah named the child John. Then his mouth was opened, and Zechariah sang a song of hope for the child his son was born to prepare the way for, Jesus, his cousin, the Messiah.

Reader: This morning we re- light the first candle of the Advent wreath and name it love as we remember Mary's love for God. And we light the second candle and name it the candle of hope, for Zechariah sang a song of hope for all people at the coming of the Messiah who his son would proclaim.

**ALL: God of hope, you surprise us with your work that reaches into the silence and brings us hope. May we listen for you speaking in the silence of our lives for we desire your message of hope once more. Amen.**

\*HYMN 108

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"  
*Verses 1, 5, & 6*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

## Of the Father's Love Begotten 108



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan  
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it  
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full  
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one  
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -  
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the  
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -  
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the  
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised  
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -  
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft  
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -  
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,  
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

## 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.)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Holy God, giver of life and forgiver of sin, we come to you now with hope –  
hope that you will always love us, hope that you will not hold our sin against us,  
hope that you will turn us around from what is evil, toward what is good.  
Walk with us in this holy season, and help us to look clearly at our lives and the  
world, that we may embrace all with love. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## 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 the musical score is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is in G-flat major (three flats). The lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the' are written below the notes.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -' are written below the notes.

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

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics 'gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,' are written below the notes.

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

The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics 'world with - out end. A - men, a - men.' are written below the notes. The bass staff ends with a fermata over an octave sign (8).

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:67–79 (CEB)

Barbara Douglas

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, "Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered his holy covenant, the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham. He has granted that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes, for as long as we live. You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

### VIDEO

"Zechariah's *Benedictus*"

### SERMON

"A Song of Hope"

Rev. Mitch Trigger

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

### OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Greensleeves"

*A Symphonic Setting*

GCPC Orchestra – Pam Smith Kelly, director

by Claude T. Smith

arr. Joseph Earp

### THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*(Individual bread and juice sets are available in the Concourse as you enter the Sanctuary. If you desire a gluten-free option, please see the Communion server at the Sanctuary entrance.)*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as**

**we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD  
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[Sending](#)

\*HYMN 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL




## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for-ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.



## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

GCPC Orchestra – Pam Smith Kelly, director

arr. Joseph Earp

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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# The Songs of Christmas

GCPC Orchestra  
Pam Smith Kelly, director

*Violins: Edwin Fukunaga, Chris Lindsay, Becky Showalter*

*String Bass: Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, Trey Bures*

*Flute: Susan Culp, Bob Dover, Deb Stewart*

*Oboe: Chris Culp*

*Clarinet: Lauren Bond, Bob Dover, Amy Jantz, Robin Thompson, Wanda Temm*

*Bass Clarinet: Pat Setser*

*E♭ Alto Saxophone: Miles McDonald*

*Trumpet: Phil Holmes, Jim Kelly, Russ Thompson*

*Horn: Sherry Bernard, Carolyn Culp, Jim Kelly, Diane Paris, Ellin Schoenfeld*

*Trombone: David England, David Roth*

*Euphonium: Lara Schesser*

*Tuba: Brent Herdman, Paul Weissenborn*

*Percussion: Daniel Cole, Chris Culp, Ken Eberhart, Keith Langabee*

**+Today's presentation of the Orchestra Introit, "*Symphonic Prelude on ADESTE FIDELES*" by Claude T. Smith and arranged by Joseph Earp is its World Premiere.**