



Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, the God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Christian Formation

10:00 Worship

Nursery for Ages 0-5 and Mother's Room: We have a safe and fun nursery located at the end of the hall in the Veritas Cafe. Please follow the signs. We use a Kid Check program for security.

Video: There is a video feed of the worship live-streamed to the Conference Room at the end of the hallway for anyone who needs to step out of the service.

Isaiah 11:1-10

After portraying the destruction of arrogant human evil as the felling of a vast forest (Isaiah 10:33-34), Isaiah presents the Messiah as a shoot or twig growing from a stump remaining after God's judgment.

Unlike the human failure before him, especially the wicked King Ahaz of Israel, this son of Jesse bears the fruit of a new world.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 16, 2018 | Third Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship

Brothers and sisters, let us worship God by remembering Isaiah's prophecy 700 years before the birth of Christ:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;
the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

LO, HOW A ROSE

GERMAN HYMN, 15TH C



1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in
3. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the



sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as men of old have
mind; with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er
air, dis - pels with glor - ious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - 'ry -



sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright, a -
kind. To show God's love a - right she
where. True man, yet ve - ry God; from



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign God. To you be praise and glory forever. In your tender compassion, the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence, and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

CHRISTY NOCKELS, 2016



1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the
 2. Come, thou long - a - wait - ed One, in the
 3. Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - til your



ev - er - last - ing light, the Sun of right - eous - ness, a -
 full - ness of your love. And loose these hearts bound up by
 love in us is born. And joy - less is the eve - ning



rise, and tri - umph o'er these shades of night.
 shame, and we will nev - er be the same.
 song un - til Em - man - u - el has come.



So here we wait in hope of _ you, all our souls'



long - ing, through and through. Day - spring, from on high be



near, and Son of right - eous - ness ap - pear.

Affirmation of Faith and Confession

What does it mean that he
“was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

**That the eternal Son of God,
who is and remains
true and eternal God,
took to himself,
through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature**

**so that he might also become David’s true descendant,
like his brothers and sisters in every way
except for sin.**

How then does the conception and birth of Jesus benefit us?

**He is our mediator
and with his innocence and perfect holiness
he removes from God’s sight our sin.**

Let us pray:

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent season, forgive us our failure to respond as we
should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

Heidelberg Catechism

The Catechism was written in 1563 and is largely a commentary on the Apostles’ Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord’s Prayer. The result is a clear-headed, warm-hearted exploration of the faith.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ has indeed removed your sins. Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

EDMUND H. SEARS, 1849



1. It came up - on___ the mid - night clear, that glor - ious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;
4. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
5. For lo! the days___ are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
be - neath the an - gel strain have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heav'n's all grac - ious King."
a - bove its sad___ and low - ly plains, they bend___ on hov - 'ring wing,
and man, at war with man, hears not the love - song which they bring;
Look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on___ the wing.
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o' - er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O hush the noise,___ you men of strife, and hear the an - gels sing.
O rest be - side___ the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
and the whole world___ send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD

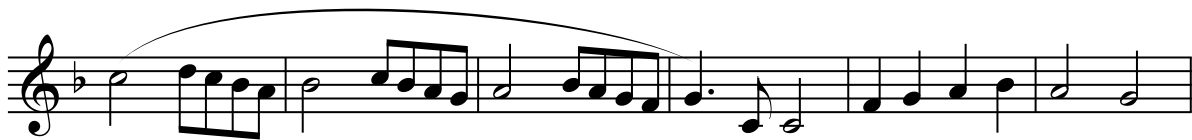
TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains
2. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.



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



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

Welcome and Announcements

Offering

The offering is part of our regular worship. Our hope is that all gifts offered will come from an understanding that we give because God first gave to us, and that every penny will be carefully and thoughtfully invested in cultivating faith in Jesus Christ.

Litany for Advent

All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!
Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory,
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by your presence.
Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time
for the liberation of all creation:
Release all into your promised freedom.
Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,
born in a stable at Bethlehem:
May your church be a sign of hope and joy.
Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly God and truly human,
born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:
Fulfill our desires in you.
Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, born of the virgin Mary,
child of wonder and splendor,
Mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:
May the whole world live in peace and justice.
Lord, have mercy.

Passing of the Peace

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "The peace of Christ be with you."

Sermon

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" 46 And Mary said:

"My soul magnifies the Lord
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 1:26-56

Sermon Series
*Luke: the Gospel of
Amazement*

The Lord's Supper

Communion

Wine is available in the inner two circles; grape juice is available in the outer ring. Gluten-free wafers are available in a basket on the back table.

We hold the bread and wine until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.

We ask that you dispense with your cups by the back door following the service.

Just as the climax of all history will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, we conclude our worship in the presence of God by feasting. The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of his generous hospitality.

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ who acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbors, and confess their need for the grace of Christ to partake of this meal. If you are a Christian and haven't been baptized, please talk with one of our pastors. We would be honored to baptize you.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have sent your only begotten Son.

We do not presume to come to this your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in the manifold and great mercies of your Son. We are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord; you ever love to show mercy.

You fulfilled your promise to reconcile the world to yourself, coming among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh. He is indeed the long-awaited Savior, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.

We long for that day when Jesus will return as triumphant King, when the dead will be raised and all people will stand before his judgment. Then righteousness and justice will be established forever.

Until then, strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit. Keep us faithful in your service. Feed us, renew and strengthen us, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

INFINITE LORD

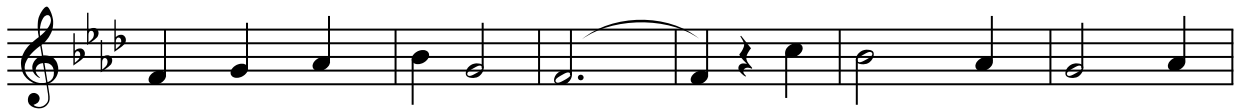
KEN BIBLE, 1991



1. In - fi - nite Lord, my in - fant King, throned in hu -
2. Je - sus, in dust and hay I kneel, sta - bled in



mil - i - ty; — your on - ly robes, your swad - dling clothes;
deep - est need; — my on - ly robes, your right - eous - ness;



cry - ing your first de - cree. — Your grand do - main, your
"mer - cy" my on - ly plea. — My light, your gaze; my



crown and train, dark - ness and dust and sheep. —
song, your praise;



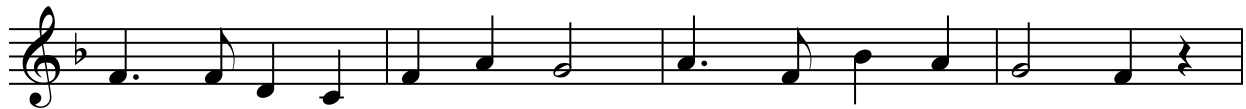
my hope and prayer your peace.

JOY HAS DAWNED

KEITH GETTY & STUART TOWNEND, 2004



1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion:
2. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
re - con - cil - ing God and man: Christ our might - y Cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
What a Sav - ior, what a Friend, what a glo - rious mys - t'ry:



but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus born of Ma - ry.
once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.



Joy has dawned up - on the world!

Sending and Benediction

Let us go forth and serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

May you overflow with thankfulness in Christ Jesus. And may the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you.