

Church of the King
The Lord's Day Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent 2023



Our Call to Worship from God's Word

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy *is* His name. And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones, and exalted *the* lowly. He has filled *the* hungry with good things, and *the* rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of *His* mercy, As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever." **Luke 1:46-55**

Come Worship the Lord!

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Praise:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Based on Luke 2:15

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels;**

*Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord*

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created;**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;**

Refrain

Salutation and Response:

[based on Matthew 28:19, 2Peter 1:2, Isaiah 40:3-5]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord!

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain shall be made low!

The glory of Jehovah will be revealed,

And all flesh will see it together. Amen!

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us in Christ

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1John 1:9

The Call for Confession from God's Word:

And I [Nehemiah] said: “I pray, Jehovah God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love *You* and observe *Your* commandments, “please let *Your* ear be attentive and *Your* eyes open, that *You* may hear the prayer of *Your* servant which I pray before *You* now, day and night, for the children of Israel *Your* servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against *You*. Both my father's house and I have sinned. *Nehemiah 1:5-6*

God's People Join in a Hymn of Confession:

[congregation standing]

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL (8 8. 8 8. 8 8)
13th century plainsong
arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

Latin antiphon, 12th century
tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un -
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the law In
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, And
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And

til the Son of God ap - pear.
cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Silent Confession: "Then those of Israelite lineage... stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers."
Nehemiah 9:2 Those who are willing and able are invited to kneel for our time of confession.

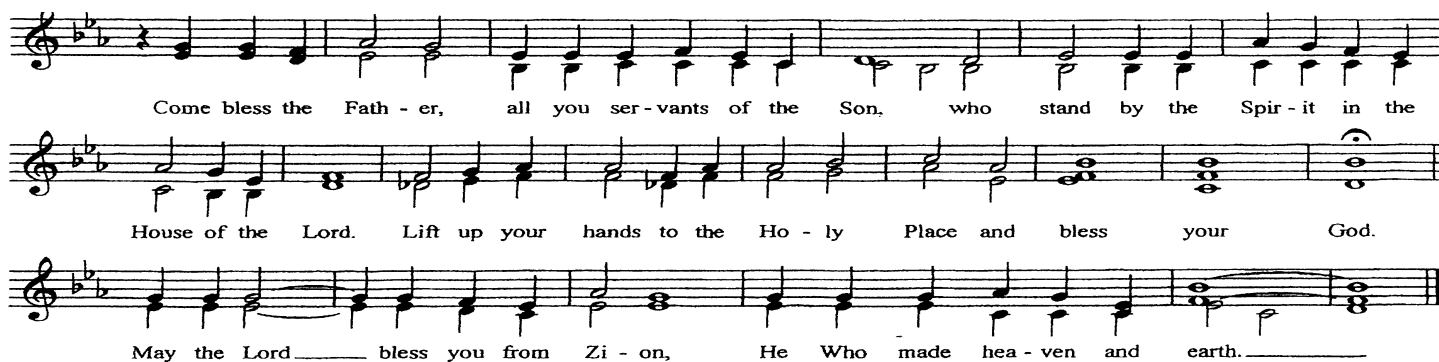
Corporate Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, my heavenly Father, You are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; Hear me as I come to You humbly confessing my sins, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. I have broken Your Holy Laws by my deeds and by my words, and by the sinful affections of my heart. I confess before You my disobedience and ingratitude, my pride and willfulness, and all my failures and shortcomings toward You and toward my family and friends. Have mercy upon me, most merciful Father; And of Your great goodness grant that I may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; Grant me this, I pray, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, my Savior, my Lord and my God. AMEN!

Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness Psalm 51:7-12

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit."

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification; and for His sake forgives us all our sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Having confessed our sins with faith in the completed work of Christ on our behalf, we are forgiven; we have been cleansed and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. And not only that, we are now in Christ and in Him we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity, with the Saints of all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness. **Come, let us worship the Lord!**



Come bless the Fath - er, all you ser - vants of the Son, who stand by the Spir - it in the
House of the Lord. Lift up your hands to the Ho - ly Place and bless your God.
May the Lord _____ bless you from Zi - on, He Who made hea - ven and earth. _____

Lift up your hearts!



We lift them up un - to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!



It is pro - per and right to do so.

Truly it is proper and right that we should at all times and in all places give praise to you O Lord, so with the angels and all the company of heaven and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you & singing:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN (7777.7777.77)
 Felix Mendelssohn, 1840
 arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3. *Come, De - sire of na - tions, come,* Fix in us Thy hum - ble home;
 4. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place:
 5. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - 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 a vir - gin's womb.
Rise, the wom - an's con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head.
 Sec - ond Ad - am from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n 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 th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Now dis - play Thy sav - ing pow'r, Ru - ined na - ture now re - store;
 Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain, Thee, the Life, the in - ner man:
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Now in mys - tic un - ion join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.
 O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be - liev - ing heart.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. Ezekiel 36:26-27

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD:

Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph’s Dream

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:

After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep,

Did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

God’s People Respond with a Hymn of Faith:

While By the Sheep, We Watched at Night

While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Is. 12:3

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings brought an
2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a
3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall re -
4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - er joy our

f REFRAIN *p* echo
an - gel bright.
child to - day.
deem us all. How great our joy! Great our joy!
hearts shall fill.

f *p* echo *f*
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

p echo
heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

"A Postmillennial Christmas"

From Pastor Paul Liberati

based on Isaiah 9:6-7

God's People Sing a Hymn of Praise: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

[congregation standing]

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8. 6. 8. 6. 8. 6. with refrain
English traditional melody

English traditional carol

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n-ly Fa - ther, A bless - ed an - gel came;
3. 'Fear not then,' said the an - gel, 'Let noth - ing you af - fright,
4. The shep-herds at those tid - ings Re - joic - ed much in mind,

Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - iour Was born on Christ - mas day,
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought tid - ings of the same:
This day is born a Sav - iour Of a pure vir - gin bright,
And left their flocks a - feed - ing, In temp - est, storm, and wind:

To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray;
How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
To free all those who trust in him From Sa - tan's pow'r and might.
And went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, The Son of God to find.

REFRAIN

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy. A - MEN.

The Heidelberg Catechism – Holding forth faith in Jesus Christ as our only comfort in life and in death, we read responsively the weekly questions from the Heidelberg Catechism as a personal and eloquent reminder of what we must know to live and die in that comfort. Lord’s Day 52

127. What is the sixth petition? **And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one;” that is, since we are so weak in ourselves that we cannot stand a moment,[1] and besides, our deadly enemies, the devil,[2] the world,[3] and our own flesh,[4] assail us without ceasing, be pleased to preserve and strengthen us by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may make firm stand against them and not be overcome in this spiritual warfare,[5] until finally complete victory is ours.[6]** [1] Jn. 15:5; Ps. 103:14–16. [2] 1 Pet. 5:8–9; Eph. 6:12–13. [3] Jn. 15:19. [4] Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17. [5] Matt. 26:41; Mk. 13:33. [6] 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23–24; *2 Cor. 12:7.

128. How do you close this prayer? **“For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever;” that is, all this we ask of You, because as our King, having power over all things, You are willing and able to give us all good;[1] and that thereby not we, but Your holy name may be glorified forever.[2]** [1] Rom. 10:11–12; 2 Pet. 2:9. [2] Jn. 14:13; Ps. 115:1.

129. What is the meaning of the word “Amen”? **“Amen” means: so shall it truly and surely be. For my prayer is much more certainly heard of God than I feel in my heart that I desire these things of Him.[1]** [1] 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:13; *Ps. 145:18–19.

God Receives Our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering: [read in unison]

“But the end of all things is at hand; Therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4: 7-11

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

With the Singing of Psalm 24:1-4 & the Doxology

Words composed by Brenda Fisher

**1: Earth is the Lord's, all it contains.
The world and those on its terrains.
For on the seas He founded it,
And on the waters stablished it.**

**2: Who may stand in God's Holy place?
Who may ascend before His face?
He has a pure heart and clean hands.
He worships God, keeps His commands.**

**3: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Prayer, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

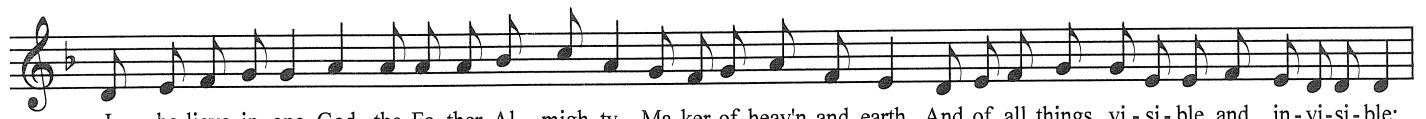
Communion: Where God Communes With His People

*“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?
The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” 1 Corinthians 10:16*

Preparation for Communion: Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized and are not under discipline from Christ’s Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call.

Our Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed



I be-lieve in one God the Fa-ther Al - migh-ty, Ma-ker of heav'n and earth, And of all things vi - si - ble and in - vi - si - ble:



And in one Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly be - got - ten Son of God; Be - got - ten of His Fa - ther be - fore all worlds,



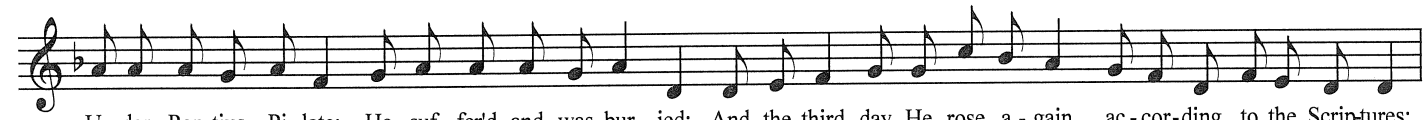
God of God, Light of Light, ve - ry God of ve - ry God; Be - got - ten, not made; Be - ing of one sub - stance with the Fa - ther;



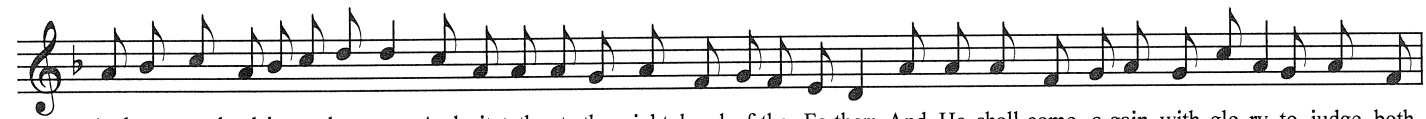
By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our sal - va - tion came down from hea - ven,



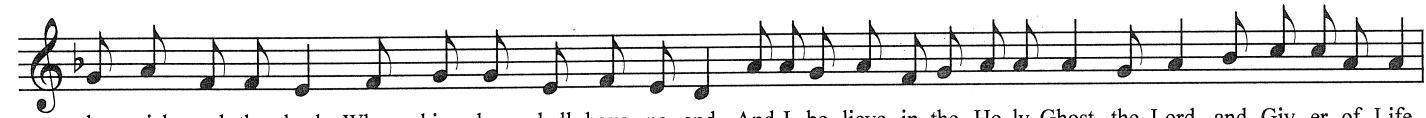
And was in - car - nate by the Ho - ly Ghost of the Vir - gin Ma - ry, And was made man; And was cru - ci - fied al - so for us



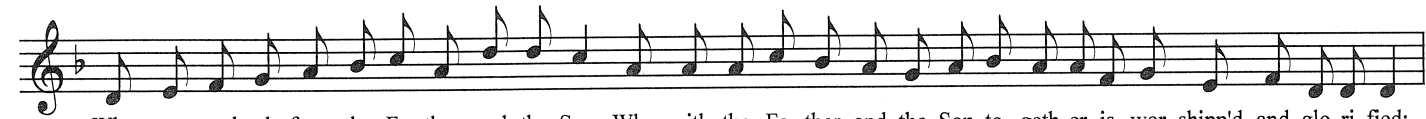
Un - der Pon - tius Pi - late; He suf - fer'd and was bur - ied; And the third day He rose a - gain ac - cor - ding to the Scrip - tures:



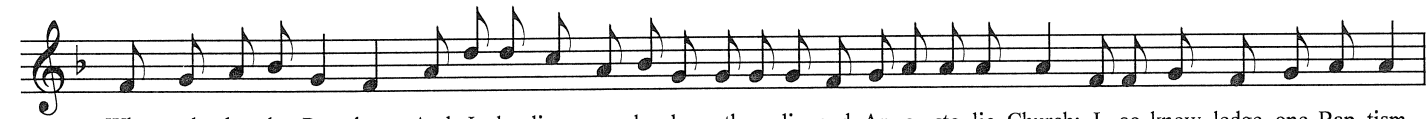
And a - scend - ed in - to hea - ven, And sit - teth at the right hand of the Fa - ther: And He shall come a - gain, with glo - ry, to judge both



the quick and the dead: Whose king - dom shall have no end. And I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost, the Lord, and Giv - er of Life,



Who pro - ceed - eth from the Fa - ther and the Son; Who with the Fa - ther and the Son to - geth - er is wor - shipp'd and glo - ri - fied;



Who spake by the Pro - phets: And I be - lieve one ho - ly cath - o - lic and Ap - o - sto - lic Church; I ac - know - ledge one Bap - tism



For the re - mis - sion of sins: And I look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. A - men.

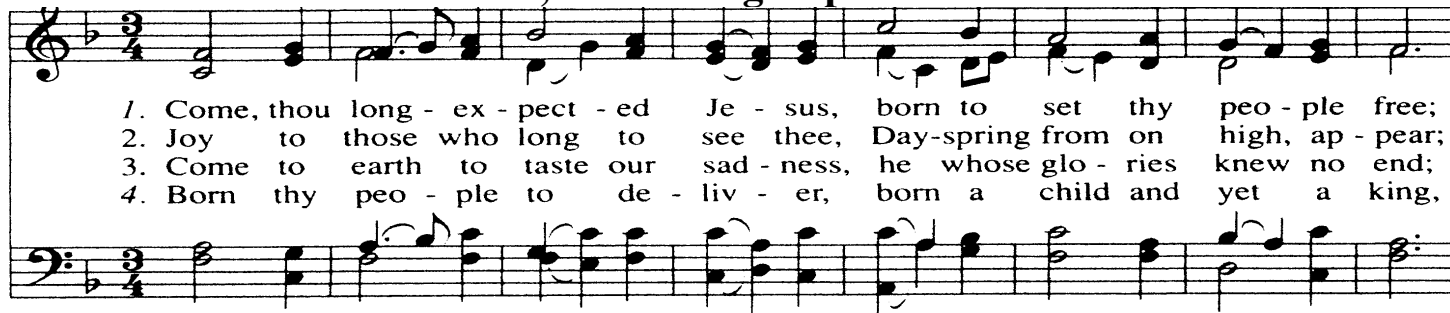
THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE: (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A Word of Encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the Bread

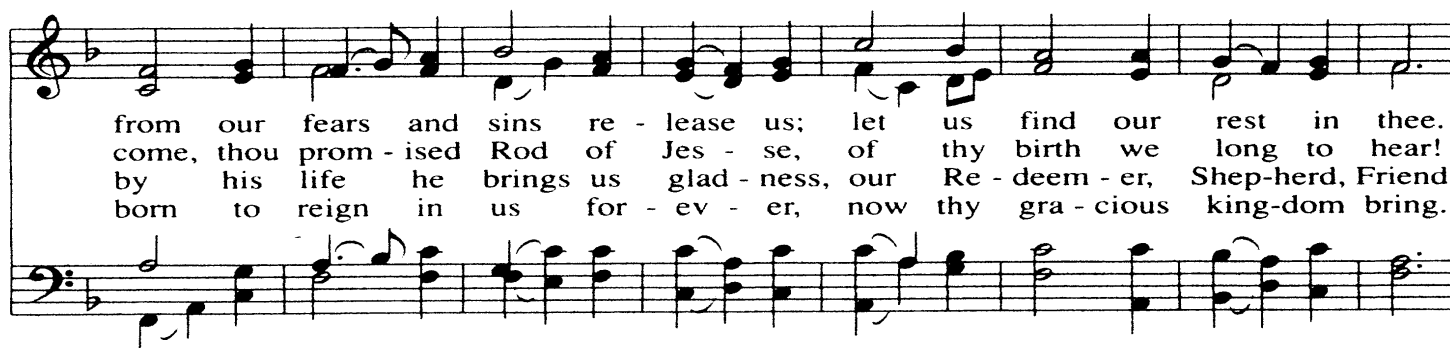
God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

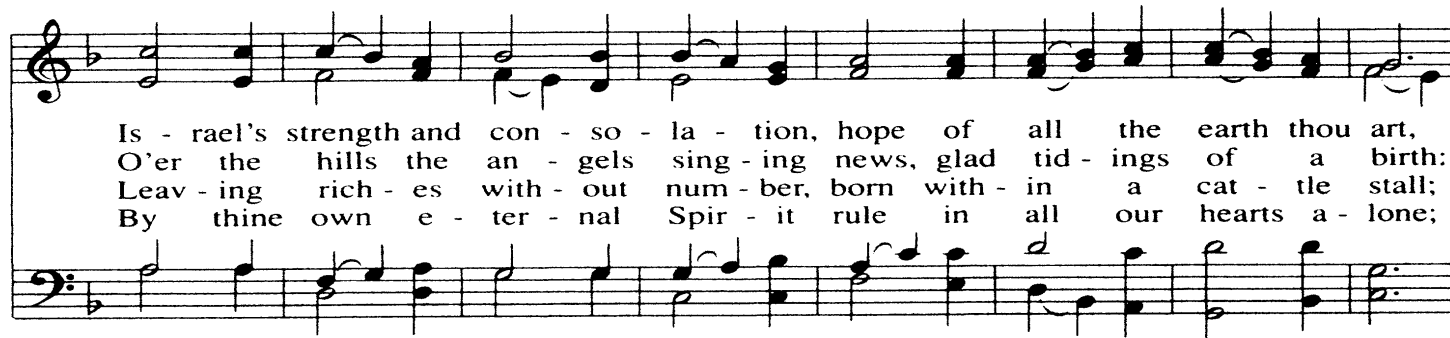
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



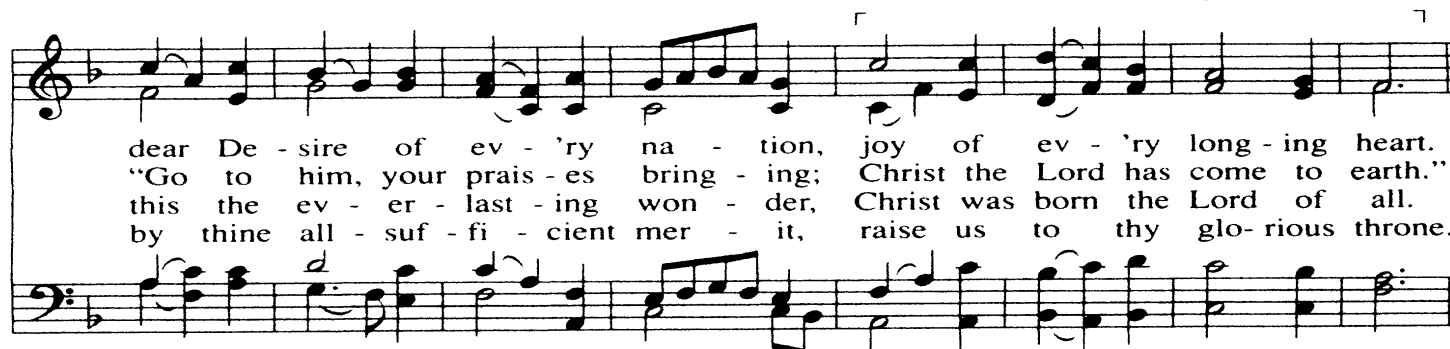
1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
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,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth;
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

St. 1, 4, Charles Wesley, 1744
St. 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978
Text of stanzas 2 & 3 - 1978, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Used by permission

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new Week

Partaking of the Bread Together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the Wine

Commissioning: The LORD Blesses and Sends Forth His People

“They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.” *Revelation 15:3-4*

Our Final Responsive Reading:

[congregation standing]

Luke 2:1-20

Christ is Born

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. “And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.

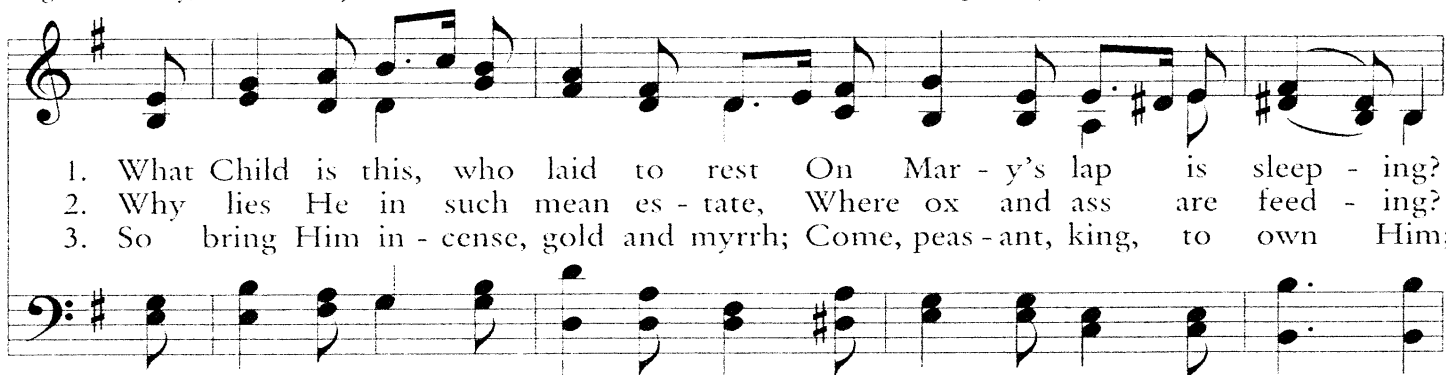
Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

God's people prepare to be sent forth to serve our Risen & Reigning Savior

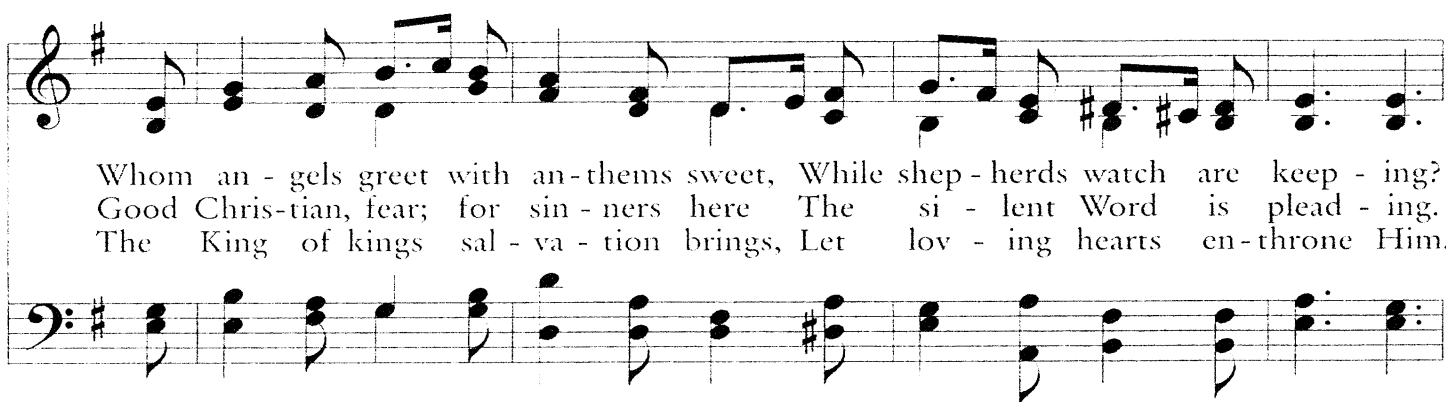
What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES (8 7. 8 7. 6 8. 6 7)
English melody, 16th century

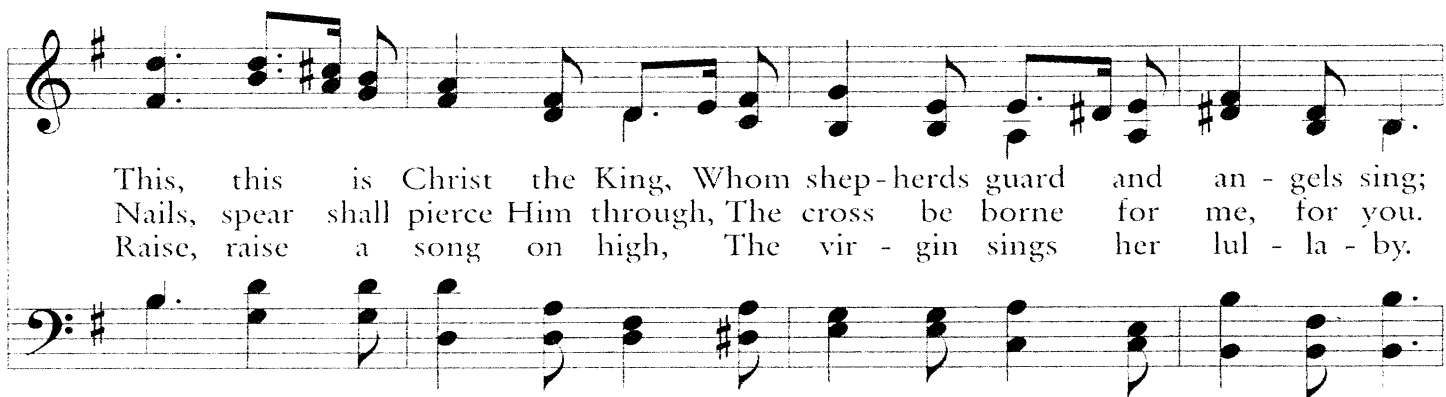
Traditional English carol, before 1642
adapted by William Chatterton Dix, c. 1865



1. What Child is this, who laid to rest On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise a song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y!

God Empowers Us – The Benediction: *Isaiah 49:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14* [congregation standing]

“Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.” “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.”

The Response to God’s Commission –

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

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

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n 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 heav'n and na - ture sing.

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98
 Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
 George Frederick Handel, 1742
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

December 24th, 2023

Church of the King

www.COTKS.org

(916) 897-3689

~ Worship begins promptly at 1:00 p.m. ~ Today's pulpit supply ~ Pastor Paul Liberati ~

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For all who claim the Name of Jesus, that we would live in a manner worthy of our calling, serving one another to the glory of God. May we be humble in all our interactions, having patience & bearing with one another in love, uniting in the bond of our Savior, worshipping Him in spirit & in truth, seeking His face in prayer, & faithfully studying His Word.
- For our expectant mothers, Claire Smith, Sarah Sifford, Sindy Kendrick, Brianna Whitted, Brittany Harrold, Robyn Ferguson, & Alma Ryan, that their babies would continue to grow healthy & strong, & for renewed energy & strength for all of the mothers in our midst.
- For Cherie Smith & her family, as they mourn the death of her father last Monday, that God would grant peace in the midst of their sorrow.
- For all who are dealing with illness, injury, other health issues, grief, or personal trials, that our Lord would grant patience, healing, wisdom, comfort, & trust in the perfect will of the One Who does all things well.
- For family members & friends who are under discipline, unsaved, or have strayed from the faith, that our Lord would bring them to repentance & restore them to the fellowship of Christ's church; & that we would boldly & lovingly proclaim the truth to them at every opportunity, standing strong in the Lord & in the power of His might.
- For churches who are in need of pastors, elders, & deacons, that our Lord would continue to raise up Godly men to lead these flocks, & for those men who are currently serving, that they may have strengthened faith & abundant wisdom as they minister to their congregations.
- For the saints throughout the world who are suffering & dying in the Name of Jesus, that they would find strength, comfort, & hope as they fully trust in God's goodness. And also for their persecutors, that their hearts would be softened to the Gospel.
- For all elected & appointed officials, that they would recognize their need to depend on God for knowledge, wisdom, & the courage to do what is right, reject all counsel that violates righteousness, & bring dignity, honor, trustworthiness, & integrity to their positions, remembering their accountability to Almighty God, Who is angry with the wicked every day.
- For the Church worldwide, that the Word of God would be faithfully preached, believed, & obeyed, giving glory to the Name of our only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

No fellowship lunch follows today's worship service.

Be present at our table Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee.

We thank Thee Lord for this our food,
For life and health and every good.
By Thine own hand may we be fed.
Give us this day our daily bread.

Weekly Meetings (also detailed on our website):

Men's Fellowship Breakfast:

~ Meets at 8:00am on Tuesdays at Denny's on Sunrise; reading *By This Standard: The Authority of God's Law Today* by Greg Bahnsen. Contact Pastor Stoos.

Sacramento Area Bible Study:

~ Meets at 7:00pm on Tuesdays. Contact Patrick Avanto.

Grass Valley Area Book Study:

~ Meets for potluck at 6:00pm, study starts at 7:00pm on Wednesdays at rotating locations; reading *No Mere Mortals* by Toby Sumpter. Contact Nathaniel Pettyjohn. (530)205-5162

Ladies' Book Study:

~ Meets at 9:00am on Saturdays at the Stoos home; reading *Flourish: How the Love of Christ Frees Us From Self-Focus* by Lydia Brownback. Contact Linda Stoos.

Vallejo Area Study:

~ Meets at the Kendrick home every two weeks. Contact Damell Kendrick.

Birthdays

James Ryan ~ December 23rd
Augustine Smith ~ December 26th

Anniversaries

Tim & Brianna Whitted ~ December 21st
John & Linda Stoos ~ December 28th

Hall Takedown Today

None

TODAY'S Playground Duty

None