



THE WORD

**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 106:1-2**

Praise the LORD!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!  
Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise?

# O Come All Ye Faithful

Text: John F. Wade (1711-1786) • Music: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
glo - ry to the God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

## Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 4:16**

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. We confess that we have sinned against you, and have clung to evil rather than to Christ. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sin. Restore us to newness of life, and seat us at your table of grace, that we may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 4:15**

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Romans 12:1**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

## **DOXOLOGY**

*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! Amen.*

## **GOSPEL READING • Matthew 1:18–25**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray...

*(Te Deum Laudamus, 5<sup>th</sup> Century)*

You are God.

*We praise you!*

You are the Lord.

*We acclaim you!*

You are the eternal Father.

*All creation worships you!*

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,  
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory!*

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

*Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.*

Father, of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

*You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.*

When you became man to set us free,

you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

*You overcame the sting of death*

*and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.*

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

*We believe that you will come and be our judge.*

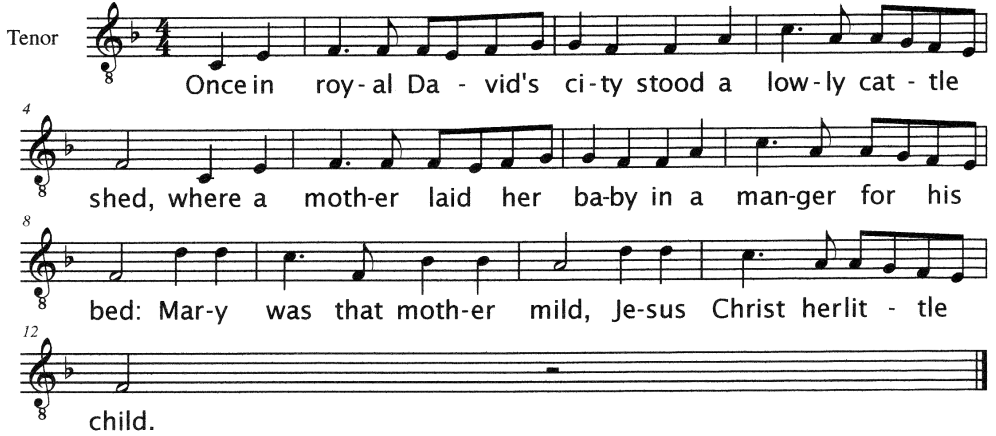
Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

*Amen.*

## Once In Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander • Music: Henry J. Gauntlett • Public Domain

Tenor



8

Once in roy-al Da - vid's ci-ty stood a low-ly cat - tle

4

8

shed, where a moth-er laid her ba-by in a man-ger for his

8

8

bed: Mar-y was that moth-er mild, Je-sus Christ her lit - tle

12

8

child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall be around.

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of nine staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, 'Glo - ry to the new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!' Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, 'Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!' Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, 'Glo - ry to the new - born King.'" The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,  
God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye  
na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in  
Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,  
"Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;  
late in time, behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, made\* of woman, made\* under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • “Christmas” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Through his transcendent love he became what we are so that he might bring us to be even what he is himself.” (Irenaeus)

“He was made human so that he might make us gods.” (Athanasius)

“Ungrudgingly he took our nature upon himself to impart to us what was his.” (John Calvin)

“I said, ‘You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you.’ (Psalm 82:6)

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

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\* ESV: “born.” “Made” translates a form of the word *ginomai* (“to become”), a word Paul uses uniquely of Jesus to distinguish his birth from that of those who are “born” (*gennao*) by normal human means.







THE UPPER ROOM



**CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Nicene Creed**

What do you believe?

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

**THE MYSTERIUM FIDEI • 1 Corinthians 11:26; 5:7-8**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after the musicians. The glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine. There are gluten-free crackers on the table. An Elder is available for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

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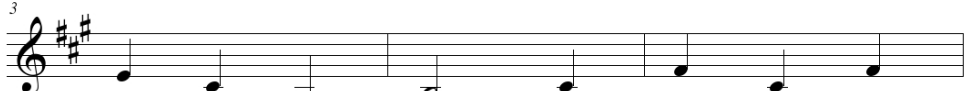
\* Or, "universal."

# I Wonder As I Wander

Text and Tune: Appalachian Carol



I When won - der as I wan - der out  
When Ma - ry birthed I Je - sus, 'twas  
If Je - sus had want - ed for  
I won - der as I wan - der out



un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the  
in a cows' stall, with wise men and  
an - y wee thing; A star in the  
un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the



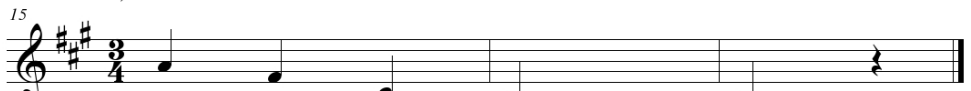
Sav - ior, did come for to die. For  
far - mers and shep - herds to and all. But  
sky, or a bird on the wing; or  
Savi - ior, did come for to die. For



poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like  
high from God's heav - en a star's light did  
all of God's an - gels in heav - en to  
poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like



I; I won - der as I wan - der, out  
fall, and the prom - ise of a - ges it  
sing, He sure - ly could have had it, 'cause  
I; I won - der as I wan - der out



un - der did the sky.  
then did re - call.  
He was the King!  
un - der the sky.

# Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4<sup>th</sup> Century), Martin Luther (16<sup>th</sup> Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,  
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed  
Mar - y then was found with child,  
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,

3  
8 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der  
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the  
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored  
passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his

6  
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.  
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.  
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.  
Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

9  
8 Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_

15  
8 In the high - - - est!

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff starts at measure 8 and ends with a double bar line. The second staff starts at measure 3 and ends with a double bar line. The third staff starts at measure 6 and ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff starts at measure 9 and ends with a double bar line. The fifth staff starts at measure 15 and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. There are three measures of 'Glo - ri - a!' with a blank line for a fermata, and one measure of 'In the high - - - est!' with a blank line for a fermata.

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,  
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.  
Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.  
Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

*(Chorus)*

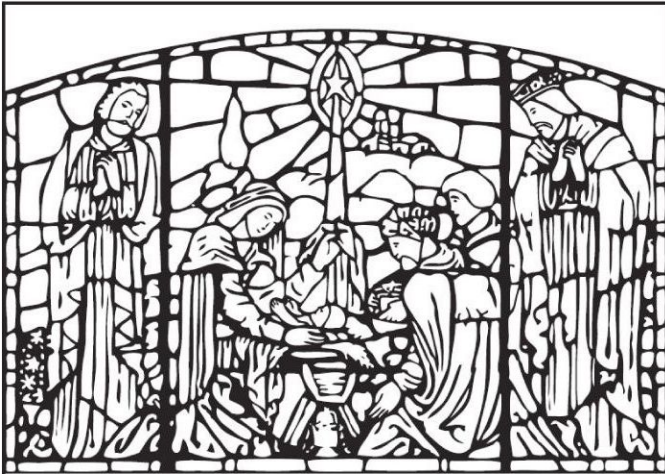
Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!  
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

*(Chorus x2)*

## BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make you increase and abound  
in love for one another and for all.

~



### FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Greetings! In accordance with current state mandates, we are limiting our services to 75 participants each. Please sign up early if you plan to attend a service. (If you need access to the online sign up sheet, contact Eric: [rev.eric.costa@gmail.com](mailto:rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)) If your name is not on the list by the time of the service on Sunday, and the service is already full, or if you are experiencing symptoms of illness, we ask that you would instead join us on Zoom.

Please wear a mask and observe “social distancing” (6ft) between households.

During Communion, parents, please distribute the bread and cup to participating children.

Thank you for your help making others feel comfortable joining us for Worship!

### FOR THOSE JOINING US ON ZOOM...

Please remain “muted” throughout the service, but feel free to “unmute” afterwards and catch up with each other. (You can find each Sunday’s liturgy posted online at [ascensionpc.org/worship](http://ascensionpc.org/worship).)

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### PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))

Northwest Church Planting Network ([nwcpnetwork.com](http://nwcpnetwork.com))

Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship ([ruf.org](http://ruf.org)) at Oregon State  
Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))

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[ascensionpc.org](http://ascensionpc.org)

-----> (Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email / Phone

- I am a visitor.
- I want to know more about being a Christian.
- I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.
- Please send me the email newsletter.
- Please use this info for the photo directory.