



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 5, 2021
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: 'An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.' The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

(Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 2:13-14

You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 30

- 1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
- 3 O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
- 4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.
- 5 For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.
- 6 As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”
- 7 By your favor, O LORD,
you made my mountain stand strong;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.
- 8 To you, O LORD, I cry,
and to the Lord I plead for mercy:
- 9 “What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?”
- 10 Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!
O LORD, be my helper!”
- 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness,
- 12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

(Elder prays)

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Away In A Manger

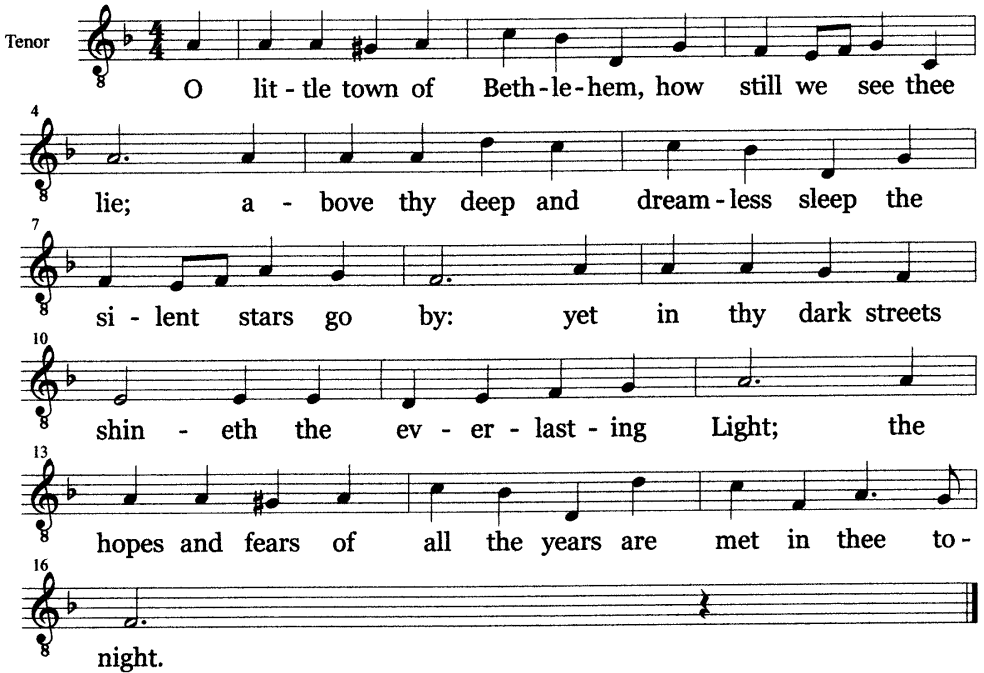
Text: Martin Luther, Tim Sauerwein • Music: James R. Murray • Public Domain

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed, the
The an - gels pro - claimed it, the pro - phets fore - told, but
It was his strange glo - ry to make Him - self low, my
lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The an - gels in heav - en looked
how can God be what a man - ger can hold? Cre - a - tor and mas - ter, oh
sor - rows to share and my bur - dens to know. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, pro -
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
how can it be that God was a ba - by and lay there for me?
- tect and de - fend, my Help - er, my Broth - er, my Sav - ior and Friend.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Text: Phillip Brooks • Music: Lewis H. Redner • Public Domain

Tenor



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee
lie; a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the
si - lent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets
shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to -
night.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in the world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Blessed Are Those Who Mourn” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning...” (Isaiah 61:1-3a)

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation.” (C. S. Lewis)

“Here on earth the faithful, who mourn over sin, evil, and death in all their horrendous and unspeakable forms, will be blessed in the comfort, even here on earth, of knowing that in living within the kingdom of heaven there is hope, which is fulfilled at the end of time. Then God will dwell with Christ’s faithful, and he will wipe away every tear ‘and death shall be no more, neither will there be mourning nor crying in pain any more, for the former things have passed away. And he [Jesus] who sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:3-5).’ (Thomas Weinandy)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 60

How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Greet one another with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

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].)

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Text: 15th Century German Carol • Translator: Theodore Baker

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599 • Public Domain



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The
3 This Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der With



ten - der stem__ hath sprung! Of Jes - se's li - neage co -
Rose I have__ in mind: With Ma - ry we be - hold
sweet-ness fills__ the air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen -



ming As men of old__ have sung. It came, a
it, The vir - gin mo - ther kind. To show God's
dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet



flo - wer bright, A - mid the cold of win -
love a - right She bore to men a Sa -
ve - ry God, From sin and death He saves



ter When half - gone was__ the night.
vior When half - gone was__ the night.
us And ligh - tens ev - 'ry load.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

18th Century English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are: "God rest you mer - ry gen - tle - men let no - thing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy." The score includes bar numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18.

God rest you mer - ry gen - tle - men let
no - thing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our
Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to
save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a -
stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and
joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of
com - fort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The first Noel the an - gel did
say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they
lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier
sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so
deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the Alto voice part of the carol 'The First Noel'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo and meter are indicated as 3/4. The lyrics are: 'The first Noel the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

(Chorus)

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

(Chorus)

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

~

For Those Joining Us in Person... Greetings! We're glad you're here! Our access to God the Father, our relationship in Christ, our unity in the Spirit is the most important thing in the world. We hope that as many people as possible will feel comfortable joining us for Worship, so we're asking everyone to wear a mask while indoors. Whether or not this is an inconvenience to you, please extend patience and grace to each other during this time when we might have differing opinions on what it means to faithfully respond to God in our love for each other.

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.)

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (today) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries to help each other and our neighbors in the community...

- ALMS — These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know! Contact: deacons@ascensionpc.org.)
- FOOD PANTRY — The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, is an Oregon Food Bank site that serves about 50 families who rely on help like this. Please bring dry beans to donate—let's try to collect 100 items in total!

After Worship Today • From 11:40 to 12:15, children will gather in the sanctuary for Sunday School, and adults are welcome to join the Sermon Discussion in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Study • 6:30am Tuesdays at the Starbucks at the Sunset Esplanade (2521 SE TV Highway). This group is discussing Michael Reeves' book, *Delighting in the Trinity*.

Women's Study • 7:30pm Wednesdays. This group is discussing Dane Ortlund's book, *Gentle and Lowly*. Locations vary - contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" Service • 7pm Friday, December 24.

•

PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)
Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpnetwork.com)
Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org) at Oregon State
Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)
Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge (serge.org)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

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.