



CHRIST THE KING  
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ADVENT SEASON – DECEMBER 22, 2024

“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”

*English traditional melody*

God rest you merry gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas day

To save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry  
this blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
upon this blessed morn

The which His mother, Mary  
did nothing take in scorn

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort 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 pow'r 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 blessed Babe to find.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

And when they came to Bethlehem  
where our dear Savior lay  
They found Him in a manger  
where oxen feed on hay

His mother Mary kneeling down  
unto the Lord did pray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises.  
all you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace

This holy tide of Christmas  
all others doth deface  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.



# CALL TO WORSHIP - Based on John 1:1-14

**Leader:** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**People:** He was in the beginning with God; through Him, all things were made.

**Leader:** *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**People:** The true Light, which gives light to everyone, has come into the world.

**Leader:** *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

**People:** And we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.

**Leader:** *To all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*

**People:** We have been born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.

**All: Let us worship the Word made flesh, our  
Savior, full of grace and truth!**

# PRAYER OF ADORATION

# “Brightest and Best”

*Words: Reginald Heber*

*Music: Southern Harmony, arr. J. Bennetch*

Hail the blest morn, see the great mediator  
Down from the regions of glory descend.  
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger  
Lo for His guard the bright angels attend.



Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,  
Fragrance of Edom, and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

# ADVENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

**Reader:** *This is the Word of the Lord!*

**People:** Thanks be to God!



# CONFESSION OF SIN

O Eternal Word, You created all things, but we have misused Your creation, seeking our own gain instead of glorifying You. You came to Your own, but we have not welcomed You, preferring the fleeting comforts of this world to the eternal hope You offer.

Forgive us, O Light of the World. Cleanse us by Your blood, renew us by Your Spirit, and teach us to walk as children of light. May we behold Your glory anew, the glory of the only Son from the Father, and live as witnesses to Your marvelous grace.

We pray all this through Jesus, our Prophet,  
Priest, and King. Amen

# ASSURANCE OF PARDON - John 3:16

*Hear this good news:*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

*by Edmund Hamilton Sears  
and Richard Storrs Willis*

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold

Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing



Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world

Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing  
And ever over its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow

Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold

When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

## GREETING

**Leader:** *May the peace of Christ be with you!*

**People:** And also with you!

**Leader:** *Let us share His peace with one another.*

*Children may leave for lesson (ages 4-6).*

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*As the leader directs, the congregation is invited to pray for those for whom they are burdened.*

*Pray aloud and by name or silently if you prefer.*



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

# SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1–14

**Reader:** *This is the Word of the Lord!*

**People:** Thanks be to God!



“We Have A Savior”

*by Reuben Morgan and Ben Glover*

A child has been given  
The King of our freedom  
Sing for the light has come  
This is Christmas

Come and adore Him  
And bring gifts before Him  
Joy to the world, worship the Son  
This is Christmas

This is Jesus Emmanuel  
Here with us, tell all the world  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior  
We are no longer lost  
'Cause He has come down for us  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior



Sing with the angels  
And lift up your voices  
Join in the song of hope  
This is Christmas

This is Jesus Emmanuel  
Here with us, tell all the world  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior  
We are no longer lost  
'Cause He has come down for us  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior

His love will reign forever

His love will reign forever

His love will reign forever

This is Jesus Emmanuel  
Here with us, tell all the world  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior  
We are no longer lost  
'Cause He has come down for us  
We have a Savior, we have a Savior

# CELEBRATING COMMUNION

# CONFESSION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things  
visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.



The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

**Minister:** *The peace of the Lord be always  
with you.*

**People:** And also with you!

**Minister:** *Lift up your hearts!*

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord!

*Wine is in the outer circles of cups; the inner circle contains grape juice. Gluten-free bread is in its own tray.*

*As the usher directs, please come forward one row at a time to pick up your cups.*

*Please hold your elements until all are served so that we may all partake together, as one body.*

“Dear Refuge Of My Weary Soul”

*by Anne Steele and Kevin Twit*

Dear refuge of my weary soul  
On Thee when sorrows rise  
On Thee when waves of trouble roll  
My fainting hope relies

To Thee I tell each rising grief  
For Thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief  
For every pain I feel



But oh when gloomy doubts prevail  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail  
And all my hopes decline

Yet gracious God where shall I flee  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face  
And shall I seek in vain  
And can the ear of sovereign grace  
Be deaf when I complain

No still the ear of sovereign grace  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access  
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will  
And wait beneath Thy feet

Thy mercy seat is open still  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will  
And wait beneath Thy feet

# CELEBRATING COMMUNION

# Announcements



# Benediction

*You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

# DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen (4x)



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