



CHRIST THE KING
— PRESBYTERIAN —

SEASON OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 24, 2023

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

by Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria - In excelsis Deo
Gloria - In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song
Gloria - In excelsis Deo
Gloria - In excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria - In excelsis Deo
Gloria - In excelsis Deo

CALL TO WORSHIP - From Luke 1

Leader: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

People: for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Leader: *His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

People: He has shown strength with his arm; he
has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts;

Leader: *he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;*

People: he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

All: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

“What Child Is This”

Words: William C. Dix, 1865

Music: English Melody, 16th Century

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

“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.

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 Son of God to find.

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

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

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, we confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less.

Forgive our doubt and renew in us all holy desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: *Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

People: The maker of heaven and earth!

Minister: *O Lord, open our lips,*

People: And our mouths will declare Your
praise!

“Blessed Assurance”

by Chris Brown and Mack Brock

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect communion, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I, in my Savior, am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

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

Psalms 132

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

People: Thanks be to God!

“King of Kings”

*by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram,
and Scott Ligertwood*

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus, for our sake You died

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

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.

“Before the Throne of God Above”

by Charitie Bancroft and Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in Heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace.

One with Himself, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ
And marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes

This river's depths I cannot know
But I can glory in its flood
The Lord Most High has bowed down low
And poured on me His glorious love
And poured on me His glorious love

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

THE SENDING - Romans 15:12-13

Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria - In excelsis Deo
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See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise
Gloria - In excelsis Deo
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