



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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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.*

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

*by Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick*

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  
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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  
Gloria - In excelsis Deo



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