



**The Downtown Presbyterian Church  
Order of Worship for December 13, 2020  
Third Sunday in Advent**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

Chorale Prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo*  
melody for "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Wilbur Held

**WELCOME**

**ADVENT SONG**

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (vss. 1-3)  
Nina Cardona, cantor

*1. Come now, hope of unity;  
make us one body.  
Come, Lord Jesus;  
reconcile all people.*

*3. Come now and set us free,  
O God, our Savior  
Come, Lord Jesus;  
reconcile all people.*

*2. Come now, O Prince of Peace;  
make us one body.  
Come, Lord Jesus;  
reconcile all people*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

led by Mary Turner

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chorale Prelude on *Irby*  
melody for "Once in Royal David's City"  
DPC Handbell choir with organ

H. J. Gauntlett

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

Amy Finka, Denny Harris, Glenda Harris, Alison Lechter, Samera Zavaro, handbells

**HYMN**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
Ryan Norris, cantor

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)**

led by Chuck Cardona  
based on Isaiah 35:1-10

*God of glory, God of splendor,  
we are thirsty for your grace.  
You made a way for us in the wilderness, a highway called The Holy Way,  
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.  
We hide our eyes from your presence.  
We do not listen to your word.  
We are lifeless when we ought to dance  
and speechless when we ought to sing.  
Forgive us, O Lord.*

*Speak peace to our fearful hearts,  
strengthen our weak hands,  
make firm our feeble knees,  
and dispel our grief and groaning,  
as we follow you toward everlasting joy.  
Amen.*

(Time for silent confession)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE**

**L:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**P:** And also with you!

**PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS**

**FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5

Jennifer Zehnder & Chris Szalaj, readers

Creation: *Creation from Jewish and Christian perspectives*

“Crashing Waters at Creation”  
Dave Coleman and Mike Wilson

William A. Cross

*Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit’s breath,  
first to witness day’s beginning from the brightness of night’s death. (vs.1)*

**SECOND LESSON**

Genesis 9:12-16

Matthew Abfalter, reader

*Covenant: God's commitment to all people is from the beginning of time  
and will continue beyond the end of time.*

*"In the Bulb There is a Flower"*

Natalie Sleeth

Tom Ashley, baritone

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. (vs.1)*

**THIRD LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-9

Rachel Hayes, reader

*Prophecy: God will send one "from the stump of Jesse"  
to lead the people in righteousness.*

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. by Jean Anne Shafferman*

Ann Landis Jetton, violin

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem that sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. (vs.1)*

**FOURTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-33

Holly Kellar, reader

*Choice: A woman dares to believe new possibilities can be conceived  
when they seem impossible, and chooses to work in partnership with God for a better world.*

*"A Child This Day is Born"*

David Willcocks

Jen Peterson Morley, soprano

*A child this day is born, a child of high renown  
most worthy of a sceptre, a sceptre and a crown.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell sing all we may,  
because the King of kings was born upon this day. (vs.1)*

**FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

Lily Byl and Jake Byl, readers

*Birth: God is more than a theory or a story; in Jesus we discover  
the heart of the universe of the Universe present to us in a person.*

**"Silent Night"**

Franz Xavier Gruber

Les Kerr, baritone

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Silent night, holy night!<br/>All is calm, all is bright<br/>Round yon virgin mother and child.<br/>Holy infant so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.</i>         | 2. <i>Silent Night, holy night!<br/>Shepherds quake at the sight,<br/>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:<br/>Christ the savior is born,<br/>Christ the savior is born."</i> |
| 3. <i>Silent Night, holy night!<br/>Son of God, love's pure light,<br/>Radiant beams from thy holy face,<br/>With the dawn of redeeming grace;<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord at thy birth.</i> | 4. <i>Silent Night, holy night!<br/>Wondrous start, lend thy light;<br/>With the angels, let us sing,<br/>Alleluia to our king;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born.</i>            |

**SIXTH LESSON**

John 1:9-18

Dave Coleman, reader

Luke 2:8-16

Stephanie Coleman, reader

*Good News for All People: Our stories are full of people getting  
excited that hope for a better world will soon be fulfilled.*

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

Polish Carol, arr. by Bob Burroughs

Erin Bell, Eliza Bell, Amy Finka, Alison Lechter, Samera Zavaro, handbells

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

**SEVENTH LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-15a

Amy Harkness, reader

*God's Presence Overcoming Fear: As we experience God-with-us in Jesus,  
we discover that at the heart of creation there is a saving Love,  
greater than the deathly force of fear in ourselves or others.*

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

Gustav Holst

Cathy Maguire

Ann Landis Jetton, violin

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago. (vs.1)*

**EIGHTH LESSON**

Matthew 22:34-40

Nina Cardona, reader

*Sharing Love: At Christmas we participate in God's generosity  
by opening our homes, sharing food, enjoying people's talents and exchanging gifts.  
At all times we share God's generosity in hospitality and work for justice  
because we see God present in each and every person.*

*"Love Has Come"*

French Melody; Eric T. Myers, arranger

Nina Cardona, mezzo-soprano

*Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises;  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high. (vs.1)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***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.***

**HYMN**

*"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

Amy Finka, cantor

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: Let all God's people say, P: Alleluia, Amen!

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729  
melody for "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

J. S. Bach

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he in in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! (vs.1)*

*Today's cover art is by DPC artist-in-residence Ava Kashani*

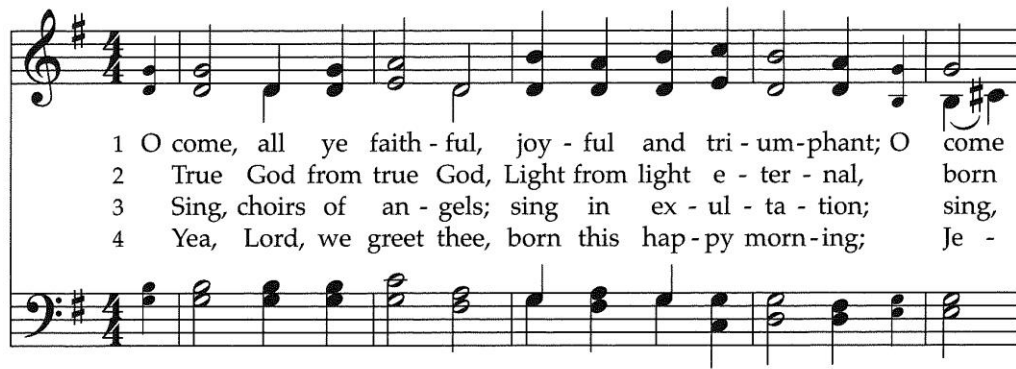
## A Note About Our Lessons & Carols Readings

This year's Lessons & Carols scripture sequence was adapted from a scripture collection curated by The Kauri Church in Whangarei, New Zealand. The Kauri Church is a progressive Presbyterian church founded by Scots settlers in the 1854. Their pastor writes that their lessons & carols service "gives an 'history with a thread of meaning'; demonstrating how our faith tradition traces the activity of God's liberating grace through the generations of the earth." "The focus of the story is the incarnation: God's irretrievable commitment to the human community."

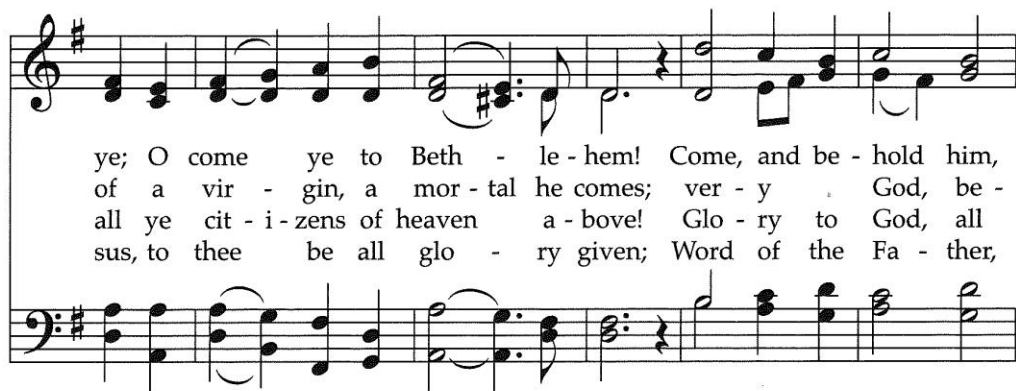
You will hear how those themes reflect the larger Biblical narrative: God's creative acts that we hear about in Genesis and John; the covenants that God makes with Noah and Abraham; the insistence of the prophets that God will redeem humanity; Mary's choice to be God's partner in salvation; and the incarnation and birth of Jesus, our savior. The story reflected in the readings also takes us beyond Christ's birth and toward the core of his teaching, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind... And you must love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Matt. 22:37-39)

The movement is also from the cosmic to the particular, from God creating order out of chaos to a single infant wrapped in bands of cloth and the man he would become.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*



born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



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

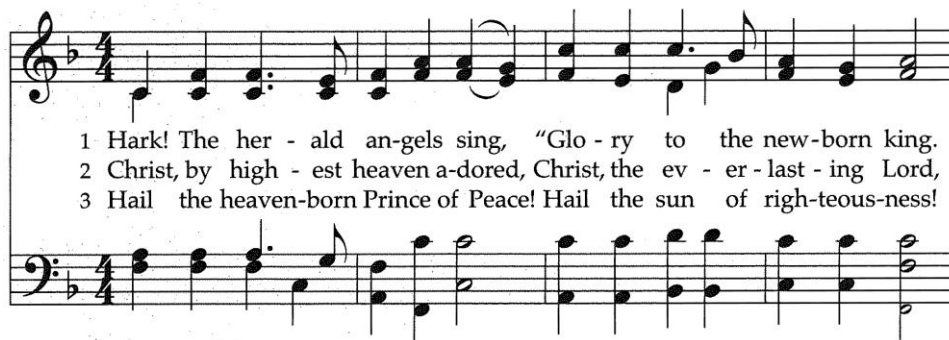
From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.  
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906


ADESTE FIDELES  
 Irregular



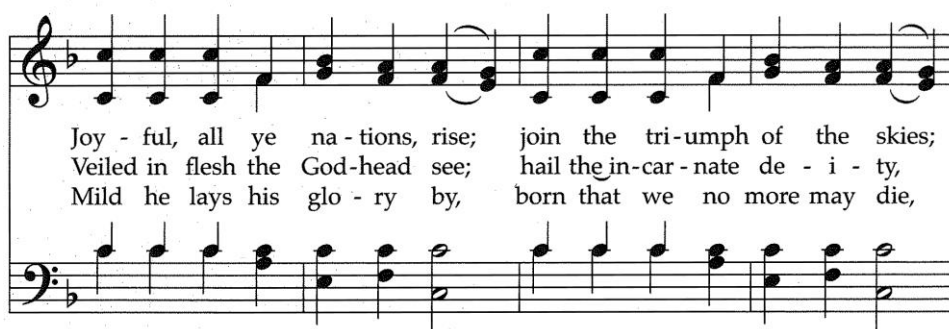
# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



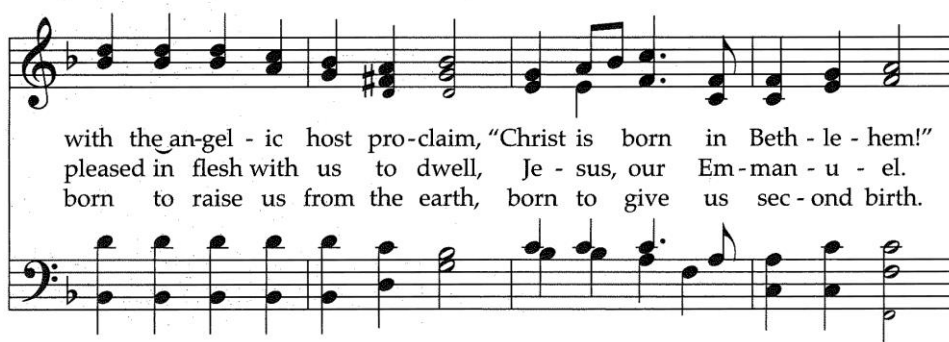
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.