



*Mary and Joseph and the Bethlehem Innkeeper*  
Joseph Anton Koch (1888)

**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church  
December 25, 2020

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen (Lo, How a Rose)*  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*Brahms wrote a small body of organ music, but his Op. 122 chorale preludes, his final compositions, have enjoyed enduring popularity among organists since their publication. This tune first appeared in a Lutheran hymnal in 1599, and was harmonized by Michael Praetorius a decade later. Brahms' setting is lush, simple, and beautiful.*

*In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing), BWV 608*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*In Dulci Jubilo is a traditional Christmas carol with origins in the middle ages, now known most commonly as "Good Christian Friends Rejoice". Many composers have set the tune or woven it into larger compositions. Tonight, our organ music includes two different settings by J. S. Bach. This setting is from his Orgelbüchlein, a collection of chorale preludes Bach wrote in the middle of his career as a way to teach other organists the various ways to set a chorale tune. The tune is in canon between the hands and feet, accompanied by gentle triplets and repeated notes.*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



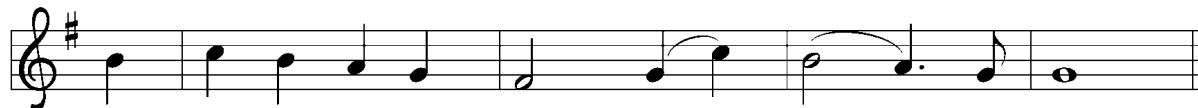
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## GREETING

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

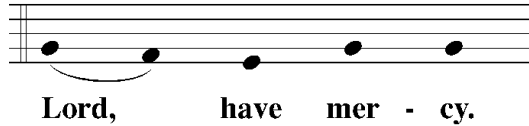
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

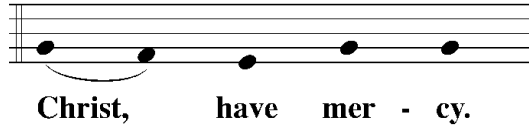
*(chanted; repeat the words and notes after the cantor)*

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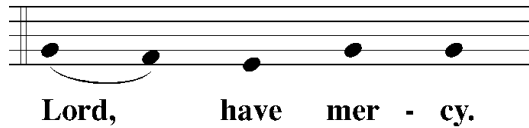
Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace. Lord, have mercy.



Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary. Christ, have mercy.



Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father. Lord, have mercy.

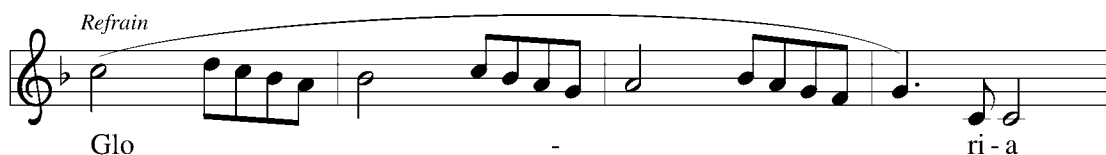




1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**PSALMOLDY**

**Psalm 96**

*The cantor introduces the refrain, and then the assembly repeats it.*



Let the heav - ens re - joice, and the earth be glad.

Psalm 96:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 1996 Augsburg Fortress  
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<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord | a new song;

sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods. REFRAIN**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**

**power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. REFRAIN**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: “The | Lord is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peo- | ples with equity.”**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,  
for you come to | judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth. **REFRAIN**

**SECOND READING** *Titus 2:11–14*

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A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and



who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



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 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

**SERMON**

Pastor Stephen Springer

Hodie Christus natus est. Christ is born today.

**Alleluia! Christ is born today.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876  
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

## **CREED**

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With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

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Members of Alleluia Bell Choir  
*He Is Born*  
Arranged by Arnold Sherman (b.1948)

*This ebullient setting of the 18th century French carol heralds the birth of the heavenly child. The tune and English translation of the carol have appeared in numerous American hymnals and holiday song books. Sherman's setting incorporates some special techniques for bells, including thumb damping and table striking, to accentuate the jubilant nature of the music.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**     *What Child Is This*     ELW 296 (stanza three)

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**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!**

## OFFERING PRAYER

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Let us pray.  
Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

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The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

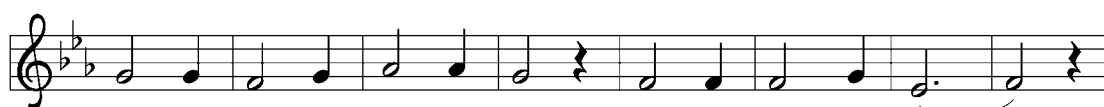
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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW #190

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.




Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of  
 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
 full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
 We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.  
 Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.  
 Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
 Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
 Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*(sung to Away in a Manger, Murray, ELW #277)*

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**And now at the manger with shepherds I see,  
the Lord of all heaven born this day for me.  
You came to be with us, to show us the way,  
Have mercy on us, O Christ Jesus, we pray.**

**This baby, this infant, this lamb born so pure,  
will give himself freely our souls to secure.  
What gifts could we offer, how your love repay?  
Have mercy on us, O Christ Jesus, we pray.**

**The angels sang glory, and peace, and goodwill,  
The world and our lives God sent you to fulfill.  
Our hearts be your manger, our lives be your hay.  
Grant us holy peace, O Christ Jesus, we pray.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.  
Come meet Christ in this meal.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

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Members of Dove of Peace Chancel Choir:

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

John Rutter (b.1945)

*John Rutter is one of the most prolific composers of Christmas music, and his carol settings and original works for the season have become an indelible and indispensable aspect of Christmas concerts and services. In this gem, Rutter sets Christina Rossetti's Christmas poem from 1885, which hails God's coming into the world at Christmas as Love Incarnate.*

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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Let us pray.

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath  
and give us bread for the journey.

Send us out in service to this world that you love,  
telling the amazing news of your coming  
to be Savior and Lord of all.

**Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS GREETING

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Pastor Springer

## BLESSING

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW# 270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



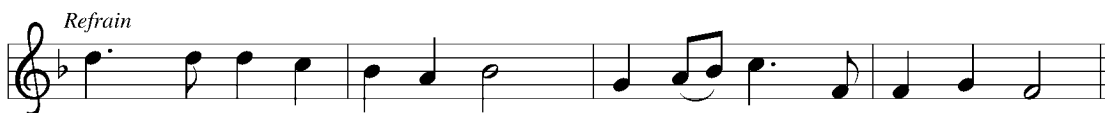
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**EPILOGUE**Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)*  
BWV 729, J. S. Bach

*This setting of In Dulci Jubilo was written early in Bach's career, and it has become well known as a traditional Christmas postlude. It has been played as the first organ voluntary at the end of the Lessons and Carols service at King's College in Cambridge, England every year since 1938. The chorale is featured in groups of declamatory chords, connected by a series of virtuosic passages.*

**DISMISSAL**

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Go in peace. Your light has come.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Toccata (from Symphony no. 5, Op. 42, no. 1)*  
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

*Charles-Marie Widor was a French organist, composer, and teacher. He is best known for his organ symphonies, which are large scale, multi-movement works that use the instrument in ways that imitate orchestral tone color, timbre, and symphonic process. The Toccata from the 5th symphony is the archetype for the French organ toccata, and one of the most famous pieces ever written for the instrument.*