

Christmas Lessons and Carols—December 31, 2023—10am

+ **Gathering** +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
arr. by Cindy Berry

+ Gathering Song

“Here I am to Worship” *see next page*

Here I Am to Worship

Tim Hughes



1 Light of the world, You stepped down in-to dark-ness, o-pened my eyes, let me__ see.
2 King of all days, oh so high-ly ex-alt - ed, glo-rious in heav-en a - bove.



Beau-ty that made this_ heart_ a - dore You, hope of a life spent with__ You.
Hum-bly You came to the earth You cre-at - ed, all for love's sake be - came__ poor.

Refrain



So, here I am to wor-ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.



__ You're al-to-geth-er love-ly, al-to-geth-er wor-thy al-to-geth-er won-der-ful to me.__



3 And I'll nev - er know how much__ it cost_ to see__ my sin__ up-on



__ that cross.__ And I'll nev - er know__ how much_



__ it cost_ to see__ my sin__ up - on__ that cross._

To Refrain

+ Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

+ Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

+Word+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis:

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

First Carol "Midnight stars make bright the skies" ELW #280



1 *Ming - xing can - lan ye wei yang, Bo - li - heng cheng*
 2 *Ming - xing can - lan ye wei yang, gu - deng ying - ying*
 1 *Mid - night stars make bright the skies, Beth - le - hem in*
 2 *Mid - night slum - ber lies o'er all, one lone bright lamp*



zai shui - xiang; ye - wai mu - ren
zhao ke - chuang; qu lai jiu - bu
slum - ber lies; glis - t'ning heav'n sends
lights the stall. Choose old cloth - ing,



jian yi - xiang, tian - shang jiao - ran fa da - guang;
zuo qiang - pao, ma - cao quan dang yu - er - chuang;
forth a great light, shep - herds see a won - drous sight!
wrap him warm - ly, man - ger shall his cra - dle be.



tian - shi lie - dui tong ge - chang, mu - ren jian zhi xian jing - huang;
wei yu jiu - shi zheng xian - ni, dao cheng ren - shen zhen - li zhang;
An - gel ranks in cho - rus sing. Silk - en sounds from heav - en ring.
Born to save us from our sin, Word made flesh, our lives to win,



hu - wen lun - yin ban jiu - xiao, xuan - yan Sheng - zi jiang xia - fang:
cai li di - zuo lin xia - jie, ren - shih jian - xin yi bei - chang.
Fright - ened shep - herds hear them say: "Christ is born on earth to - day!"
came to earth from heav - en's throne, mor - tals' sin to bear a - lone.

Refrain



Zhi - gao rong - yao gui Shang - zhu, quan - di ren - min fu wu - jiang.
Glo - ry be to God on high, blest are all be - neath the sky.

Text: Jing-qiu Yang, 1912–1966; tr. Mildred A. Wiant, 1898–2001
 Music: HUAN-SHA-XI, Qi-fang Liang, b. 1934
 Text and music © 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd., Hong Kong.

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A reading from Micah

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

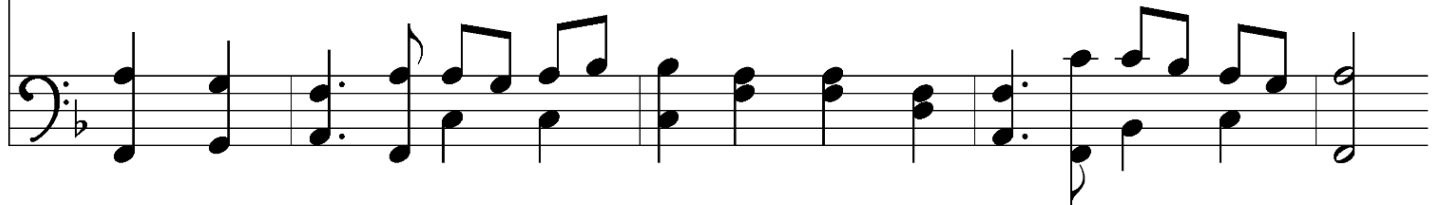
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Carol

“Once in royal David’s city” ELW #269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Third Carol

“Lo, how a rose e'er blooming” ELW #272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Fourth Carol

“Jesus, what a wonderful child” ELW #297

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: “Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry,” let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.
Music: African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953–2002
Arr. from *The New Century Hymnal* (#136), © 1992 Pilgrim Press.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Fifth Carol

“All my heart again rejoices” ELW #273

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in

near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; “Christ is born,” their choirs are
 us: “You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -

sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you.”
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
 ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

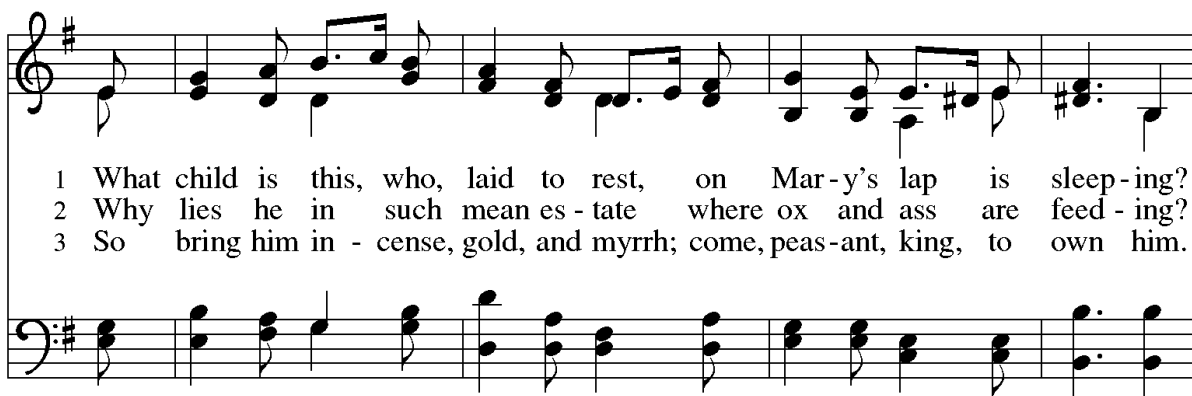
¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

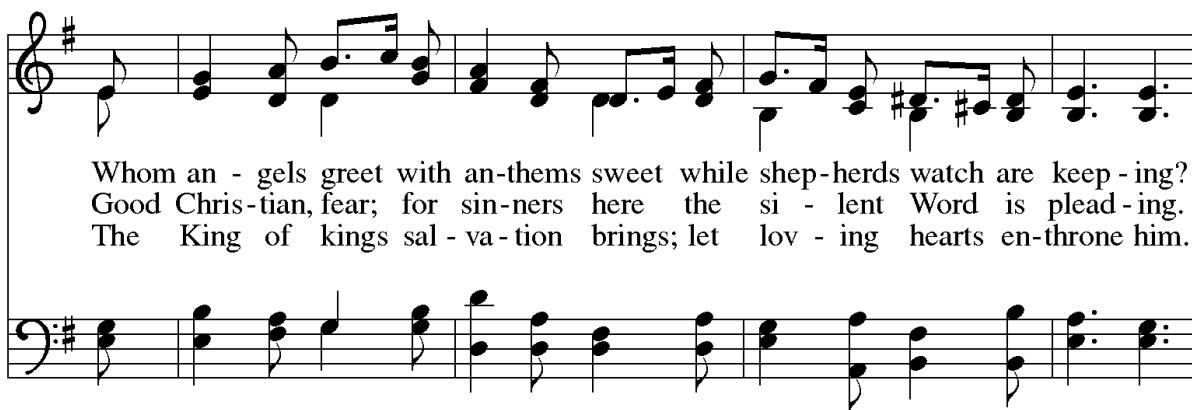
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sixth Carol

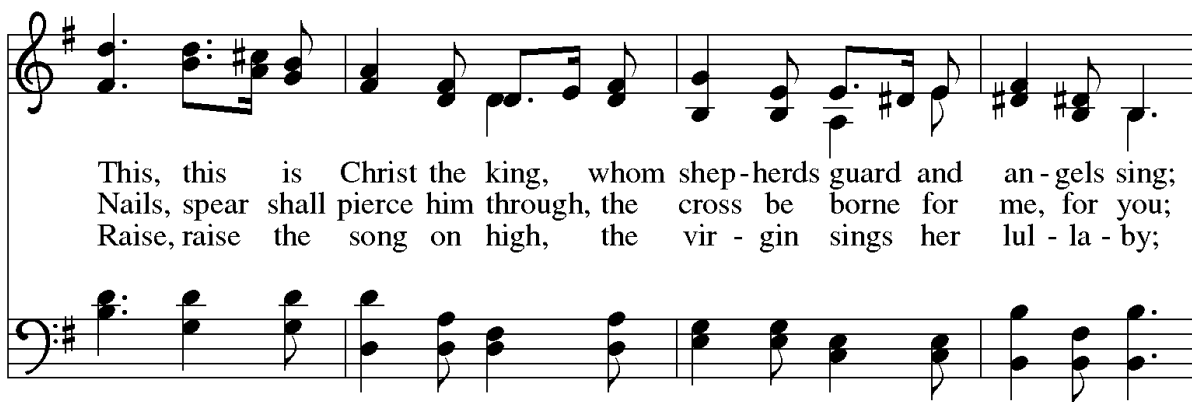
"What child is this ELW" #296



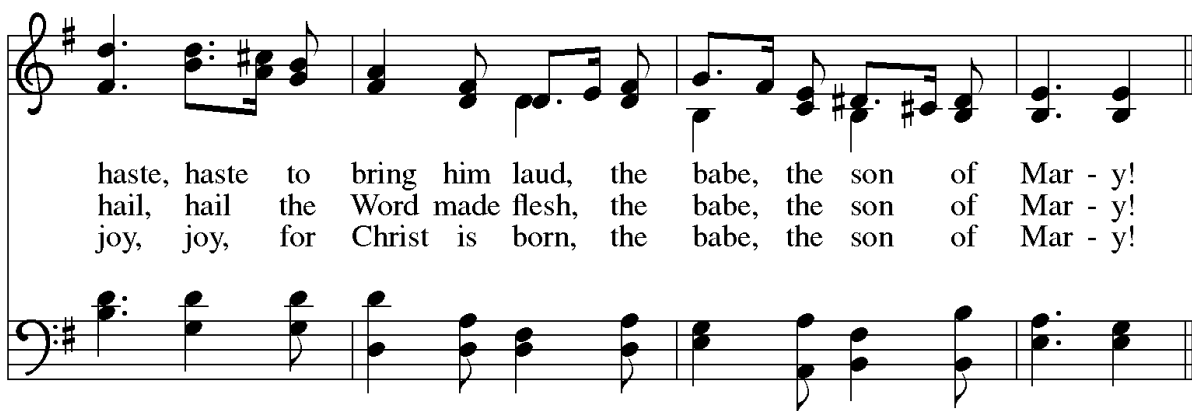
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

A reading from the Gospel of John:

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Love Has Come



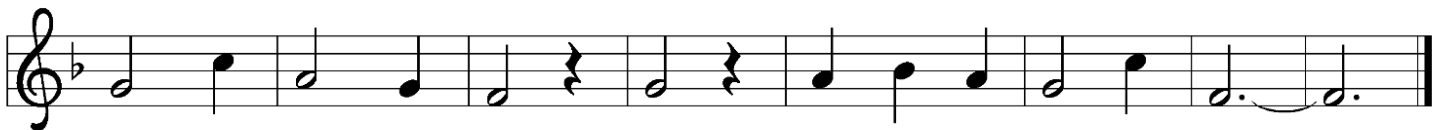
1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP). c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

+ Responsive Prayer

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger
in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

+ Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

*Thank you for supporting the mission of the
church as you are able!*

Electronic donations can be made at

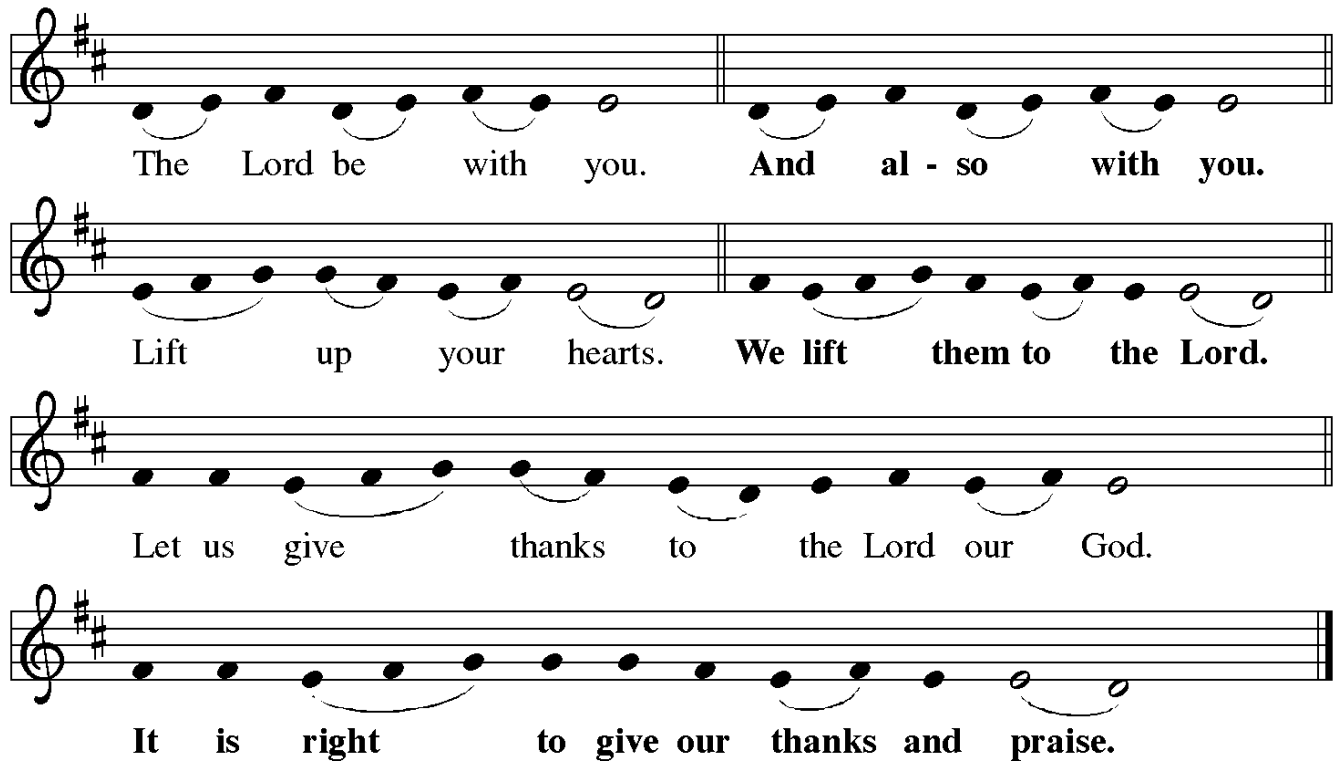
*[https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=622d08be-6865-
11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11](https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=622d08be-6865-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11).*



+ Offering Prayer

+ Great Thanksgiving

ELW p.107



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

+ Thanksgiving at the Table

+ Lord's Prayer

ELW p.112

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

+ Invitation to Communion

Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace

When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.

Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.

Here Is Bread Here Is Wine

Words and Music by
Graham Kendrick

VERSE

C G/B Am E7 F/A C/G G F/A Am G/B

1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.
 2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, He is with us.
 3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, He is with us.

1 | 2, 3

5 C G/B Am E7 F/A C/G G C Fm/C C Gm7 Bb/C

Break the bread, drink the wine, Christ is with us here. here.
 Know His grace, find His peace, feast on Je - sus fied.
 We'll pro - claim, 'til He comes, Je - sus cru - ci

CHORUS

Fmaj7 F6 Em7 Am7 Dm7 Gm7 Bb/C C Bb/D C/E Fmaj7 F#°

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup there's life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,

1 | 2

15 Em7 A+7 Dm7 G7 C D.C. C

by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here. here.

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+ Sending +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

+ Blessing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+ Sending Song

“Good News” (see next page)

+ Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God’s people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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GOOD NEWS

Larry Olson



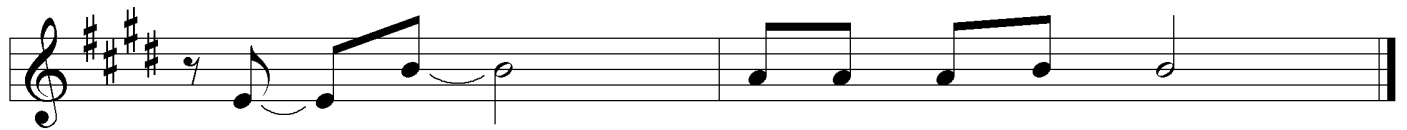
Good News! There has been a Sav - ior born.



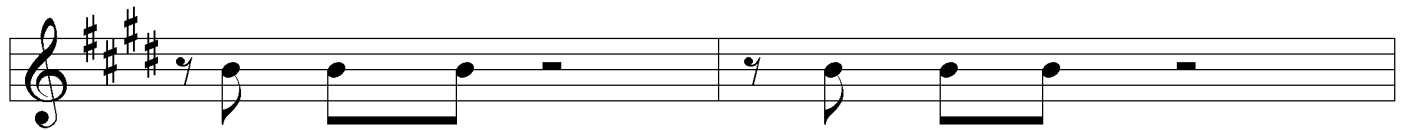
Good News! That is why we sing.



Good News! Danc - ing through the cen - tur - ies.



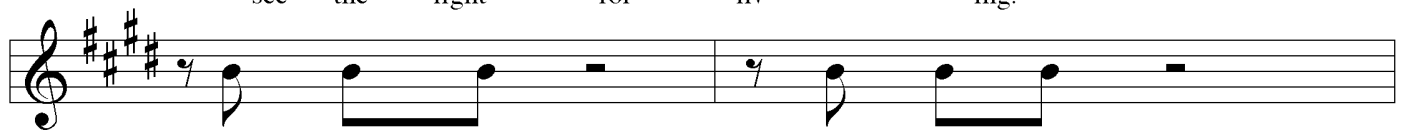
Good News! Chang - ing ev - 'ry - thing.



Hear the cries, hear the sighs,
See the might, see the fright,



hear the whys? un - spok - en.
see the light for liv - ing.



Feel the blame, feel the shame,
Know the One, know the Son,



and all the pain of be - ing lost and brok - en.
and what's been done to set us free for giv - ing.