

tidings of comfort and joy

December 24, 2017
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

in Bethlehem in Judah this blessed babe was born

Greeting

Austin Carty

Organ Voluntary

*Sing We Now of Christmas
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

setting by Owen Griffin

Lighting the Candle of Love

Alex Lockridge

Why light a candle that will burn out?

The message of this candle cannot be quenched.

It speaks of love –

love we do not deserve,

love we can never confine,

love we cannot escape.

It signals the unique love of God seen in the birth of the Christ child.

In faith we light this candle of love.

+Hymn 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

stanzas 1, 2, and 4

+Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

For all the times and all the ways we have resisted Your rule in our lives,

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For seeking our salvation through lesser things;

for standing in the pride of our own power;

for insisting on our own tired, broken ways instead of Your life-giving Way,

Christ, have mercy upon us.

For our narrow vision of Your expansive love;

for our stinginess with Your extravagant grace,

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Free us from our sin, loving God, and lead us in the way of life,

that we may praise You all our days. Amen.

+The Peace

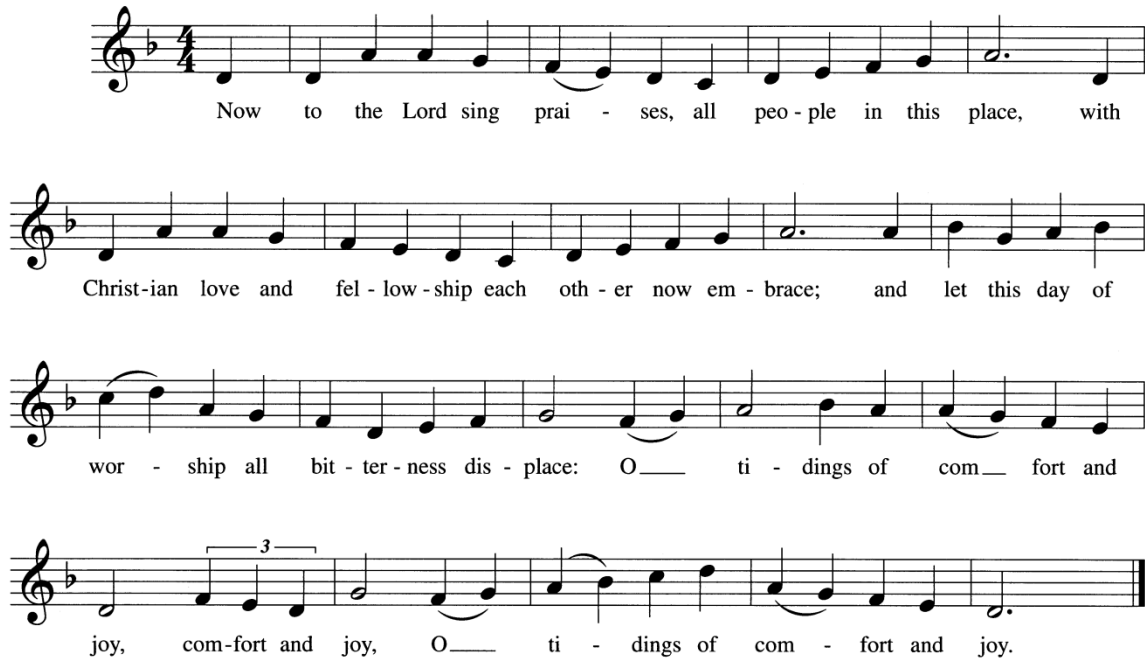
Austin Carty

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Response

GOD REST YOU MERRY



Now to the Lord sing prai - ses, all peo - ple in this place, with
Christ-ian love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace; and let this day of
wor - ship all bit - ter - ness dis - place: O — ti - dings of com — fort and
joy, com-fort and joy, O — ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

- 18th century English carol

and laid within a manger upon this blessed morn

A Reading from the Epistles: II Thessalonians 5:16-24


Austin Carty

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 89

setting by Hal Hopson



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord ev - er - more.

My song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;

Your faithful ways will I proclaim, and every age shall know Your name.

*Come, every voice, sing out your song. **REFRAIN***

Almighty God, Your lofty throne has justice for its cornerstone;

And shining bright before Your face are truth and love and boundless grace.

*Come, every voice, sing out your song. **REFRAIN***

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 1:26-38

Alex Lockridge

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose

setting by Deborah Govenor

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior when half-spent was the night.
This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death He saves us, and lightens every load.*

- 15th century German carol

Sermon

"Did Nothing Take in Scorn"

Austin Carty

for which his mother Mary did nothing take in scorn

+Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY

please see insert

If you wish to present yourself for membership today, or if you have another decision to share, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Lisa Harrison

Loose change received in December will benefit our church's Cold Weather Ministries.

Offertory

No Wind at the Window

CRADLE SONG

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lamp-stand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear: just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

"O Mar - y, O__ Mar - y, don't hide from my face. Be glad that you're
"This child must be__ born that the__ king-dom might come: sal - va - tion for

fa - vored and filled with God's grace. The time for re - deem - ing the__
man - y, de - struc - tion for some; both end and be - gin - ning, both

world has be - gun, and you are re - quest - ed to__ moth - er God's Son."
me - sage and sign; both vic - tor and vic - tim, both yours and di - vine."

*No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, "Tell God I say, Yes."*

- John Bell

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 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. Amen.

+Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL

*To You, O Christ, all glory be, whose advent sets Your people free;
Whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O tidings of comfort and joy

+Commission and Blessing

Austin Carty, Alex Lockridge, & Paul Sims

... and may the Holy Spirit give you peace. Amen.

Organ Postlude

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

setting by David Lasky

+all who are able may stand

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Gayle Majors, Organist

Ann Hacker, Pianist

Olivia Gregory, candle lighter

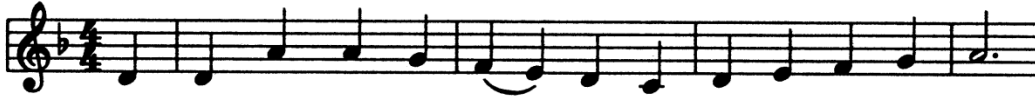
gloria in excelsis Deo

Worship for Christmas Eve

This evening at Six O'clock

an offering will be received that will be used throughout the
coming year to help local families with emergency needs

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah this bless - ed babe was born,
3. From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,



for Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior was born up - on this day,
and laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn:
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind,



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
for which his moth - er Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the bless - ed babe to find.

Refrain

