

December 7, 2025

Prelude

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

organ

text, Johann Rist, 1641

music, Johann Schop, 1595; arr. Benjamin M. Culli

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
and usher in the morning.
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,
but hear the angel's warning:
this child, now weak in infancy,
our confidence and joy shall be,
the pow'r of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
to herald our salvation.
He stoops to earth, the God of might,
our hope and expectation.
He comes in human flesh to dwell,
our God with us, Immanuel,
the night of darkness ending,
our fallen race befriending.

Christmas Chimes

organ

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

by Dorothy Wells (quoting "Waltham" by J.B. Calkin)

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Welcome

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Advent Wreath The Candles of Hope & Peace

*Congregation, please read **bold** portions.*

Brian & Mary VanStee, candle lighters (8:30)
Dick & Maryann Townley, candle lighters (11:15)

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.
We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

**The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.** -from Isaiah 2:4

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them. -Isaiah 11:6

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Prepare the Way

This song may be sung in a round.

text, Isa 40:3; 52:10; music, Jacques Berthier

Pre - pare the way of the Lord;

pre - pare the way of the Lord.

And all peo - ple will see the sal -

va - tion of our God.

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Isaiah 11:1-2

Lucas Mooibroek
Director of Adult Ministries

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

* *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Trinity Hymnal 221

* Invocation

Angels' Carol

choir

by John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
to the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night.
He is come in joy, like the sun at morning,
filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He is come in love as the child of Mary.
In a simple stable we have seen his birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing "Peace on earth."

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
like a bright star shining in the skies above.
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations,
when he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Savior's coming.
Let the heavens answer with a joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing, "Christ is born."

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession

Hebrews 11:8-12

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Prayer of confession *followed by a time of silent confession*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Isaiah 51:1-3

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who gave birth to you. When I called him, he was only one; I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and melodious song.

8:30 service On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 5- year-olds are invited to the foyer to join Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.

11:15 service Church bags are available in the foyer for 4- to 5-year-olds who need some quiet activities during the sermon.

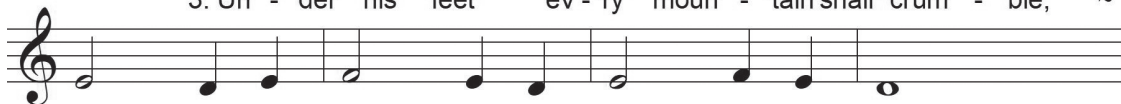
** I Saw the King*

congregation

by Daniel Mayoros



1. I saw the arm - ies of an - gels a - ris - ing, the
2. I heard the tongues of the ho - ly ones sing - ing, ~
3. Un - der his feet ev - 'ry moun - tain shall crum - ble, ~



ban - ners of hea - ven ap - peared on the clouds.
an - thems of che - ru - bim thun - d'ring on high,
val - leys a - rise to pre - pare him a way.



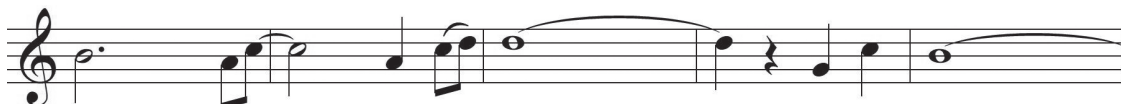
I saw the King in his glo - ry ar - riv - ing, the
voic - es on voic - es in har - mon - y ring - ing. ~
So shall the pride - ful be - fore him be hum - bled, ~



cry goes _____ up, "Our sal - va - tion is near!" to Vs 2
All God's re - deemed join the heav - en - ly choir. to Chorus
and the af - flic - ted be raised to his side. to Chorus



See the King _____ up-on his throne; _____ see the



vic - to - ry _____ he has won! _____ See his love _____



_____ and mercy sav - ing. Je - sus reigns for - ev - er - more.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Genesis 11:27-32; 12:1-3

^{11:27} Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

^{12:1} Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon

Abraham: The King of Promise

Pastor Michael Anderson

Promises

Responses

Provisions

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* *The God of Abraham Praise*

Trinity Hymnal 34 Verses 1, 4, 5

Invitation to the Lord's Table *Trays will be passed through the rows. The bread served is gluten free, and the grape juice served is pasteurized. Hold the bread or cup until all are served and we'll partake together.*

During the passing of the bread

Chorale Prelude on the Ancient Christmas Carol "In Dulci Jubilo"

organ

arr. J.S. Bach

In dulci jubilo (In the sweet celebration)

Let us our homage shew

Our heart's joy reclineth

In praesepio; (In the crib)

And like a bright star shineth

Matris in gremio, (on the mother's lap)

Alpha es et O! (You are Alpha and O)

O patris caritas! (O love of the Father!)

O Nati lenitas! (O gentleness of the Son!)

Deeply were we stained

Per nostra crimina (Through our offenses)

But Thou for us hast gained

Coelorum gaudia, (The joys of heaven)

Qualis gloria! (What glory!)

Ubi sunt gaudia (Where are the joys)

If they be not there?

There are angels singing

Nova cantica (New songs)

And there the bells are ringing

In Regis curia (In the King's court)

O that we were there!

During the passing of the cup

The God We Love (Nicene Creed)

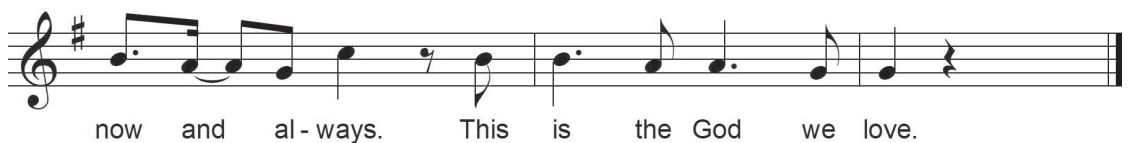
by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson
& Matt Redman



1. We be-lieve in one God, the
2. For the world and for our sal -



Fa - ther, the Al - might - y, the Mak - er of
va - tion, he came down from the heav - ens a -



Prayer of Thanksgiving *spoken together*

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Advent Offering Highlight Guiding Light Mission Brian Elve, Executive Director and
Eric Wakeman

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (888) 793-1604

Offertory *Suite Brevis on “See Amid the Winter’s Snow”* organ arr. David Lasky

PRELUDE

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

Refrain Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

MEDITATION

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim! *Refrain*

POSTLUDE

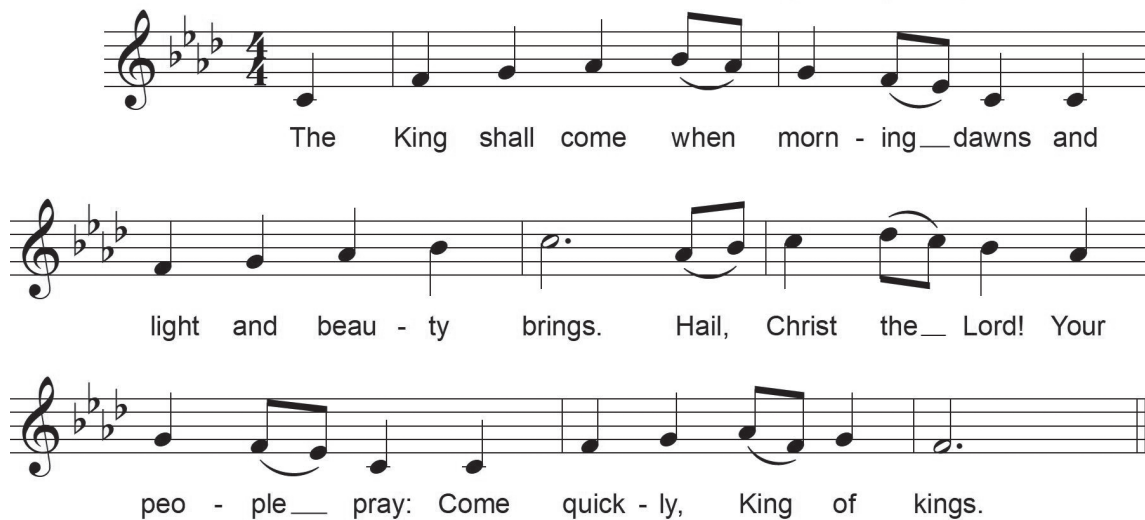
Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
by Thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble Thee,
in Thy sweet humility! *Refrain*

*** Benediction**

*** Advent Sending Song**

The King Shall Come

text, Greek, tr. John Brownlie
music, Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music



The King shall come when morn - ing__dawns and
light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ the__ Lord! Your
peo - ple__ pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings.

CCLI 332344

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward
and ring the bells as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** Amen Alleluia**



A - men. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

Prayer Partners are available to pray with you right now. Come to the area by the organ with anything on your heart: praise, fears, questions, thanksgiving. We'll sit down and pray together.

*** Postlude**

Sing the Glad Song

organ by Franklin Ritter

Cover art
Michele Gwin

Worship musicians
Adult Choir
Sarah Helder, director

Craig Kooienga, song leader (8:30)
Esther Ratajeski, song leader (11:15)
Lia Gelder, flute
Quinn Klamer, bass (8:30)
Susan Guerra, piano and organ