



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Advent
November 30th, 2025

Quotes for reflection:

One of the greatest privileges and advancements of believers, both in this world and to eternity, consists in their beholding the glory of Christ... For here in this life, beholding His glory, they are changed and transformed into the likeness of it; and hereafter they shall be forever “like Him,” because they “shall see him as he is.” Upon this do our present comforts and future blessedness depend.

—John Owen

The first business of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to talk about God. We must not start with ourselves. We must not start with salvation, or with anything else. If we do, we are certain to go astray. Let us never forget that the verse sentence of the first book of the Bible is about God: “In the beginning God...” Before you begin with your problems, you must be clear as to who you are and what you are and where you have come from.

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones

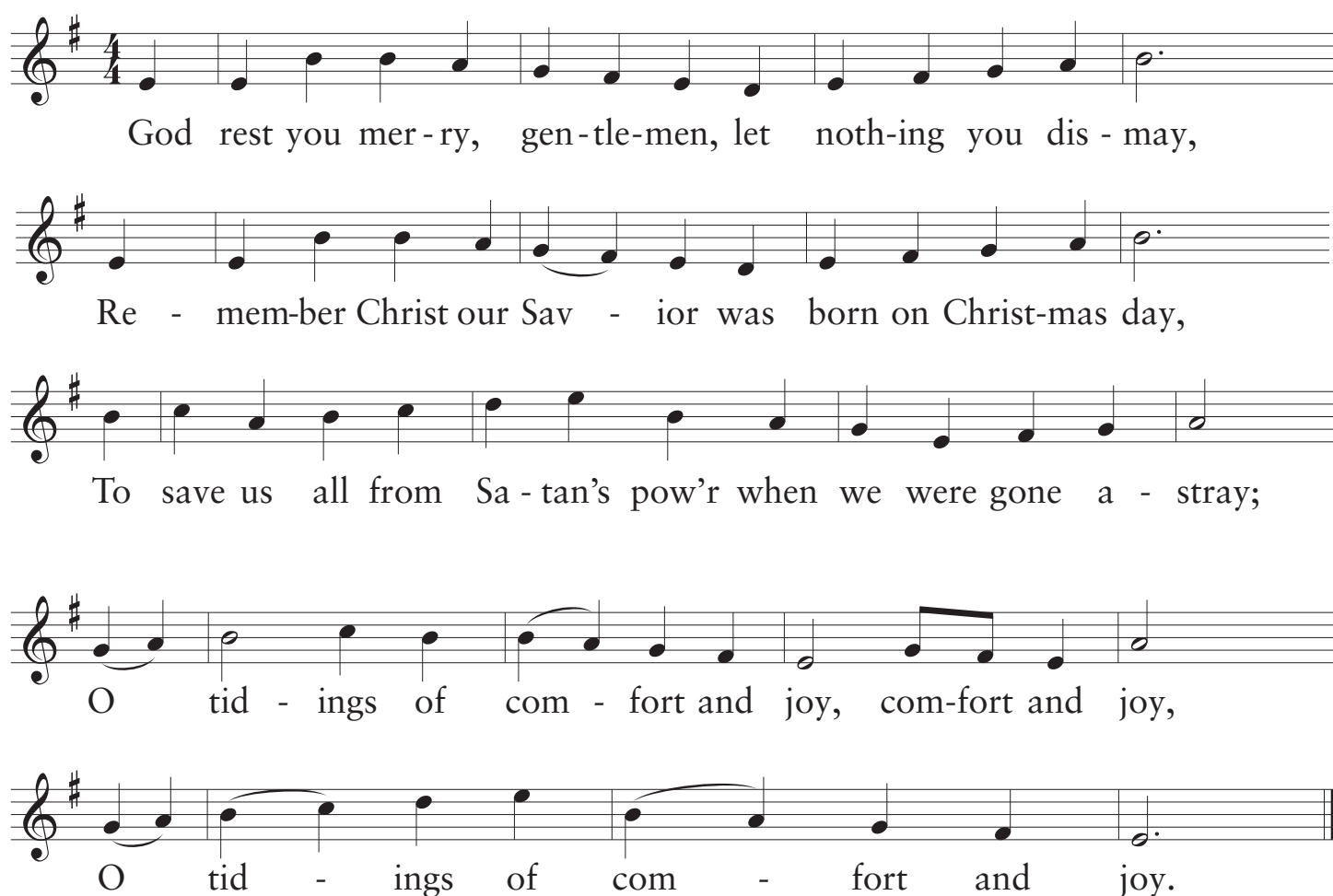
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves: the King opens His gates and welcomes us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—John 1:29

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Sung Response—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 1



The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a half note, the second with a half note, the third with a half note, the fourth with a half note, and the fifth with a half note. The lyrics are: "God rest you mer-ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis - may, Re - mem-ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ-mas day, To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy."

God rest you mer-ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis - may,

Re - mem-ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ-mas day,

To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18th century English carol.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship—Psalm 46:1-7, 10

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Reader 1: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Reader 2: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

Pastor: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Be still and know that He is God. He will be exalted among the nations; He will be exalted in the earth!

Congregational Hymn—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The music features a mix of single notes, chords, and some melodic lines with slurs. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends with a double bar line.

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
O come, thou Branch of Jes - se! Draw the quar - ry from the li - on's claw;
O come, thou Key of Da - vid come, and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
O come, O come, thou Day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy heal - ing light;

That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
From the dread cav - erns of the grave, from neth - er hell, thy peo - ple save.
Safe - guard for us the heav'n - ward road, and bar the way to death's a - bode.
Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring gloom, and pierce the sha - dows of the tomb.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: 12th century, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 13th century,
arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

Congregational Hymn—Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say,
Wak-ened by the so-lemn warn-ing let the earth-bound soul a-rise;
Lo, the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from Heav’n;
That when next He comes in glor-y, and the world is wrapped in fear,



“Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye chil-dren of the day.”
Christ, her Sun, all ill dis-pell-ing, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-giv’n.
With His mer-cy He may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Text: Latin hymn, 5th century, tr. Edward Caswall, 1849;

Music: MERTON (MONK), William H. Monk, 1850.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 3:1-6

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’”

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

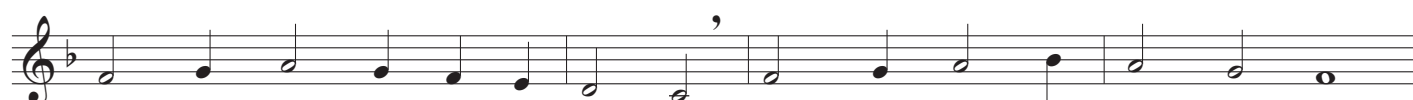
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

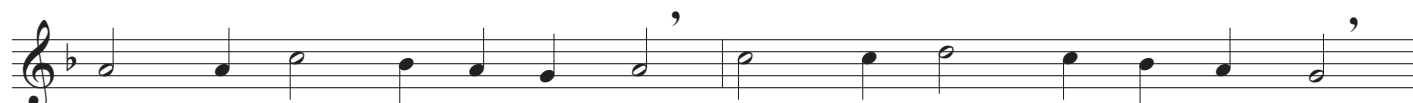
Congregational Hymn—Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



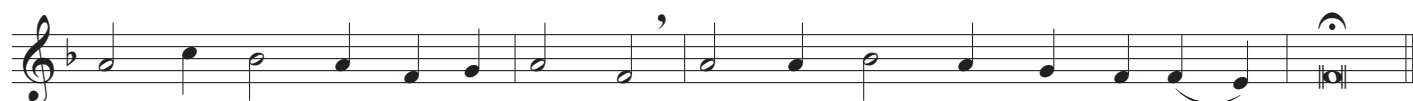
Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
Make ye straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark-ness, mourn-ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
Bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits His ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that His word is ne - ver bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
Music: GENEVAN 42 (THIRSTING), Louis Bourgeois, 1551, harm. Johann Crüger, 1658.

Sermon Text—Isaiah 40:1-11

- Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
- 6 A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever.
- 9 Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

- 10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and His arm rules for Him;
behold, His reward is with Him,
and His recompense before Him.
- 11 He will tend His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs in His arms;
He will carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 2



From God our heav'n-ly Fa - ther, a bless-ed an - gel came;

And un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;

How that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18th century English Carol.

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Isaiah 42:16-17, 19-20, 24

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You lead the blind in a way that they do not know; in paths that they have not known You guide them. You turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things You do, and You do not forsake them.

All: But we are turned back and utterly put to shame because we trust in carved idols. We say to images, “You are our gods.”

Pastor: Who is as blind as Your servants, or deaf as Your messengers whom You send?

All: We see many things, but do not observe them; our ears are open, but we do not hear.

Pastor: Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers?

All: Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways we would not walk, and whose law we would not obey?

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Agnus Dei

UNISON



O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. ____



O Lamb of _ God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. ____



O Lamb of _ God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace.



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy _ peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Assurance of Pardon—Isaiah 43:1-3; Titus 2:11-14

But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

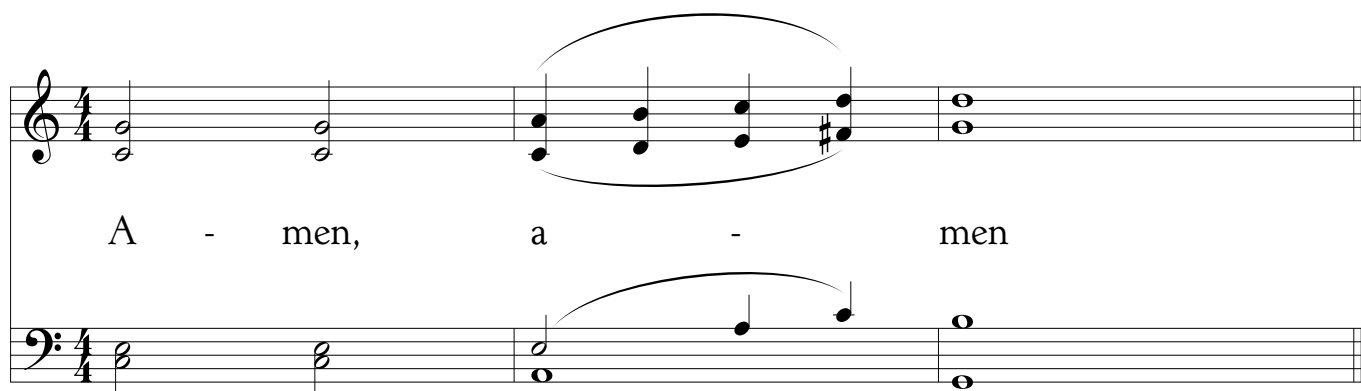
Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

All: And so we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen



Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th century.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

God feeds the faith of His people by giving them a meal. As God fellowships with them in faith, His people pledge their obedience to God and their love for one another.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

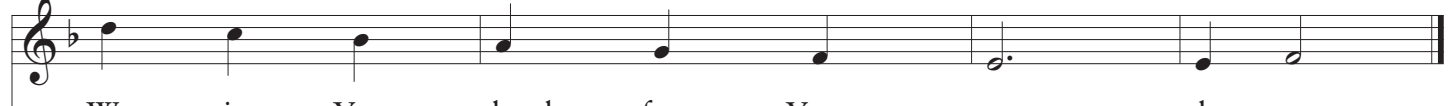


MEN

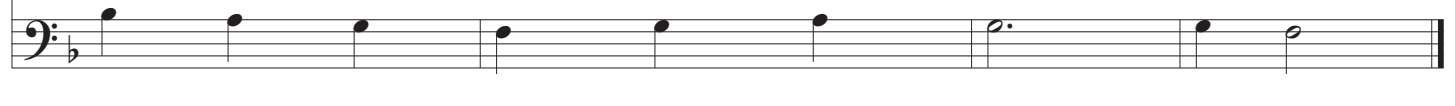


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

We praise You, we bless — You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA,
Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Of The Father's Love Begotten



Of the Fath - er's love be - got - ten. Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed! When the Vir - gin full of grace,
He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy, Frail and fee - ble, doomed to die,
This is He whom once the si - byls With u - ni - ted voice fore - told,
Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He.
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior of our race,
That the race from dust cre - a - ted Might not per - ish ut - ter - ly,
Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets Pro - mised in their faith - ful word.
Hymn and chant with high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be:



Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
And the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed his sac - red face,
Which the dread - ful Law had sen - tenced In the depths of hell to lie,
Let the world u - nite to praise Him, Long de - sired, fore - seen of old,
Hon - or, glor - y, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



Ev - er more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 4th century, tr. J. M. Neale, 1851 and H. W. Baker, 1859;
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th century.

Congregational Hymn—See, Amid The Winter's Snow

See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies:
Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was Thine,
Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,

See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee, in Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain

Hail, thou e - ver - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

Text: Edward Caswall, 1851; Music: HUMILITY, John Goss, 1870.

GOD’S PEOPLE GRATEFULLY RESPOND WITH THEIR PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS, AND PRAISE

Praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship, moving our faith from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings. Offering boxes for both tithes and alms are located in the foyer.

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate 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.

Congregational Hymn—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with two lines of text. The first system ends with a fermata on the Soprano part. The second system ends with a fermata on the Bass part. The third system ends with a fermata on the Bass part. The fourth system ends with a double bar line on the Soprano part.

Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free;
Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 3

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of staves, each with a vocal line and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are: "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth-ing you af - fright; This day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright, To free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might." O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth-ing you af - fright;

This day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,

To free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18th century English Carol.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Advent has historically been observed as a season of confession, preparation, and anticipation, looking forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. You'll notice several elements in the service this morning that are different from other times of the year: candles are lit during the Call to Worship, purple accents adorn the bulletin and the pulpit, and a time of silent prayer follows our corporate confession of sin. We will sing many of the traditional hymns and carols of the season: both familiar favorites like *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*, and some that are less well known, like *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*. Three short musical responses fill out the center section of the service, in which we ask for mercy and peace (CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI), we say "Amen, Amen" to the assurance of pardon (DRESDEN AMEN), and we join with the angels in heaven to say, "we give You thanks for Your great glory" (CLOVERCROFT GLORIA). There is also an insert in the bulletin with a series of daily scripture readings, which you can use at home with your family throughout the season. I hope these added elements help us to prepare our hearts to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus, the "tender lamb" promised from "eternal years," who was born to set His people free.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Comfort, Pardon, Sin, Glory, Behold, Flesh, Word, Good News, Shepherd

Keystone Verses: Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" (Isaiah 40:9)



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (336-0274)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Ryan Gregory (714-5446)	Elliot Huck (843-540-6529)
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Officers Emeritus

Steve Nelson, Elder Emeritus; Jimmy Allen, Tim Simmons, Deacons Emeritus

All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.