



**GOLD HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVICE
LESSONS AND CAROLS JANUARY 1, 2023**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Ronald Coleman-prayers for health and healing.

Sarah Randall-prayers for health and peace for the family.

Ann Richter- celebrating her birthday on January 1st

Jessica Carr-celebrating her birthday on January 1st.

From our Synod prayer calendar, we remember and pray for:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Shepherd

Grace Lutheran Church, Barber

Southwestern Texas Synod

Southwestern Washington Synod

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Calendar & Announcements for the Week

Today	9:30 am Worship; Holy Communion 10:45 am Fellowship and Sunday School
Monday	Office Closed 10:00 am GHELC Book Club 6:00 pm Overeaters-Anon
Tuesday	8:30 am Bible Study @ Perkins 5:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 pm Exercise Class @ Gold Hill 6:00 pm Worship & Music
Wednesday	10:00 am LWR Quilters- Gold Hill 5:30 pm AI-Anon – Gold Hill 6:30 pm GH Choir Practice
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Next Sunday	9:30 am Worship; Holy Communion 10:45 am Fellowship and Sunday School

Gold Hill Quilters- On January 4, 9 AM, 1 Troon Drive, are invited to have breakfast together at Miriam's house before quilting.

Annual Meeting-will be held on the FIRST Sunday of February so that we do not interfere with the Super Bowl! February 5, 2023!

GATHERING SONG *Let all together praise our God* (ELW p. 287)

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
 you take our flesh and blood,
 and in return give us to share
 the shining realm of God,
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
 that leads to paradise;
 the angel bars the way no more.
 To God let praises rise,
 to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman
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DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
 and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
 on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory,

glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Isaiah 9:2-7 *God promises a king*

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ 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 onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming (ELW p. 272)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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

Micah 5:2-5a *The king will come from Bethlehem*

² But 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.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And 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;

⁵ and 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.**

O little town of Bethlehem (ELW p. 279)

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

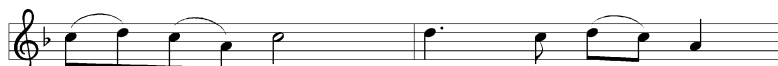
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies

Mingxing canlan ye wei yang



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.



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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Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The annunciation to Mary*

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ The 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.

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

The angel Gabriel from heaven came (ELW p. 265)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

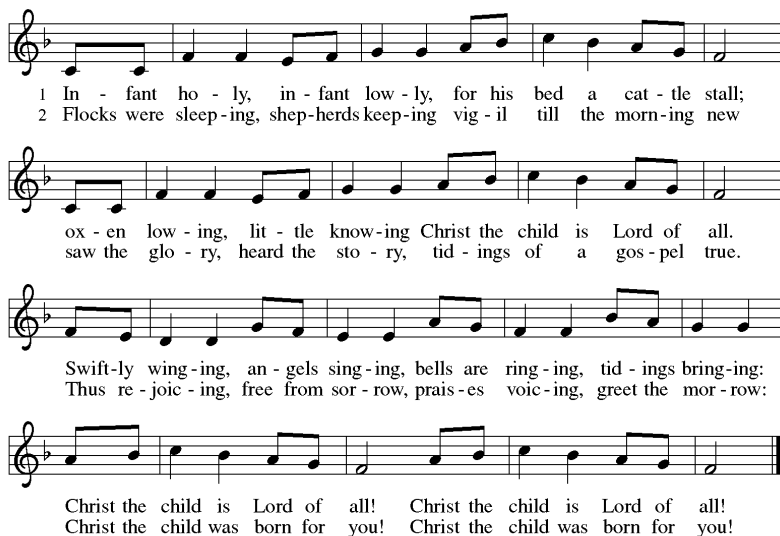
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus* The Birth of Jesus

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Infant holy, infant lowly (ELW p. 276)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

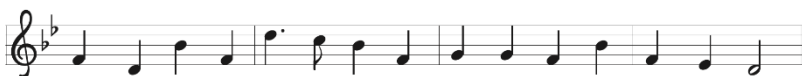
¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

¹⁵ 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.’ ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Angels, from the realms of glory (ELW p. 275)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon-der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king. 2

On Christmas night (ELW p. 274)

On Christmas Night



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

Luke 2:21-36 *Jesus receives his name*

Jesus Is Named

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present

him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

That boy-child of Mary (ELW p. 293)

That Boy-Child of Mary



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,
he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper
in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,
love and adore him,
give ourselves to him
in Bethlehem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt, Tom Colvin

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Jesus, what a wonderful child (ELW p. 297)

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional

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Matthew 2:1-11 *The magi follow the star*

The Visit of the Wise Men

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, '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.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then 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.' ⁹ When 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On 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.**

The first Noel (ELW p. 300)

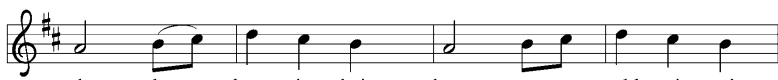
The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

What Child Is This



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.

Matthew 2:13-18 *The slaughter of the holy innocents*

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Your little ones, dear Lord (ELW p. 286)

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.
Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

John 1:1-14 *The mystery of the incarnation*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world, ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And 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.**

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying,

and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament

that we may bear your light to all the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Love has come* (ELW p. 292)

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!

