Carmel Presbyterian Church Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering December 19, 2021



Order of Worship

* Please stand, as able.
Congregation voices **Bold** responses.

Greeting and Announcements –

Prelude – "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming", 1 Michael Burkhardt

Advent Wreath: Lighting the Advent Candle of Love - O'Gara Family - Terrence & Stefanie, Shealyn & Brent

Introduction (Spoken responsively)

As we gather around the advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy.

Christmas is a time of worship – the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder.

Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

Scripture

Listen for the Word of God from 1 John, Chapter 4, verses 9-11:

This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. Dear Friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.

Lighting the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

We light these candles to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness. With the coming of this light there is *hope*. With the coming of this light there is *peace*. With the coming of this light there is *joy*. With the coming of this light there is *love*. Such great love helps us to love both God and one another.

Advent prayer (In unison)

Let us pray,

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person—babies and children, older people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all persons. Amen.

* Call to Worship (Spoken responsively; From Micah 5, Luke 1) -

God has done great things for us!

God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Holy is God's name!

God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

* Opening Hymn No. 22 – "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"² — (REGENT SQUARE)

Call to Confession -

Prayer of Confession (In unison; from Micah 5, Luke 1) -

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace...

(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)

Amen. Amen.

Sung Response for Advent – Hymn No. 1, Stanza 1 – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (STUTTGART)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

Assurance of Pardon (Spoken responsively) -

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled.

God does not forget us.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls rejoice in God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Gloria – Hymn No. 23 (Refrain only) – "Angels We Have Heard on High" – (GLORIA) Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively.) –

God meets us in the power of the gospel.

In the gospel, we find hope.

God moves us by the power of the gospel.

God moves us to bring hope into a confusing world.

God sends us to proclaim the gospel.

God sends us to friends and strangers to embody love.

God calls us to obedience in the gospel.

May we be joyful in following the One whose birth draws near!

Let us share the peace of Jesus Christ with one another.

(Remaining in your pew, greet one another, sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)

Children's Message -

(Following the Children's Message, children third grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)

Unison Prayer for Illumination (In unison.) -

Let us pray,

Most wonderful God, you placed your Son, Jesus in a family, so he would learn and grow into the fullness of his destiny. In the hearing of your Word, bless all the families of which we are a part. Together, may we learn the graces that cannot be found in isolation. And may we become capable of sharing in the healing of the world family. Amen.

Old Testament Reading —

The Old Testament lectionary reading is Micah, chapter 5, verses 2-5a. A ruler will come from Bethlehem; he will be the one of peace. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

though you are the least significant of Judah's forces,

one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.

His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.

Therefore, he will give them up

until the time when she who is in labor gives birth.

The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

They will dwell secure,

because he will surely become great throughout the earth;

he will become one of peace.

When Assyria invades our land and treads down our fortresses...

This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

* Hymn No. 206 – "O Hear Our Cry, O Lord" – (VINEYARD HAVEN)

(Based on today's Psalm from the lectionary Psalm 80:1-7. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel; let your face shine, and save us.)

New Testament Reading -

Our second reading from the lectionary is Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 5-10. God does not desire burnt offerings; Christ came to do God's will. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

Therefore, when he comes into the world he says,

You didn't want a sacrifice or an offering, but you prepared a body for me; you weren't pleased with entirely burned offerings or a sin offering. So then I said,
"Look, I've come to do your will, God.
This has been written about me in the scroll."

He says above, You didn't want and you weren't pleased with a sacrifice or an offering or with entirely burned offerings or a purification offering, which are offered because the Law requires them. Then he said, Look, I've come to do your will. He puts an end to the first to establish the second. We have been made holy by God's will through the offering of Jesus Christ's body once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel Reading -

The gospel reading from the lectionary is Luke, chapter 1, verses 39-55. Mary visits Elizabeth; the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,

from one generation to the next,

who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

remembering his mercy,

just as he promised to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Pastor Peter

* Advent Affirmation of Faith (Standing, and spoken in unison.) -

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people.

We know that the world in which we live

will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.

We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.

We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

* Hymn No. 600 – "Song of Mary (Magnificat)" – (MORNING SONG)

Sharing Joys and Concerns -

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (Using 'debts' & 'debtors') -

Invitation to the Offering & the "Christmas Joy Offering" -

(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church to the community—both local and global. Please place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary, give online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)

Offertory – "Of the Father's Love Begotten", Arr. Paul Wohlgemuth Sanctuary Choir

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending, He, Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, When the Virgin, full of grace, By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race, And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face, Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing: Powers, dominions, bow before Him, And extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

^{*} Doxology No 592 – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (DOXOLOGY)

^{*} Prayer of Dedication of Time, Gifts and Tithes -

Dear God, you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ. You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself. Out of all these blessings, we give you back these offerings this day—supporting the work and mission of Carmel and special "The Christmas Joy" offering. Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you in anticipation of the coming of the one who brings us peace. Amen.

- * Closing Hymn No. 14 "Savior of the Nations, Come" (NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND)
- * Charge and Benediction (Read responsively.) -

Go with the love of God, who extends mercy from generation to generation.

We go with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, who prepares us for the coming of our Lord. Go with the peace of the Christ child, who comes to partner with us to bring the kingdom that will never end.

Amen.

Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)

Postlude – "Tell Out My Soul", 10 Paul Manz

Announcements Guests: You Are Welcome Here

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME those who are visiting today. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We'd like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will join with us again. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with a Pastor if you are interested in membership. A Virtual Fellowship Time is also possible on Zoom. And, restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building. Welcome!

THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY this morning offer Glory to God and witness to the beauty of creation.



CHRISTMAS J

SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS JOY WITH THE "CHRISMAS JOY OFFERING": SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE LEADERS – The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-Related Schools and Colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical

financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Envelops are available by the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary.

CARMEL INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD ON CHRISTMAS EVE – There are two opportunities for **Christmas Eve** worship on Friday, December 24, 2021. For the early service, Carmel will hold a **Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:30 pm**. And, the later service will begin at 8:45 pm with special Christmas prelude music prior to the 9:00 pm **Christmas Eve Service with Communion and Candle Lighting**. Celebrate the birth of the Christ child with family and friends!

THE LAST WEEK OF ADVENT IS HERE! – HERE'S HOW TO MAKE IT MEANINGFUL – This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Fourth Candle of Advent on the Advent Wreath—the candle for LOVE. Watch and wait for Christ's coming—God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come! Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Please join us for 'Cookies, Cocoa and Caroling' to put the finishing touches on the Advent Trees and add prayer of LOVE on the Prayer Wall today at 4:00 pm (December 19), the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will support Interfaith's "Baskets from the Heart" by collecting canned goods and non-perishables. This Final Sunday of Advent brings another opportunity for outreach. Please WELCOME friends and neighbors to Carmel at Christmas Time. Loving our neighbors is a wonderful way to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Hope is Born, PEACE on Earth, Joy to the World, Love Came Down. We thank Congregational Life and friends for their generosity and warm-hearted presence as they provided to-go lunches throughout the first three weeks of Advent and today with the special gathering.

SPEND SOME TIME WITH CARMEL'S NEW AND GREATLY IMPROVED WEBSITE! Explore the wealth of information at www.presbycarmel.org. Photos of our recent "Candlelight Carol Service" are now up on the Carmel Web! Easily find links for the current livestream worship, past services, the daily lectionary, or to send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and find out the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIVING ENVELOPES ARE IN THE FLOYER READY FOR PICK UP! Please pickup your numbered Stewardship Giving Envelopes in the church foyer arranged alphabetically. If you need a yearly Giving/Pledge Card, they may be picked up near the Offering Plate as you enter the sanctuary. Please drop in the plate or return to the Church Office so for Session to finalize the Church Budget 2022 for approval at its December meeting. Additional yearly giving/pledge cards are available in the Church Office. Thank you for your generosity in caring for others through your church family!

THANKS TO THE THREE WEEKENDS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR SANCTUARY DECORATING—Thanks to many folks who helped Carmel prepare for Jesus' arrival by progressively decorating the sanctuary for Advent: wreaths and swags; then, trees and lights; and finally, candelabras and poinsettias! At Carmel, the Christmas spirit is all around us.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP IN CARMEL HALL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021. Children's Worship will not be held on Sunday, December 26, 2021 and will resume on Sunday, January 2, 2021.

CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS of our congregation by offering **Nursery Care and Children's Worship** (third grade and below) during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. They are being led

by two of our committed and dedicated volunteers, Marleen Heintz for Nursery Care and Melissa MacFarland for Children's Worship. At this time, we request that if you desire nursery care for your child during Sunday worship, *please call the Church Office by Friday noon*, so that the nursery is staffed. Children's Worship will meet in Carmel Hall for larger spacing and does not require reserving ahead. Children from Grades K-3 leave the Sanctuary after the Children's Message. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; Marleen or Melissa.

CARMEL YOUTH GROUPS OASIS AND REFUGE & CONFIRMATION CLASS NOVEMBER DATES: Refuge will meet on designated Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30 pm, in person, in Carmel Hall and welcomes all in grades 3-8. Safety protocols will be followed with dinner and a rotating activity each week: service or craft project, Bible lesson, gym or game room activity and monthly special activities. **Oasis** meets next on TBA, 7:00 pm in the Loft and welcomes all in grades 9-12. Join in the Fellowship and, as always, friends are welcome. The **Confirmation Group** meets Sundays at 9:00 am in the Loft.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING GROUP STUDY LED BY THE SENIOR PASTOR Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am, Fellowship Lounge will take a "pause" during Advent and Christmas and resumes in January. Talk with Pastor Peter about what you would like to take up for study and if you'd like to meet during the week. The group is considering adding a new class time during the week to involve those who are unable to make the Sunday morning class.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SUPPLIES, HEARING DEVICES, LARGE PRINT BIBLES and ORDERS OF SERVICE are available from the Ushers.

WORSHIPING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 – All are requested to wear masks at all times and practice social distancing at your and other's comfort levels during worship and when inside the church facilities

SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE several spots you can assist. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign-up on-line here: https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! Live Streaming Worship continues on YouTube, via Zoom on the phone and on Zoom for virtual fellowship following worship for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. See below!

Participating in Worship this Morning

Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor
Ashley B. Rossi, Associate Pastor
Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music
Lynne Schutt, Liturgist
The Sanctuary Choir

The O'Gara Family – Terrence & Stefanie, Shealyn & Brent, Lighting the Advent Candle of Love
Bob and Cindy Gerherd, Greeter/Ushers
Barbara Knox and Kristin Waldner, Shepherds
Walt Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP) Member

Gary Moll, Stefanie O'Gara, and Jay Raulinaitis, Live-Streaming Operators

Welcome to Sunday Morning Worship (Also, live streamed at 10:00 am)

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljlDvsRw

Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409 and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

"Virtual Fellowship Time" may be accessed on Zoom only after the service ends.

Signup to Help with Worship!

Each Sunday we have several spots you can assist. Click here: https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship

For those Participating and Facilitating in Worship

By attending in-person worship at Carmel Presbyterian Church you acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and variants and voluntarily assume the risk that you and your family may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19. You also acknowledge that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and its variants may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of yourself and/or others, including, but not limited to, church employees, contractors, volunteers, members, and participants and their families. You agree to assume all the foregoing risks, waive liability against Carmel Presbyterian Church and church employees, contractors, volunteers, members, and participants and their families, and accept sole responsibility for any illness, injury, disability, or death to you or your family, including all claims that may arise resulting from any of these.

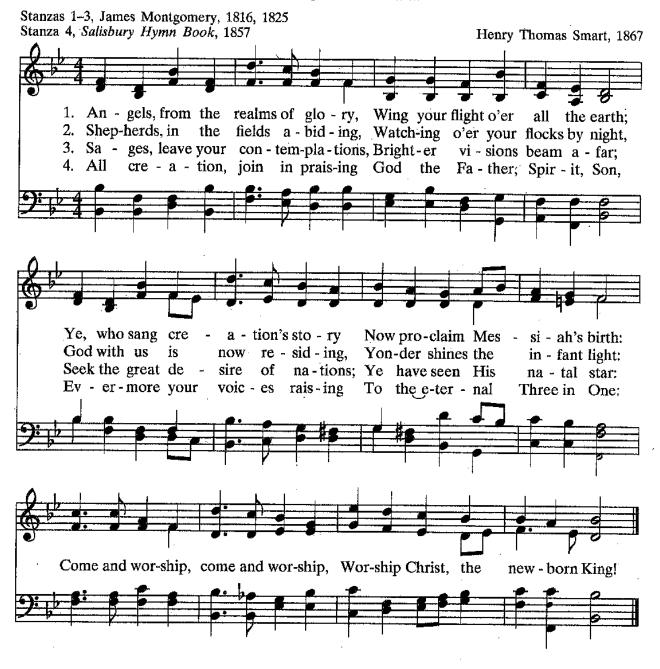
Carmel Presbyterian Church

100 Edge Hill Road Glenside, PA 19038 215-887-1074 www.presbycarmel.org

22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

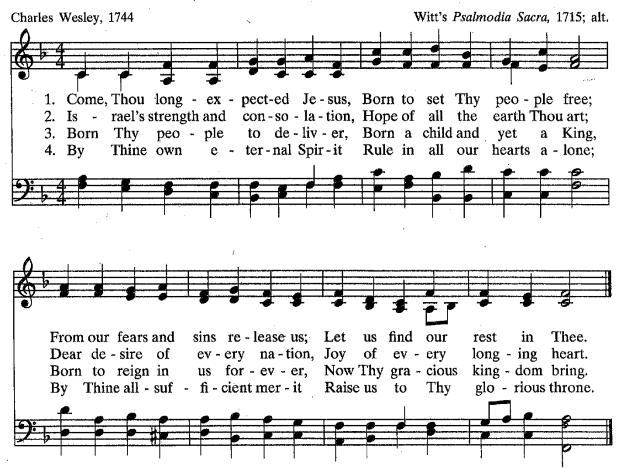


CHRISTIAN YEAR

ADVENT

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7



Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 2

Angels We Have Heard on High

23



Music: Copyright © 1937, renewed 1965, Fleming H. Revell Company, H. Augustine Smith, Jr., from the New Church Hymnal. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

VINEYARD HAVEN SM with refrain

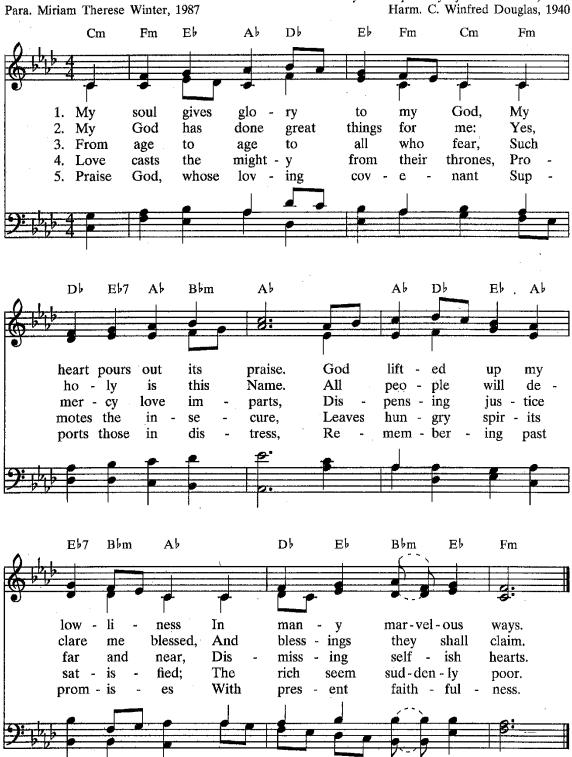


Song of Mary

600

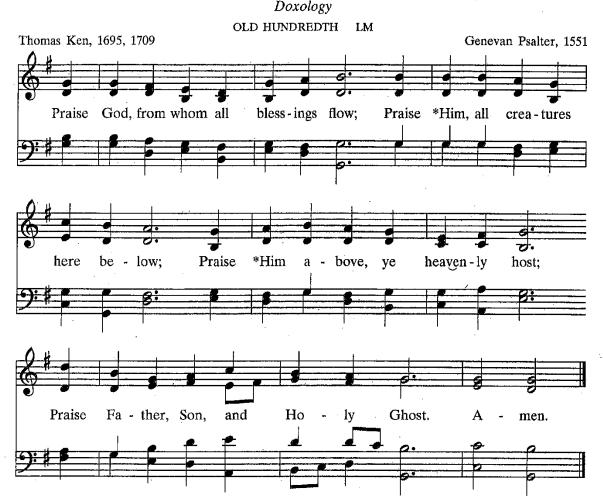
Magnificat
MORNING SONG CM

Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813



* Or "God."

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7.7



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¹ "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arranged by Michael Burkhardt. Based on Es ist ein Ros, 1599. From the collection "5 Christmas Hymn Improvisations," Copyright 1998, Morning Star Publishers. Streamed under One License 735006-A.

² "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825. Stanza 4, from "Salisbury Hymn Book," 1857. Public Domain. Music: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867. Public Domain. Hymn tune name: Regent Square.

³ "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Public Domain. Music: from Witt's "Psalmodia Sacra," 1715; altered. Public Domain. Hymn tune name: Stuttgart.

⁴ "Angels We Have Heard on High," Text: French carol, Translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882); altered. Public Domain. Music: French carol, arranged Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937. Copyright 1937, renewed 1965, Fleming H. Revell Company, H. Augustine Smith, Jr., from the New Church Hymnal. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and streamed under One License 735006-A. Hymn tune name: Gloria.

⁵ "O Hear Our Cry, O Lord" Text: Fred R. Anderson, 1986. Text: copyright 1986, Fred R. Anderson; from "Singing Psalms of Joy and Praise." Used by permission. Music: Richard Wayne Dirksen, 1974. Copyright 1974, Harold Flammer, Inc., All rights reserved. Used by permission. Hymn tune name: Vineyard Haven. Reprinted and streamed under One License 735006-A.

⁶ "Song of Mary" Paraphrased by Miriam Therese Winter, 1987. Copyright Medical Mission Sisters, 1978, 1987. Used by permission. Music: from Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813. Harmonized by C. Winfred Douglas, 1940. Hymn tune name: Morning Song. Harmonization copyright 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund. Used by permission. Reprinted and streamed under One License 735006-A.

⁷ "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arranged by Paul Wohlgemuth, 13th Century Plainsong. Copyright 1973, Hope Publishing Company. Streamed under One License 735006-A.

⁸ "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow," Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709. Doxology. Public Domain. Music: from the Genevan Psalter, 1551. Public Domain. Hymn tune name: Old Hundredth.

⁹ "Savior of the Nations, Come" Text: Attributed to Ambrose of Milan, 4th century, Paraphrase: Martin Luther, 1524, Translated by William Morton Reynolds, 1850. Public Domain. Music: Based on plainsong melody Eyn Enchiridion, Erfurt, 1524. As in "Songs of Syon," 1910. Public Domain. Hymn tune name: Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland.

¹⁰ "Tell Out My Soul" Setting by Paul Manz. From the collection "Six Advent Improvisations" by Paul Manz. Copyright 1990, Morning Star Music Publishers. Streamed under One License 735006-A.