

We Gather as the People of God

‡Musical Call to Worship *A Celtic Christmas Overture* arr. Shackley

‡Greeting, Announcements, and Invitation to Discipleship

*‡Introit Hymn No. 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT
(Verse 1)

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

*‡Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

Many: Praise the Lord from the earth!

One: Young and old alike, men and women together.

Many: Praise the Lord!

*‡Hymn No. 111 *From Heaven Above* VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Let us pray with one voice.)

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

(Moment for Silent Prayer)

Kyrie No. 584 *Glory, Glory, Glory* CUEQUITA

**Glory, glory, glory,
glory be to God on high! (Repeat)**

**And on earth peace to all people
in whom God is well pleased. (Repeat)**

Assurance of Pardon

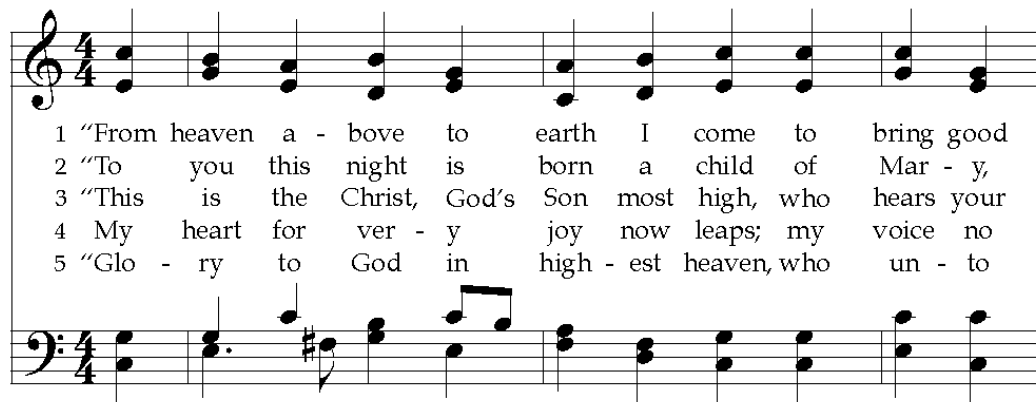
*‡Exchange of the Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

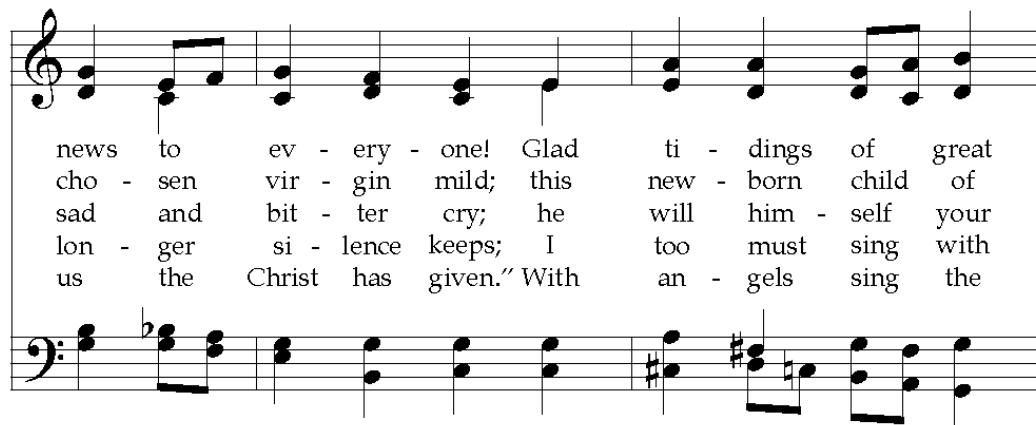
Many: And also with you.

One: Greet one another in the peace of Christ.

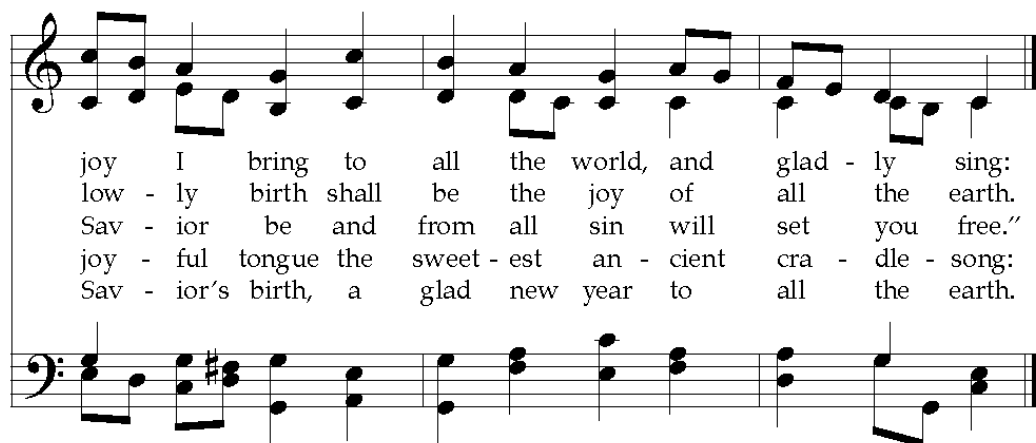
From Heaven Above



1 "From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
 4 My heart for ver - y joy now leaps; my voice no
 5 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven, who un - to



news to ev - ery - one! Glad ti - dings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
 lon - ger si - lence keeps; I too must sing with
 us the Christ has given." With an - gels sing the



joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be and from all sin will set you free."
 joy - ful tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
 Sav - ior's birth, a glad new year to all the earth.

This Christmas hymn gives us a rare glimpse of Martin Luther as a father creating verses for his children to sing at home on Christmas Eve for a retelling of Luke 2:8-14. The first three stanzas paraphrase the angel's song, and the final two provide the human response.

**Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.**

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We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

The Lord's Prayer

Malotte

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Love Links Us to One Another and Others

Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh

Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q and A 21-22

Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,¹ who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man, in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

*Hymn No. **157**

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

We Respond to God's Word

Joys and Concerns of the People

Joy: Holcomb Community Church

Ministry: Music Ministry

Care and Comfort: Janice DeMayo, Steve DeMayo, Sheena Heimberg,
Teresa Stange, Carol Taylor, Phil Vawter

Sympathy to: the friends and family of Eric Russell at his death

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(Traditional)

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.

157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)
 Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)
 Gm C7 Bb F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

Refrain

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory *The Wexford Carol* arr. Hayes

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ all creatures here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Let us pray with one voice.)

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility meekness, and patience that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

We Are Sent as God's Servants into the World

*Hymn No. . 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT
 (verses 2-5)

*Charge and Blessing

One: Alleluia! Amen.
 Many: **Alleluia! Amen.**

The Postlude *Fum, Fum, Fum* arr. Sorenson

**(Please rise in body or in spirit.)*

‡(Time to seat those who arrive after the start of the service)

Leading and Serving in Worship Today

The Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh, Interim Pastor
Jasper Lesage, Liturgist
Tyler Morris, Director of Chancel Choir
Kelsey Wise, Organist
Jared Boesen
Wizie Eads, Reader

Worship Notes

The Lord's Prayer (Anthem)
by Albert Hay Malotte

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in 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.

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.