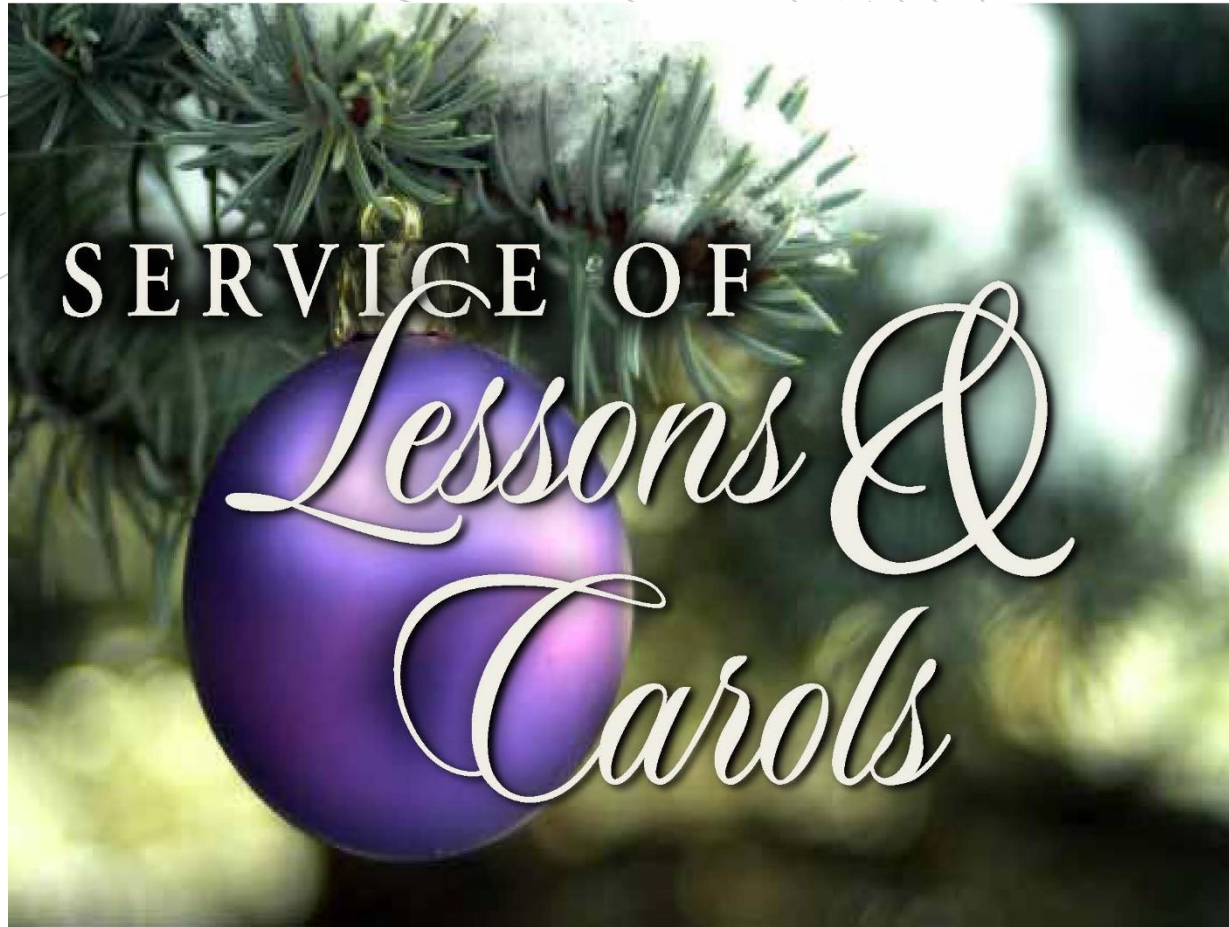


December 24th 2023, 4th Sunday of Advent



Lessons & Carols



**Greetings and Announcements:
Rev. Rob Henderson**

A dark blue background with a bright white star in the upper right corner, emitting rays of light. The star is positioned above a silhouette of a manger scene. The manger scene includes a horse, a donkey, and several figures. To the right of the manger is a silhouette of a palm tree. The sky is filled with numerous small white stars of varying sizes. The text "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" is written in white, serif, all-caps font, centered in the upper half of the image.

O COME
ALL YE
FAITHFUL

Book of Common Praise 118

Verse 1

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels.**

Chorus

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

Verse 2

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created:**

Chorus

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

Verse 3

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
"Glory to God,
Glory in the highest":**

Chorus

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.**

***People:* And also with you.**

We Say Together The Collect For The Day:

**Heavenly Father, who chose the
Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and
Saviour, now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace
your will and with her rejoice in your
salvation;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.**

Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love



Celebrant: **Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts that we may receive your love, and following Jesus, spread that love to a love starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.**



People: **Blessed be God
for ever and ever. Amen**



Light One Candle

Light One Candle

Light one candle for Love.

Love that the whole world needs

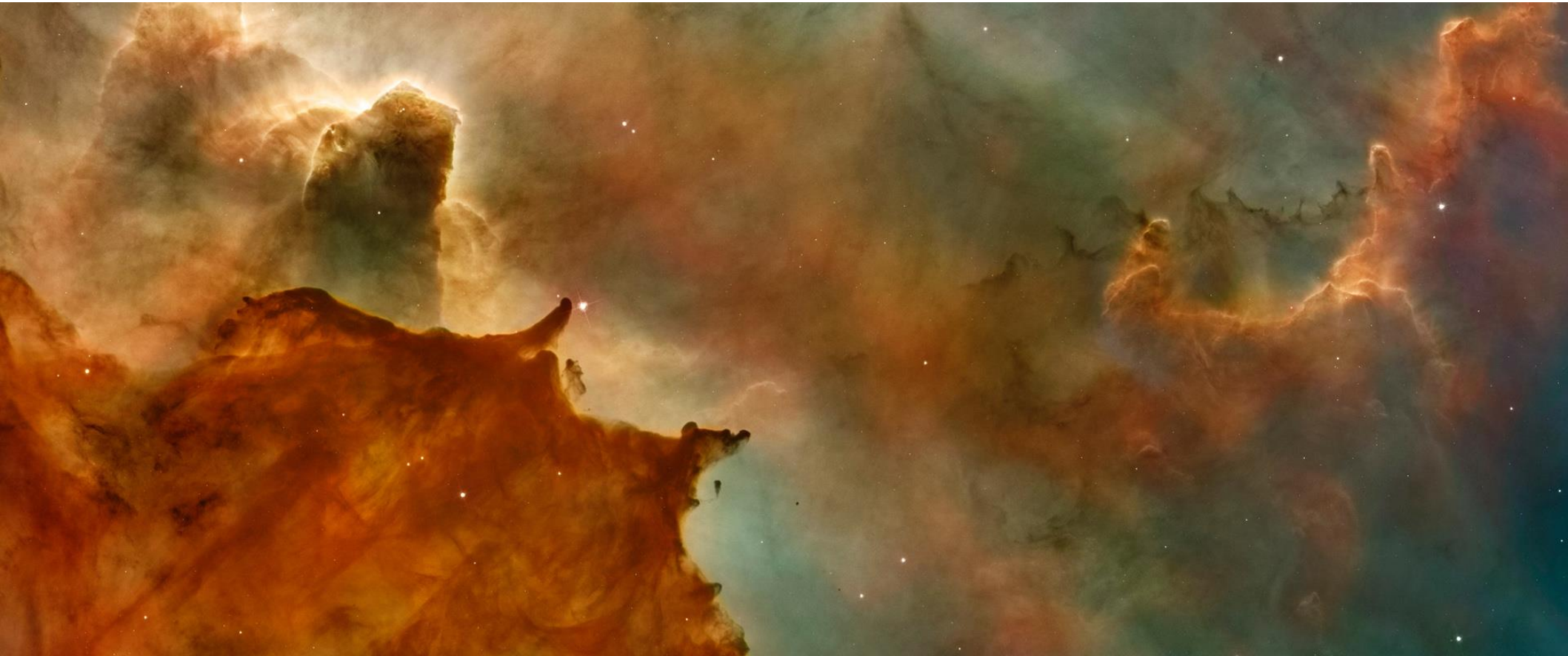
Light one candle for Love.

Love that the Saviour will bring

Love that the Saviour will bring.

The image shows a title card for a production. The background is a dark, rustic wooden wall with horizontal planks. In the lower-left foreground, there is a wooden manger filled with straw. The text is centered on the wall. The words "THE STORY OF" are in a white, serif font. The word "CHRISTMAS" is in a larger, red, serif font with a gold outline and a slight 3D effect.

THE STORY OF
CHRISTMAS



Lesson 1
A Reading From Genesis

God Speaks and there is Life

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good;

and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

The word of the Lord.



*Joyful, Joyful,
We Adore
Thee
Book of Common
Praise*

425

Verse 1

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before
Thee,**

**Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

Verse 2

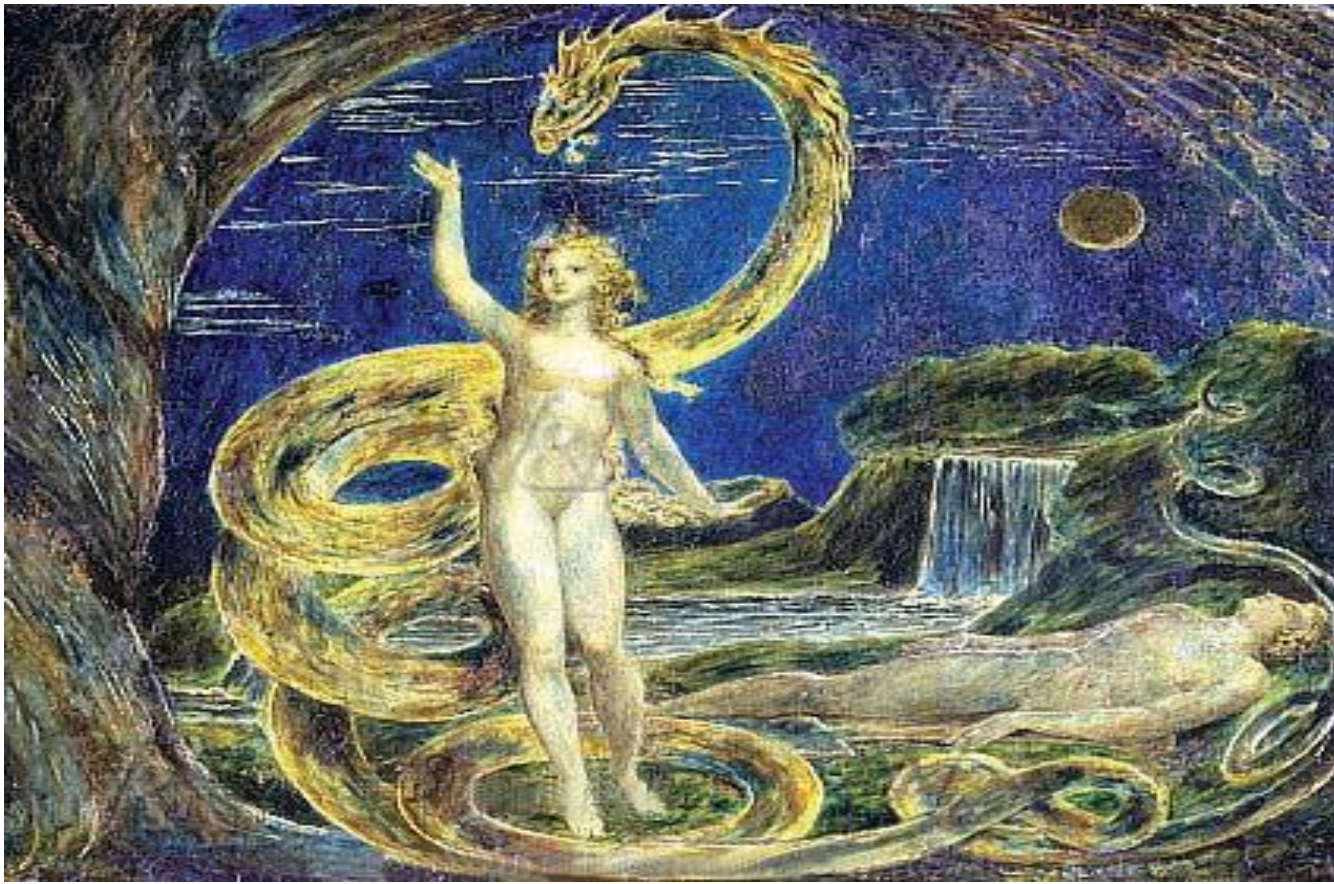
**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Centre of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

Verse 3

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**





Lesson 2
A Reading From Genesis
Humans Rebel against God

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

**Then the eyes of both were opened,
and they knew that they were naked;
and they sewed fig leaves together
and made loincloths for themselves.
They heard the sound of the LORD God
walking in the garden at the time of
the evening breeze,**

and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked?’

Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’
The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the **LORD God** said to the woman, **‘What is this that you have done?’** The woman said, **‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’** The **LORD God** said to the **serpent,**

‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’ To the woman he said,

‘I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’ And to the man he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, “You shall not eat of it”, cursed is the ground because of you;

in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’ The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live.

**And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.
The word of the Lord.**



HAIL TO THE
LORD'S
ANointed

Book of Common Praise 101

Verse 1

**Hail to the Lord's anointed;
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgressions,
And rule in equity.**

Verse 4

**O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever
That name to us is love.**





Lesson 3

A Reading From Genesis

God promises that the world shall be blessed

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

**And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’
The word of the Lord.**

*To
Abraham
& Sarah*

*Book of
Common
Praise 468*



Verse 1

**To Abraham and Sarah
The call of God was clear:
“Go forth and I will show you
A country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey,
For I have pledged my word
That you shall be my people
And I will be your God.”**

Verse 2

**From Abraham and Sarah
Arose a pilgrim race,
Dependent for their journey
On God's abundant grace;
And in their heart was written
By God this saving word,
“That you shall be my people
And I will be your God.”**

Verse 3

**We of this generation
On whom God's hand is laid
Can journey to the future
Secure and unafraid,
Rejoicing in God's goodness
And trusting in this word,
“That you shall be my people
And I will be your God.”**





Lesson 4
A Reading From the Prophet Isaiah
God Promises Comfort

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert

a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

The word of the Lord.



*There's A Voice In
The Wilderness*

Book of Common Praise

106

Verse 1

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places,
Where the Lord our God may go!**

Verse 3

**But Your word, O God, is faithful,
Your arm, O Lord, is strong;
You stand in the midst of nations,
And You will right the wrong.
You will feed Your flock like a shepherd,
And fold the lambs to Your breast;
In pastures of peace You'll lead them,
And give to the weary rest.**





Lesson 5
A Reading From Isaiah
The Promise of Immanuel

‘Hear, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and

choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.’

The word of the Lord.



*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel
Book of Common
Praise*

89

Verse 1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel.**

Verse 2

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.**

Refrain

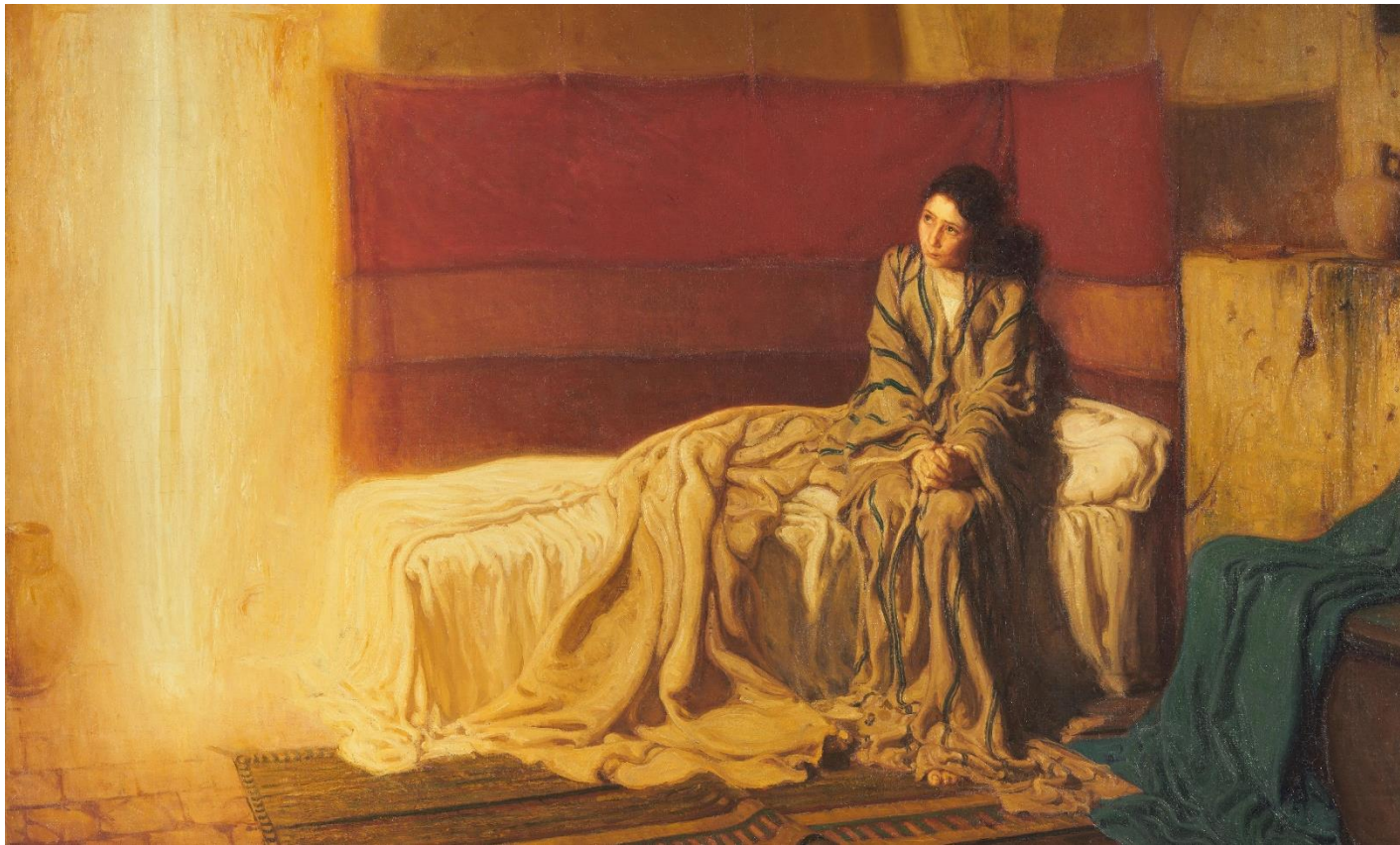
**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel.**

Verse 3

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to Your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel.**



Lesson 6
A Reading From The Gospel of Luke
An Angle Comes to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’
The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.
The word of the Lord.

*My Soul
Gives
Glory To
The Lord*



Verse 1

My soul gives glory to the Lord

In God my savior I rejoice.

My lowliness he did regard,

Exalting me by his own choice.

From this day all shall call me blest.

For he has done great things for me,

Of all great names his is the best

For it is holy strong is He.

Verse 2

**His mercy goes to all who fear
From age to age and to all parts
His arm of strength to all is near
He scatters those who have proud hearts.
He casts the mighty from their throne.
And raises those of low degree
He feeds the hungry as His own,
The rich depart in poverty.**

Verse 3

**He raised his servant Israel,
Rememb'ring his eternal grace.
As from of old he did foretell
To Abraham and all his race.
O Father, Son and Spirit blest.
In three-fold name are you adored
To you be every prayer addressed
From age to age the only Lord.**





Lesson 7
A Reading From The Gospel of Luke
Angels and Shepherds Come to the manger

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favours!’**

The word of the Lord.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Book of Common Praise 138



Verse 1

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

Verse 2

**Christ, by highest Heaven adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

Refrain

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

Verse 3

Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,

Born that we no more may die.

Born to raise each child of earth,

Born to give us second birth.

Refrain

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**





Lesson 8

A Reading From The Gospel of Matthew

The Wise Men Follow the Star

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,

**he inquired of them where the
Messiah was to be born. They told
him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it
has been written by the prophet:
“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.” ’**

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.’

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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having
been warned in a dream not to return
to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.**

The word of the Lord.

The First Noel



Verse 1

**The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay,
Keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.**

Chorus

**Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

Verse 2

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.**

Chorus

**Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

Verse 6

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That has made heaven
And earth of nought,
And with his blood salvation bought.**

Chorus

**Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**



A night sky with a bright starburst in the center, casting a beam of light downwards. The background is dark blue with scattered stars. In the lower left, the silhouette of a tent is visible against the horizon.

Ninth Reading
A Reading From The Gospel of John

All stand for the Gospel

Reader: **The Lord be with you.**

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: **The Holy Gospel
of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.**

People: **Glory to you,
Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh

**or of the will of man, but of God.
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. (John testified to
him and cried out, 'This was he of
whom I said, "He who comes after me
ranks ahead of me because he was
before me."')**

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader: **The Gospel of Christ.**

People: **Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ.**

What Child Is This



Book of Common Praise 137

Verse 1

**What Child is this who,
laid to rest**

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

**Whom Angels greet with anthems
sweet,**

While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus

**This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels
sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Verse 2

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.**

Chorus

**This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels
sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Verse 3

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

Chorus

**This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels
sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**



*Prayers of
the People*

4th Sunday of Advent – year A

Through the willing participation of Mary and Joseph, God is poised to come among his people as their Saviour. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, *“Restore us and revive us.”*

**Let us quieten ourselves to notice our God, here with us now, and attentive to our deepest needs. Lord, we long for our Church to be alive and active, and ready to go wherever you suggest. Show us the work of the Church from your point of view, and develop our will to co-operate. We call on your name, O God:
Restore us and revive us.**

**Lord, we long for your kingdom to
come in our world, and to flood with
truth and love the disillusion,
hopelessness and terror which traps
the human spirit and chokes its
potential joy.**

**We call on your name, O God:
Restore us and revive us.**

Lord, come into the daily relationships we so easily take for granted, and enable us to value one another, delighting in one another's richness, and responding to one another's needs with love.

**We call on your name, O God:
Restore us and revive us.**

**Lord, you know the need and pain
of those we love and worry about.
As you look after them, give them
the sense of your caring presence
to uphold and sustain them.**

**We call on your name, O God:
Restore us and revive us.**

**At this time you are invited to bring
before God, either silently or aloud,
those on your hearts and minds, and all
those named in our service bulletin.
Especially today we hold up: *Gloria,
Craig Tandy, Dave Dawson, Ron Riley,
and Margaret C.***

Silence

**We call on your name, O God:
Restore us and revive us.**

**Lord, for us death can seem so cruel;
give us a better understanding of
eternity, and gather into your
kingdom all those whose earthly
journey has come to an end.**

**We call on your name, O God:
Restore us and revive us.**

**Thank you, Lord of hope, for the way
you surprise us with joy, and show
us the extraordinary and the
wonderful in the ordinary things of
life.**

**Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers for the sake of
Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

**Receiving the
gifts of money
and other gifts
for the needs
and
responsibilities
of the Church.**



Tithes and Offerings



Worship the Lord in Giving

A night sky with a bright star and a dark landscape silhouette. The sky is dark blue with many small stars. A bright, glowing star is in the upper center. Below the sky is a dark silhouette of a landscape with a hill in the foreground and mountains in the distance. The text is written in a white, cursive font.

*It Came Upon A Midnight
Clear*

Book of Common Praise 140

Verse 1

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, to all good will,
From Heaven’s most gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

Verse 2

**Still through the cloven
skies they come**

**With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

Verse 5

For lo! the days are hastening on,

By prophets seen of old,

When with the ever circling years

Shall come the time foretold;

When the new heaven

and earth shall own

The Prince of Peace their King,

And the whole world send back the song

Which now the angels sing.





Altar Flowers

The flowers for the Altar today
are given to the Glory of God by
Tom Pratt in memory of his loving
wife Marg.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



Lord's Prayer (sung)

**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.**



Advent Blessing

*Joy To
The World*



Book of Common Praise 154

Verse 1

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven
and nature sing.**

Verse 2

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;

Let us glad songs employ;

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains**

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

**No more let wrongs and
sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as our sin is found,
Far as our sin is found,
Far as, far as the sin is found.**

Verse 4

**He rules the world with
truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders,
and wonders of His love.**



The Dismissal



*Thank you for
worshipping
with us!*



“WHEN THEY SAW THE
STAR, THEY REJOICED
WITH EXCEEDING
GREAT JOY.”

— MATTHEW 2:10

God Bless

Have a GREAT WEEK !