

REJOICE, REJOICE! CHRIST IS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY ~ REJOICE!

THE TIME OF GRACE HAS COME ~ WHAT WE HAVE LONGED FOR, SONGS OF JOY LET US GIVE BACK FAITHFULLY

GOD HAS BECOME MAN, WITH NATURE MARVELLING, THE WORLD HAS BEEN RENEWED BY THE REIGNING OF CHRIST.



THEREFORE, LET OUR ASSEMBLY NOW SING IN BRIGHTNESS. LET IT BLESS THE LORD: GREETINGS TO OUR KING!

**Prelude**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*      flute & piano  
*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

arr. James Rae

**Welcome & Announcements**

Mark Jurries

**Advent Wreath**      The Candle of Shepherds

Jake and Miriam Nienhuis (8:30 service)  
Berend, Sylvie, Wendell, Beatrix

Doug and Linda Sniesak (11:15 service)

**Psalm 40: Wait for the Lord**

*Refrain*    Em                                  C                                  Am6                                  B

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

\* Please rise in body and/or in spirit.

## GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

**Call to worship**      Psalm 16:9-11

Elder David deJong

...my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.  
You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

\* **Litany for Gaudete Sunday** (the Sunday of rejoicing, marking the midpoint of advent)

Elder    Rejoice, rejoice!  
          Christ is born  
          Of the Virgin Mary–  
          Rejoice!

**People    The time of grace has come–  
          What we have longed for;  
          Songs of joy  
          Let us give back faithfully.**

Elder    God has become man,  
          With nature marveling,  
          The world has been renewed  
          By the reigning Christ.

**People    Therefore, let our assembly  
          Now sing in brightness.  
          Let it bless the Lord:  
          Greetings to our King.**

\* *Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*      Trinity Hymnal 209

## \* Invocation

### *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*      choir

West Indies  
arr. Robert DeCormier

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy  
And they said that his name was Jesus

He come from the Glory (He come down)  
He come from the Glorious Kingdom  
He come from the Glory (He come down)  
He come from the Glorious Kingdom  
Oh yes, believer, oh, yes, believer  
He come from the Glory (He come down)  
He come from the Glorious Kingdom

The wise men saw when the baby born (he was hiding in the manger)  
The wise men saw where the baby born (with a donkey, and a sheep)  
The wise men saw where the baby born  
And they said that his name was Jesus

The angels sang when the baby was born  
The angels sang when the baby was born  
The angels sang when the baby was born  
And they sang that his name was Jesus

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy  
And they said that his name was Jesus

## GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

### **Call to confession**      Psalm 18:4–6

The cords of death encompassed me;  
the torrents of destruction assailed me;  
the cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

In my distress I called upon the Lord;  
to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.

**Prayer of confession** followed by a time of silent confession

**Declaration of Forgiveness** Psalm 18:16-19

He sent from on high, he took me;  
he drew me out of many waters.  
He rescued me from my strong enemy  
and from those who hated me,  
for they were too mighty for me.  
They confronted me in the day of my calamity,  
but the Lord was my support.  
He brought me out into a broad place;  
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

**\* The Apostles' Creed** spoken together

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

8:30 service: *During the following song, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

11:15 service *Church bags are available in the foyer.*

**\* Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

1. Com - fort, com - fort, ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each  
3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert  
4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

says our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger  
far and near, bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance,  
plac - es plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load. Speak ye to Je -  
he no more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered  
since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 God will change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

## GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

### \* Scripture reading Jonah 1:17-2:10

<sup>1:17</sup> And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

<sup>2:1</sup> Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup> saying,  
 "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,  
 and he answered me;  
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
 and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup> For you cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, 'I am driven away  
from your sight;  
yet I shall again look  
upon your holy temple.'

<sup>5</sup> The waters closed in over me to take my life;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped about my head

<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the pit,  
O LORD my God.

<sup>7</sup> When my life was fainting away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup> Those who pay regard to vain idols  
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.  
Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\* Prayer**



Disobedient of God

Distance from God

Dull to the Magnificence, Grandeur, Overwhelmingly Amazing Richness of God's Free and Undeserved Grace

# DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

\* *What Child Is This?*

Trinity Hymnal 213

\* *There Is a Redeemer*



1. There is a Re-deem-er, Je-sus, God's own Son,  
2. Je-sus, my Re-deem-er, Name a-bove all names,  
3. When I stand in glo-ry I will see his face;



Pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Ho-ly One.  
Pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, hope for sin-ners slain.  
there I'll serve my King for-ev-er, in that ho-ly place.



Thank you, O my Fa-ther, for giv-ing us Your Son; and



leav-ing Your Spir-it 'til the work on earth is done.

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Advent Offering Highlight

Ramadan 2023 Prayer

Lee DeHoog

Prayers of the People

*During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.  
Give online at [christchurchgr.org](http://christchurchgr.org) or by texting (616) 208-2820*

**Offertory**      *The Wexford Carol*      saxophone & congas      arr. Rick Hirsch

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done,  
In sending His beloved Son.  
As Mary blessed may we pray  
To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn  
There was a blest Messiah born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
The shepherds went this Babe to find,  
And as God's angel had foretold,  
They did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger He was laid,  
And by His side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life,  
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said,  
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find, this happy morn,  
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born."

**\* Gloria Patri**      Trinity Hymnal 734

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

**\* Benediction**

\* Amen!

traditional spiritual

A - men, a - men!

1. See him in the man - ger,
2. Now he is our Sav - ior,
3. Sing it o - ver,

A - men, a - men, a men.

*just a lit - tle ba - by.  
and his name is Je - sus!  
sing it o - ver!*

*Hear the an - gels sing - ing!  
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - ia!*

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

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**Worship musicians**

Adult choir  
Sarah Griffioen, director

Linus Guerra, alto saxophone and flute  
Susan Guerra, piano and organ  
Jesse Guerra, percussion  
Rebekah LaPlaca, percussion

**Cover art**

Lys Blakeslee

**Reader**

Beth Kusserow

Advent Wreath Readings:  
"The Shepherd's Candle" by Théa Rosenburg,  
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