



PEACE

*on earth*

GOOD WILL

*toward men.*



**Prelude**      *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Welcome & Announcements**

Morgan Vander Maas  
Youth Coordinator

**Advent Wreath**      The Candle of Angels

Tim & Olivia Veldkamp (8:30 service)  
Amelia, Marcy, Todd  
Members of CAM (11:15 service)

**Psalm 40: Wait for the Lord**

*Refrain*    Em                                  C                                  Am6                                  B

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Em    D                                  G                                  Am                                  B                                  Em

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

\* *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Trinity Hymnal 223

\* **Invocation**

**New Testament reading Luke 15:11–32** *Three readers are needed for the following scripture.*

*Anyone is invited to read; please walk to a microphone or have someone hand you one.*

Reader 1 And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Reader 2 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

Reader 3 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

# GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

**Call to confession** Psalm 95:7b-8a

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts....

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

## *Glory in the Darkest Place*

Britany Born



1. Out of the depths of si - lent night,
2. You came to set\_\_ the cap - tives free,
3. Out of the depths of si - lent night,
4. You came to make your bless - ings known,



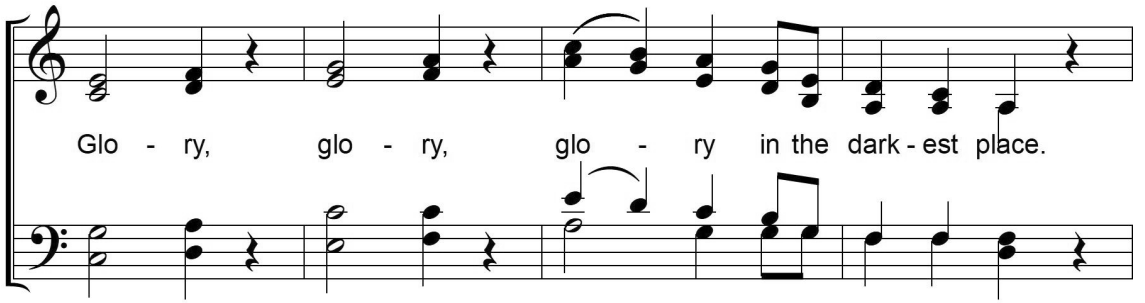
Im - man - u - el,\_\_\_ come hear our\_\_\_ cry.  
a Morn - ing Star of joy and\_\_\_ peace.  
a Sav - ior born, a moth - er's\_\_\_ sigh.  
and bear our curse of death a - lone.



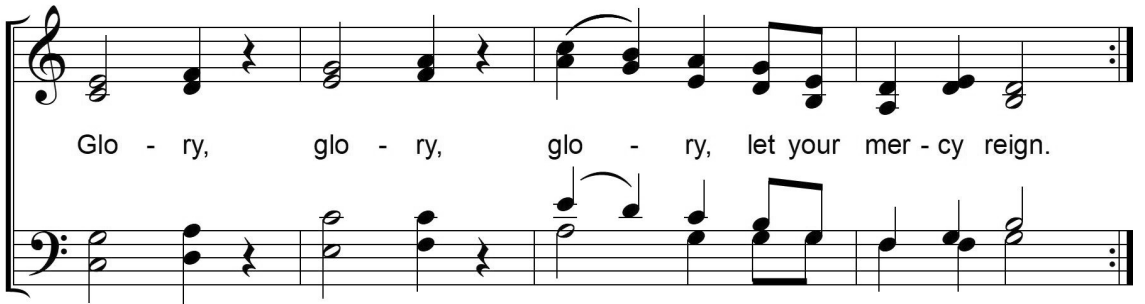
Our grief is strong, our bur - dens great.  
Why does this dark - ness feel so deep?  
The dark - ness trem - bled at this Star,  
You came to share our suf - fer - ing



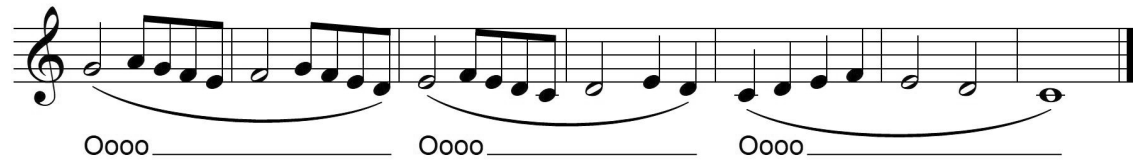
The night is long and hope is faint. **to Verse 2**  
Why can't our wea - ry spir - its see: **to Chorus**  
a beam of hope for trou - bled hearts. **to Verse 4**  
so in our sor - row we could sing: **to Chorus**



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry in the dark - est place.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, let your mer - cy reign.



Oooo \_\_\_\_\_ Oooo \_\_\_\_\_ Oooo \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Galatians 4:4-5

...when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

8:30 service: *During the song below, 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.*

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

\* **Scripture reading**    Jonah 1:11–16, 2:7-9, 3:6–10

<sup>11</sup> Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup> He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.”

<sup>15</sup> So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>2:7</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>3:6</sup> The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, <sup>8</sup> but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

\* **Prayer**

**Sermon**     The Humble Healed

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Roadblock

Awareness

Surrender

Turning

Further discussion/questions?     [andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org](mailto:andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org)  
Sermons are available online at [www.christchurchgr.org](http://www.christchurchgr.org)

## DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

\* *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Trinity Hymnal 201

### Reception of New Members

(8:30) Tricia Baugus  
Sue Malone  
Ryan & Joelle McCormick and Caleb, Noah, Morgan and Weston  
Dakota & Morgan West

(11:15) John & Tara St. Martin and Audrey, Noelle and Charlotte

**Advent Offering Highlight** Reach the Forgotten: Jail Ministry

Skip Pylman

### 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**      *When God Comes Close*

by Tara Ward

We wait, we hope, we yearn, prepare  
For who or how or what or where?  
Maybe the changing of the tide  
Maybe the turning of someone's eye  
Maybe the falling of the snow  
Only heaven knows what happens when God comes close

We wait, we hope, we yearn, prepare  
For who or how or what or where?  
Maybe the healing of a heart  
Maybe reunion of a drift apart  
Maybe a child's coming home  
Only heaven knows what happens when God comes close

We wait, we hope, we yearn, prepare  
For who or how or what or where?  
Maybe the song, a place to belong  
Maybe some faith, just a touch of grace  
Maybe love, it's rarely what we think of  
Only heaven knows what happens when God comes close

\* *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.**

*Kids and All: You are invited to come forward  
to play the bells and wave the flags as we sing our closing Amen song.*

# \* 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.

CCLI 332344

## Worship musicians

Vivian Stutzman, Joanna Kolkman,  
Benjamin Scofield, Alexander Scofield,  
song leaders  
Susan Guerra, piano and guitar  
Judah Guerra, bass

## Cover art

Miriam Nienhuis

## Reader

Beth Kusserow

Advent Wreath Readings:

adapted from "The Angels' Candle" by  
Lindsay Cournia, © 2015 Deeply Rooted  
Magazine



**CHRIST**  
CHURCH

---

2500 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 • 616-949-9630  
[www.christchurchgr.org](http://www.christchurchgr.org) • [office@christchurchgr.org](mailto:office@christchurchgr.org)  
Worship Onsite Sunday mornings at 8:30 & 11:15am in the sanctuary

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:00-2:00pm

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Tuesday to [prayer@christchurchgr.org](mailto:prayer@christchurchgr.org)  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Wednesday to [announcements@christchurchgr.org](mailto:announcements@christchurchgr.org)