

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022



Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

Christmas Concerto: Pastorale

Arcangelo Corelli

◆ Hymn 100 **My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout** STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

◆ Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent (Love) Chris, Colin, and Owen Seaman

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has woven us together with love. May this good news but only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but also shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

◆ Advent Song Glory to God hymnal no. 137

**He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore.**

Call to Confession

One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone.

We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind us together and pray to our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession

**God of today and tomorrow,
when Mary was pregnant and afraid,
she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house.
Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.
How often do we have that same opportunity?
How often do we leave the door locked,
the curtains drawn, and the lights off?
How often do we shower critique or judgment,
instead of blessings and joy?
Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs.
We want to see you when we see our neighbor.**

Silent Prayer

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 83

**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.**

Friends, this is what I know —

God delights in us.

God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says,

“Come on home. There is room for you here!”

And in that moment, we are blessed.

In that moment, we are forgiven.

In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home.

So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

Let us respond together, using the words from Mary’s song:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God’s servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.” Amen.

◆ Congregational Response

Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring;

All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Welcome

God’s Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

First Reading

Luke 1:39–45

NT p. 53
Ellen Hench

Anthem

A Maiden Most Gentle

Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:

Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.

Ave, ave, ave Maria.

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child,

Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call

The Lord of creation, and Savior of all.

Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,

And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;

Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless ‘Ave.’

Second Reading

Luke 1:46–58

NT p. 53

Sermon

Mary, A Jazz Singer

Jewell-Ann Parton

Responding to God’s Word

◆ Affirmation of Faith

We believe that creation is inextricably linked.

Participating in the Service: Elle Polifka, Paul Schakel, violin; Gavin Mortimer, viola;
Dylan Stukenberg, cello; Jane Penner, percussion

What's Happening

at Westminster

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Last Sunday of Church School

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting in the Upper Lounge

3 p.m. Caroling, meet in the Gathering Place

Monday, December 19

6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lower Lounge

Wednesday, December 21

6 p.m. Longest Night Service in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 22

Church office closed

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 23

Church office closed

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

8 p.m. Organ Prelude in the Sanctuary

8:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary (no live-stream)

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This Advent season features images and liturgy from the series *From Generation to Generation*
by A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Welcome to the Westminster community. To give, scan the QR code to the right.



100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



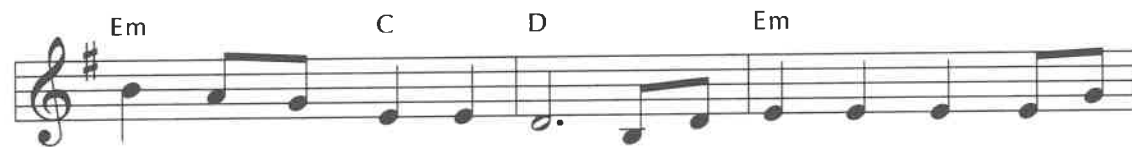
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime 142

Capo 3: (Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
 Gm Cm Dm7 Gm

1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had fled,
 2 With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found.
 3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair
 4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel song is true:

(Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
 Gm Cm Dm7 Gm

Great Spir-it, Lord of all the earth sent an-gel choirs in-stead.
 A rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round.
 as was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there.
 the ho-ly child of earth and heaven is born to-day for you.

(Bm) (Am) (G)
 Dm Cm B^b

Be-fore their light the stars grew dim and wan-dering
 But as the hunt-ers brave drew nigh the an-gel
 The chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of
 Come kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy who brings you

Refrain

(C) (Am) (Bm7) (Em) (Bm)
 E^b Cm Dm7 Gm Dm

hunt-ers heard the hymn:
 song rang loud and high: Je-sus, your king, is born;
 fox and bea-ver pelt.
 beau-ty, peace, and joy.

(C) (Bm) (Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
 E^b Dm Gm Cm Dm7 Gm

Je-sus is born. In ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This English text preserves the earliest known Canadian hymn, originally written in the Huron language by a missionary, later translated into French, and eventually paraphrased in English. It is set to a French Noël tune old enough to have been used for the original version.

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



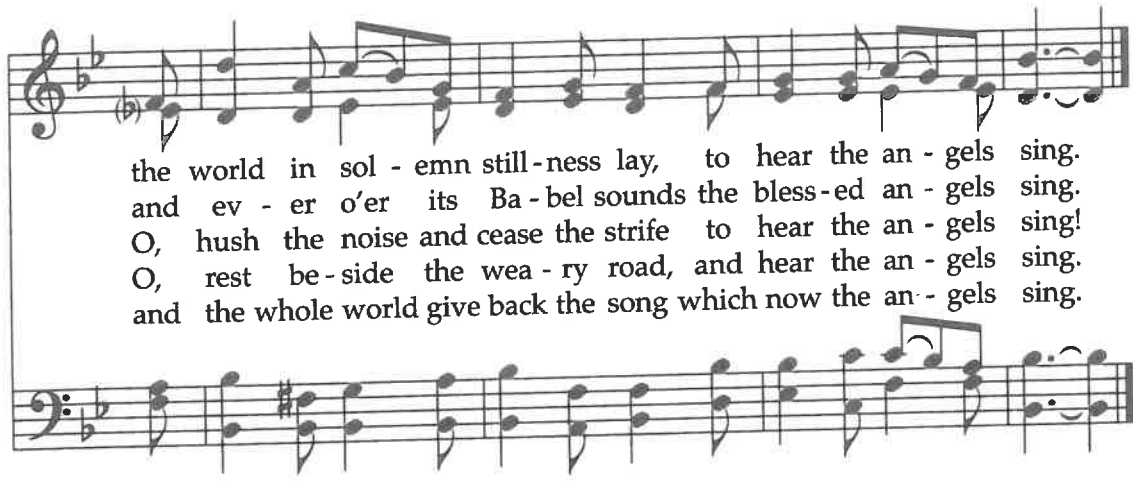
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.