

# THEHAVEN



**A Congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church**

**Meeting at Ascension Lutheran Church,  
33 Bayshore Rd.,  
Deer Park, NY 11729  
[www.thehavenli.com](http://www.thehavenli.com)**

*Then they were glad that the waters were quiet  
and He brought them to their desired haven.*

*Psalms 107:30*

**The Lord's Day Before Christmas  
December 22, 2019  
A Service of Covenant Renewal  
4:30 p.m.**

## Welcome!

✚ **A warm welcome to our visitors:** If this is your first visit, please sign the guest register at the welcome table in the foyer. Please also accept our *Welcome Pack* for first time guests. Learn more about The Haven, OPC and why we want you to come back and be part of this growing community of people learning about Jesus Christ as the Great Haven. Also, please join us in the gymnasium for Haven Food and Fellowship after this afternoon's worship service.

✚ **Today's Sunday Schedule:**

**4:30 p.m. Worship/Outreach (followed by announcements and news updates).**

**6:15 p.m. The Haven Food and Fellowship in the gymnasium.**

✚ **Nursery** is available during worship for children ages 2 and under. Please speak to one of the greeters if you wish to use the nursery for your child. If you'd like to volunteer for nursery duty, e mail Margaret Shishko: [mamashish123@gmail.com](mailto:mamashish123@gmail.com)

✚ The concept of "**covenant renewal**" is beautifully introduced in our Directory for Public Worship: *"The triune God assembles his covenant people for public worship in order to manifest and renew their covenant bond with him and one another. The Holy Spirit engages them and draws them into the Father's presence as a living sacrifice in Christ. God himself has fellowship with them, strengthening and guiding them for life in his presence and service in his kingdom."*

✚ **We celebrate the Lord's Supper** every Sunday as the climax of our covenant renewal worship. If you are visiting with us, we invite to the Table those who have received Christian baptism, have publicly professed faith in Jesus Christ, and are members in good standing of a church in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully taught and practiced. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us you are publicly acknowledging that you are seeking to walk in godliness before the Lord. If you have any questions about whether you should partake of the Supper, please speak to the pastor either before or after the service.

✚ **Scripture quotations** are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®). **Copyrighted music** reprinted under CCLI #11435067. All selections from the Trinity Psalter Hymnal are used with permission.

✚ **The Haven, OPC** is a home mission work of the Presbytery of Connecticut and Southern New York, Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). For more information on the Orthodox Presbyterian Church: [www.opc.org](http://www.opc.org) For more information about this church, visit our website: [www.thehavenli.com](http://www.thehavenli.com) Tithe and offering checks should be made out to *The Haven, OPC*.

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✚ **Pastoral Needs:** To contact Pastor Bill, his study phone number is (516) 593-1507, or you can reach him by e mail at [WShishko@gmail.com](mailto:WShishko@gmail.com)

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**Worship/Outreach**  
**The Lord's Day — Sunday, December 22, 2019**  
**Worship 4:30 PM**  
**Preparation for Worship: Psalm 30:1-12**

**THE LORD OUR GOD CALLS US**

**Salutation:**

Pastor: Congregation of the People of God: Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ!

***People: Amen!***

**†Call to Worship:** Luke 2:1-14:

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 *"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

***People: Amen! Hallelujah!***

**†Opening Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

(Turn to next page)

Learn the hymn & tune - sing along! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwogLAZaSkY>

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
 2. God of God, Light of Light;  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him  
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain  
 born the King of an - gels;  
 got - ten not cre - at - ed; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est;  
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Latin hymn  
 attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751  
 tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.  
 John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

**†Greeting**

**Pastor: The Lord be with you!**

**People: And also with you!**

**Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,**

**People: Who made heaven and earth!**

**†Opening Prayer**

**People: Amen!**

**THE LORD OUR GOD CLEANSSES US**

Christmas / Advent Meditation

Confession of Sin (*kneeling if able*) - *Begin with personal confession before God.*

**Corporate Confession:** *Our great God: Urged by our need, invited by your promises, called by your Spirit, we enter your presence worshipping you with godly fear. We are awed by your majesty, greatness, and glory - but we are encouraged by your love. In ourselves we are all poverty and all guilt, having nothing of our own with which to repay you. But we bring Jesus to you in the arms of faith, pleading his righteousness to offset our iniquities, and rejoicing that he has satisfied your justice by his cursed death on the cross. May we give you no rest until Christ reigns supreme within us - in every thought, word, and deed - in a faith that purifies our hearts, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to yourself, and ever clings to the cross. We pray in the gracious name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (Adapted from "Meeting God" in *The Valley of Vision*.)*

**†Assurance of Pardon: II Corinthians 5:21.**

**People: Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

**†Our Response: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

(Turn to next page)

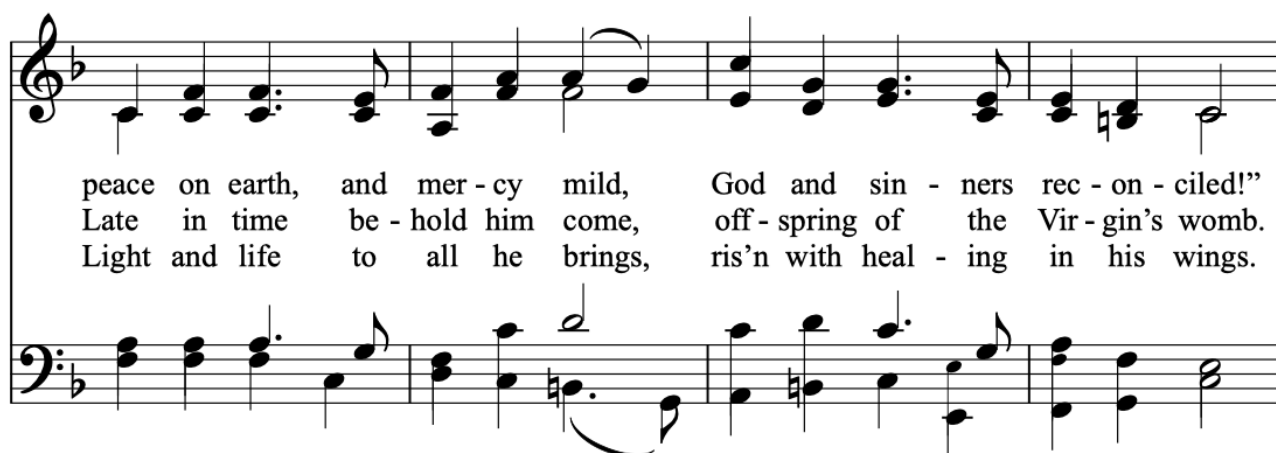
Learn the hymn & tune - sing along!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqooC4ZG75Y>

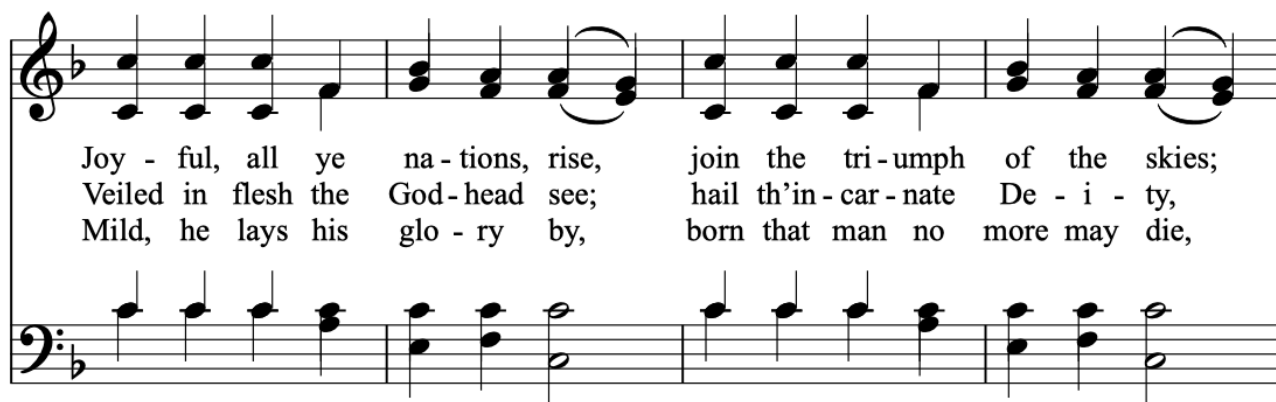
## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

# THE LORD OUR GOD CONSECRATES US

## OLD COVENANT READING: ISAIAH 8:20 - 9:7

8:20 TO THE TEACHING AND TO THE TESTIMONY! IF THEY WILL NOT SPEAK ACCORDING TO THIS WORD, IT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO DAWN. 21 THEY WILL PASS THROUGH THE LAND, GREATLY DISTRESSED AND HUNGRY. AND WHEN THEY ARE HUNGRY, THEY WILL BE ENRAGED AND WILL SPEAK CONTEMPTUOUSLY AGAINST THEIR KING AND THEIR GOD, AND TURN THEIR FACES UPWARD. 22 AND THEY WILL LOOK TO THE EARTH, BUT BEHOLD, DISTRESS AND DARKNESS, THE GLOOM OF ANGUISH. AND THEY WILL BE THRUST INTO THICK DARKNESS.

9:1 BUT THERE WILL BE NO GLOOM FOR HER WHO WAS IN ANGUISH. IN THE FORMER TIME HE BROUGHT INTO CONTEMPT THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BUT IN THE LATTER TIME HE HAS MADE GLORIOUS THE WAY OF THE SEA, THE LAND BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE NATIONS. 2 THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT; THOSE WHO DWELT IN A LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, ON THEM HAS LIGHT SHONE. 3 YOU HAVE MULTIPLIED THE NATION; YOU HAVE INCREASED ITS JOY; THEY REJOICE BEFORE YOU AS WITH JOY AT THE HARVEST, AS THEY ARE GLAD WHEN THEY DIVIDE THE SPOIL. 4 FOR THE YOKE OF HIS BURDEN, AND THE STAFF FOR HIS SHOULDER, THE ROD OF HIS OPPRESSOR, YOU HAVE BROKEN AS ON THE DAY OF MIDIAN. 5 FOR EVERY BOOT OF THE TRAMPING WARRIOR IN BATTLE TUMULT AND EVERY GARMENT ROLLED IN BLOOD WILL BE BURNED AS FUEL FOR THE FIRE.

6 FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

7 OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND OF PEACE THERE WILL BE NO END, ON THE THRONE OF DAVID AND OVER HIS KINGDOM, TO ESTABLISH IT AND TO UPHOLD IT WITH JUSTICE AND WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THIS TIME FORTH AND FOREVERMORE. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL DO THIS.

## NEW COVENANT READING: JOHN 3:16

*"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."*

Pastor: *The grass withers, and the flowers fade away; but the word of our  
God will stand forever!*

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **†Corporate Confession of Faith:**

### **The Heidelberg Catechism**

#### **Lord's Day 12: Deliverance**

31. Q. *Why is he called "Christ", meaning "Anointed"?*

**A. Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief *prophet* and teacher who perfectly reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God for our deliverance; our only high *priest* who has set us free by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the father; and our eternal *king* who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.**

31. Q. *But why are you called a Christian?*

**A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.**

**†We Prepare Our Hearts for the Word of God Preached:**

**Hymn: "Angels, From the Realms of Glory"**

(turn to next page)

Learn the hymn & tune sing along:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38LsBb8TaEM>



## Angels, from the Realms of Glory



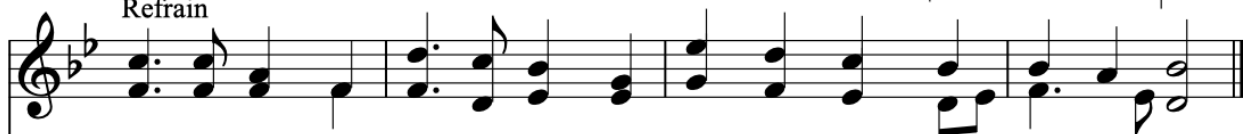
1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



- ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
 • seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:



### Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.



James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
 Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

*Prayer for Blessing on the Word of God to be Preached*

**People: Amen!**

**Sermon: “Unwrapping the Gift of Jesus” (pt. 2)**

*Prayer for Blessing on the Word of God Preached*

**People: Amen!**

**Worship through Tithes and Offerings**

**†Pastoral Prayer** (followed by the Lord’s Prayer with hands raised)

*All: 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 the Evil One. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen!*

**The Lord Our God Communes With Us**

Meditation; Lord’s Supper Celebration

(Heads of households, please come forward to receive the elements for your household. Enjoy communion with one another while the elements are being distributed.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**People: Amen!**

**†Hymn of Celebration: “Joy to the World!”**

(Turn to next page)

Practice singing & rejoice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30OaM6b48k8&vl=en>

**The Lord Our God Commissions Us**

†[Hands Raised] *Pastor: Benediction*

**People: Amen!**

***Go forth in peace - to love and serve those around you - in Jesus’ Name!***

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**PSALM TO LEARN: “LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES”**

**(BASED ON PSALM 24)**

LAST PRINTED PAGE OF THIS BULLETIN

299

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

and  
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98  
 Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.  
 George Frederick Handel, 1742  
 Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ **Haven Hope Givers:** That's our ministry of reaching out by cards and notes to inmates who are regular listeners to *A Visit to the Pastor's Study*. Send a message of Gospel hope to: Mr. Darren Emanuel, #03A2176, Fishkill Correctional Facility, POB 1245, Beacon, NY 12508 & Mr. Arthur F. Tomlinson #12B1623, Eastern New York Correctional Facility, PO Box 338, Napanoch, NY 12458

✦ **Tonight After Haven Food & Fellowship:** We'll have our "caravan" to visit The New York Gospel Assembly (330 Central Ave., Deer Park), meet Pastor Joy, and look over the building we are considering for a new location and time of worship. We want your input! So plan to join the caravan at about 7:15 p.m. after our clean up and lock-up time.

✦ **Next Sunday, December 29 - Change of Worship Time:** We'll be meeting at 2:30 p.m. instead of our regular 4:30 p.m. worship time. We'll still have our Haven Food and Fellowship (at 4:00 p.m.). At 5:00 p.m. Ascension Lutheran Church will be hosting the United Nations Children's Choir for a special program. We're invite to join the ALC congregation for this event. Note these changes in our calendars.

✦ **Haven Young Adult Disciples (age 13 and up):** Our next meeting will be in January. Watch for the date and location. And get ready for a year of food, fun, fellowship, learning, growing, and serving.

✦ **Sing!** Our monthly "choir practice" is at the home of John & Mary Vaeth (46 Monell Ave., Islip) usually on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Our next *Sing!* meeting is Tuesday, January 7. For these meetings we continue to learn new Psalms and Hymns from the *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*, and God-centered contemporary hymns. Put the date, time and place in your calendar and plan to come, to sing, and to worship!

✦ **Haven Food and Fellowship:** This is a way for you to show hospitality following our worship each Lord's Day. See our administrative assistant, Mary Vaeth and give her some dates that you can provide refreshments and be host and hostess for this outreach.

✦ **Today's Sermon** will be available by Tuesday evening on [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com) at "The Haven, OPC" site (Search *The Haven, OPC*) Also available from our own website [www.thehavenli.com](http://www.thehavenli.com)

✦ **Tithes and Offerings for Last Sunday: \$1,100.00 (Budget: \$1,500.00 per week)**

**Deacon's Fund Reserves: 530.00**

**Next Deacon's Fund Offering: Sunday, January 5** (You may make gifts to this fund at any time. Please clearly designate that the gift is for The Deacon's Fund.)

## The Haven Heart to Heart

Pastor Bill answers your questions about The Haven, OPC and its ministry:

*Question: I've never read the Bible before, but I want to begin. Can you give me some hints for reading the Bible so that I can understand it?*

Pastor Bill responds (pt. 8): Reading the New Testament Epistles

A first century AD “epistle” was a letter. The 2 New Testament epistles (*Romans - Jude*) were letters written to churches, areas, or individuals. Most of these epistles were written by the apostle Paul (*Romans - Philemon*). Others were written by the Apostles Peter (*I & II Peter*), and John (*I, II, III John*), James, the brother of the Lord Jesus (*James*), and by James’ brother, Jude (*Jude*). We’re not sure who wrote the book of *Hebrews* (although many make the case that it was written by the Apostle Paul.)

These books compose “the foundation” of which Jesus Christ is the “cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). Even as the *apostles* (which means “ones sent with a commission”) were sent out by Jesus both to represent Him and to explain the meaning of His person and work, so the epistles (plus the books of *Acts* and *Revelation*) represent Jesus to us in many ways and also develop the meaning of the work of Christ in saving His people and building His church.

As you read the epistles, keep in mind the theme(s) of each. (Some Bibles, especially Study Bibles, will give introductory material that includes this information). Here’s some examples:

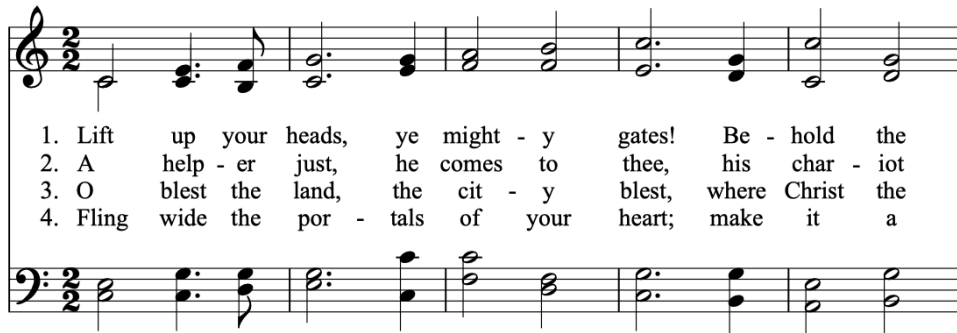
- *Romans*: An overview of the whole Gospel plan, including justification sanctification, and the grand purpose of God for Jews and Gentiles.
- *I Corinthians*: How the Gospel applies to a church riddled with problems from divisions to chaos at the worship services, including at the Lord’s Supper.
- *II Corinthians*: A second letter to this church in southern Greece developing how the Gospel is illustrated as the Lord makes his strength perfect in our weakness.
- *Galatians*: A powerful rebuke of adding anything to the Gospel of grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- *Ephesians*: Lessons about the wonder of the Church that Jesus is building, and how its members are to live as a body and in their families.
- *Philippians*: The theme of “joy” is developed in this opening up of the meaning of Christ’s humiliation and exaltation, and in the life of God’s people in the Church.
- *Colossians*: Similar to *Ephesians* (they were probably written at about the same time - when Paul was in prison) It develops how the Gospel is different from all forms of legalism.
- *I & II Thessalonians*: Correcting misunderstandings about the return of Christ.
- *I & II Timothy & Titus*: Called “The Pastoral Epistles”, these are letters written to ministers who were laboring in local churches of the first century. They give windows on Christian ministry, the Church, and Christian church life.
- *Philemon*: A wonderful story of the conversion of a slave and how he was to be received by his Christian master. Rich with lessons about what God’s grace does.

And that will whet your appetite to find out about the other New Testament Epistles, *Hebrews*, *James*, *I & II Peter*, *I, II, II John*, and *Jude*. Start reading them!

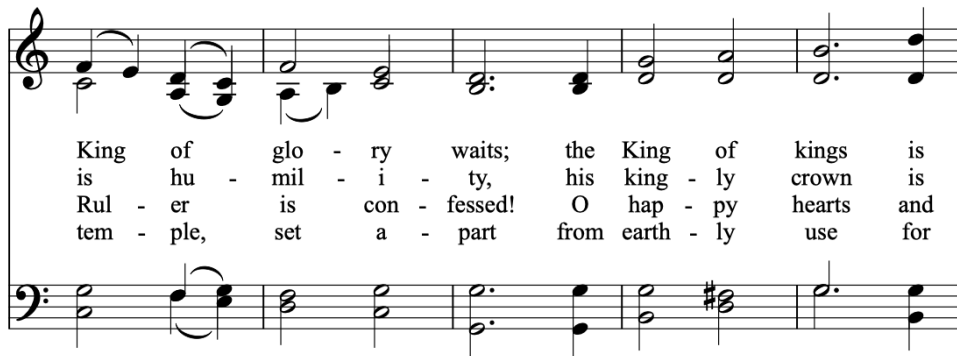
Next week we’ll finish this series with some suggestions for reading the book of *Revelation* - the last book of the New Testament and the last book of the Bible.

*My Notes on Today's Sermon:  
"Unwrapping the Gift of Jesus" (pt. 2)*

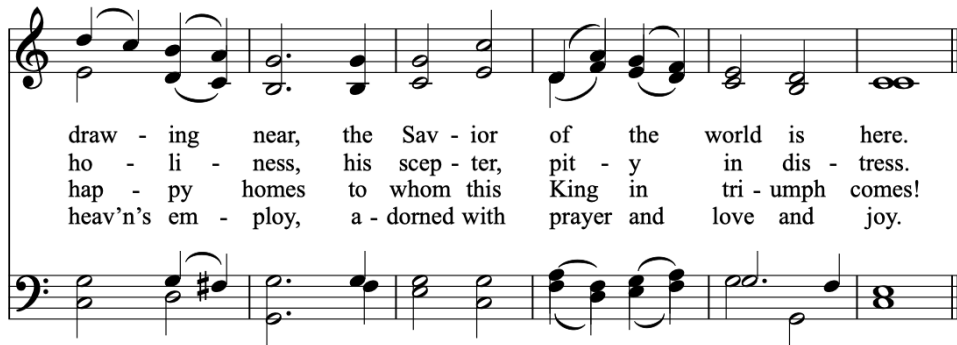
## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold the  
 2. A help - er just, he comes to thee, his char - iot  
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the  
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is  
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.  
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 Let me thy inner presence feel;  
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sov'reign, enter in!  
 Let new and nobler life begin!  
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
 until the glorious crown be won.

based on Psalm 24  
 Georg Weissel, 1642  
 tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855; alt.

TRURO L.M.  
 Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789