

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**December 24, 2022**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL – CP # 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

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:

Chorus

Verse 4

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Chorus

Text: John Francis Wade 1711-1786 vs 1,2,3  
Text: Etienne-Jean-Francois Borderies, 1822 vs 4  
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**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**WE LIFT THE LIGHT OF HOPE – vs 5 – Light of Christ**

Verse 5

We lift the light of Christmas day  
And greet eternal life.  
Now hope and peace and joy and love  
Are born in Jesus Christ.  
Now hope and peace and joy and love  
Are born in Jesus Christ.

Text: Ken Bible;  
Music Oliver Holden  
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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**AWAY IN A MANGER – ELW # 277**

**Vs 1 & 2 before gospel & vs 3 after**

Verse 1

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.  
Music: James R Murray, 1841-1905  
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**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR - ELW # 282**

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, good will to all,  
from heaven's all 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 o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Verse 3

And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours, come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

Verse 4

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years, shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H Sears, 1810-1876  
Music: Richard S Willis, 1819-1900  
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## OFFERTORY

### **HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING – ELW # 270**

#### Verse 1

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

#### Verse 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

#### Verse 3

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n 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.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847  
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## COMMUNION HYMN

### **ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT – ELW # 274**

#### Verse 1

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful king's birth.

#### Verse 2

Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our redeemer made us glad?  
Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

#### Verse 3

When sin departs before his face,  
then life and health come in its place.  
When sin departs before his face,  
then life and health come in its place.  
Angels rejoice with us and sing,  
all for to see the new-born king.

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#### Verse 4

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God in highest heaven;  
peace on earth, and good will. Amen."

Text: Luke Waddington, d. 1686  
Music: English Traditional  
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## SENDING

### **LOVE DIVINE– ELW # 631**

#### Verse 1

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

#### Verse 2

Breathe, oh, breathe, thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

#### Verse 3

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

#### Verse 4

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
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## COMMUNION HYMN

### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM – ELW # 279**

#### Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years,  
are met in thee tonight.

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Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O, morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all the earth!

Verse 3

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

Verse 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
Music: Lewis H Redner, 1831-1908  
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**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**SILENT NIGHT – ELW # 281**

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Verse 1

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848  
Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863  
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**SENDING**

**JOY TO THE WORLD – ELW # 267**

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their 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 sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Music: English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.  
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