



1537
63 And he asked for a writing and wrote, saying, His John. And they marveled
65 things
66 ^aLuke 2:19
^bGen. 39:2; Acts 11:21
67 ^aJoel 2:28
68 ^a1 Kin. 1:48
69 ^a2 Sam. 1:17
Ps. 106:48
3:16
Ps. 132:17

ADVENT

A Season of Expectation



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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Welcome

Prelude

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

Lighting the Advent Wreath

* **Advent Candles** “The Lord’s Highway”

One: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing... A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray... And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV)

All: **The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God’s house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.**

One: The Psalmist says “Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord... who made heaven and earth... who keeps faith... who executes justice... gives food... sets prisoners free... opens eyes...”

lifts up... watches over... upholds... The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 146 NRSV)

All: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

* **Opening Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* # 241 VT
(lighting the first 3 advent candles)

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.

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Verse 2:

True God of true God, Light of light eternal,
our lowly nature he hath not abhorred;
born of a woman, here in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Verse 3:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" *Refrain*

Verse 4:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, begotten, not created. *Refrain*

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children

In Christ Alone by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
© 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

Verse 1:

In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song—
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2:

In Christ alone, who took on flesh—
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save,
till on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
My ev'ry sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3:

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4:

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Pastoral Prayer

from the Lutheran Forum website

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

243 VT

Verse 1:

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Verse 2:

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

What Child Is This?

Arr. David Lanz

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10 (CEB)

Song

Angels, from the Realm of Glory (vv. 1-2)

265 VT

Verse 1:

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth.
As you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth;
come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.

Verse 2:

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light;
come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.

Sermon

“Happiness is Good, Joy is Better!”

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

248 VT

Verse 1:

It came upon a 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 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 heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Verse 3:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heav'nly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong,
and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring.
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing.

Verse 4:

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.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

Verse 5:

For lo, the days are hast'ning on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the evercircling years
comes round the age of gold,
when peace shall over all the earth

its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world sends back the song
which now the angels sing.

***Benediction**

Postlude

The Littlest Snow Angel

Michele McLaughlin

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Madelyn Sherwood
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist & Special Music.....	Ken Heatwole
Dir. of Technology and Media	Kevin Beers