



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**December 21, 2025**

***Livestream & In-Person***

**10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

\* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

INTROIT

**“Call His Name Emmanuel”**

Richard H. Smith

Sanctuary Choir

What shall we call this boy child, Joseph? What shall we name our newborn son?

Angels have told a wondrous story, how in this child God's will is done.

I must be indeed the chosen one.

It must be so for wise men have come here offering gifts they brought for a king.

Shepherds close by heard from an angel how they could find a tiny baby there in a manger shining.

First we will call this baby Jesus. Others will call him Master and Lord.

To those who call Him blessed Savior He will provide a place in Heaven, full life eternal is their reward.

I'll call his name Emmanuel.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sharlene St. Clair

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

Where there once was only hurt,  
You gave your healing hand  
Where there once was only pain,  
You brought comfort like a friend.  
I feel the sweetness of Your love  
Piercing my darkness  
I feel the bright and morning sun  
As it ushers in its joyful gladness  
You turned my mourning into dancing again  
You lifted my sorrow. I can't stay silent;  
I must sing for Your joy has come.  
Where there once was only hurt,  
You gave your healing hand  
Where there once was only pain,  
You brought comfort like a friend.  
I feel the sweetness of Your love  
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CONFESSION AND PARDON

Sharlene St. Clair

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

**All: Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory. Yet, we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope, and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

***silence***

Leader: The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus. "Call him Jesus," the angel says, "For he will save the people from their sins." From his birth throughout his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

No. 82

Glory to God



2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Brian & Debbie Nordeen

UNISON ADVENT PRAYER

**All: We thank you for your endless, boundless love. Make us vessels of compassion, bearers of mercy, protectors of grace. Come, Lord Jesus, and make love our witness.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

**"Sing with the Angels"**

Ruth Morris Gray

Waterfall Singers and Sanctuary Choir

I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory, hallelujah," sing with the angels, "Peace on earth."  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory in the highest." Come and celebrate the baby's birth.  
 While shepherds living in the fields were watching flocks by night,  
 An angel of the Lord appeared to them in heav'nly light.  
 "Do not be afraid," he said, "I bring you good news of great joy,  
 For lying in a manger bed, you'll find a baby boy."  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory, hallelujah," sing with the angels, "Peace on earth."  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory in the highest." Come and celebrate the baby's birth.  
 And suddenly the air was filled with angels all around.  
 And "Glory in the highest" rang out their thundering sound.  
 Heaven now has come to earth, today in Bethlehem.  
 A child of hope, a wondrous birth, with peace goodwill to all!  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory, hallelujah," sing with the angels, "Peace on earth."  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory in the highest." Come and celebrate the baby's birth.  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory, hallelujah," sing with the angels, "Peace on earth."  
 I'm gonna sing with the angels, "Glory in the highest." Come and celebrate, come and celebrate,  
 Come and celebrate the baby's birth!

## TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(All children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 205 and Room 207.)

### ANTHEM

#### "Echo Carol"

Hugh Livingston

#### Sanctuary Choir

While by our sleeping flocks we lay, there came an angel bright as day  
Awake with joy! Wake with joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy! Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!  
Spake then the angel, "news I bring of Israel's long expected king!"  
Great be your joy! Be your joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy! Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!  
Grace, truth, and right God's rule attend. God's kingdom knows no earthly end.  
Great be your joy! Be your joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy! Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!  
Peace upon earth, good will to all. Let the world shout the loud amen!  
Come share our joy! Share our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy! Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!

### \* HYMN

#### "Love Has Come"

No. 110  
Glory to God



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

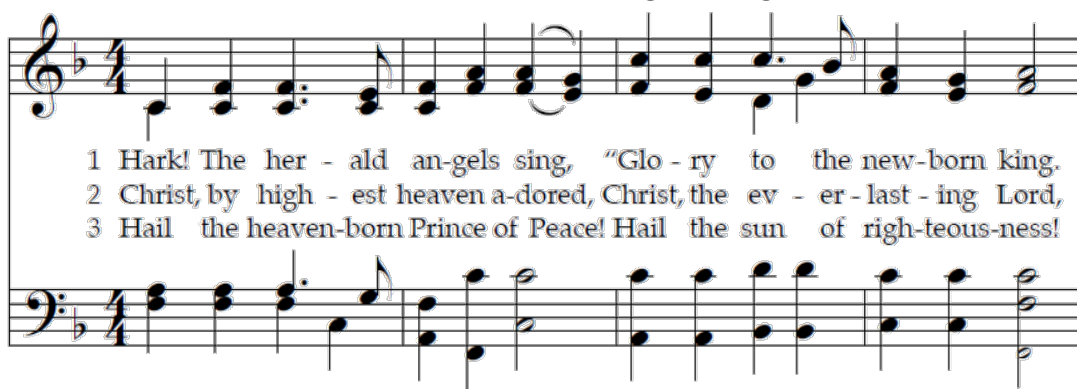
which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

## SERMON

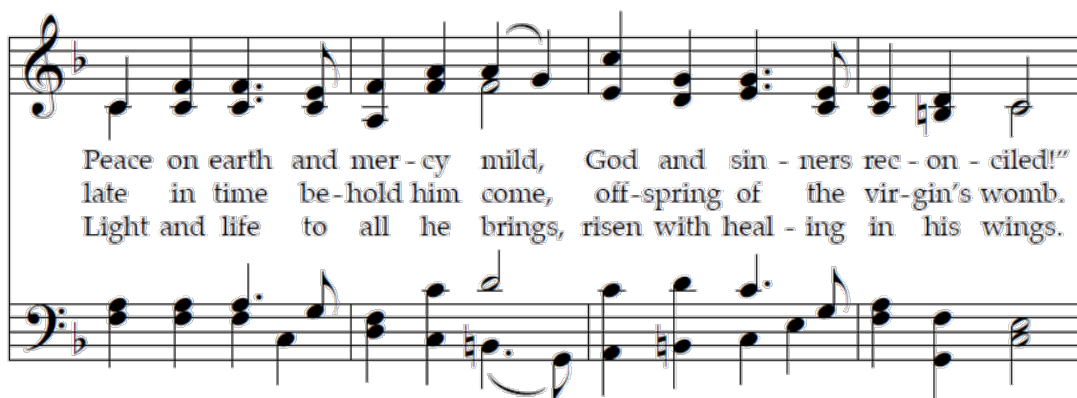
### ***Picture Perfect Christmas***

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

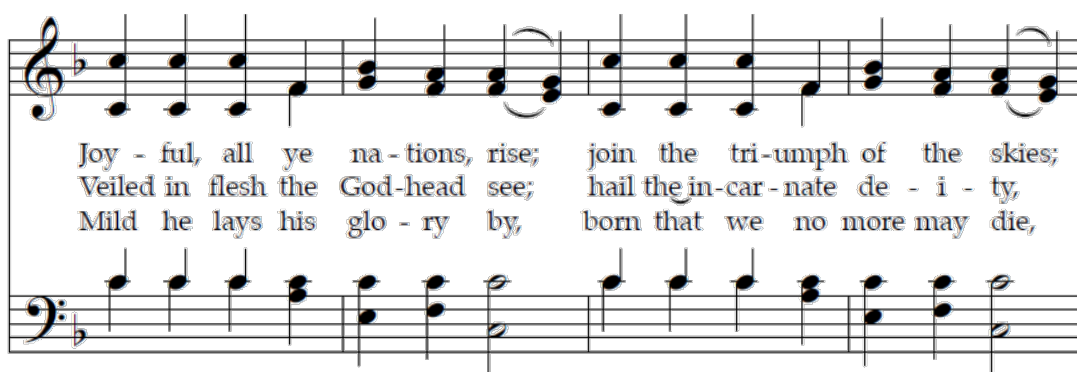
## "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

No. 119  
Glory to God


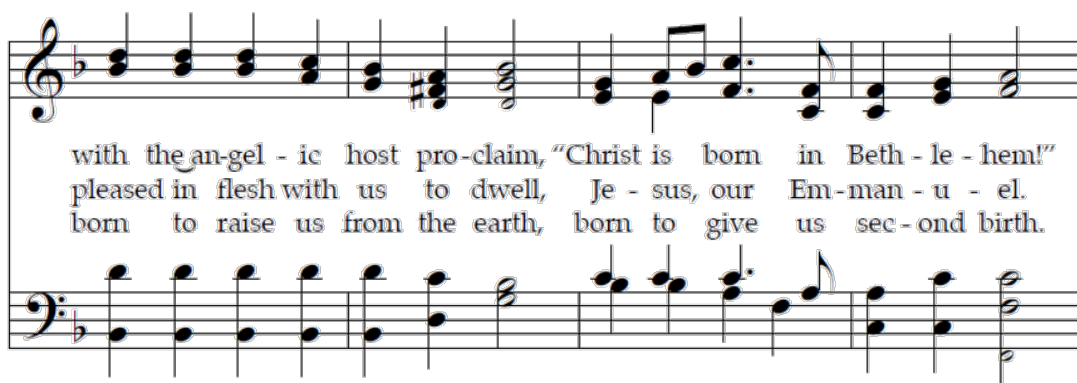
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!




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, risen 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 the in-car-nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

## OFFERING AND PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

### **“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

arr. Molly Ijames

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Come. Lord Jesus. Bring your presence, bring your peace, bring your light.  
Comfort the sick, soothe the sorrowful, bind up the wounded. Calm our spirits.  
Ease our burdens. Mend our hearts. Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Bring your justice, bring your righteousness, bring your  
goodness. Reorder our priorities. Direct our efforts. Strengthen our resolve. Break  
down walls. Dismantle oppression. Overthrow tyrants. Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Bring your love, bring your compassion, bring your mercy.  
Heal our divisions. Seek out the lost. Restore the guilt-ridden. Widen our  
embrace. Teach us generosity. Show us how to forgive. Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Bring your passions, bring your fire, bring your steadfastness.  
Inspire our witness. Motivate our mission. Energize your church. Open our minds.  
Extend our hands. Overcome our lethargy. Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Bring your hope, your tenderness, your promise. Build up our  
common life. Hold us in our frustrations. Brighten our darkness. Release us. Renew  
us. Redeem us. Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus, hear our cries, hear our whispers, hear our prayers.  
Now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught,  
saying:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy  
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and  
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever. Amen.**

*If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing,  
please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary  
immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.*



\* CLOSING SONG

**“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

African-American spiritual

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
That Jesus Christ is born!

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

**“Mourning Into Dancing”**

Tommy Walker

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Liturgy by John Wurster, © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025, adapted

Advent Candle Liturgy by Shardaé Henry and Shea Watts, © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025

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Audio/Video: Noor Bitar and Bruce MacLean

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Guest Pianist: Trina Spivack

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Bass: Merlyn Van Regenmorter

Vocals: Tara Calderon, Beth Lindley, and Julie Ueltzen

