



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021 – 9:00am



OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Saturday--5:30pm Worship Service Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson Organist: Ruth Sheldon Reader: Ruth Sheldon Liturgical Choir: Open Sound: Shannon Bruhns Acolytes: Shannon Bruhns Ushers: Shannon Bruhns Communion Servers: Altar Guild for December: All Guild Members	Sunday--9:00am Worship Service Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson Organist: Ruth Sheldon Sound: Al Skellenger Live Stream: Brad Evenson Video: Chike Ikefuama Acolytes: Lyle Thomson Ushers: Lyle and Orloue Thomson Communion Servers: Altar Guild for December: All Guild Members
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The radio broadcast and the live stream online are given in
Honor of Jim Tweeten's birthday from Bill & Linda Tweeten and family.

Salem Contact Information:

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INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

WREATH LIGHTING *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW #240

During the singing of the song a new candle is lit each successive Sunday in Advent.



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

WREATH BLESSING

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

WOW! A New Nativity Play for Kids By Gwynne Watkins

Angel enters.

ANGEL: Hail! Hail! Hail!

Narrator enters, in modern-day clothes.

NARRATOR: Are you trying to get a cab?

ANGEL: No, I'm practicing. I have great news to deliver to everyone on Earth, and I don't want to get it wrong.

NARRATOR: What's the news?

ANGEL: A baby will be born in Bethlehem, and his name will be Jesus Christ. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin and give them life everlasting.

NARRATOR: Didn't that already happen? Like, a long time ago?

ANGEL: Yes, and it's about to happen again! But I need someone to tell the story so that all these people can share in the miracle. Will you help me? (Pause.) You do *know* the story, right?

NARRATOR: Well yeah, I think so. The first thing that happens is that the angel appears to Mary.

ANGEL: Hold that thought – I don't want to be late!

Children sing verse one, the congregation joins in on verses two, three and four.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

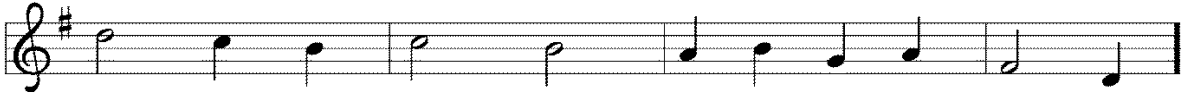
ELW #283



- 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
- 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
- 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

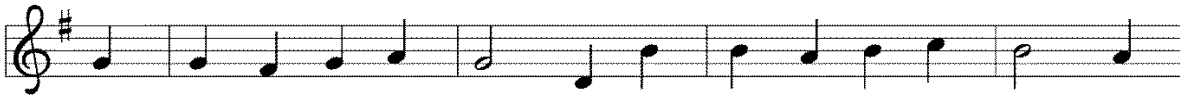


come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

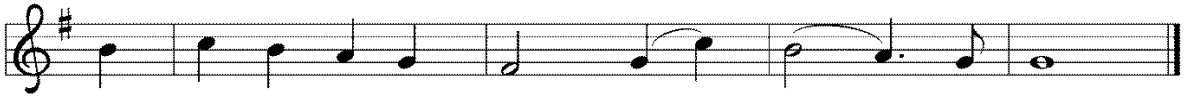


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

The Angel, Mary and the Narrator come forward.

NARRATOR: In a town called Nazareth there lived a woman named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. God sent the angel to visit her, and at first she was afraid. But the angel said:

ANGEL: Hail, Mary! God is with you!

MARY: Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL: Well in your case, it means that you will have a baby, and he will be Christ the Lord.

MARY: But that's impossible!

ANGEL: Nothing is impossible with God. The baby will be a child of the Holy Spirit. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin and give them life everlasting.

MARY: Does God really love me that much?

ANGEL: God loves all his children, past present and future. But you are special, because you have been chosen to bring his message to Earth.

MARY: If God wants me to do this, then that's what I'll do.

Mary steps back, Joseph comes forward.

NARRATOR: A few days later, the angel visited Joseph in a dream.

ANGEL: Hail, Joseph! God is with you.

JOSEPH: Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL: Well in your case, it means that your fiancée Mary is going to have a baby. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin and give them life everlasting.

JOSEPH: But that's impossible!

ANGEL: With God, nothing is impossible.

JOSEPH: Are you sure?

ANGEL: Trust me. I'm an angel.

The Angel moves aside. Joseph and Mary begin walking.

NARRATOR: When Mary and Joseph were getting ready to have the baby, they had to take a last minute trip to Bethlehem. They traveled on a donkey because Mary got tired of nobody offering her a seat on the subway.

ANGEL: I don't think that's in the story.

NARRATOR: Who's telling it, you or me?

Angel shrugs and walks off.

NARRATOR: By the time they got to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were very tired.

MARY: Look, a hotel! We can stay there!

Someone from the Chorus hangs up a "No Vacancy" sign.

JOSEPH: Don't worry. I'm sure the angel will appear and tell us what to do.

Pause. They look around. The Angel does not appear.

MARY: Let's just stay in that barn.

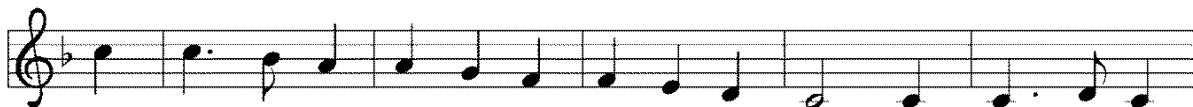
JOSEPH: Good plan.

The Children sing:

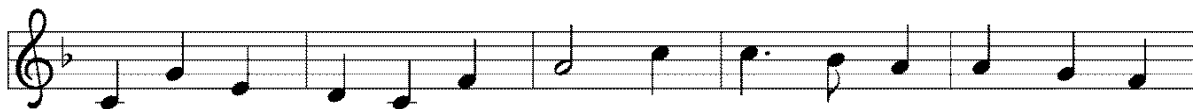
HYMN

Away in a Manger

ELW #277



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

NARRATOR: Mary had the baby in the barn, because the local hospital didn't take her health insurance.

The Angel walks in, raises a finger to object, then gives up and shrugs.

The animals gathered around the baby, and everyone knew right away how special he was. Meanwhile, the angel appeared to a group of shepherds, who were staying up late to guard their sheep.

Angel and Shepherds come forward.

ANGEL: Hail Shepherds! God is with you.

SHEPHERDS: Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL: Well in your case, it means that over in Bethlehem, a baby has been born, whose name is Jesus. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin and give them life everlasting.

SHEPHERDS: That's amazing! Where can we find him?

ANGEL: Go that way and look for the baby in the barn. And when you find him, spread the good news that Jesus has been born!

NARRATOR: And suddenly the angel was joined by a whole bunch of angels, and they started singing!

Children sing verse one, the congregation joins in on verses two and three.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270



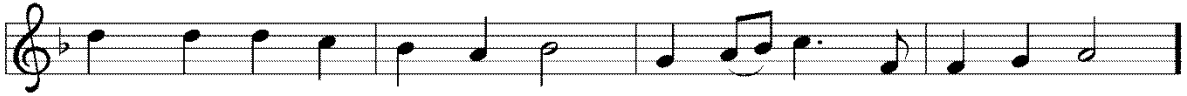
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



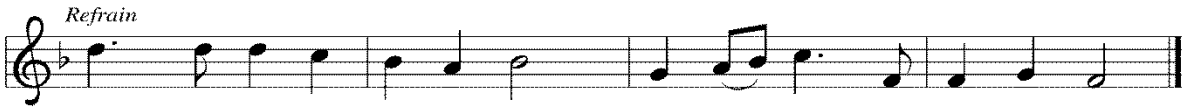
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Everyone gathers around Mary and Joseph.

NARRATOR: And so the shepherds and Mary and Joseph and the angels and all the animals squeezed into the barn to celebrate Jesus' birth. And there was great rejoicing in all the – *The Angel interrupts*

ANGEL: Wait! It feels like somebody's missing.

NARRATOR: I don't think you can fit anybody else.

ANGEL: No, I'm sure there was somebody else I was supposed to tell!

The Angel goes into the pews and consults a Bible.

Oh of course! The three wise people! I guess they'll just have to be a little late.

The wise people come forward.

NARRATOR: So the Angel went East to a faraway country and appeared to the three wise people.

ANGEL: Hail, wise people! God is with you!

WISEPEOPLE: Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL: Well in your case, it means that a new star will appear in the sky.

A Chorus member holds up a star.

Follow that star until it stops, and there you will find the baby Jesus. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin and give them life everlasting.

WISEPERSON 1: Let us go now and see this baby!

WISEPERSON 2: Wait! We should bring presents.

WISEPERSON 3: Good idea! Let's bring him gold!

WISEPERSON 1: And frankincense and myrrh!

WISEPERSON 3: What are frankincense and myrrh?

WISEPERSON 1: Things that smell really good!

NARRATOR: So the wise people came, and they brought Jesus gifts of gold, and also frankincense and myrrh, which are things that smell really good.

Children sing verse one, the congregation joins in on verses two, three, four and five.

HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

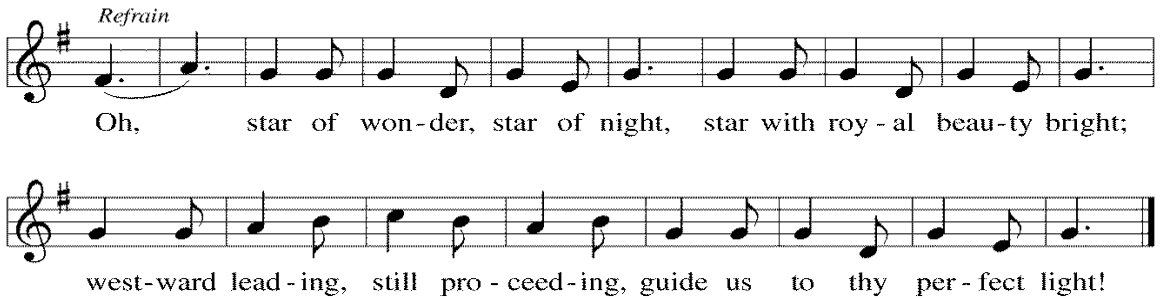
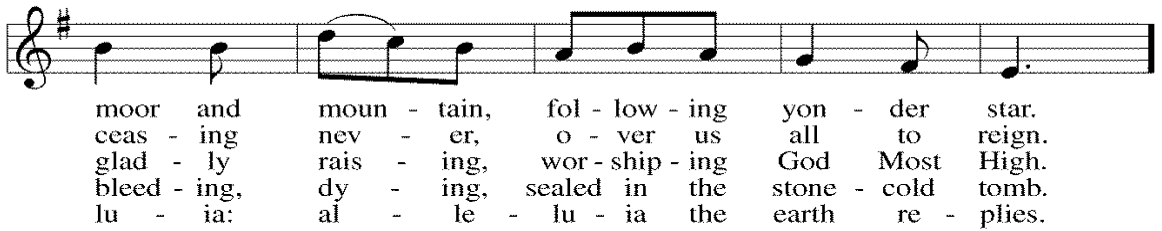
WOV #646



1	We	three	kings	of	O - ri - ent	are;	bear - ing
2	Born	a	king	on	Beth - le - hem's	plain,	gold I
3	Frank - in -	cense	to	of - fer	have	I;	in - cense
4	Myrrh	is	mine;	its	bit - ter	per - fume	breathes a
5	Glo - rious	now	be - hold	him	a - rise,	King	and



gifts	we	tra - verse	a - far,	field	and	foun - tain,
bring	to	crown him	a - gain;	king	for - ev - er,	
owns	a	de - i - ty	nigh;	prayer	and	prais - ing,
life	of	gath - er - ing	gloom;	sor - rowing,	sigh - ing,	
God	and	Sac - ri - fice;	heav'n	sings	al - le -	



NARRATOR: I think that's the end of the story, right?

ANGEL: The end? That's just the beginning! I have to share the good news with everyone in the world!

NARRATOR: But that's impossible!

ANGEL: With God, nothing is impossible.

NARRATOR: Where do you even start?

ANGEL: We started two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, and we've started again today. Keep telling the story.

NARRATOR: So the angel appeared in Lake Mills, Iowa to Salem Lutheran Church.

ANGEL: Hail, Salem Lutheran! God is with you!

The Chorus holds up cue cards

CONGREGATION AND CHORUS: Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL: Well in your case, it means that I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. For to you is born this day a savior, who is Christ the Lord. Spread the good news, today and every day – Jesus is born

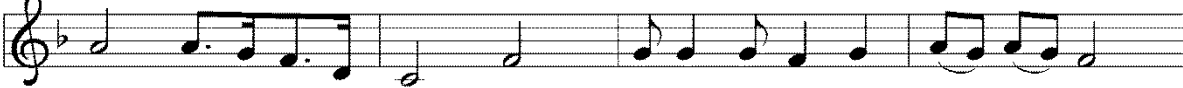
Children sing

HYMN


Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

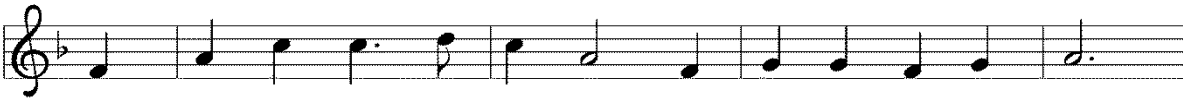
Refrain



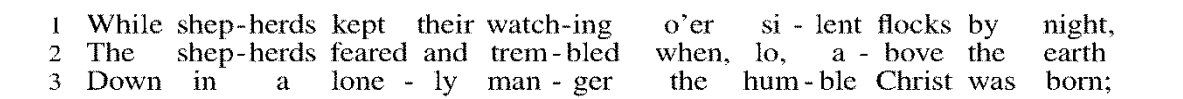
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



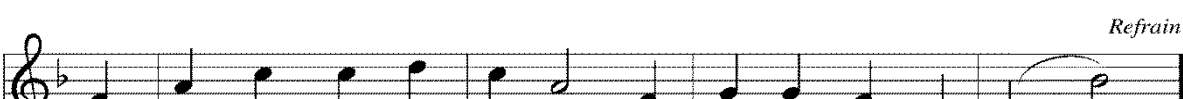
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,




2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

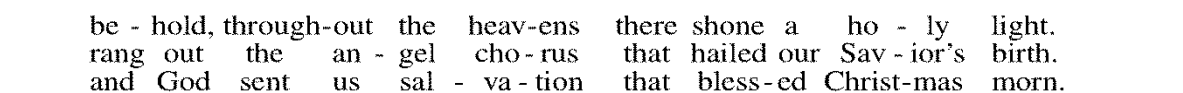


3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;


Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.



rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.



and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OFFERING

The offering is being collected at the beginning of the service as you walk in. The usher will bring the offering forward for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need at the time of the offering song and prayer.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Friendly Beasts

Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in our Advent journey, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

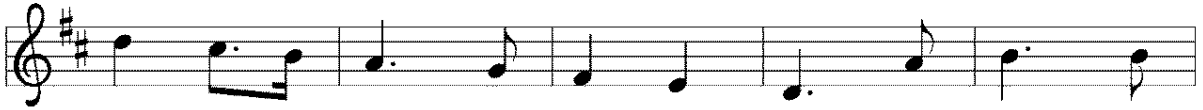


SENDING

HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW #267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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



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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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