



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019
Sunday Worship at 10:30am



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org

GATHERING

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs – “He Came Down”
“Better is One Day”

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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Words and Music by
Matt Redman

 G^2

4

22 A^{sus} G^2 Last time to Coda Φ G/B 1. A^{sus}

one day in Your house, bet-ter is one day in Your courts than thou-sands else-where, — than thou-sands

25 D^5 2. A^{sus} **BRIDGE 1** Bm^7 A

else-where. — 2. One else-where. — My heart and flesh cry out

29 G^2 A^{sus} Bm^7 A G^2 A^{sus}

for You, the liv - ing God. — Your Spir - it's wa - ter to my soul. —

32 Bm^7 A G^2 $D/F\#$

I've tast - ed and I've seen. Come once a - gain to me. — I will draw near to You,

35 Em^7 A^{sus} G^2 A^{sus} G^2

I will draw near to You, — to You. —

41 **BRIDGE 2** A^{sus} G^2 A^{sus} $D/F\#$

Bet - ter is one day, — bet - ter is one day, — bet - ter is

44 G^2 G/B A^{sus} G^2

one day — than thou - sands else-where. Bet - ter is one day, — bet - ter is

47 A^{sus} G^2 A^{sus} D.S. al Coda

one day, — bet-ter is one day — than thou-sands else-where. — Bet-ter is

50 \oplus Coda A^{sus} G^2

else - where. —

Introduce the Theme with Kids **(Give kids the Kid's Bulletin when done)**

Welcome, River Source, Clipboards

(Please Stand) No Longer Strangers Prayer

God of the Stranger, **we wait for you to come among us and yet, you tell us you are already here. You are here in the hunger of a stranger, the handshake of a new friend and the hug of a loved one. Give us eyes to see you in the face of every person we meet. May we greet all people, friend and stranger, as we would greet you. Amen.**

Meet Someone New

Worship Leader: *Now is the time to practice this very dangerous prayer we just prayed – there are no strangers because of the love we know in Jesus. We simply can't afford to be afraid of each other, especially in this place of worship of the God who brings us together. Visitors, stay right where you are. It's our job, as River of Hope, to make ourselves a little bit uncomfortable and to come and say hello to you. So, go and say hi to someone you don't know very well or at all.*

"Better is One Day" to bring people back together.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pastor: The exiled people, God's people, shouted in praise of their God when they once again rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem.

Worship Leader: We, too, sing God's praises knowing that God's hopeful promise will come through our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We light this candle as a sign that this hope never ends.

Pastor: We light this candle, trusting God's peace will come.

Worship Leader: The third, the flame of love, points to God's unending love—the promise of God-with-us, the one to fill our lives with an unbounded love.

Three candles of Advent are lit as the congregation sings verse one of Christ Be Our Light.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



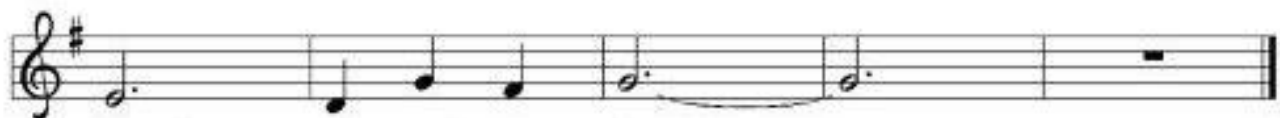
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you exactly where you are. We gather in the name of that Triune God – the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gently feeds us and the deliverer who sets us free is with you all.

And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.

Let us confess to ourselves and to one another that God is God and we are not.

Silence for reflection.

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Announcement of Forgiveness

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, ✝ Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord,

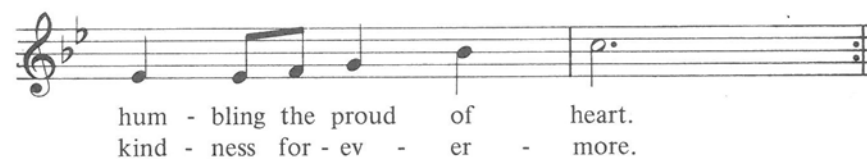
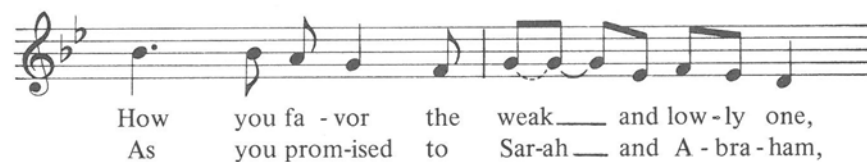
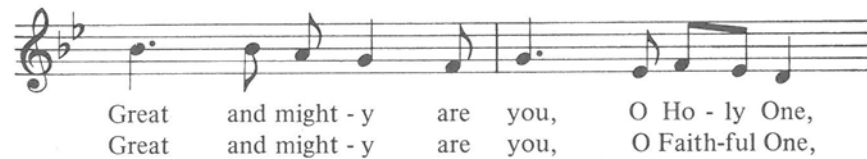
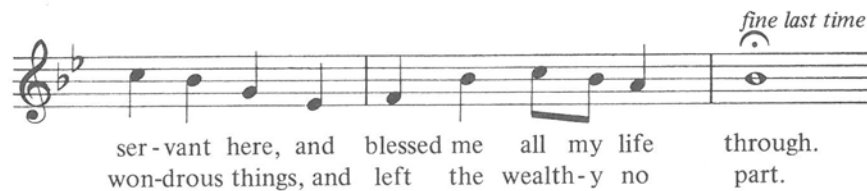
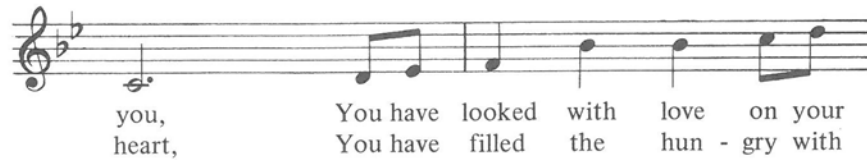
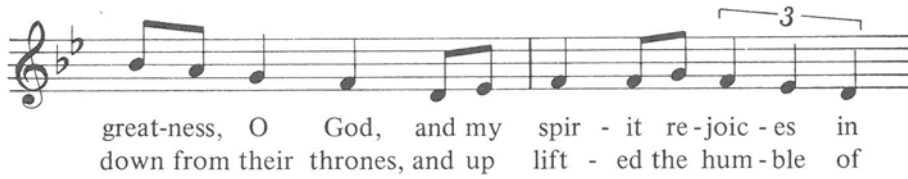
You restore what has been destroyed. Rebuild our lives in the strength of your Spirit, and restore our joy in being your servants, in the name of Jesus, amen.

"The Magnificat"

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

All:



THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues today, with a reading from Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13.

Narrator: In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared:

Side 1: "Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah.

Narrator: Any of those among you who are of his people—may their God be with them!—are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem."

Narrator: When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God.

Side 2: They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighboring peoples, and they offered burnt offerings upon it to the Lord, morning and evening.

Narrator: And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day. When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

ALL: "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."

Narrator: And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

Stay tuned for the continuing story that is our story and God's story. The Word of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. (Luke 2:25-32)

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;

Side 1: this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah

Side 2: Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

All: "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word: for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

Response: Praise to you, O Christ.

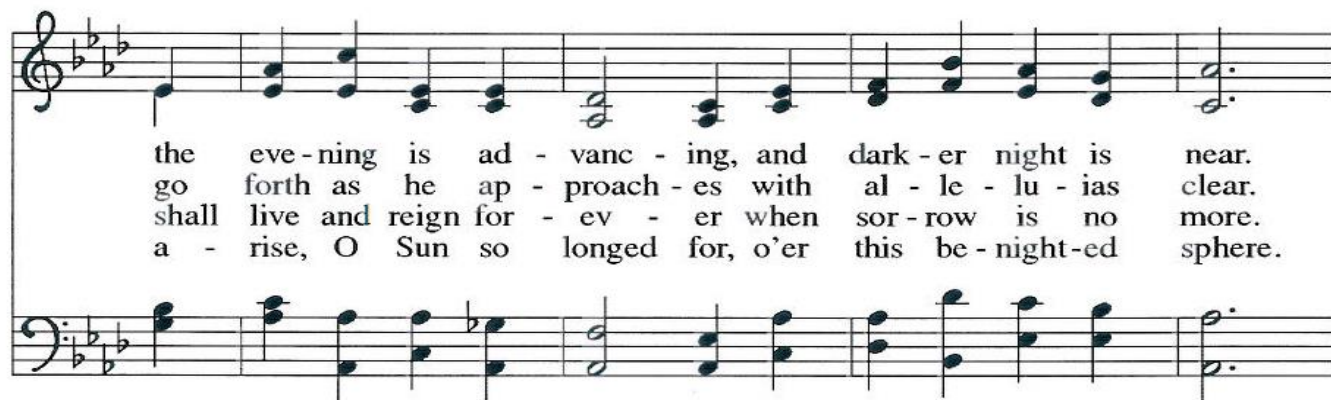
Sermon

Song After Sermon "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

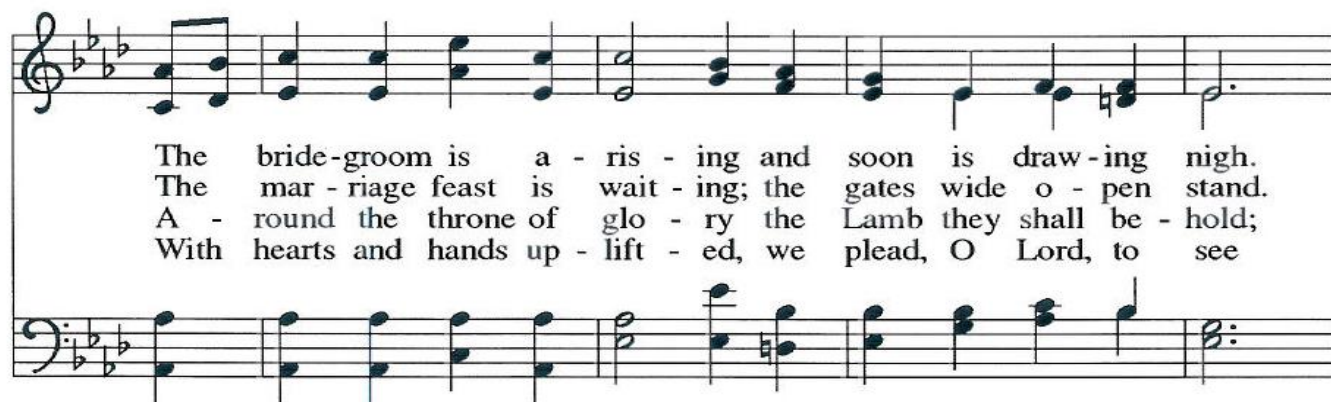
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



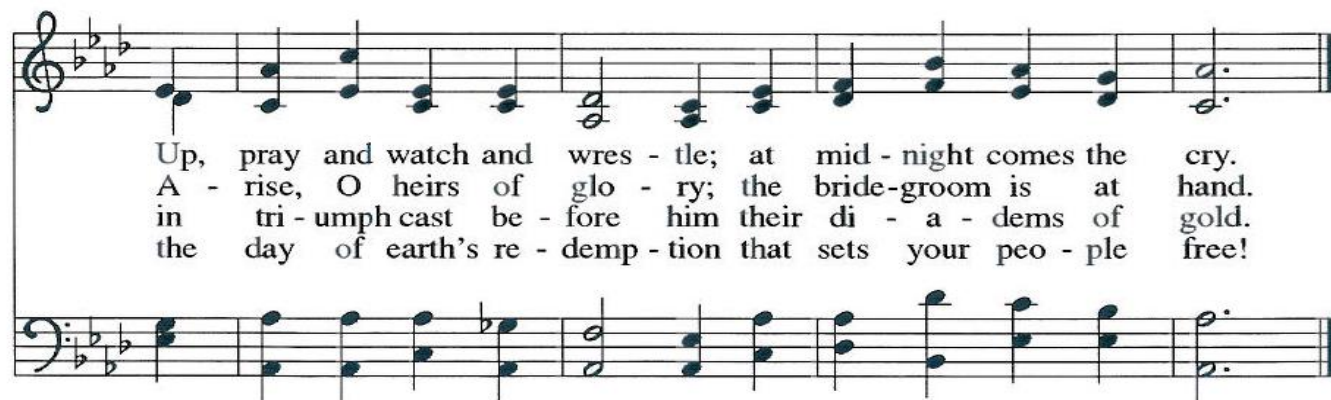
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



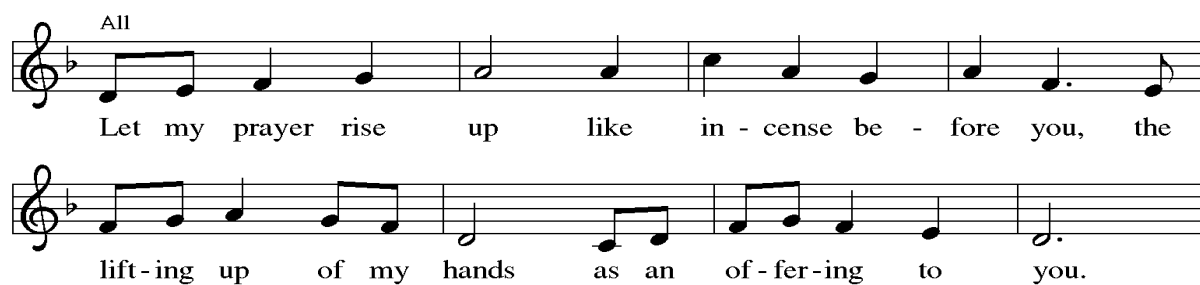
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Praying Song “Let My Prayer Rise Up” and Prayers of the People

Worship Leader: *As we sing, write your prayers on a post-it from the clipboard at the end of the row. Paper prayers will be collected during the song. The prayers will then be prayed out loud, anonymously, and placed on the altar.*

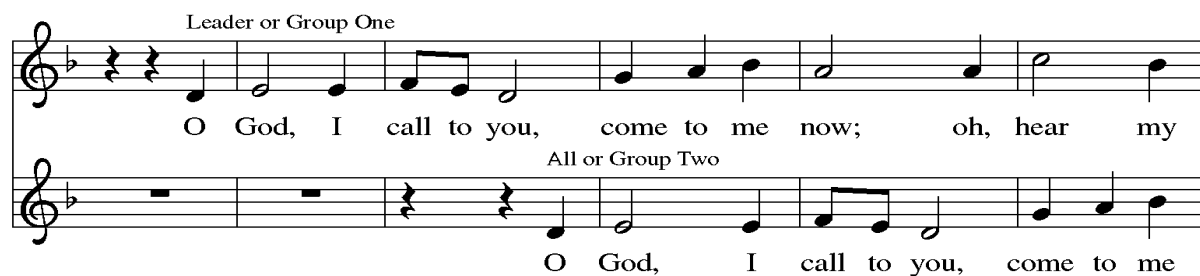
Let My Prayer Rise Up

All



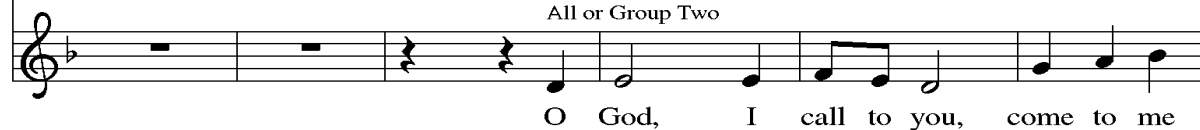
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

Leader or Group One




O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my

All or Group Two



O God, I call to you, come to me



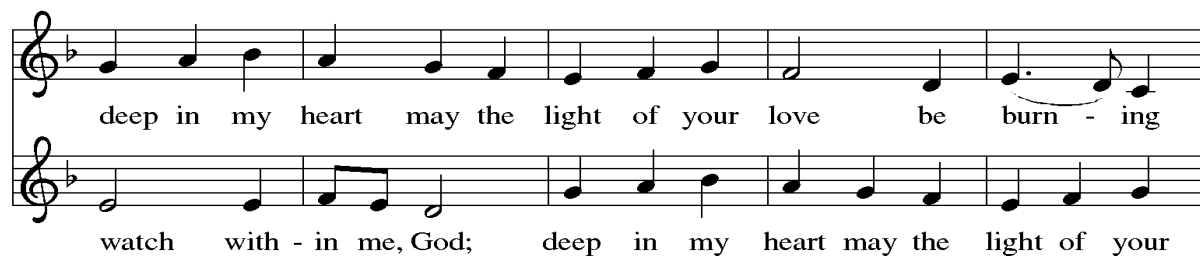
voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like
now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my



of - fer-ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;
hands as an of - fer-ing to you. Keep



deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an
you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of
of - fer - ing to you. All praise to the
life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.
God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Offering

Worship Leader: *We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, riverofhopehutchinson.org click "give" & go from there.*

(Please stand as you are able while the gifts/offering is brought forward.)

Offering Song "Come Ye Thankful People Come" (verse 1 only)

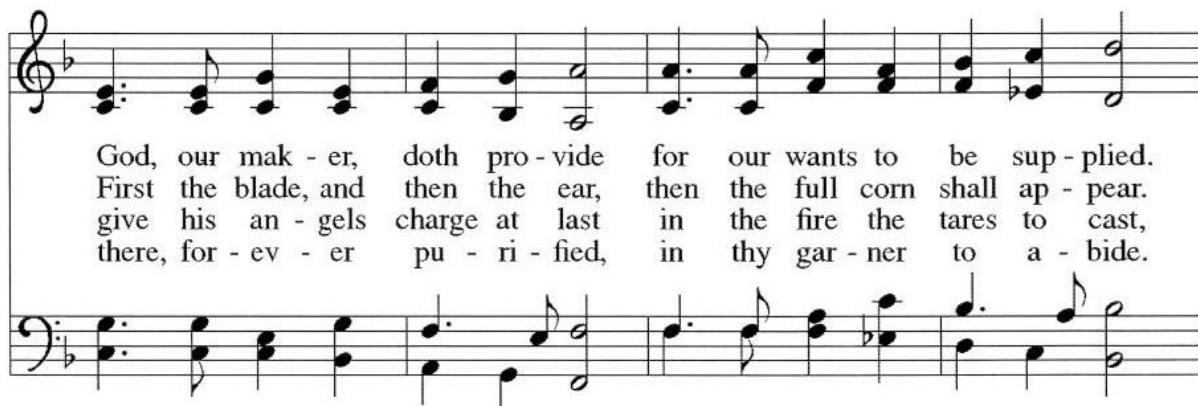
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



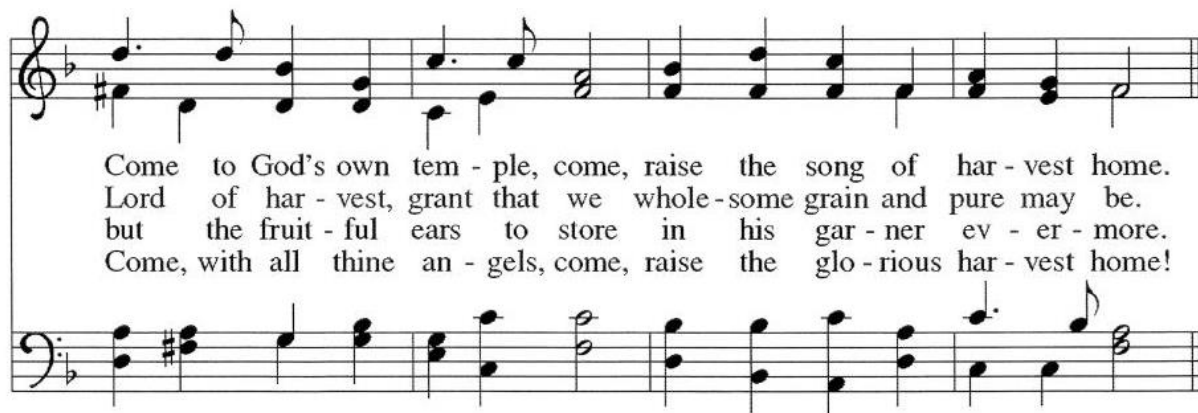
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

THE FEAST

Setting the Table

As the kids help set the table, make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:

Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

There is room for you at this table. So come, you have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed;

Come. There is room for you.

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

In the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to join hands with those around you in prayer. If you are not the hand-holding type, then simply fold your hands in front of you or hang onto this bulletin as you pray.

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.

Invitation to the Meal

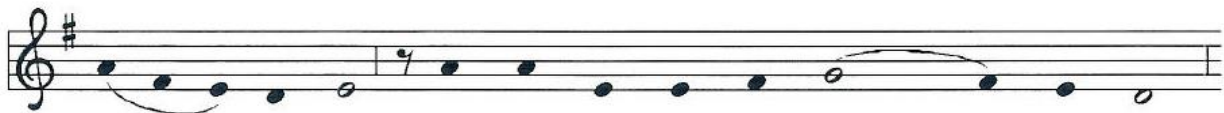
You are welcome to this meal. It is free and it is for you. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you.

Communion Songs "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" & "Prepare the Royal Highway"

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



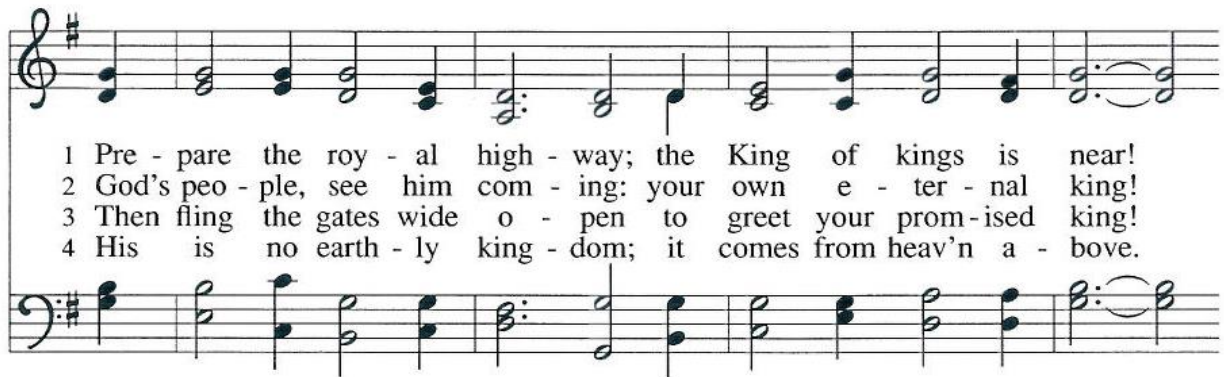
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

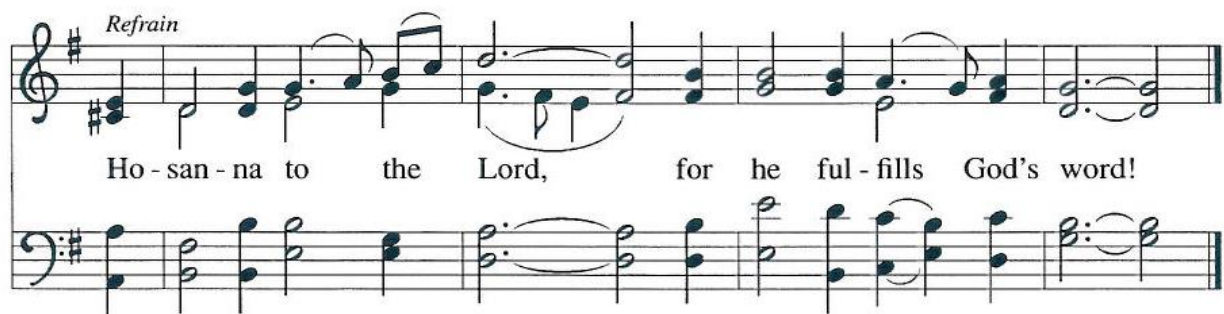


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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(Please Stand)

Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, **in response to your promise of faithfulness and life, we offer our lives. In response to your promise of love, we offer our love. In response to all of your promises, we offer our gifts. Amen.**

THE SENDING

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

(Please Be Seated)

Purpose Sightings

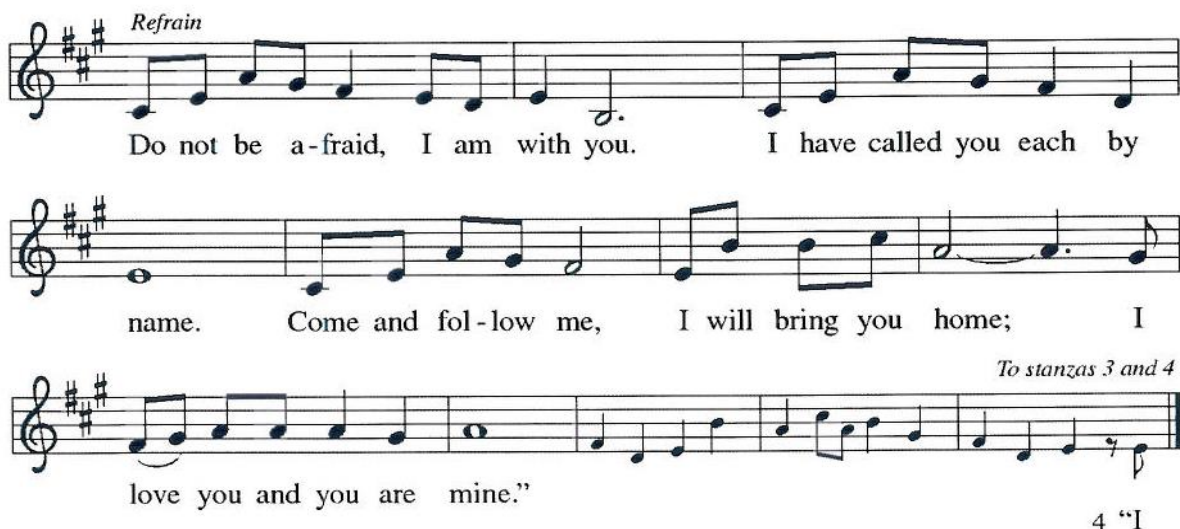
Worship Leader: There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

MILESTONES! “You Are Mine” (*The congregation will sing – refrain only*).

It's time for milestones, a time of sharing milestones in our community. If you have a big, small, good, or hard milestone in your life and can share it in a few sentences, meet me at the baptismal font and throw a water drop in as you share your milestone. After each person shares their milestone, the congregation responds by saying “MILESTONE!”

You Are Mine

Refrain



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by
name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I
love you and you are mine.”

To stanzas 3 and 4

4 “I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas

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Final Blessing

Final Blessing

Leader: *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____

All:



A - men.



Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Sending Song "Mighty Is Our God" (Kids are invited to come up & play an instrument)

Mighty Is Our God

Words and Music by
Eugene Greco, Gerrit Gustafson
and Don Moen

$\text{♩} = 152$ **CHORUS**

A A/C# D D/E E A A/C# D Dmaj7 E

Might-y is our God, — might-y is our King; —
Glo-ry to our God, — glo-ry to our King; —

5 A A/C# F#m E/F# F#m Bm7 D/E E A 1, 3.

Might-y is our Lord, — Rul-er of ev - 'ry - thing. —
Glo-ry to our Lord, — Rul-er of ev - 'ry - thing. —

9 **VERSE** G² D D/A A

His name is high - er, — high-er than an - y oth - er name;

13 G²

His pow'r is great - er, — for

15 D/F# Dmaj7 E D/E D.C. al Coda

He has cre - at - ed ev - 'ry - thing.

18 Coda Bm7 D/E E A

Rul - er of ev - 'ry - thing. —

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Go in peace – serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God**

Music to Send You Out

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