



Zechariah's Song

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019
Sunday Worship at 10:30am



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org

GATHERING

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs – “Messiah”

“All the People Said Amen”

MESSIAH

Larry Olson

$\text{♩} = 110$

Someone's shouting from the des - ert.
Someone's shouting from the cit - y.
Someone's shouting I am brok - en.

Someone's shouting from the sea.
I am young, — I am cold.
Someone's shouting make me whole.

Someone's shouting from the mountain.
Someone's shouting from the country.
Someone's shouting come and change me.

Someone's shouting from the val - ley. Mes -
I am lone - ly, I am old.
Someone's shouting save my soul.

si ah, come and be our King.

Mes - si ah, come and be our

King.

All The People Said Amen

Words and Music by
Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan
and Paul Moak

$\text{♩} = 96$

VERSE 1

$B\flat^2$ F C $B\flat^2$ F C $B\flat^2$ F

1. You are not a-lone

6 C Dm $B\flat^2$ F C Dm

if you are lone-ly. When you feel a-fraid, you're not the on-ly.

9 $B\flat^2$ F C Dm Gm Dm⁷

We are all the same, in need of mer-cy, — to be for-giv-en and be

12 C Gm Dm⁷ C

free. It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need. —

CHORUS

15 F C F $B\flat$ F

And all the peo-ple said, "A-men." Whoa. — And all the peo-ple said, "A-

18 C⁽⁴⁾ $B\flat$ F A Dm

-men." Give thanks to the Lord, — for His love — nev-er ends. —

CCLI Song # 6518275
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21 $B\flat$ C 2nd time to Coda Φ $B\flat$ F $B\flat$ F $B\flat^2$ F VERSE 2

And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." 2. If you're rich or poor,

24 C Dm $B\flat^2$ F C Dm

well, it don't mat - ter. Weak _ or strong, you know love is what we're af - ter.

27 $B\flat^2$ F C Dm Gm Dm^7/F

We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. _ God knows we stum - ble and fall, _

30 C Gm Dm^7 C $D.S. al Coda$

_ and He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.

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.*

"All the People Said Amen" to bring people back together.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pastor: Just as the first witnesses of Jesus' birth longed for a savior, we too long for a joy to stir our hearts. But soon, a savior will be given.

Worship Leader: *(light candle 1)* A savior to bring hope...

Pastor: *(light candle 2)* A savior to deliver peace...

Worship Leader: *(light candle 3)* A savior filled with love overflowing...

Pastor: *(light candle 4)* Blessed be the Lord God of Israel. For God has raised up a savior for us from the house of David, that we might share this joy with all, knowing that God's own desire is to live in this joy.

Four candles of Advent are lit as the congregation sings verse TWO 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



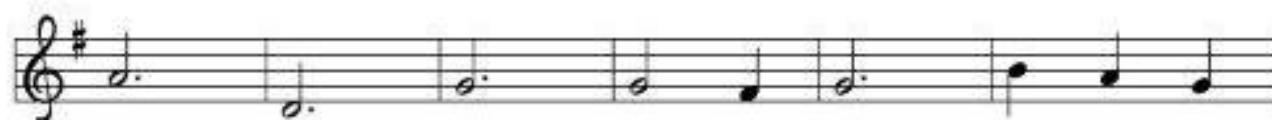
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



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.

Lord God,

The gift of John the Baptist gave his parents joy and his people hope. May their gladness be ours as we anticipate the arrival of our savior Jesus, in whose beloved name we pray, amen.

"The Magnificat"

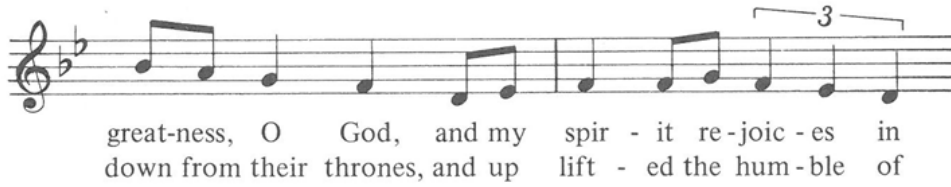
The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

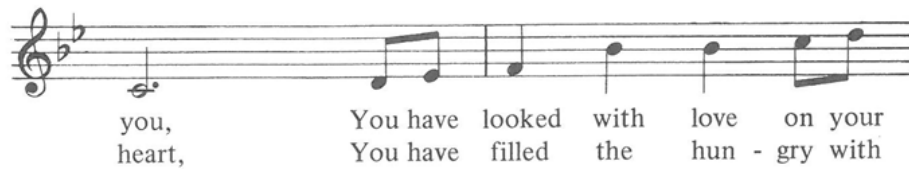
All:



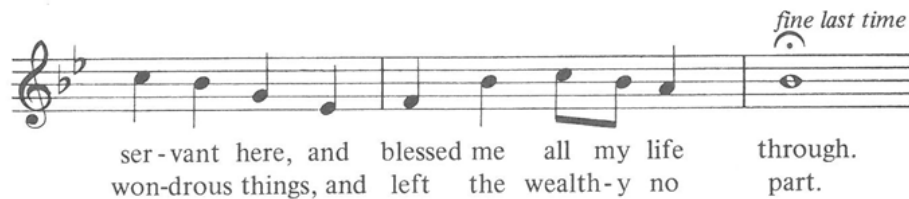
1.3. My soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y



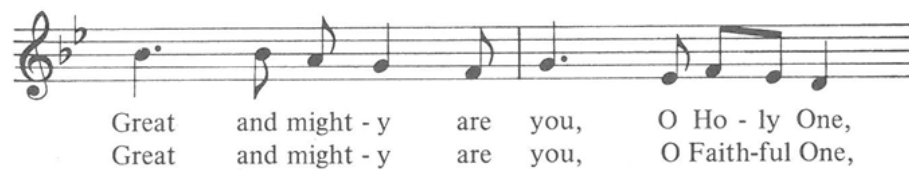
great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with



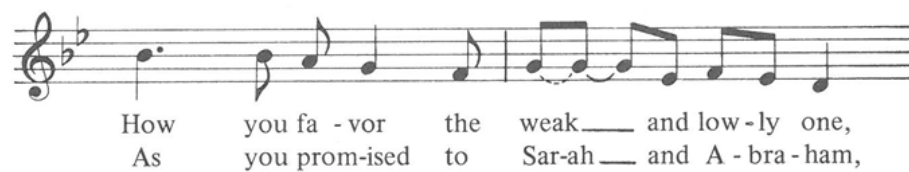
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.



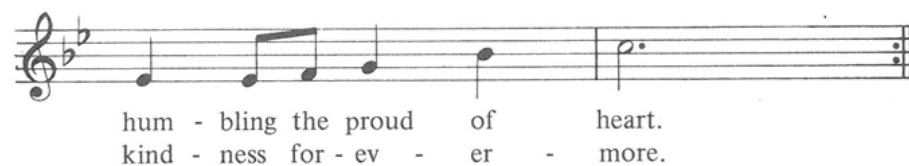
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues today, with a reading from Luke 1:5-13, 57-80.

Narrator: In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, and his wife was named Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him,

Side 1: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John."

Narrator: Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said,

Side 2: "No; he is to be called John."

Narrator: They said to her,

Side 1: "None of your relatives has this name."

Narrator: Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote,

Side 2: "His name is John."

Narrator: And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said,

ALL: "What then will this child become?"

Narrator: For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

Side 1: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them."

Side 2: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Narrator: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

**Side 1: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

**Side 2: to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**ALL: By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

Narrator: The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel. 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


Sermon

Song After Sermon “Prepare the Royal Highway”

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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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)

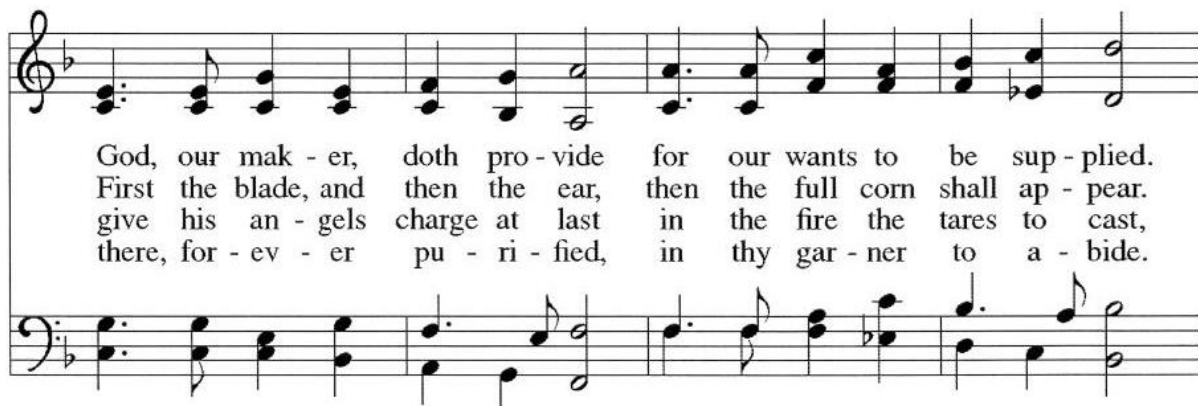
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



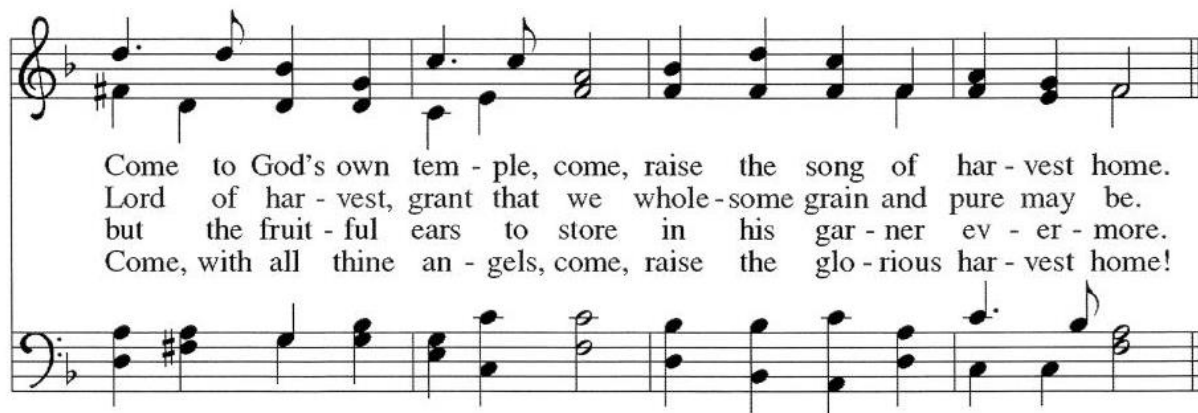
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



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 who 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

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" & "Softly and Tenderly"

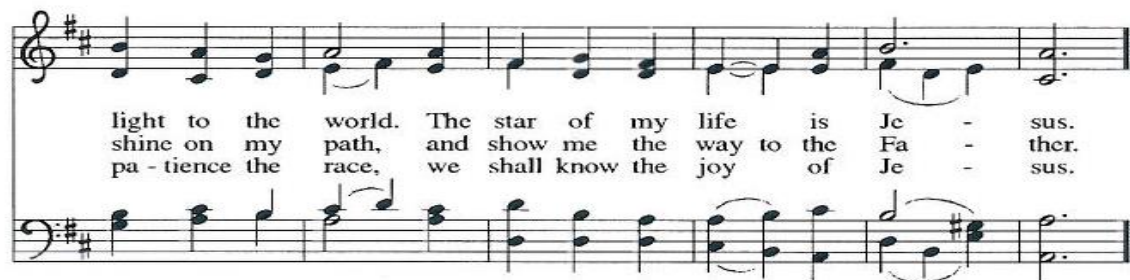
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

(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

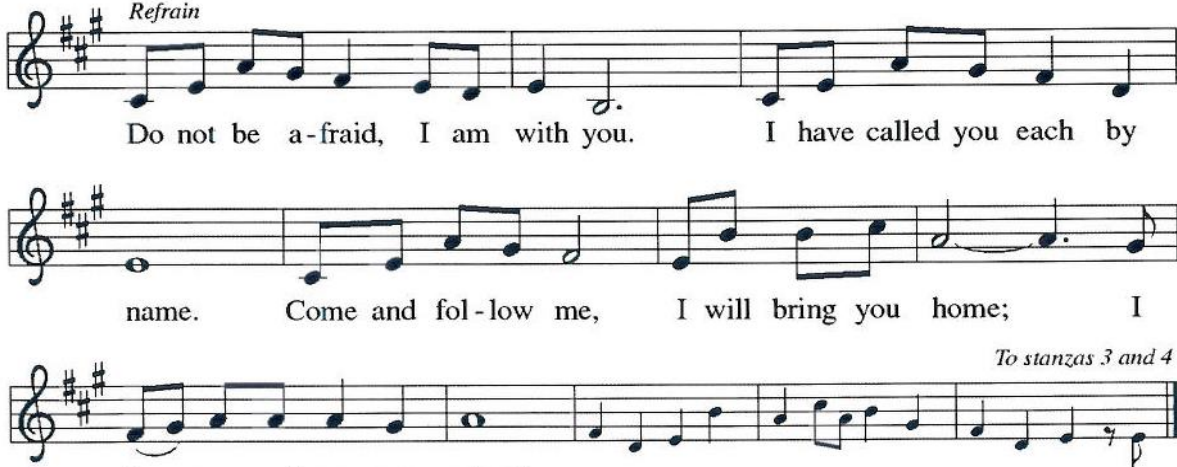
Worship Leader: There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

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 "Bethlehem Highway" (Kids are invited to come up & play an instrument)

BETHLEHEM HIGHWAY

David Lee Brown
James Hersch

$\text{♩} = 110$

G C G C D G

There is hope on Bethlehem high-way for the ones who will journey there. And the

hope is the child in a man-ger bringing us love be-yond compare. It's a lifeline for the need-
Let the angels go be-fore

y. It's— sight— to those who can't see. It's a free-dom for the faith-
us. Let the dark-ness be-come— light. Now the Sav-ior lives a-mong

G Am7 D \emptyset D G

ful in a Child of proph-e-cy. There is com-pare.
us. Now— truth has come to life.

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

Music to Send You Out

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