



# Beginning of Good News

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas*

December 29, 2019  
Sunday Worship at 10:30am



[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)

# GATHERING

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs – “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
“There is a Star in the East”

## Angels We Have Heard on High

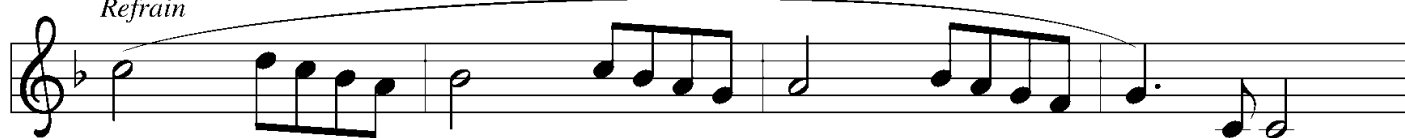


- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

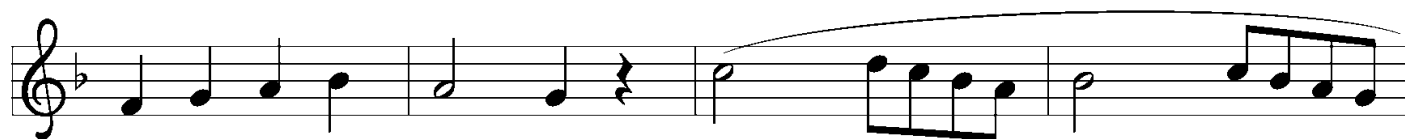
*Refrain*



Glo

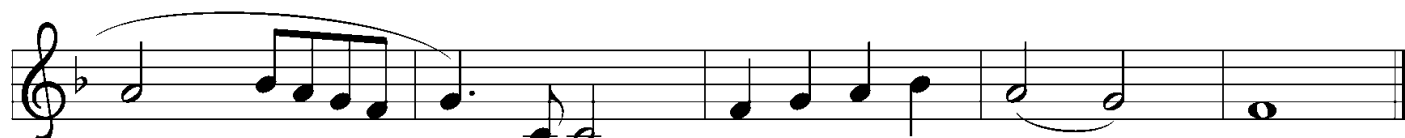
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Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

# There's a Star in the East



- 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
- 2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.  
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

## Refrain



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: RISE UP, SHEPHERD, African American spiritual

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, **You come to us in the most unexpected ways – as a baby, as a refugee. Help us to make room for you, to see you and to reach for you when you surprise us in strangers and friends. 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.*

"There's A Star in the East" to bring people back together.

### 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.**

Carol

"Do You Hear What I Hear"

# DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

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Words and Music by NOEL REGNEY  
and GLORIA SHAYNE

Moderately, with feeling

The musical score is written for a melody line and three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass). It includes guitar chords and lyrics. The tempo is 'Moderately, with feeling'.

**Lyrics:**

Said the night wind to the lit - tle lamb, "Do you see what I see? —  
lit - tle lamb to the shep - herd boy, "Do you hear what I hear? —  
shep herd boy to the might - y king, "Do you know what I know? —  
king to the peo - ple ev - 'ry where, "Lis - ten to what I say! —

Way up in the sky, lit - tle lamb, do you see what I see? —  
Ring - ing through the sky, shep - herd boy, do you hear what I hear? —  
In your pal - ace warm, might - y king, do you know what I know? —  
Pray for peace, — peo - ple ev - 'ry where, lis - ten to what I say! —

A star, a star, danc - ing in the night, with a tail as big as a  
A song, a song, high a - bove the tree, with a voice as big as the  
A Child, a Child, shiv - ers in the cold; let us bring Him sil - ver and  
The Child, the Child, sleep - ing in the night, He will bring us good - ness and

kite, with a tail as big as a kite." Said the  
sea, with a voice as big as the sea." Said the  
gold, let us bring Him sil - ver and gold."

**CODA**  
light, He will bring us

good - ness and light."

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God,

**You poured out your Spirit upon your only Son, showing the people that he belonged to you. Send this same Spirit to us as a sign of our baptism and belonging as your beloved children, in the name of Jesus our brother, amen.**

# THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues today, with a reading from John.

Narrator: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

**Side 1:** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**Side 2:** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

Narrator: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

**ALL:** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Carol

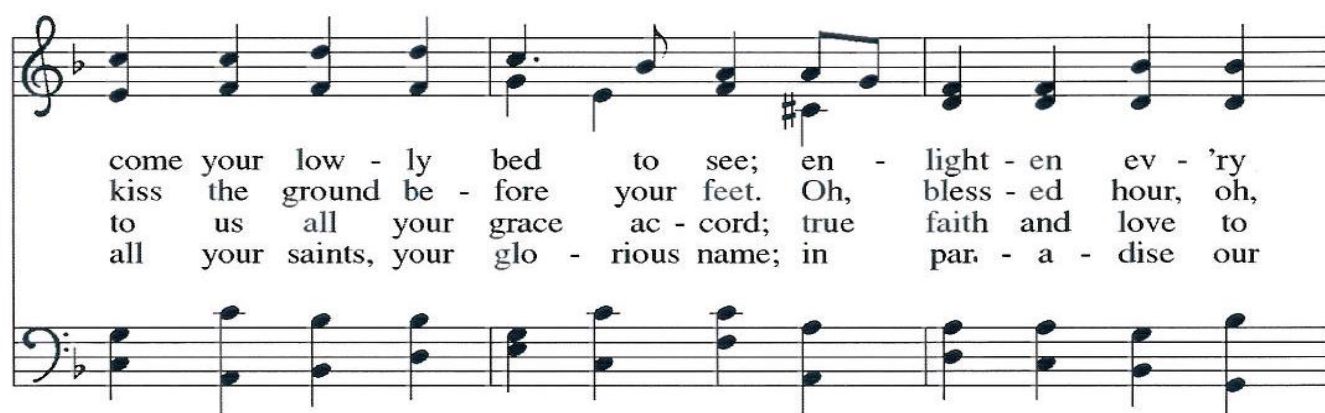
"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"



## Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
 sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.  
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

Sermon

Christmas Carol "Joy to the World"

# Joy to the World

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing.



## Prayers of the People

Reader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy.

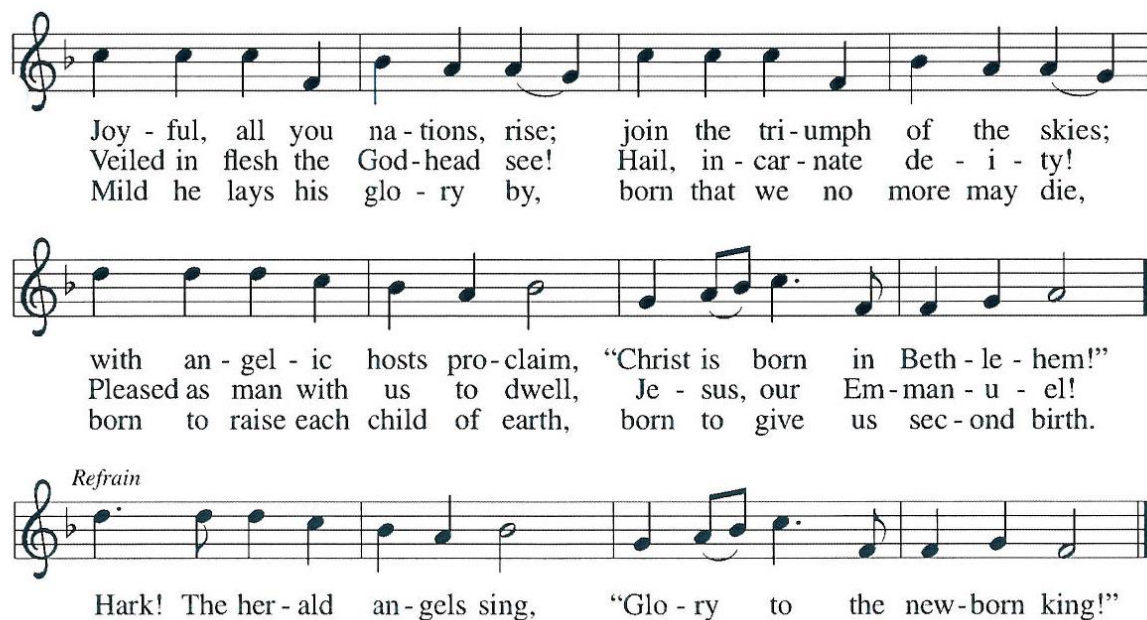
**All: hear our prayer**

## 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](http://riverofhopehutchinson.org) click "give" & go from there.*

## Offering Carol – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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



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.

*Refrain*

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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

# 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 – Christmas Carols!

“What Child is This & It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

# What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;




haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!







# It Came upon the Midnight Clear




1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world.  
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov'-ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.  
 and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.  
 oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.



**(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! “Auld Lang Syne”

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!”

### AULD LANG SYNE

The musical score for "Auld Lang Syne" is presented in three staves. The first staff contains the first line of the song, with lyrics "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance" and chords F, C, F, F7, Bb, F. The second staff contains the second line, with lyrics "be forgot and days of Auld Lang Syne? For Auld Lang Syne, my dear, for" and chords C7, A/C#, Dm, Gm7, C7, F, C7, F, C7. The third staff contains the third line, with lyrics "Auld Lang Syne, We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for Auld Lang Syne." and chords F, F7, Bb, F, C7, A/C#, Dm, Gm7, C7, F. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes a key signature of one flat (Bb).

## Final Blessing

Sending Song “Feliz Navidad” (Kids are invited to come up & play an instrument)

# Feliz Navidad

By Jose Feliciano

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart;

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart.

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

## Music to Send You Out

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