

1st Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Prelude

Opening Song "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Vs. 1-2,)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of the refrain. The fourth system contains the final line of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal lines.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Welcome * Welcome Pads * Post it Notes *

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Joy to the world! Our Lord Jesus has come!

**We welcome you, little king. Dispel the darkness, reign in our hearts –
and reign in our world. Amen.**

Greet Someone New

Music to Bring Us Back Together: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Vs. 4)

Children's Time

Mystery Devotion (DON'T SAY TITLE) Do You Hear What I Hear

*{This is a story about a Christmas Carol – this one is a relatively modern Christmas song, maybe not sung for Christmas
Eve worship services too much – but you likely have heard of this before.}*

This French man's name was 'Noel' and what a perfect name for someone who would become famous for writing a Christmas song. He was pressed into the Nazi army at the outset of World War 2, but escaped and join the French resistance. After the war he pursued a music career, and so it was that he wandered into a hotel lobby in New York City and was entranced to hear a woman named Gloria (another nice name for a Christmas music person, don't you think?) playing the piano. He was entranced, and though they were each

shakey with each other's languages, they fell in love, and soon married. He was a lover of classical music, but she was a rock n roller (this was the mid fifties now), and yet their union was to make people stop, look, and listen.

Gloria was to pen a song that a teen idol took to the top of the charts in the early sixties – called “Goodbye Cruel World.” Meanwhile, Noel wanted to write a song that would make an impact somehow someway. He was seeing his native France getting embroiled in a war in Vietnam, plus the cold war pressures between his adopted United States of America verses the Soviet Union, when all along he had thought and prayed that the end of WW2 would have ended all of this kind of fighting forever. Noel slipped into a depression while having flashbacks of his own wartime experiences. To help himself, he wrote a poem about something that seemed to stand for peace in the purest form – a poem about Christmas. He made himself remember pastoral scenes from his childhood in France – calm fields, sheep grazing, the innocence of a newborn lamb. His poem told of peace that came to earth on that very first Christmas night.

Now his wife had written out some music for this poem, but accidentally had caused one extra note to be in the song, throwing off the lyrics in a strange way, so Noel had to add some words in key places. Instead of saying, “Said the boy to the king,” he now changed it to “Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king.” And instead of “Said the wind,” he now changed it to, “Said the night wind...” (Have you guessed this song yet?)

Also, Gloria wanted him to take out the line, “with a tail as big as a kite,” but Noel insisted on it, and he was right, for it became a favorite line for many of the people that loved this song. The Harry Simeone Chorale wanted to record this song – they had enjoyed a hit four years earlier with the Little Drummer Boy. But also at this time, The Chipmunks were riding the charts with their holiday music, so Noel and Gloria weren't quite sure how this new song of theirs would go over.

A song about the night wind, and little lambs and a star with a tail as big as a kite. Recorded by well over a hundred artists like Bing Crosby, Carrie Underwood, Bob Dylan, though the recording that was the biggest seller was by Robert Goulet and you can kind of hear his big baritone voice saying "pray for peace, people everywhere," and in the song, it isn't a suggestion, it is a demand. Which is what the war-weary Noel Regney meant it to be.

So we'll sing "Do You Hear What I Hear" which was written around Thanksgiving time of 1962, around the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. You can't tell that it is an actual Christmas song until you get to the third verse, but after that, you truly realize you are straining to listen for the peace that the Christ child brings.

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

Copyright © 1962 (Renewed) by Jewel Music Publishing Co., Inc. (ASCAP)

Words and Music by NOEL REGNEY
and GLORIA SHAYNE

Moderately, with feeling

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."

3 C D.S. al Coda Said the
CODA E Am opt. G F C/E light, He will bring us
Dm7 Em/G G7 C Gm7 C good - ness and light."

THE STORY

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today with a reading from the Gospel of Luke chapter 2, verses 22-40.

(Reader): When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; 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. 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,

**(Side 1): "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;**

**(Side 2): for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,**

**(ALL): a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."**

(Reader): And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the

tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

(Reader): Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

Sermon time = Christmas Carol Sing-a-long (Audience chooses songs from song-book)

Offering

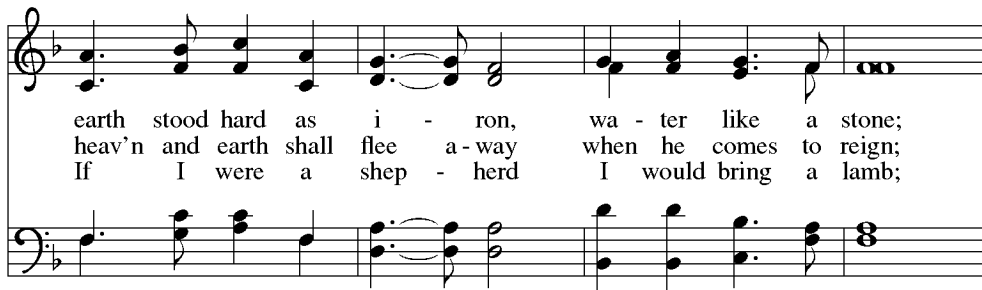
Worship Leader: *Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office. The watering can this month is for Operation Hope.*

Offering Song – "In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the Bleak Midwinter



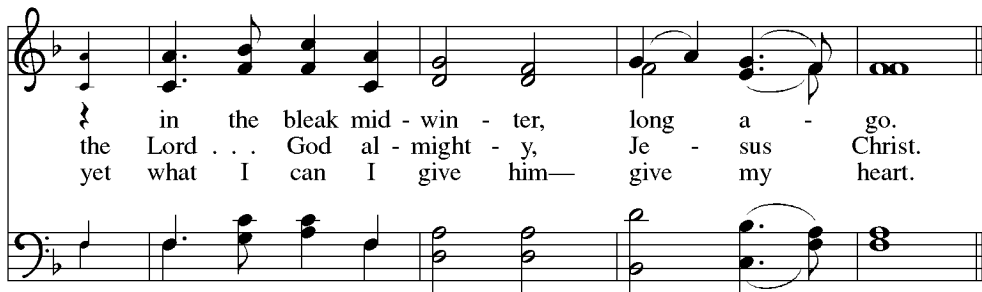
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

The Feast

Setting the Table

the children lead us as we sing together:

Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! (2X)

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

This system contains the first line of music. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a melodic phrase marked 'Refrain' and ends with a half note 'ri - a'. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines.

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

This system contains the second line of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -' and features a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

This system contains the third line of music. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics '- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' and ends with a final chord. The piano accompaniment provides the final harmonic support.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

As we gather in this place, we remember, that 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."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth.

So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing.

(Leader): The gifts of God are...

(ALL): Free

(Leader): Free indeed. And all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

Communion Songs – “Love Has Come” and “Ding Dong Merrily On High”

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Ding Dong Merrily On High

Words by
George R. Woodward

Music by
Unknown

F B \flat C7 B \flat 2/D C7/E F B \flat 2 B \flat /D Csus C F2sus F

1. Ding dong! Mer - ri - ly on high, in heav'n the bells are ring - ing;
 2. E'en so here be - low, be - low let stee - ple bells be swung - en,
 3. Pray you du - ti - ful - ly prime your mat - in chime, ye ring - ers;

B \flat C7 B \flat 2/D C7/E F B \flat 2 B \flat /D Csus C F2sus F

5 Ding dong! Ver - i - ly the sky is riv'n with an - gels sing - ing.
 and i - o i - o i - o, by priest and peo - ple sung - en.
 May you beau - ti - ful - ly rhyme your eve time song, ye sing - ers.

C/F F Gm/F E $^\circ$ /F F/E Dm Dm/C Gm7/C C C/B \flat F/A B \flat 2 B \flat /D

9 Glo - - - - -

14 C7 B \flat /D C7/E F B \flat 2 B \flat /D Csus C F2sus F F2sus F

1 2

ri - a, ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis! cel - sis!

Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

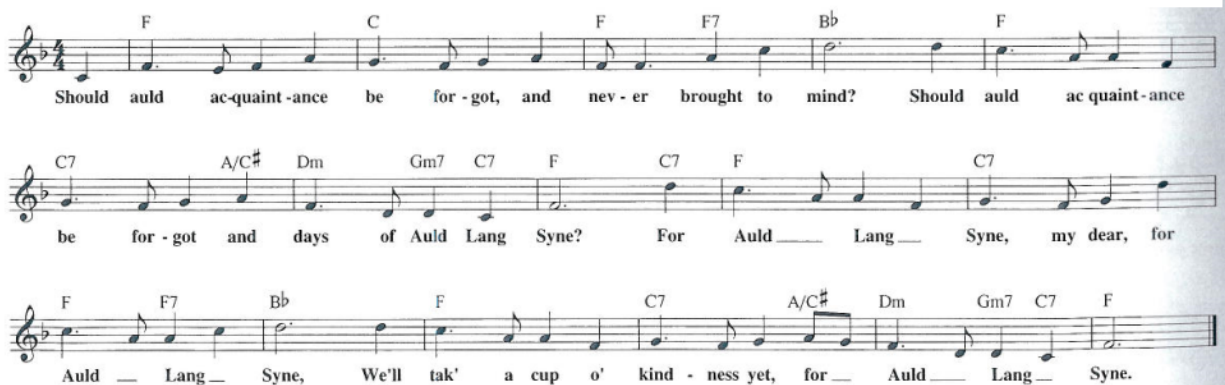
We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Purpose Sightings:

MILESTONES! Sing "Auld Lang Syne"

It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.

AULD LANG SYNE



Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Feliz Navidad"

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023086 CCLI License # 3277748 OneLicense.net license #A-726070

