



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 18, 2022

9:55 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

'Christians All, Your Lord is Coming'

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing'

No. 150

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Now is the moment of grace. This is the hour of blessing.

All: Today is the day of salvation. Here is the path to new life.

One: Already, joy is abounding, and love is flowing.

All: For this is the day God is making. Let us rejoice and sing.

One: Let all God's children rejoice in their king.

All: Let God's children sing the songs of praise!

One: Let God's children tell the stories of old!

All: Out of the mouths of children we find the peace and the presence of God.

One: Listen for God today in the words of the children;

All: Let God spill out of them and into our hearts!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

"LOVE"

One: In a world of darkness, we have seen a great light!

All: We join with our siblings around the world, lighting candles to guide our steps in this Advent journey.

One: Today we light the candle of LOVE;

All: Love that first came in the form of a tiny baby resting in a manger.

One: Make our hearts the manger of Your love, O God!

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

ADVENT PRAYER *(in unison)*

Circle us, O God. Circle this world with Your love. Create a desire to listen to the Advent message that begins in the tiny cries of a newborn babe. Stir a willingness to understand and respond; to reach out for a taste of the love that You have for us. God of all creation, Giver of our salvation, encircle Your people with a love that knows no beginning nor end; a love that simply, “was;” bringing forth all whom You love. And, let us share that love in our Advent waiting and watching; Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

‘When God Is A Child’ (vs. 4)

No. 132

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there’s joy in our song.

*The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

SONG OF PREPARATION

‘Emmanuel, Emmanuel’

No. 134

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 1-20

*Instead of just listening to the story of the birth of Jesus by reading our scripture today, we are, instead, going to try and get inside the story, to live out the story, to **BE** the story. Join me and come together as a church family for our interactive nativity worship. We need each of you to help! But don’t worry, you won’t have to remember any lines. We will be looking for people to come and be characters. We will need others to join in the story from their seats. If you didn’t get a costume on your way in and would like to head to the narthex now to grab one. We will need your listening, your laughter and your love. Join us as we experience the Christmas story together.*

*HYMN

‘It Came Upon a Midnight Clear’

No. 153

PASTORAL PRAYER

Gentle God, Your very name is that of Love. You chose to love each and every one of us before our being was created, before a word passed our lips, before we grew to become who we are in this world, even before we chose to love You. It is with this very same love that we are called to love one another. Remove any conditions that we hold close in fear, and any divisions that form because we refuse to seek understanding. The love that radiates from our inmost being lead us toward each other, seeking unity, communion and acceptance as one people of God; Amen.

Come and Light a Candle...



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Duncan Vinson

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***HYMN** 'The First Noel' No. 151

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY 'The Apple Tree' K. Lee Scott

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'Thank You, Lord' No. 531

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN** 'People Look East' No. 142

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, Bridge Pastor
Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor
Rev. Mary Perry, Guest Pastor
Murray Kidd, Music Director
Duncan Vinson, Guest Organist/Pianist
Alisa Cassola, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Descant

3. All hail the Sun of

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

Righ - teous - ness! He is risen with heal - ing

new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners
 last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the
 Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing

in his wings. His glo - ry by,

rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
 Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;
 in his wings, mild he lays his glo - ry by,

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856;
 desc. Paul Liljestr and

MENDELSSOHN
 77.77D w. refrain

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 Berson Music Group, Inc.

no more may die;

join the tri - umph of the skies; with the an - gel - ic
 hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty, pleased in flesh with
 born that we no more may die, born to raise us

born to raise us from the earth to sec - ond birth.

host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing to the new - born King.

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

Unison

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAMS
 Irr. w. refrain

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♩=112

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Unison C F Dm7 G7 Em

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

A7 A/C# Dm G7 C Cmaj7

his name is called Emmanuel.

C7 C F Dm7 G7 Em

God with us, re-vealed in us,

A7 A/C# Dm G7 C F/C C D.C. (final)

his name is called Emmanuel.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob McGee, 1976

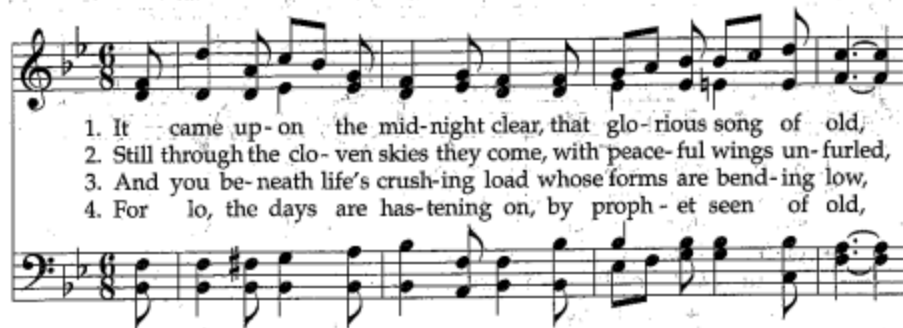
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McGEE

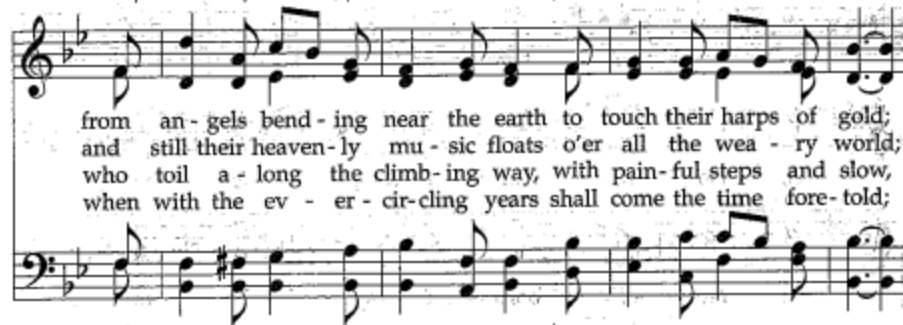
Irr.

♩=84-92

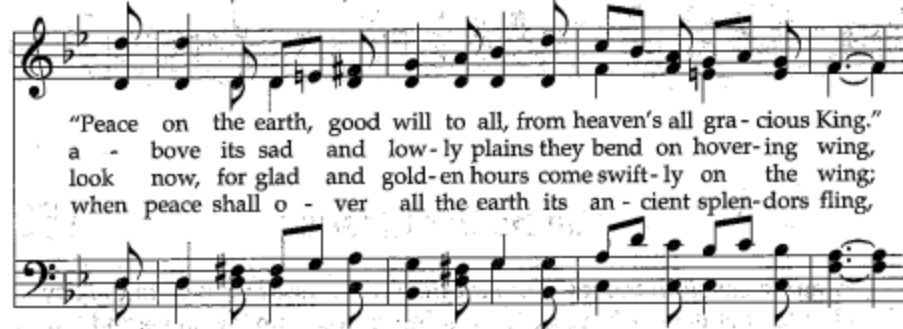
It Came upon the Midnight Clear



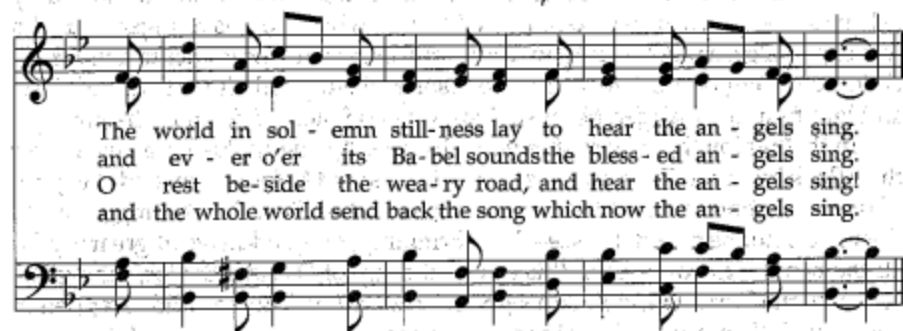
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And you be-neath life's crush-ing load whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav-en-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 heaven's all gra-cious King."
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing 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-ern still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849
 MUSIC: Richard S. Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD

The First Noel

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 3. And by the light of that same star three
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

1. cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 2. in the east, be - yond them far, and to the
 3. wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
 4. Beth - le - hem it took its rest, and there it
 5. rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, and of - fered

1. they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 2. earth it gave great light, and so it con -
 3. king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
 4. did both stop and stay, right ov - er the
 5. there, in his pres - ence, their gold and

WORDS: Traditional English carol (17th century)
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irr. w. refrain

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Descant
 No - el, No - el, No -

Refrain
 1. night that was so deep.
 2. tin - ued both day and night.
 3. star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 4. place where Je - sus lay.
 5. myrrh and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.
 el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2. Been so good, been so good, been so
 3. Been my friend, been my friend, been my

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains three measures of music, each with a different chord voicing. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing three measures of music with a simple bass line.

Lord,
 good,
 friend,

I just want to thank you,
 I just want to thank you,
 I just want to thank you,

Lord.
 Lord.
 Lord.

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody from the first system, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom staff continues the bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

WORDS: Traditional African-American song

MUSIC: Traditional African-American melody; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland and
 Verolga Nix, alt.

THANK YOU, LORD
 333.7

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928
 MUSIC: Traditional French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

BESANÇON
 87.98.87

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 Oxford University Press

♩=62-70