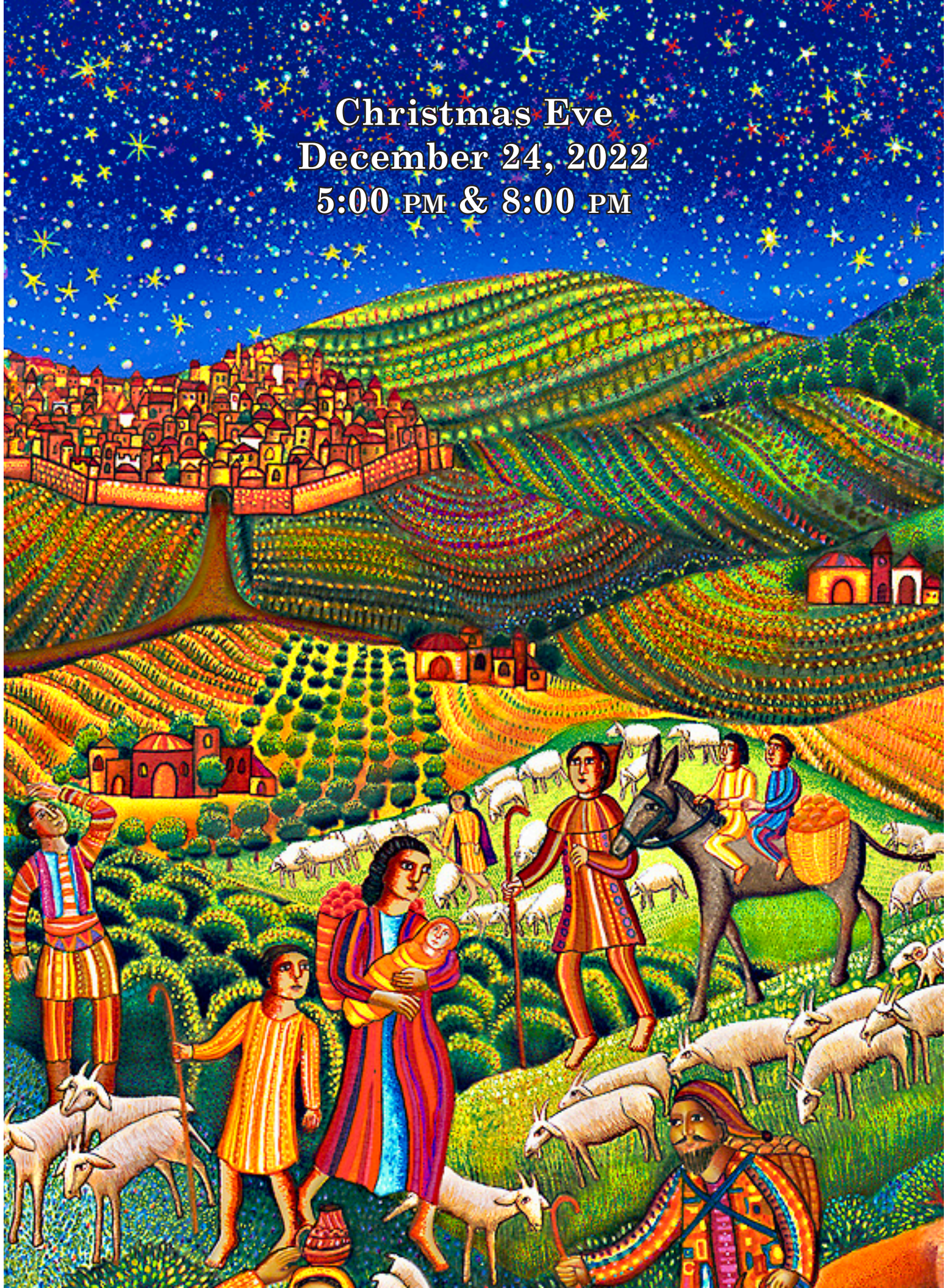


Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022
5:00 PM & 8:00 PM



GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God. The set of organ chorales by J.G. Walther is on the hymn, "We should praise Christ highly," a Christmas hymn written by Martin Luther. A translation of one of the verses reads, "The heavenly choir above rejoices greatly and the angels sing, 'Praise God!' The poor shepherds are told of the Shepherd and creator of the entire world."

About the Choral Introit

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" [hymn 20], this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune. TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848; MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849.

PRELUDE Fanfare & Verses on "Adeste Fideles"

Paul Fey & David Willcocks

"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" David Willcocks

"Christum wir sollen loben schon"

Johann Gottfried Walther

A Christmas Prelude Charles Callahan

Christmas Medley for Whistles and Organ

arr. by Sam Levine and Dale Nickell

Prelude & Verses on "The First Noel"

Fey & Willcocks

CHORAL INTROIT

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Do not be afraid; I bring good news of great joy!
Light shines on those who walk in darkness.

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Everlasting God,
your Son is the light of the world.
Your Son is the way, the truth, and the life.
Lead us by your light and truth.
Looking for Jesus, let us find him.
Looked for by Jesus, we are found first. Amen.**

*The Cross and Bible lead the procession,
symbolic of the centrality in worship of
Jesus Christ—the Living Word, and the Bible—the written Word.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 133

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come All Ye Faithful

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Isaiah 9:2-7 (*Old Testament, page 638 in your pew Bible*)

Psalm 98

Marty Haugen

Refrain:



All the ends of the earth have seen the pow-er of God;



All the ends of the earth have seen the pow-er of God.—

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done wondrous deeds;
God's right hand has won the victory,
God's holy arm. **Refrain.**

The Lord has made salvation known,
God's justice revealed to all;
Remembering kindness and faithfulness to Israel. **Refrain.**

About Hymn 133

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named. TEXT and MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743.

Prayer for Illumination

A Prayer for Illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God's word. This sense of utter reliance on the illumination of the Spirit is an important and distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition.

All of the ends of earth have seen
salvation by our God.
Joyfully sing out, all you lands,
break forth in song. **Refrain.**

Sing to the Lord with harp and song,
with trumpet and with horn.
Sing in your joy before the king,
the king, our Lord. **Refrain.**

Titus 2:11-14 (*New Testament, page 215 in your pew Bible*)

***GOSPEL PROCESSION**

(The congregation stands for the Gospel. The Gospel is read in the midst of the people, symbolic of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us. As the Bible is carried into the Nave, please turn in the direction of the reader, and join in singing:)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:1-20 (*New Testament, page 58 in your pew Bible*)

(Following the reading of the Gospel, the congregation will sing:)

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

SERMON

"Go and See"

Donovan Drake

(A moment for meditation)

Affirmation of Faith

Responding to the word proclaimed, we affirm our faith in the holy, triune God. The affirmation of faith is drawn from scripture or creeds, confessions, and catechisms. A song, anthem or other musical response may serve as an affirmation.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Jesus, the long-expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.**

He lived as a Jew among Jews.

**He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice
and peace on earth.**

We affirm that Jesus was born of a woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.

The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship
between God and humanity
that God always intended.

(From *A Declaration of Faith*)

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

ANTHEM

Angel's Carol

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hear the angels singing "Peace on earth."

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hear the angels singing "Christ is born."

To GIVE, please scan
the QR code below:



"John Rutter", a journalist wrote not so long ago, "has become the musical equivalent of Dickens, synonymous with the season of Christmas." However, Dickens wrote just the one *Christmas Carol*, whereas Rutter has written at least 50 Christmas carols over the past four or five decades. Rutter has said, "The Christmas carols were my calling cards." Rutter wrote both the words and music for his "Angel's Carol" in the 1980's. His contemporary, almost popular style, has gained him a huge following worldwide.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
 hail the incarnate deity,
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king!"

***INVITATION**

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...
 and we behold your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices
 with the celestial choirs,
 and with all the faithful of every time and place,
 who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord...

God of pow - er and might... Heav - en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na

in the high - est!... Bles - sed is he who comes, he who

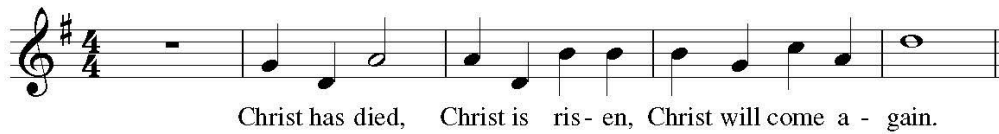
comes in the name of the Lord... Ho - san - na, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

(The congregation may be seated.)

You are holy, O God of majesty... dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Prayed in unison; see page 35 of the hymnal for text.)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The people will move to Communion stations as directed by the ushers. The celebrant will give each worshiper the bread. The worshiper dips the bread in the cup and partakes. An appropriate response is "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." Please return to the pews, using the side aisles.)

Music during Communion

ANTHEMS

Wexford Carol

arr. Mark Sedio

Good people all, this Christmastime,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born.

"The Wexford Carol" is a traditional Christmas carol originating from County Wexford, Enniscorthy, Ireland. The subject of the song is the nativity of Jesus Christ. Sometimes known by its first verse "Good people all this Christmas time," it is of uncertain origins, and while it is occasionally claimed to be from the early Middle Ages, it likely was composed in the 15th or 16th-century based on its musical and lyrical style.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
 Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
 To whom God's angels did appear,
 Which put the shepherds in great fear.
 "Prepare and go," the angels said,
 "To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
 For there you'll find, this happy morn,
 A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
 The shepherds went the babe to find,
 And as God's angel had foretold,
 They did our Savior Christ behold.
 Within a manger he was laid,
 And by his side the Virgin maid,
 Attending on the Lord of Life,
 Who came on earth to end all strife;
 Who came on earth this Christmas night.

Candlelight, Burning Bright

Helen Kemp, arr. Michael Kemp

Candlelight, burning bright,
 light the Christmas tree tonight!
 Warm the hearts of young and old
 with the flame of living gold.
 Bless the children at their play,
 guide the stranger on his way.
 Heav'n has touched the earth today.
 Christ the Lord has come!

Candlelight, burning bright,
 light the house of prayer tonight!
 Oh light the house tonight!
 Shed thy beauty as we bring
 homage to the Savior King!
 Cheer us as our carols rise
 winged on gladness to the skies,
 God has opened Paradise, Christ the Lord has come!

Candlelight, burning bright,
 shine within our hearts tonight!
 Fill us with the glow of love
 like a presence from above.
 Shine through us in helpful deeds,
 shine in faith and noble creeds:
 Light is what this dark world needs,
 Christ the Lord has come to us, Christ the Lord has come!

*"Candlelight
 Burning Bright"*
 first began as an
 anthem for
 children's voices by
 the renowned
 children's choir
 conductor, Helen
 Kemp. She and
 her husband John
 headed the Church
 Music program at
 Westminster Choir
 College for many
 years. Their son,
 Michael, later
 arranged it for
 mixed voices.
 Michael was
 Director of Music
 at Westminster
 from 1985 to
 1991. The printed
 music for this
 anthem is given to
 the glory of God
 and in loving
 memory of Michael
 by his children,
 Todd, Brad, and
 Erin.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace; Peace to the world is given.
 Hushed are the angels, so still is the night;
 Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
 Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
 Glory to God, to the newly born King.
 Peace, peace, wonderful peace; Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace, All of goodwill receive him.
 Holiest of nights, O most wond'rous of days;
 Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
 Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
 Glory to God, to the newly born King.
 Peace, peace, wonderful peace; Peace to the world is given.

This beautiful carol is by Swedish composer, organist, and professor, Gustav Nordqvist (1886-1949). He was the organist for the Adolf Fredrik church and a teacher of harmony at the Royal Conservatory of music in Stockholm. The message of this carol is needed more than ever for our present day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

(The plastic shield that you received with your candle is intended to ensure the safety of the congregation. Slide the shield down the candle for the purpose of lighting the candle. Once lighted, slide the shield up to fully enclose the flame.)

SPREADING THE LIGHT

HYMN

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
 heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
 in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
 the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
 'round yon virgin mother and child!
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from thy holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"In dulci jubilo" BWV 608 and BWV 729

J.S. Bach

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

About the Postlude

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship. The Orgelbüchlein Chorale on "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (Hymn 132), not only has the Soprano and Bass voices in canon, but also the Alto and Tenor voices, while BWV 729 may be representative of how Bach would have accompanied congregational singing of the hymn.

Our Mission

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

Today @ Westminster

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake
Pastor and Head of Staff

Liturgists

5:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Guy D. Griffith
*Associate Pastor for Adult Education and
Spiritual Nurture*

Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

8:00 PM

Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Lay Liturgists

5:00 PM Bill Christie

8:00 PM Keith Cole

Music

Westminster Choir

Dr. John Semington
Director of Music Ministries

Dale Nickell
*Organist and Associate Director of Music
Ministries*

Sam Levine
Clarinet, flute, and whistle

Cantors

5:00 PM Colby White

8:00 PM Keith Cole

Christmas Eve Offering

The offerings received tonight will be used to meet unanticipated or emergency situations of need, which from time to time come to the attention of the pastors, and for which there is no provision in the regular budget. A portion of the money is used to provide for the needs of homeless and transient people.

Childcare Locations

Childcare for 5:00 PM service only

Classroom 146 - babies

Classroom 152 – toddlers

Classroom 151 – 2s and 3s

Classroom 160 – 4s, 5s, and kindergarten



on the cover:

JOHN AUGUST SWANSON was born January 11, 1938 in El Monte, California, and died September 23, 2021, in Los Angeles. He painted in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media, and was an independent printmaker of limited edition serigraphs, lithographs, etchings, and other prints.

His art reflected his strong heritage of storytelling, inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. John Swanson's narratives are direct and easily understood. He addressed human values, cultural roots, and the quest for self-discovery through visual images. These include Bible stories and celebrations, circuses, concerts, and operas. He optimistically embraced life and spiritual transformation.

I wanted to capture the people that are bringing gifts. They are the poor people in the region all bringing their meager offerings to share with the homeless holy family: firewood, eggs, bread, flour, a cow with milk, water, and fruit; even a child has come to serenade them.

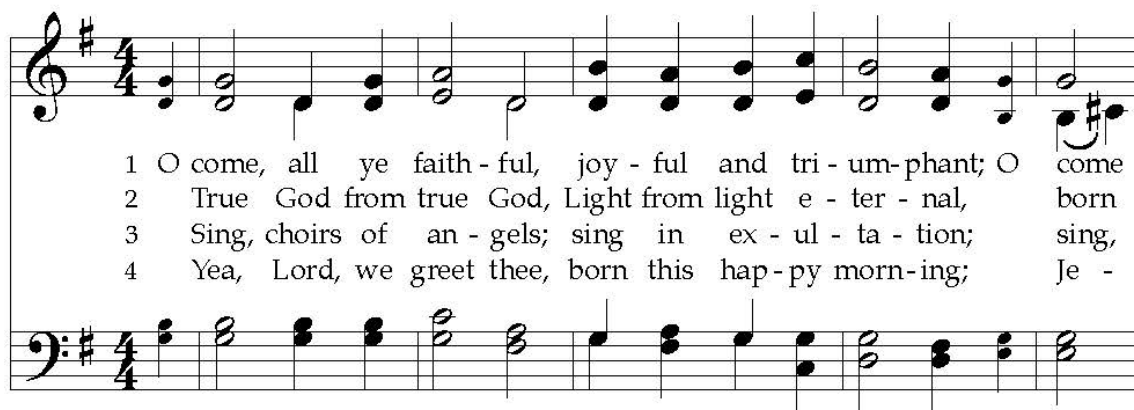
--John August Swanson

Planned in 2017 as a companion piece to *The Annunciation*, this Nativity giclee has been sized to match that piece, and has warmer skin tones, gradations, and additional details in the plants and sky from Swanson's other serigraphs, paintings, and sketches.

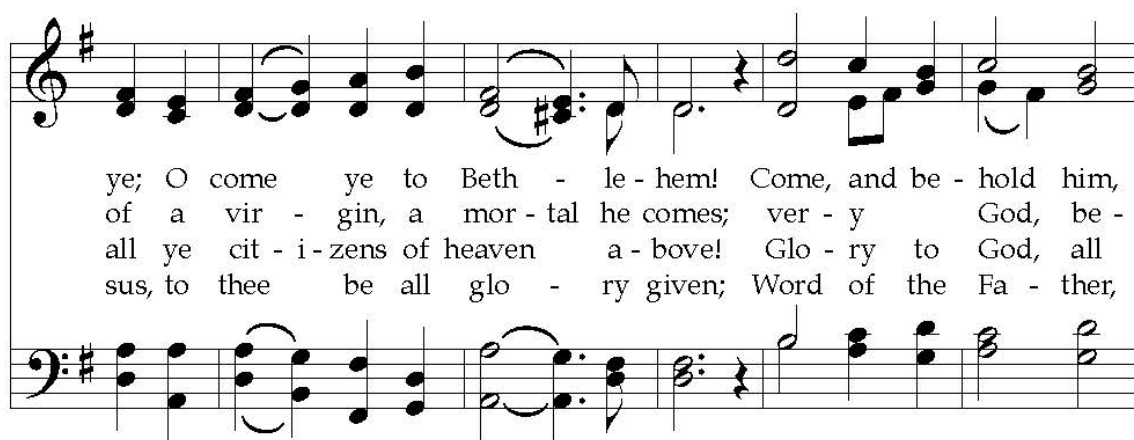
Completed: October, 2022
by the John August Swanson Studio

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain



born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!



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