

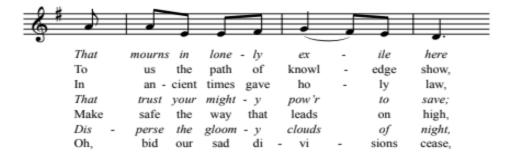
At the tolling of the bell, all stand.

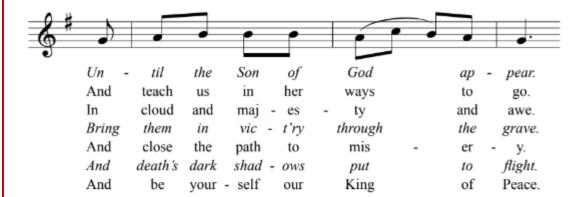
Opening Hymn Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

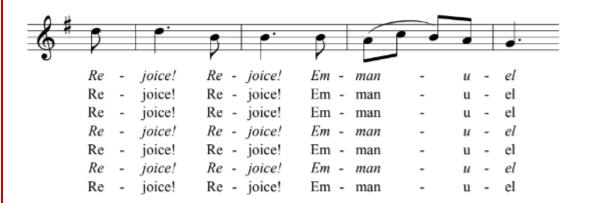
Latin Hymn, 12th cent. Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt. VENI EMMANUEL
a 15th cent. French Processional

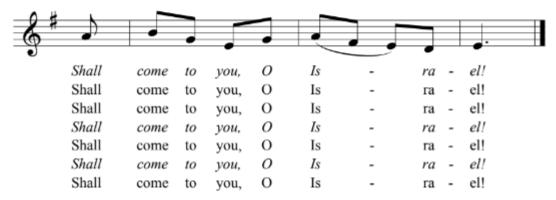












Please be seated.

Welcome

A Litany for Advent

Celebrant: O Lord Jesus, you are WISDOM:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Come, and teach us.

O Lord Jesus, you are RULER:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Guide us with your mighty arm.

O Lord Jesus, you are the BRANCH OF JESSE:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Renew our faith in your promises.

O Lord Jesus, you are the KEY OF HEAVEN:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Open our hearts to receive you.

O Lord Jesus, you are the DAYSPRING:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Shine into the darkness of our lives.

O Lord Jesus, you are the KING:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Make us one family in your name.

O Lord Jesus, you are EMMANUEL:

People: Savior of the nations, come.

Celebrant: Be with us now and evermore. Amen.

Please stand or kneel, as you are able.

The Prayers of the People, Form II (BCP 385)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people Pray for the church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the families of the departed. Pray for the families of who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Sentence & Offering

Choral Anthem

Lost in the Night

Finnish Tune arr. Michael Burkhardt

Lost in the night do the people yet languish Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish, Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light no light let us borrow, Giving no heed to our burden of sorrow? Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling, Dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!

Light over the land of the needy is beaming; Rivers of life through its deserts are streaming, Bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming. Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

A Woman's Passionate Song

My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

This song of Mary is the oldest Advent hymn.

It is at once

the most passionate, the wildest, and one might even say, the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung.

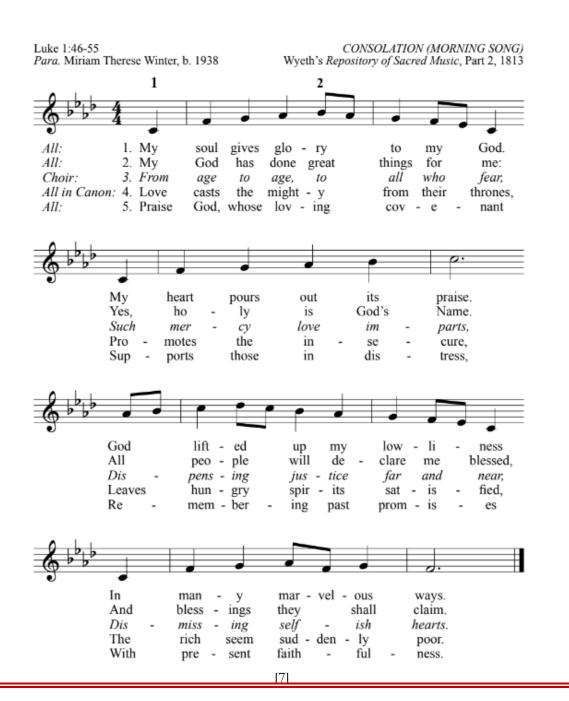
This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary
whom we sometimes see in paintings;
this is the passionate, surrendered, proud, enthusiastic Mary
who speaks out here.

This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic, or even playful tones of some of our Christmas carols.

It is, instead, a hard, strong, inexorable song about collapsing thrones and humbled lords of this world, about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind.

These are the tones of the women prophets of the Old Testament that now come to life in Mary's mouth.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God



Celebrating Advent

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Mary, grasped and seized by the Spirit,
speaks of God's coming into the world,
of the advent of Jesus Christ.
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For she knows better than anyone else what it means to wait for Christ. She waits for him in a way unlike anyone else.

She awaits him as his mother.

She knows about the mystery of his coming, about the Spirit that is at play here,

about the almighty God who works his wonders.

She experiences in her own body

that God's ways with humans are wonderful, that he isn't bound by human standards,

that he doesn't follow the path that humans like to lay out for

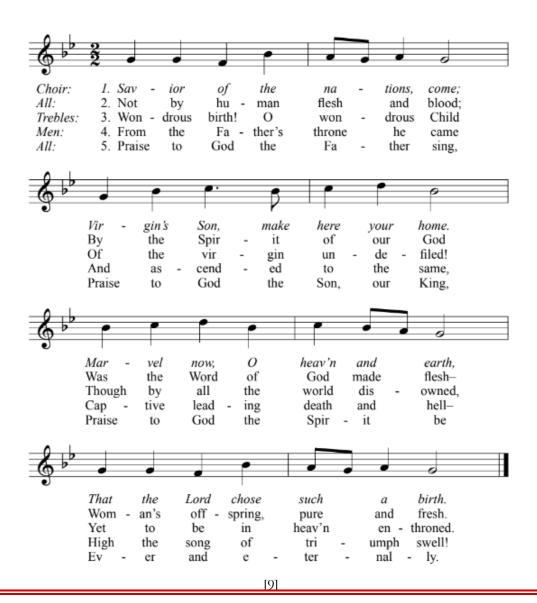
him-

that his way is

beyond all understanding, beyond all proof, free, and with a mind of its own.

Savior of the Nations, Come

Latin Hymn attr. St. Ambrose, 340-397 German Vers. Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Tr. William Reynolds, 1812-76, alt. NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND from Erfurt Enchiridia, 1524 Based on a 12th/13th cent. plainsong



One Single Name

Who is this child whom the prophets foretell and over whose birth heaven and earth exult?

Only in stammering can one speak his name, can one try to describe what is encompassed in his name.

Words pile up and pour out in a rush when they are to say who this child is.

Indeed, strange combinations of words,
otherwise unknown to us,
come into being
when the name of this child is to pass human lips:

"Wonderful Counselor,"
"Mighty God,"
"Everlasting Father,"
"Prince of Peace."

Every one of these words has endless depths, and all of them together try to express only one single name:

JESUS.

Please stand as you are able.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



The Turning Around of All Things

We are talking about the birth of a child, not the revolutionary act of a strong man, not the breathtaking discovery of a sage, not the pious act of a saint.

It really passes all understanding:

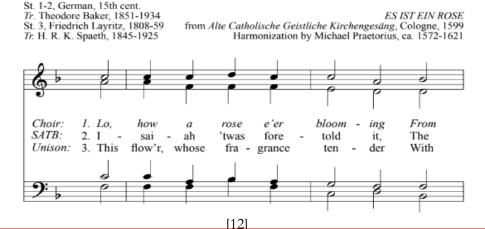
The birth of a child

is to bring the great turning around of all things, is to bring salvation and redemption to the whole human race.

What

kings and statesmen,
philosophers and artists,
founders of religions and moral teachers
vainly strive for,
now comes about through a newborn child.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming





Everything Past and Everything Future

As if to shame the mightiest human efforts and achievements, a child is placed at the center of history, a child born of humans: a son, given by God.

That is the mystery of the world's redemption. Everything past and everything future is encompassed here.

The infinite mercy of almighty God comes to us in the form of a child, his son.

That this child has been born for *us*, that this son has been given, that this human child, this son of God, belongs to *me*; that I know him, have him, love him, that I am his and he is mine — my very life now depends entirely on all these things.

A child has our life in his hand.

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

REPTON by C. H. H. Parry, 1848-1918, alt.

> heart. home.

> > earth.

Lord.



Choir: He comes un - known. A us asone Choir: 2. He when souls si - lence Andcomes inlie Trebles: He comes in sound of seas, The to us Men: He comes in love once he came Bvas All: He comes in truth when faith is grown; Be -



breath un - seen, un - heard; Asthough with - in thoughts of dav de - part; Half seen up - on the cean's fume and foam: Yet small and still up flesh and blood and birth: To bear with - in our dored: The Christ lieved. o - beyed, a in all the



heart ofstone, Or shriv-eled seed in dark - ness sown, A in - ward eye, A fall - ing star a - cross the skvOf the breeze, A on wind that stirs the tops of trees, A mor - tal frame A a death, a Name, For life, sav - ing scrip - tures shown, As yet un - seen, but not un - known, Our



pulse ofbe ing stirred, A pulse ofbe - ing stirred. night with - in the heart, Of night with - in the voice to call us home, A voice to call us 'ry child of earth. For ev - 'ry child of Lord, Our Sav - ior and our Sav - ior and our [15]

God Is a God of Bearing

And the government shall be upon his shoulder...

The government of the world is supposed to lie on the weak shoulders of this newborn child!

One thing we know:

These shoulders will in any event get to carry the burden of the entire world.

With the cross, all the sin and distress of this world will be loaded onto these shoulders.

But the government will consist, not in the bearer's breaking down under the burden, but in his bringing it to the goal.

The government that lies on the shoulders of the child in the manger consists in the patient bearing of humans and their guilt.

This bearing, however,
begins in the manger,
begins where the eternal Word of God took on and bore human
flesh.

Precisely in the lowliness and weakness of the child, the government of all the world has its beginning.

Choral Anthem

Rejoice, Rejoice, the Savior Comes

arr. Michael Burkhardt

The King of Glory

KING OF GLORY an Israeli folk melody

Willard Jabusch

Refrain



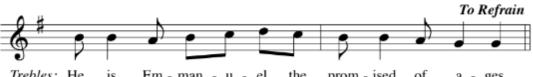
All: The King of glo-ry comes, the na-tion re-joic-es.



O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.



the King of glo-ry; how shall call him? Cantor: 1. Who iswe cit - y Men: 2. In all Gal - i - lee, vil - lage, of in or Trebles: 3. Sing then of Da-vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er; All: 4. He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion, All: He con - quered sin and death; he has ris - en. tru - ly



Trebles: He prom - ised is Em - man - u - el, of a - ges. He goes a - mong his peo - ple cur - ing their ill - ness. In all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an oth - er. He took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion. And he will share with his vi - sion. us heav - en - ly

[17]

Prince of Peace

Where God comes in love to humans, unites himself with them, peace is made

between God and human being and between human being and human being.

If you are afraid of God's anger, go to the child in the manger, and get the peace of God as a gift.

Have you fallen into strife and hatred with your brother,*
come and see how,
purely from love,
God has become our brother and
wants to reconcile us, one with another.

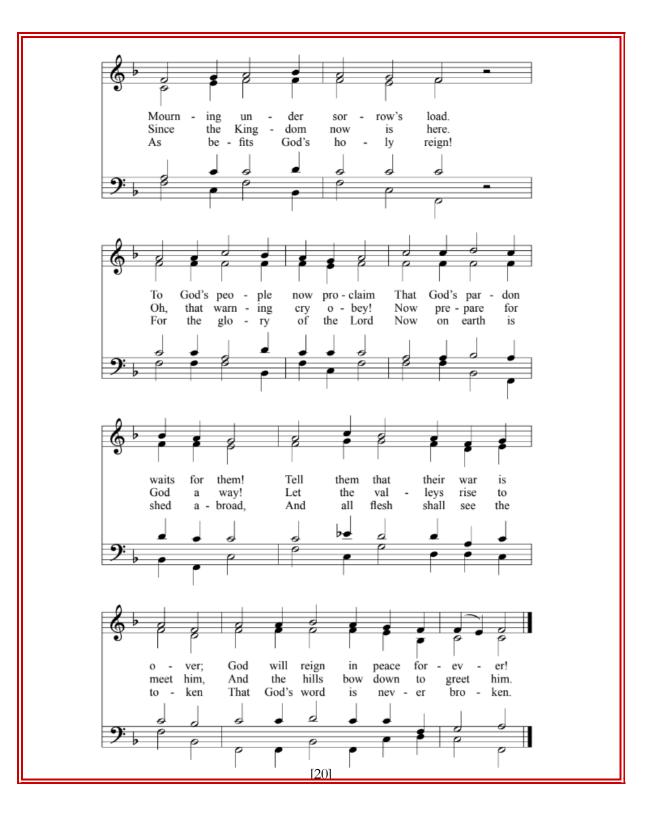
Out in the world power rules.

This child is the Prince of Peace. Where he is, peace rules.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



[19]



Those Who Go to the Manger

If God chooses Mary as his instrument, if God himself wants to come into this world in the manger at Bethlehem,

that is no idyllic family affair,

but the beginning of a complete turnaround,

a reordering of everything on this earth.

If we wish to take part in this Advent and Christmas event,

then we cannot simply be bystanders or onlookers,

as if we were at the theater, enjoying all the cheerful images.

No, we ourselves are swept up into the action there, into this conversion of all things.

We have to play our part too on this stage,

For the spectator is already an actor.

We cannot withdraw.

What part, then, do we play?

Pious shepherds, on bended knee?

Kings who come bearing gifts?

What sort of play is this,

where Mary becomes the mother of God?

Where God enters the world in the lowliness of the manger?

The judgment of the world and its redemption—

that is taking place here.

And the Christ child in the manger is himself the one

who pronounces the judgment and redemption of the world.

He repels the great and the powerful.

He puts down the mighty from their thrones.

He humbles the arrogant,

His arm overpowers all the proud and the strong,

He raises what is lowly and makes it great and splendid in his compassion.

Therefore we cannot approach his manger

as if it were the cradle of any other child.

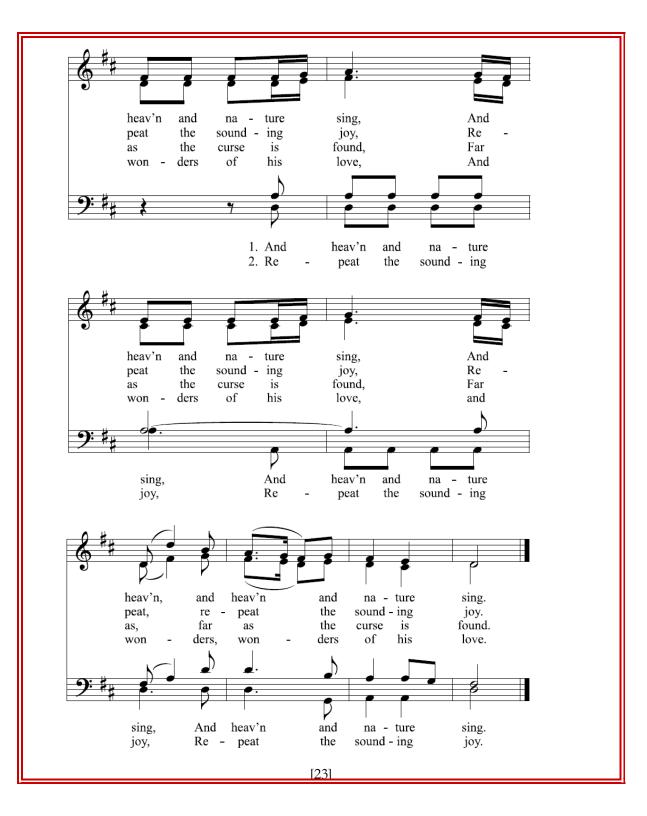
Those who wish to come to his manger

find that something is happening within them.

[21]

Joy to the World





Dismissal (BCP 366)

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude "Toccata" on In Thee is Gladness" arr. Burkhardt

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Greetings from St. Timothy's Priest-in-Charge

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I welcome you all to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church during this Advent and Christmas Season. Together, we celebrate God's Incarnation by welcoming the Christ Child into our hearts and souls. Whether you are returning to church after a time away or are new to the faith; whether you are looking for a new church home or simply seeking a place to experience community; we are glad you are here with us at St. Timothy's.

If you are new or visiting us, I invite you to fill out a Welcome Card in the pew rack in front of you or on the podium in the Narthex. Please place the completed card in the offertory plate or give it to an usher.

Please know that Children are welcome to stay with parents in the Sanctuary or they may head downstairs for Godly Play after the reading of the Collect. For your convenience, there are also rocking chairs located at the back of the sanctuary to soothe little ones and worship bags with quiet activities in the Narthex.

We hope to see you on Christmas Eve (services at 5 and 7:30 pm) or Christmas Day (10 am). God be with you on your spiritual journey!

Blessings,

CHARLES+

priest@saint-timothys.org

