

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 18, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.*

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

- ISAIAH 9:6-7



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

9:55 a.m.

*The Angels' Candle, lighted as the Festival of the Incarnation nears, reminds us of
the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ's finished work on the cross
and to anticipate His Second Coming. "Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your
flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King." - Luke 2:15-17*

The Prelude

Salvation Is Created

Pavel Tchesnekov

In Dulci Jubilo

R. L. Pearsall, arr. Giardiniere

Brass Quintet: Michael Huff, Brian Reeves, *trumpets*; Youlanda Slocumb, *horn*;

Brandon Slocumb, *trombone*; Mike Mason, *tuba*

*Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!*

Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Striking of the Hour

The Call to Worship

Psalm 145:18

Mr. McRoberts

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

† The Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(see page 8)

† The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

† The Prayer of Invocation

† The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father Which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

† The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Personal Prayer of Confession

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature, prone to evil, slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned: in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, and in forgetting Your love. But You, O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins, for the sake of Your dear Son. Help us to live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ through Whom we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of God's Pardon – Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

The Offering of His Tithes and Our Gifts Beyond the Tithe

The Organ Offertory

BELIEVING GOD'S PROMISES

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Words of Instruction and Exhortation

† The Hymn

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

(see page 9)

† The Introduction of the Covenant Family

OLIVER JAMES GARY JOHNSON

Parents: Emma and Joel Johnson

Assisting: Grandfather/Teaching Elder Gary Johnson
Elder/Shepherd Ken Williams

The Covenant Vows

1. Do you acknowledge Oliver's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate him to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Vow of the Congregation

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Emma and Joel in the Christian nurture of Oliver?

The Biblical Promise

The Baptism

The Baptismal Benediction

The Covenant Prayer

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Anthem

And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

† The Reading of God's Word

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He Who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel." 7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

**The grass withers and the flowers fade,
but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.**

*Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.
They may be picked up in Room E-100 (Pre-K4) and Room E-105 (Kindergarten) after the service.*

Matthew 2:1-12

I. THERE MAY BE TRUE SERVANTS OF GOD IN PLACES WHERE WE DO NOT EXPECT TO FIND THEM.

II. IT IS NOT ALWAYS THOSE WHO HAVE THE MOST RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGES WHO GIVE CHRIST THE MOST HONOR.

III. THERE MAY BE KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE IN THE HEAD, WHILE THERE IS NO GRACE IN THE HEART.

IV. WE ARE SHOWN A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF FAITH.

The Closing Prayer

FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

† The Hymn *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (see page 10)

† The Benediction of God's Grace

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

† The Threefold Amen (*sung by all*)

The Postlude *Trio on Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660* J. S. Bach

*Now come, Saviour of the gentiles,
recognized as the Child of the Virgin,
so that all the world is amazed
God ordained such a birth for Him.*

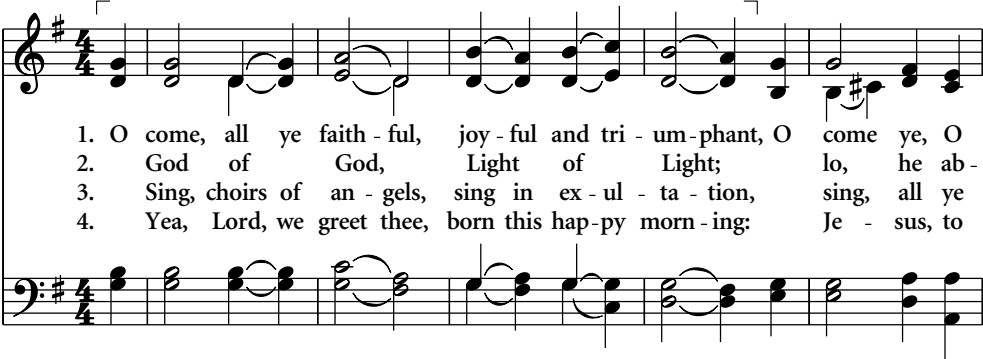
*His course came from the Father
and leads back to the Father,
He went down to hell
and back to God's throne.*

German, Martin Luther
English Translation, Francis Browne

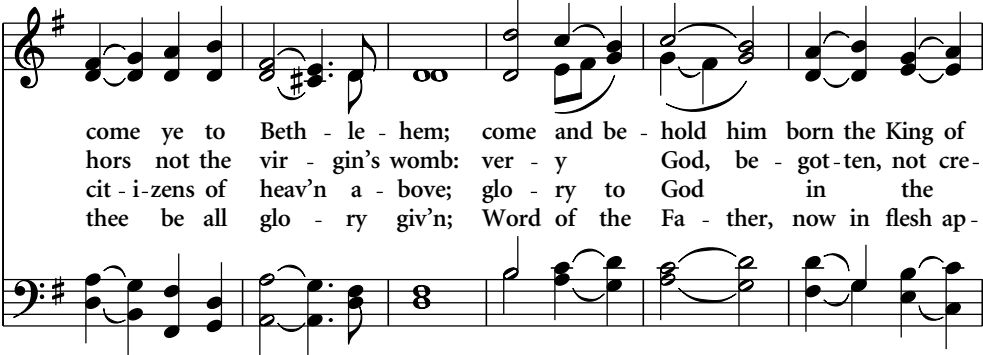


Following the service, the congregation is encouraged to greet the Johnson family at the front of Trinity Hall. Join them in their excitement, thanksgiving and anticipation of God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Please use this time to assure them that you will indeed be there for them in prayer, with encouragement, as a source of refuge and partnership, as well as an aid in instructing Bonney and Oliver in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

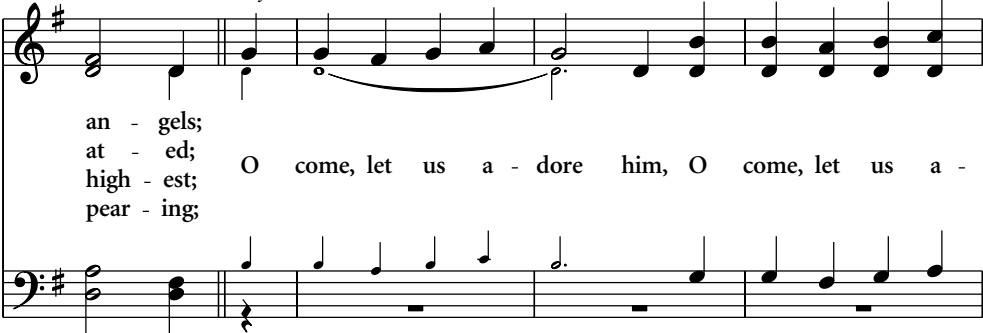


1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O
2. God of God, Light of Light; lo, he ab -
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing: Je - sus, to



come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him born the King of
hors not the vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre -
cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God in the
thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -

Refrain



an - gels;
at - ed;
high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
pear - ing;



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

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
2. Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds say — what's your joy - ful news to - day?
3. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won - drous light;
4. Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was thine,
5. Teach, O teach us, ho - ly child, by thy face so meek and mild,

see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
Where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?
an - gels sing - ing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!
teach us to re - sem - ble thee, in thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain

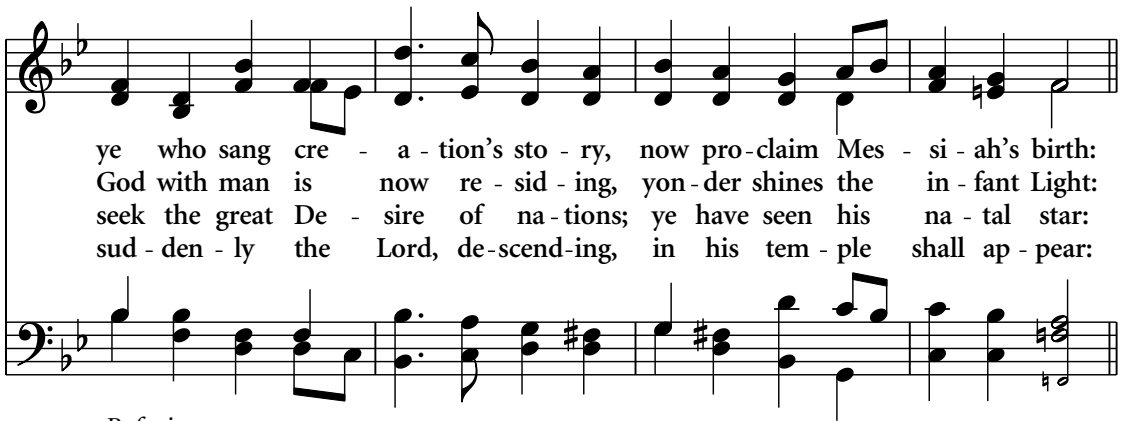
Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

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. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Refrain



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



THE ADVENT SEASON AT TRINITY

December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

*The Montgomery Christian Youth Choir and Vespers Ensemble will lead a service of Christmas music, Scripture, and poetry, followed by fellowship in the lobby with wassail and Christmas cookies, and a brief caroling outing in the neighborhood for any who would like to join.
Homily by Kurt Cooper.*

December 24 at 5:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

*A service of quiet wonder, with Holy Communion and special music, will prepare our hearts to receive the newborn King.
Homily by Claude McRoberts.*

December 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Trinity Hall

CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY WORSHIP

*Come and worship the newborn King on the day of His birth. We will not have Sunday school, nursery, or evening worship.
Homily by Claude McRoberts.*

January 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Trinity Hall

NEW YEAR'S DAY MORNING WORSHIP

*We will not have Sunday school or evening worship. A nursery will be provided.
Homily by Claude McRoberts.*



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

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