

PRELUDE

BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM / R. FISHER BOYCE

1. Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shining afar through shadows dim
Giving the light for those
Who long have gone
Guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.

2. Oh Beautiful Star the hope of light
Guiding the pilgrims through the night
Over the mountains till the break of dawn
Into the light of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem
shine on (shine on)

3. Oh Beautiful Star the hope of rest
For the redeemed the good and blessed
Yonder in glory when the crown is won
Jesus is now the star divine
Brighter and brighter he will shine
Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem
shine on (shine on)

CHORUS

Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem
(Star of Bethlehem)
Shine upon us until the glory dawns.
Give us a light to guide the way
Unto the land of perfect day
Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem,
shine on (shine on)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader

Praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens
 and you waters above the skies.

All

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created.

SONG OF PRAISE

COME THOU FOUNT / R. ROBINSON

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy unchanging love

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I've come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

PRAYER OF ADORATION from The Book of Common Prayer

Leader

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incar-
nate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth
in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE

O, GREAT IS OUR GOD / THE SING TEAM

1. O, great is our God,
So we should worship greatly
No song is too loud,
No orchestra too stately
To hail the majesty of our King
So lift your voices loud as we sing!

2. O, great is our God,
So let our songs be endless!
So awesome His ways, how could we
Comprehend them?
So we will make it known to our kids
And we will sing
About the gracious gifts You give!

CHORUS

We will sing Your praise,
And pour forth Your fame
We will bless Your name,
Let every one give thanks,
Because our God is great!

3. O, great is our God,
And we cannot contain it!
We sing from our souls,
Affected by His greatness!
His mercy covers all that He's made
Showing His glory and His grace!

PSALM 23 / MUSIC: R. & B. CHADWICK

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures;
he leads me beside quiet waters;
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

CHORUS

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
your rod and staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me,
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love
will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

CONFESSION OF SIN from Jerome (342-420)

All

O Good Shepherd, seek me out, and bring me home to Thy fold
again. Deal favorably with me according to Thy good pleasure, till
I may dwell in Thy house all the days of my life, and praise Thee for
ever and ever with them that are there. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Hebrews 2:14-15, 17

Leader

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their
humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who
holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all
their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death... ¹⁷ For this reason
he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that
he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God,
and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS / C. WESLEY

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

3. Come Thou long expected Jesus
Promised one of history
Ancient of days all wrapped in glory
in a stable for ox and sheep
All the promises and redemption
resting in his mother's arms
O Messiah Emmanuel
Forever God dwells with us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Together

And also with you!

** Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children's program during the sermon; children return for Communion.*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader

Faithful God, we come before you remembering your steadfast love—
the kindnesses you have shown, the compassion you have poured out,
the many good gifts you have given to your people. When our memo-
ries are short and our vision is narrowed by fear or fatigue, help us to
remember who you are and what you have done.
Lord, in your mercy,

All

Hear our prayer.

Leader

God our Father, you call us your people and name us as your children.
When we wonder if we still belong to you, when we fear we have
failed too often or fallen too far, remind us that your saving love flows
not from our performance, but from your covenant faithfulness.
Lord, in your mercy,

All

Hear our prayer.

Leader

Compassionate Lord, in all our distress, you are distressed. You are not
distant from our pain or untouched by our sorrow. You see the burdens
your people carry—grief, anxiety, uncertainty, weariness—and you do
not turn away. Draw near to all who feel overwhelmed or alone, and
let them know that their suffering does not place them beyond your
care.
Lord, in your mercy,

All

Hear our prayer.

Leader

Redeeming God, in your love and mercy you lift up and carry your
people. For those who feel too tired to keep going, for those who feel
they cannot walk another step, be their strength and their support.
Carry us when we cannot carry ourselves, and teach us to rest in your
faithful presence.
Lord, in your mercy,

All

Hear our prayer.

Leader

We offer these prayers trusting not in our own strength, but in you—the
God who loves, who enters our suffering, and who carries his people
all the days of old. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Lord, in your mercy,

All

Hear our prayer. Amen.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may place your offering in the blue box at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings; mail your offering to 254 N Lake Ave #287, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
⁸ He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so he became their Savior.
⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Nick Locke

The God Who Carries His People

COMMUNION

GUIDELINES: The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.

DIRECTIONS: When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers and return to your seat. Communion will be taken together after the Song of Communion.

CHILDREN: Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION SONG

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER / CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI

1. 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.

2. 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 Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for him whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay:

enough for him
whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

4. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,
but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved
with a kiss.

5. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

COMMUNION ACCLAMATION

Leader Therefore we declare the great mystery of our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament

All Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

Leader These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

CLOSING SONG

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN / J. WORK

REFRAIN
Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold thru-out the heavens
There shone a holy light.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth.

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

Leader “The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

All Thanks be to God, Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS


Year End Giving Note: All tax-deductible gifts for 2025 must be given by December 31, 2025. Any financial gifts sent through the mail must be dated and postmarked by December 31 2025. Our mailing address is: 254 N Lake Ave #287, Pasadena, CA 91101. To give via our website, visit: www.gracepasadena.org/give. Would you like to give a stock gift? Contact info@gracepasadena.org to learn how.

Advent Prayer Guide | Find a hard copy at the Welcome Table or scan the QR code for a digital version.



GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-NOV 2025	DEC 2025
GIVING AS OF 12/24/2025	\$475,832	\$33,039
BUDGETED EXPENSE	700,317	65,385
DIFFERENCE	224,485	32,345



(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | info@gracepasadena.org | www.gracepasadena.org

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“When God creates humans in his image and dwells and works with his Spirit in them, exerts influence on their heart and head, speaks to them, and makes himself known to them and understood by them, that is an act of condescension and accommodation to his creature, an anthropomorphizing of God and so, in a sense and to that extent, a humanization of God. Given with and in creation is the possibility of revelation and incarnation... For while the incarnation is certainly different from all other revelation, it is also akin to it: it is its climax, crown, and completion. All revelation tends toward and groups itself around the incarnation as the highest, richest, and most perfect act of self-revelation.”

HERMAN BAVINCK
DUTCH THEOLOGIAN (1854–1921)

O Wisdom,
coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O SAPIENTIA (O WISDOM)
FROM THE O ANTIPHONS (7TH CENTURY)

DECEMBER 28, 2025
THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS