

**The United Methodist Church at Absecon**  
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**Priscilla Cunningham,**  
**Director of Music and Organist**



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# Come and Worship the Lord

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2022

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

Leader: Oh come, all ye faithful, come! Emmanuel, at last, is almost here!

**People: Oh come, *God with Us*, come! Your people have long awaited this holy moment!**

Leader: The people of Israel always had hope that you would come. Through scriptures and through the voices of the prophets, Your chosen ones knew that You would come and save them from oppression, sickness, poverty and sin.

**People: Your people have always known that when You come, You will bring great peace with You.**

Leader: You come into this world with joy, and we will spread that joy to the ends of the Earth.

**People: Through the generations, Your people have passed down the good news of Your great love. Lord, we want to feel that love tonight!**

Leader: Tonight, the prophecies are fulfilled!

**People: Tonight, God is made flesh. God's awesome hope, peace, joy and love are finally here, and in the middle of it all is Christ!**

## Prelude

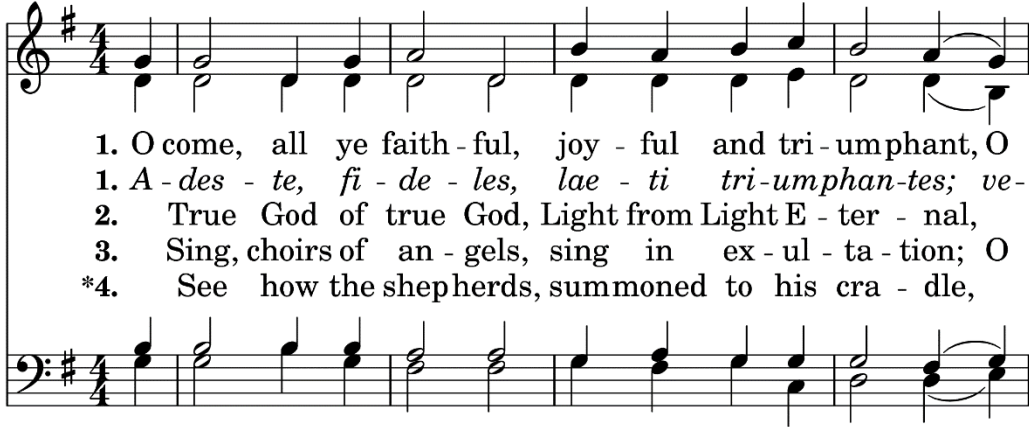
## The Coventry Carol

John Innes

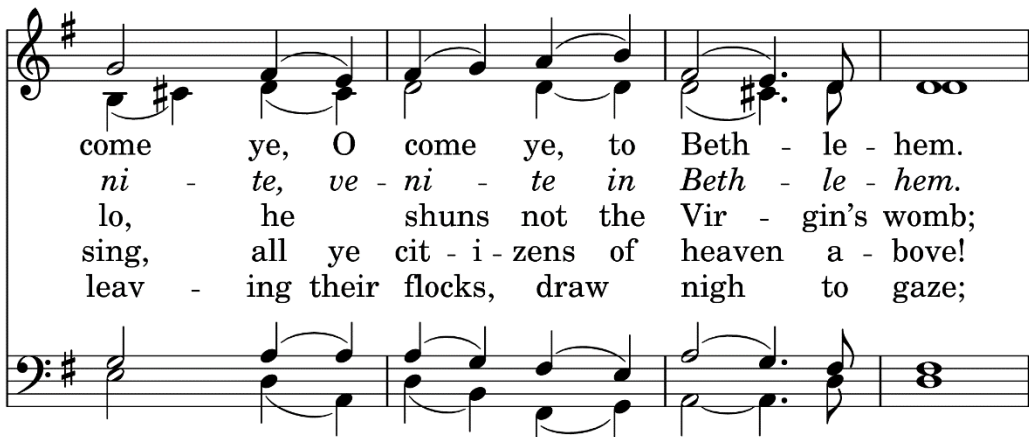
## Hymn

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

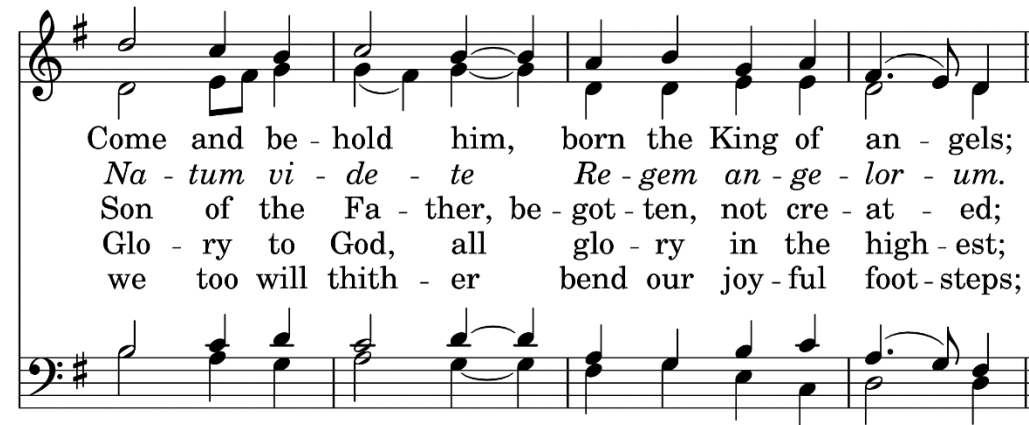
(verses 1, 3, 4, and 6)



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - umphant, O  
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - umphan - tes; ve -*  
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O  
 \*4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cra - dle,



come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.  
*ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.*  
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
*Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.*  
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;  
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.  
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

**Opening Prayer**

**Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, world without end. Amen.**

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Whitworth

**\*Doxology**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

*(sing twice)*

Emanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.

## Lessons and Carols

### Hymn of Hope

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

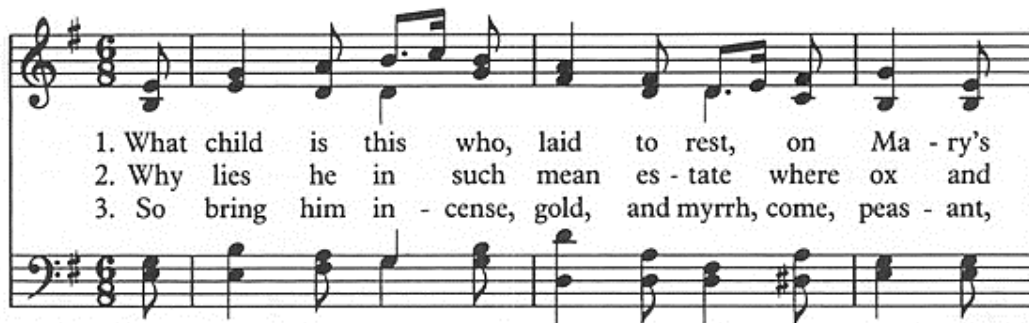
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

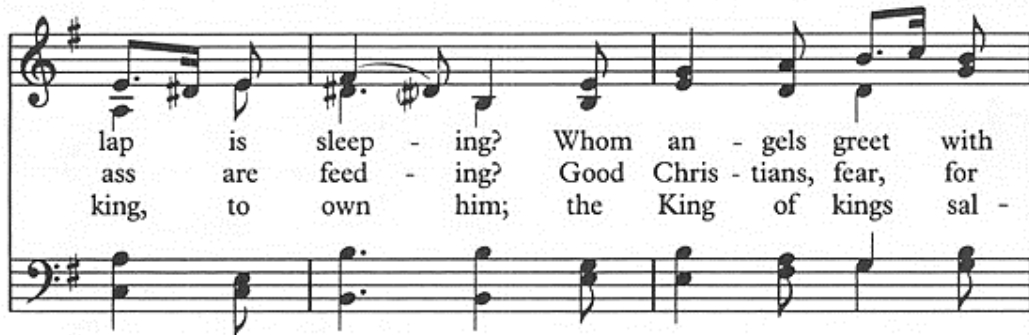
**The Hebrew Prophecy**  
Senior Choir  
Hymn of Hope

Isaiah 9:2-7  
He Is Here  
What Child is This

Don Krueger/John Innes



1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's  
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and  
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

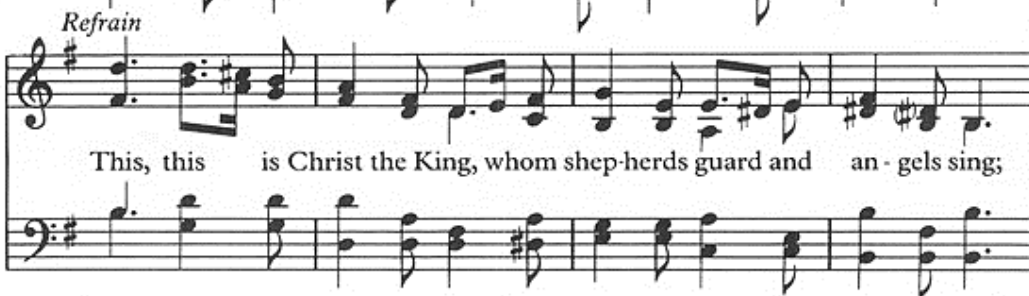


lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for  
king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

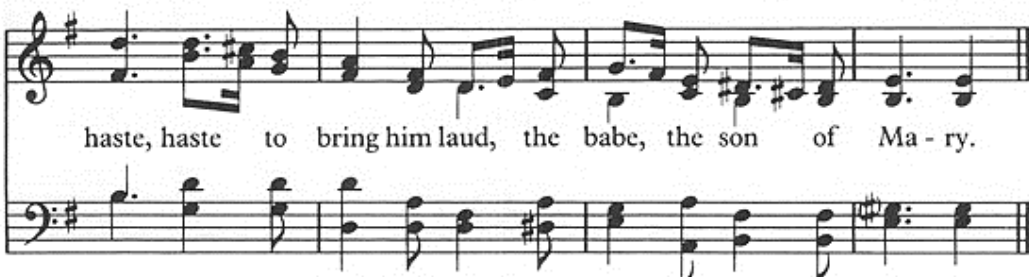


an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

**The Coming Foretold**

Senior Choir  
Hymn of Peace

Luke 1:26-33

What a Wonderful Child  
Away in a Manger

Mary McDonald

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

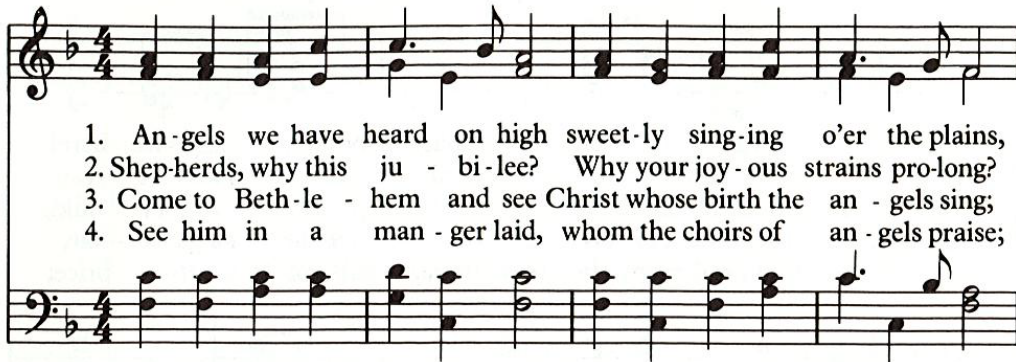
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes;  
close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky  
bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

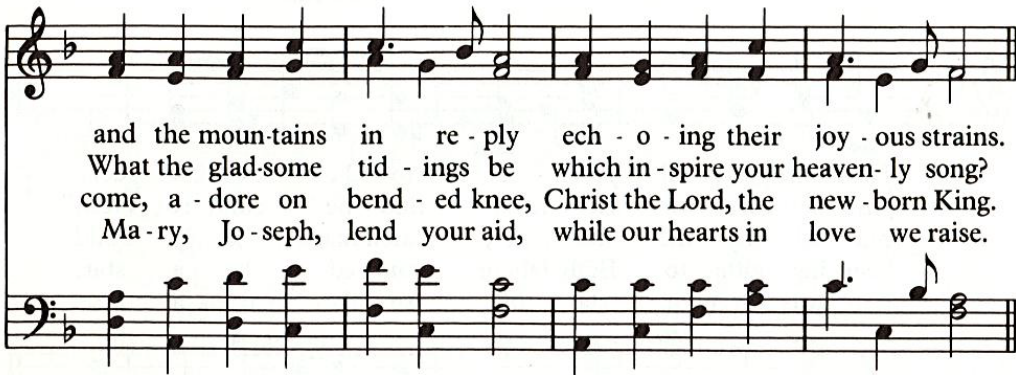
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

**The Prophecy Fulfilled**  
Hymn of Joy

**Luke 2:1-7**  
Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav - en - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a,



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

A musical score for a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The lyrics are 'ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!'. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, featuring a steady bass line and chords.

**The Angel's Announcement** Luke 2:8-17

**Message** *When Hearts Grow Three Sizes*

**Christmas Meditation** – remembering those who are no longer with us

*As we sit in silence, Reverend Dave will invite you to speak the name of those whom we are remembering this Christmas.*

**The Spreading of God's Light**

**Hymn** Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star,

A musical score for the hymn 'Silent Night'. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are provided in four versions: English, German, and two other English versions.



4

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth-er and child.  
*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar,*  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far,  
 love's pure light; ra - dant beams from thy ho - ly face  
 lend thy light; with the an - gels let us sing,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav-en - ly  
*Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar, schlaf im himm - lischer*  
 heavenly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Sav - ior is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 Al - le - lu - ia to our King; Christ the Sav - ior is

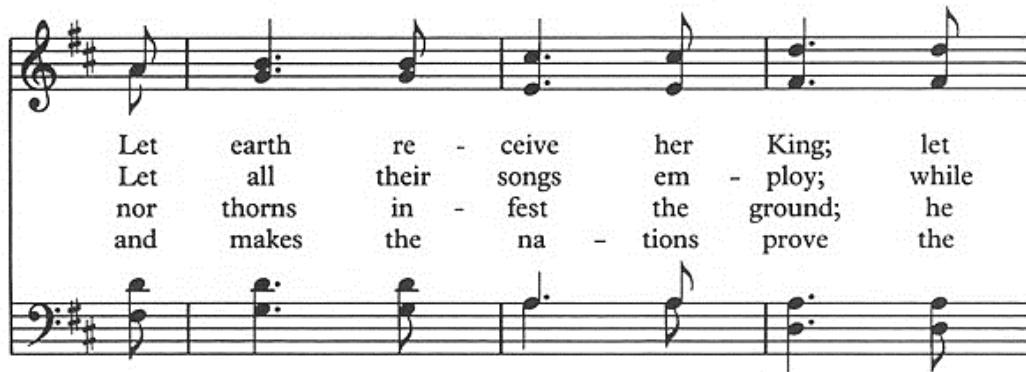
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
*Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

## Hymn

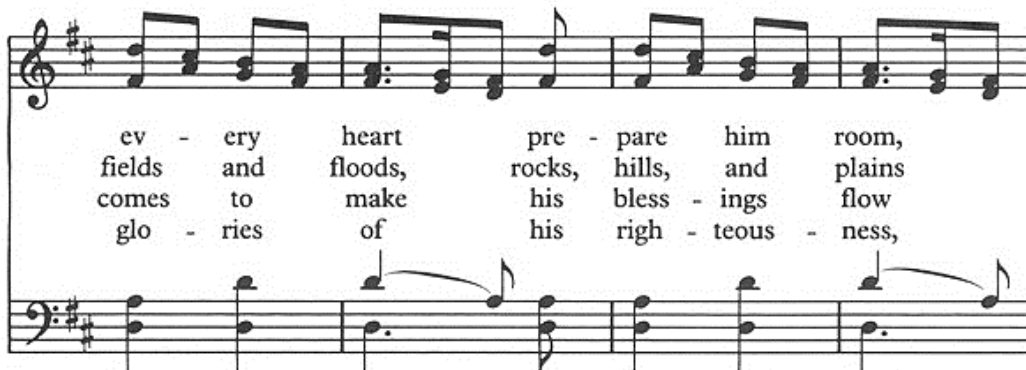
## Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,



Let earth re - ceive her King; let  
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while  
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
 and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
far as the curse is found, far -  
and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and  
peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
as the curse is found, far -  
won - ders of his love, and

sing,  
joy,  
found,  
love,

and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.  
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
as, far as the curse is found.  
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,  
joy,  
found,  
love,

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Alleluia**

arr. Jack Schrader

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## **Lay Readers**

**7 PM:** Tom Crawford

**11 PM:** Barbara Sabath

## **Advent Candle Lighters**

**7 PM:** Melissa and Sharon Wilson

**11 PM:** Jim and Lynn Caterson

## **Instrumentalists**

### **7 PM**

Organ: Priscilla Cunningham

Violin: Susan Elsayed

Trumpet: Jeremiah Patton

Clarinet: Jim Daly

### **11 PM**

Organ: Priscilla Cunningham

Trumpet: Sara Falco

Trombone: Cathy Bridge

Instrumental Arrangements: Jim Daly

# Poinsettia Dedications

**Bette Alsobrook** – *In loving memory* of my husband Frank; my parents; and Jennifer. *In honor* of my daughter Julie and her family.

**Tom and Paula Crawford** – *In loving memory* of our parents and grandparents. *In honor* of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Katy and Hal Glick** – *In loving memory* of Ellen Adkins, Frieda and Haley Glick.

**Jean Killion** – *In honor* of the Killion and Corkhill children.

**The Killion and Corkhill families** – *In loving memory* of Doris and Paul Laptonak. *In honor* of Leah and Jonah Corkhill.

**Joyce Poley** – *In loving memory* of James R. Poley.

**Mary Poulsen** – *In honor* of Cassie and Erica Poulsen, my daughters.

**Fred and Sue Reitmeyer** – *In loving memory* of all our family members who have gone before us. *In honor* of mother, Raymonde; our children and grandchildren.

**Florine and Ernest Roberts** – *In loving memory* of Catherine and John Henson; Naamah and Ernest Roberts.

**Frank, Kris, Jocilyn, and Roman Rudisill** – *In loving memory* of Raymond R. Huber, Jr.

**Pamela Stearns** – *In loving memory* of my parents, Ed and Ann McCarthy.

**Naomi Swan and family** – *In loving memory* of James, Philip, and Michael Swan.

**Mae Townsend** – *In loving memory* of my husband, “Chalky;” my daughter, Linda Leigh; my son, Robert Knight, Jr. *In honor* of my daughters: Janice Joy Stumpf; Holly Ann Coombs; Jennifer Joy Auge.

**David and Ali Wade** – *In loving memory* of our son Alex; our loving parents and grandparents.

**Lisa Whitaker** – *In loving memory* of Samuel and Doris Whitaker, with much love.



# *Spiritual Bouquets*

**The Bruce family** – *In loving memory* of Mark Sykes; James and Peggy Sykes; Frank and Jenny Bruce.

**Tom and Paula Crawford** – *In loving memory* of brother Paul; sister Janet; Uncle Tom. *In honor* of our sidekick, Tommy Braun.

**Joan and Don Dearborn** – *In loving memory* of Jay Davis; Margaret and Wendell Davis; Dorothy and Richard Dearborn; Tracey Powers; Rachel Goldberg.

**Barbara Dix** – *In loving memory* of my son Jimmy; grandson Ryan; husband Bill; parents Charles and Kathryn Mink.

**Dan and Marilyn Favara** – *In loving memory* of our family; Jim and Leann Klemowski.

**Carmen, Johna, and Mike Infante** – *In loving memory* of John and Martha Gregg; Mike and Laura Infante.

**Kyung Sook Kwon** – *In loving memory* of Mary Scranton, the first woman Methodist missionary who founded the girl's high school, Ewha Hakdang in Korea in 1886.

**Naamah Leary** – *In honor* of our newest additions to our family: Mekai Wise and Maya Adamson.

**Fred and Sue Reitmeyer** – *In honor* of all the youth who have benefited from the Scholarship Fund, and those who will continue into the future.

**Barb Sabath** – *In loving memory* of CW Setterman. *In honor* of Jackson Motto; Emersyn, Rowen, Nora, Maddy, Jax, Jamie, and Parker.

**Pam and Bill Stearns** – *In loving memory* of our parents, Ann and Ed McCarthy and Jane and Wilbur Stearns; our sisters, Kathy Sykes and Lynn Smith Bowen; our brother, Edward Stearns.

**Naomi Swan and family** – *In loving memory* of all my loved family members.

**Karen Lee Ubbens** – *In loving memory* of Arthur A. Ubbens, Jr., my loving husband. *In honor* of grandchildren: Daegan; Everett; Axl; Peyton; Zdyn; Carter.

**David Vedral** – *In loving memory* of Laurie Ann Vedral; parents of Laurie Wendel and David Vedral.

**David and Ali Wade** – *In honor* of our children and grandchildren.

