



St. Andrews-Covenant

Presbyterian Church | PC (USA)

Welcome to Worship! | December 24, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

It is good you are here! Please silence all electronic devices.

GATHERING

Prelude *Blessed Be the God of Israel
He Came Down*

Hal Hopson, setting by Jacob B. Weber
Cameroon traditional, setting by David Lasky

Welcome

Introit 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come—v. 1* sung twice (Remain seated.)
Advent candle lighters: Eric, Holly & Anna Pilson

Call to Worship and Advent Wreath Lighting (Remain seated.)

God, while we are waiting, come...

Come into our lives and give us joy.

Open our ears to your voice and fill our hearts with your joy.

God, while we are waiting, come...

***Hymn 143** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your coming. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the faith of Mary and Joseph that we may journey to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now in the silence of this moment and in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Sung Response 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (v.1)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WORD

First Lesson *Luke 1:46b-55*

Anthem *Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach arr. Ted Smith and Don Hustad

Second Lesson *Matthew 1:18-25*

Sermon *While We Are Waiting...Waking Up*

Rev. Katherine B. Harrington

***Hymn 145** *What Child Is This?*

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed* (hymnal, p. 35)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

THANKSGIVING

Offering and Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory *Gesu Bambino*

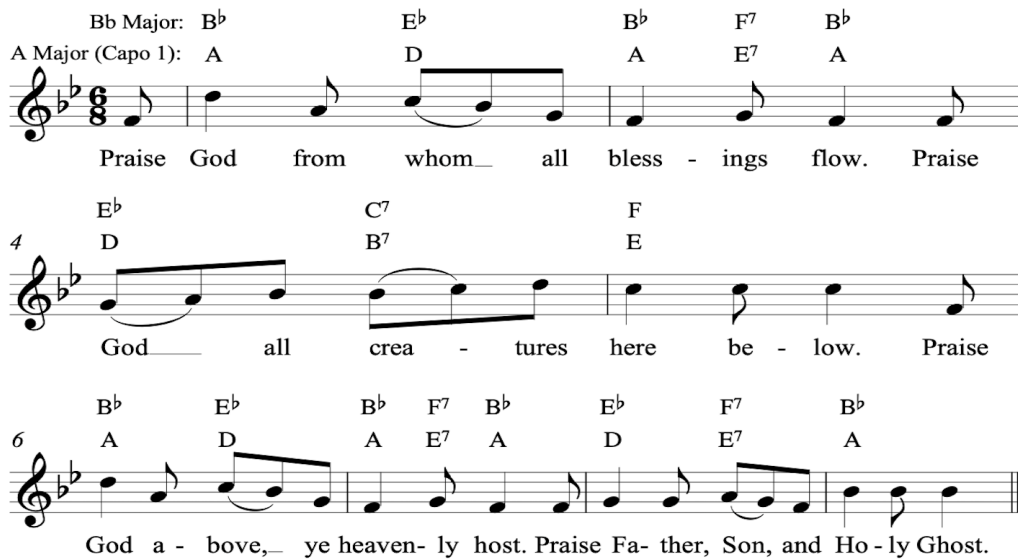
Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night, was born the child, the Christmas rose, the king of love and light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced; and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night, that gave the world its Christmas rose, its king of love and light. let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell. From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

*Doxology

Bb Major: B^b E^b B^b F⁷ B^b
A Major (Capo 1): A D A E⁷ A



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise
God all crea - tures here be - low. Praise
God a - bove, ye heaven- ly host. Praise Fa- ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

tune, *CAROL*
CMD

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*Charge and Benediction

*Dismissal *We stand while the bell is rung three times, remembering that God, Creator, Redeemer and Renewer of Life, goes with us. Go in peace!*

Postlude *How Great Our Joy!*

Kyle Johnson

Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor, Rev. Katherine B. Harrington
Liturgist, Sue McCaffray
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Organist, Sara Bryant

Soloist, Christian Sineath
Pianist, Steve Lowry
Production Coordinator, Jim Fox
Lay Reader, Hank Montgomery

Our Church's Mission

Inspiring one another to love Jesus by staying faithfully present in our community.

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