



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH December 3, 2023 1st Week of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Kathy Loviska, Liturgist

Prelude

Noah Davis

Congregational Introit

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" #93 GTG

Congregation

Call to Worship-Responsive:

Liturgist

Liturgist: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful.
We can be hopeful.

Liturgist: In God's house, we can be weary.

All: We can be anxious.
We can be grieving.

Liturgist: In God's house, we can be honest—

All: inspired or tired,
delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious,
and everything in between.

Liturgist: This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

All: Let us worship our loving God.

* Opening Hymn

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" #104 GTG

Congregation

* Call to Confession

Liturgist

* Prayer of Confession

Congregation

Unison: Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.



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*** Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Liturgist

Liturgist: Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"
God's love keeps showing up for us.
So say this with me:

**All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Responding to Grace:** *"Gloria" (Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High)*

Congregation

Lighting of the Candle of Hope:

Liturgist: How does a weary world hope?

**All: By telling stories of hope,
by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that
will bloom in the spring.**

Liturgist: By praying for children as they grow, and
picking up trash on the sidewalk.

**All: By insisting that small acts can make a
difference.**

Liturgist: There are a million ways to practice hope.
So today we light the candle of hope as a
reminder and a charge.

**All: With God's help, may we bring hope
into a weary world. Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Liturgist

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.



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Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Choir Anthem

CTC Choir

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:1-23

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.



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Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Sermon

Pastor Jane Lynn Young

*** Sermon Hymn**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #127 GTG

Congregation

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Pastor Jane Lynn Young

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Words of Blessing for the Bread and the Cup

Joys and Concerns

Pastor Jane Lynn Young

Call to Offering

Pastor Jane Lynn Young

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Jane Lynn Young

*** Doxology**

Congregation

*** Closing Hymn**

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child" 158 GTG

Congregation

*** Charge, Benediction**

Pastor Jane Lynn Young

*** Postlude**

"Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"

Noah Davis



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JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

TEXT: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

TRURO
LM

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JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re-newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1614; harm. William Henry Monk, 1861

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
 7.6.7.6.D

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GLORIA FROM ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

1, 3 2 2 to Verse 3

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

Final

De - o! In ex-cel-sis De - o!

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.;
tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt.
Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

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160

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain
 We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the
 dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by
 day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

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Born in the Night, Mary's Child

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Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; alt.

Luke 2:1-7; Mark 10:18; John 1:1-5, 14
John 19:16b-18

Unison

G Em Am Cm G Em Am7 D7

1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;
2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;
4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com-ing soon to reign;

Com-ing in need, Mar-y's Child, born in a bor-rowed room.
Light of the world, Mar-y's Child, dawn on our shad-owed day.
Prove it is true, Mar-y's Child, go to your cross of wood.
Sov-ereign of earth, Mar-y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

G G+ C G Am7 D7 G

Methodist minister Geoffrey Ainger's song was part of a drama he wrote for youth at his church in Loughton. Set in this section of London, the play depicted Mary and Joe arriving on the subway, with baby Jesus being born in a room above a filling station. The carol made its way around the world, and on Christmas 1969, Ainger recalls, it was being sung in India, Australia, in South Pacific islands, and at Festival Hall in London.

Tune: MARY'S CHILD 7.6.7.6.
Geoffrey Ainger, 1964
Harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972

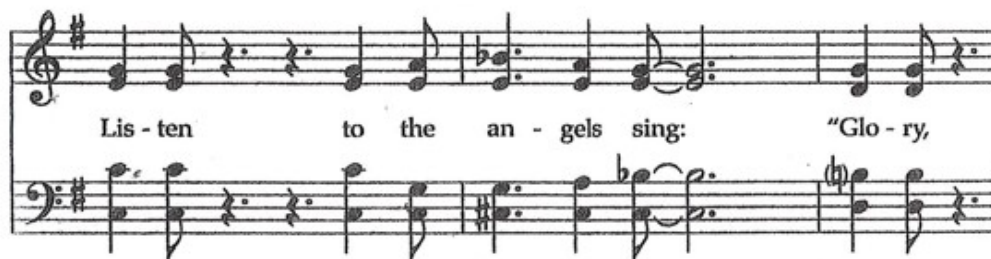
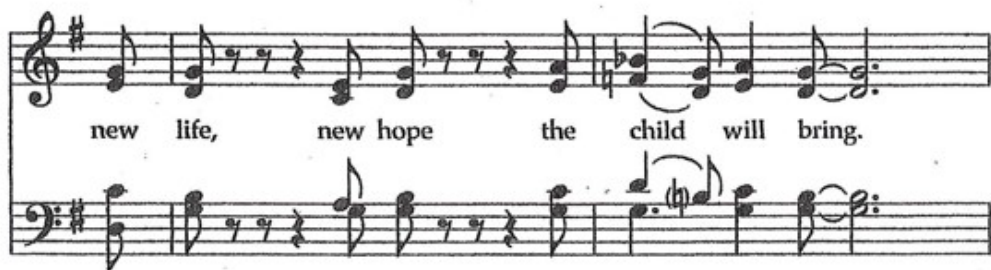
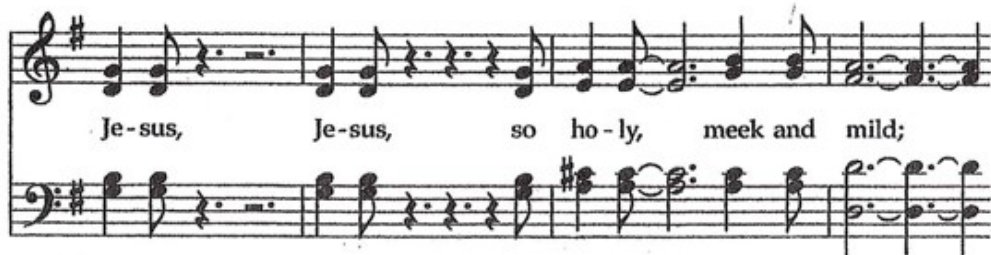
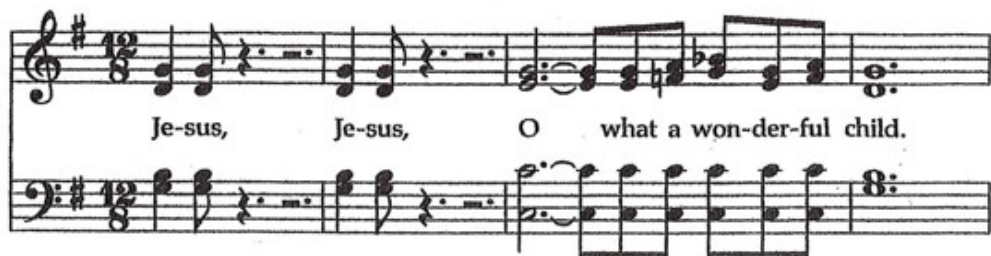
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Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child 126



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