

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—December 25, 2022



## PRELUDE

*Sing We Now of Christmas  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*  
Emerson Wynn, clarinet

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 98

Jay DeWitt

Leader: O Sing to the Lord a new song.

**People: The Lord has made known the victory.**

Leader: God has remembered us with steadfast love and faithfulness.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!**

Leader: Break forth with joyous song.

**People: Let the hills sing together for joy!**

## HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
#240

*Charles Wesley, who had written the original version as "Hymn for Christmas-Day," had requested and received slow and solemn music for his lyrics, which has since largely been discarded. Moreover, Wesley's original opening couplet is "Hark! how all the welkin rings / Glory to the King of Kings" – a 'welkin' being derived from Old English for vaulted sky or heaven. Wesley scholar and professor at Perkins School of Theology, Dr. Ted Campbell, comments on Whitefield's modification of the first line with his characteristic humor: "I have wondered if anybody but Charles knew what a welkin was supposed to be. Maybe John looked at the draft version and said, 'It's ever so lovely, Charles, but whatever on earth is a 'welkin'?' So, all the more reason to give thanks for the editorial work of George Whitefield." The popular version is the result of alterations by various hands, most notably by George Whitefield, who changed the opening couplet to the familiar one.*

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; George Whitefield, 1753  
Music: Felix Mednellssohn, 1840

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 52:7 (NRSV)

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger  
who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## HYMN

### *Infant Holy, Infant Lovely* #229

*A traditional Polish Christmas carol, the song was translated into English by Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933) in 1920, a British musician and playwright. The origin of the song is believed to date back to possibly as far back as the 13th Century. This is based on manuscripts in the Polish Catholic Church.*

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.

Translator: Edith M. G. Reed (1925)  
Harmonizer: Austin C. Lovelace (1964)  
Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press

## SCRIPTURE

John 1:14 (ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #234

*The Latin text of this hymn comes from the Roman Catholic tradition, found in an 18th-century manuscript. Hymnologist Fred Gealy notes: "Seven manuscripts containing the Latin hymn are known; they are dated 1743-61. All appear to have been written, signed, and dated by John Francis Wade. Stanzas one, two, three and six are the work of Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), a translator of Latin hymns during the Oxford movement that sought a renewal of thought and practice within the Church of England.*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
(Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
(Refrain)

Translator: Frederick Oakeley (1841)  
Music: John F. Wade (1743)

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Caryl Micklem

We greet your coming, God, with wonder:  
You come to be with us;  
yet you remain far greater than we can imagine.  
You are near;  
yet your wisdom sets you apart from us.  
You appear among us;  
yet we cannot describe your glory.

We greet your coming, God, with repentance:  
We are more-or-less satisfied with ourselves;  
but your presence exposes our sin and failure.  
We are self-confident;  
but you challenge our confidence when it becomes pride.  
We are proud of our understanding;  
but you show us that we do not know everything.

We greet your coming, God, with joy:  
We had no true idea of what you are like;  
but you have shown us yourself in Jesus Christ.  
We are aware of the gulf between us and you;  
but you have bridged it with love.

God, we greet your coming in Jesus Christ our Lord!

*[Pause in silent prayer]*

Now on this joyous Christmas day we share the prayer Jesus taught saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we**

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forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## HYMN

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

#221

*"In the Bleak Midwinter" is a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti, commonly performed as a Christmas carol. The poem was published, under the title "A Christmas Carol", in the January 1872. In the first memorable stanza, Rossetti creates a dreary and desolate image of the world into which the infant Jesus appeared. The second stanza uses the device of antithesis to make the point that the eternal One whom "heaven could not hold" nor "earth sustain" appeared during the "bleak winter" of human existence where "a stable place sufficed." This paradox of the eternal One born in a humble setting is a primary theme.*

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.

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.

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

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1872)  
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906

## GIVING

*2 French Carols*

Emerson Wynn, clarinet

## \*RESPONSE

#95, UMH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

## HYMN

*Joy to the World*

#246

*This favorite Christmas hymn is the result of a collaboration of at least three people and draws its initial inspiration not from the Christmas narrative in Luke 2, but from Psalm 98 paraphrased by Isaac Watts. Psalm 98 specifically verses 4-9, most scholars say alludes to the Second Coming of Christ. George Frederic Handel (1685-1759), and Lowell Mason (1792-1872) were likely two other contributors in melody and message. Now generations 'repeat the sounding joy.'*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

Author: Isaac Watts (1719)  
Music: G.F. Handel, 1741, & Lowell Mason, 1848

## SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 1:1-3a (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## HYMN

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

#218

*Although he was a Unitarian minister, Edmund Sears believed in the deity of Christ and the message of the angels of 'peace on earth.' Peace was a timely topic when Sears penned these words. Tensions were rising in America, leading toward the Civil War.*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Author: Edmund Sears (1849)  
Composer: Richard Storrs Willis (1850)

## CHRISTMAS RESPONSE

written by Carol Penner

By the tender mercy of our God  
love has broken upon us!  
Light is given where once there was darkness  
and hope where there was only death.  
We go into this season knowing  
that God will guide our feet into the way of peace.

*\*Stand as you are able*

REGISTER YOUR  
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE  
GIVING



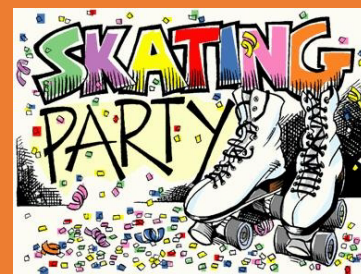
**Armstrong MEN**  
Disciples! Bold. Brave. Fearless.

**Ally Breakfast**  
Saturday, January 14  
from 8-10am  
in the Fellowship Hall

***For the men of Armstrong who have  
a heart for discipleship!***

Start off the new year by getting to know each other better at this 2-hour pancake breakfast event. Bring ideas to help plan 2023 activities and ministry. Come pray together, laugh together, and share!

Breakfast is free—RSVPs appreciated <https://bit.ly/3HfplwT>.



Sunday, January 29 – 4:30-6:30pm  
Castle Skateland in Loveland

\$10 donation per family for Admission, Pizza & Drinks  
\$2 per person for skate rental

Dress as your favorite cartoon character!

INVITE FAMILY & FRIENDS

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