

Advent & Christmas 2023

*The First Witnesses  
of Christ*



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

.....  
**Zechariah's Song**

December 24 | 10 am

# Morning Prayer

Congregational responses are indicated in **bold**.

---

## Opening Sentence of Scripture

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Our King and Savior now draws near:

**O come, let us adore him.**

**Hymn:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*..... pg. 2, vs. 1-3

## Welcome

*[Please sit or kneel.]*

## The Confession of Sin

Dearly beloved, the Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in his presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at his hands, to declare his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things which are necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, draw near with me to the throne of heavenly grace.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,**

**we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against your holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;**

**and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.**

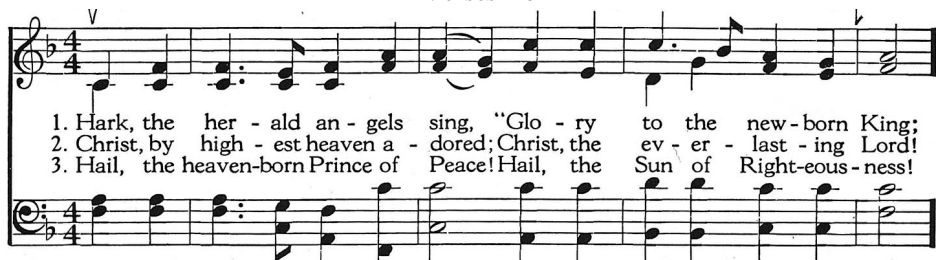
**O Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Spare all those who confess their faults.**

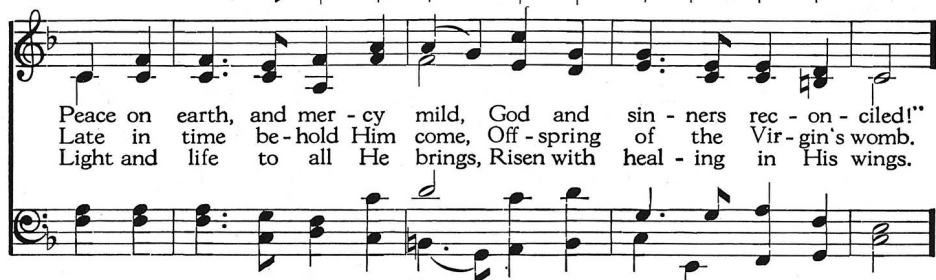
**Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

# Hark the Herald Angels Sing

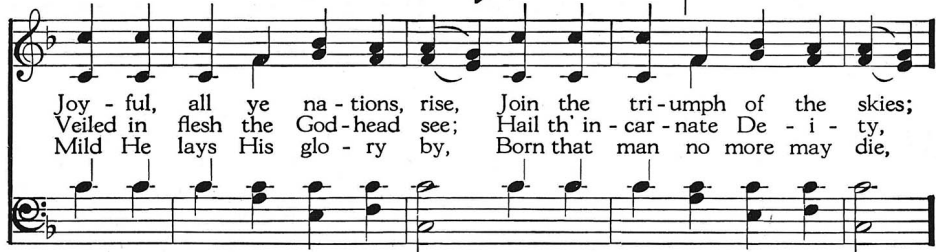
Verses 1-3



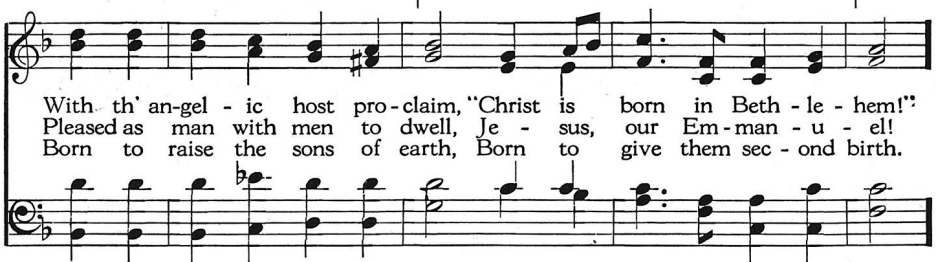
1. Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-ous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb,  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

*Organ*

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of your holy Name.**

*Amen.*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all you sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*

## **Invitatory**

O Lord, open our lips;

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

Our King and Savior now draws near:

**O come, let us adore him.**

## **The Venite** *(an invitation to come and worship from Psalm 95)*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God

and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are all the depths of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands prepared the dry land.**

O come, let us worship and fall down,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

**and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.**

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness,

**When your fathers tested me,  
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.**

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said, "It is a people that err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways,"

**Of whom I swore in my wrath  
that they should not enter into my rest.**

## The Lessons

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**..... *Pew Bible pg. 599*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**te deum laudamus** (*We Praise You, O God*)

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord;  
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son,  
worthy of all praise, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

**You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of  
the Father**

When you took our flesh to set us free you humbly chose  
the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come to be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the  
price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to  
glory everlasting.**

**Luke 1: 57-80** ..... *Pew Bible pg. 856*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

[Please stand.]

## The First Noel

Verses 1, 2, 4, 6

*V*

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the  
3. And by the light of that same star, Three wise men  
4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le -  
5. Then en - tered in those wise men three Full rev - erent -  
6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

*t*

shep - herds in fields as they lay, In fields where they lay keep - ing their  
east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in -  
hem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and  
ly up - on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres -  
to our heav - en - ly Lord, That hath made heav - en and earth of

REFRAIN

sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No -  
stay Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
ence Their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.  
naught, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el, No - el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el! A - MEN.

*[Please be seated.]*

**The Homily** .....The Rev. Alex Shuttleworth

*[Please stand.]*

## **The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Amen.*

## **The Prayers**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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 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,  
for ever and ever.**

*Amen.*

O Lord, show your mercy upon us;  
**And grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, guide those who govern us;  
**And lead us in the way of justice and truth.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**And let your people sing with joy.**

O Lord, save your people;  
**And bless your inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
**And defend us by your mighty power.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

### **The Collect for the 4th Sunday in Advent**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

*Amen.*

**Hymn:** *Good Christian Men Rejoice* .....pg. 8, vs. 1-3

### **Closing Sentences**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* *Romans 15:13*

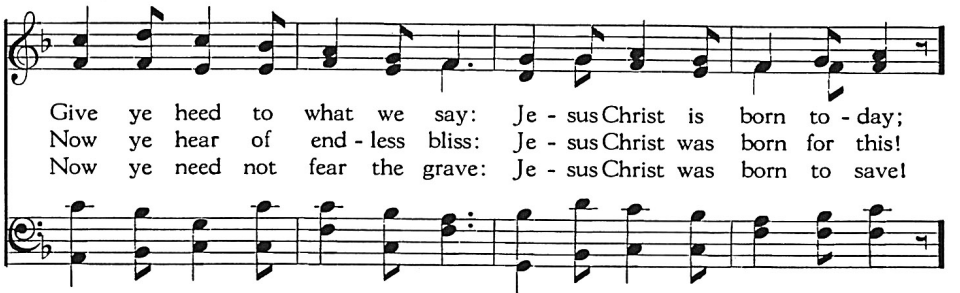


# Good Christian Men Rejoice

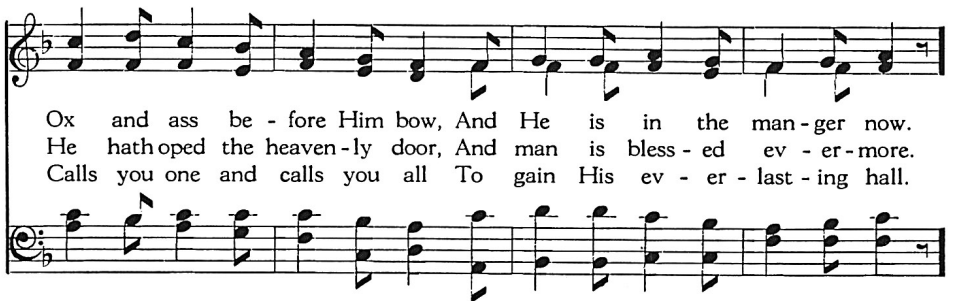
Verses 1-3



1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice,      With heart and soul and voice;  
2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice,      With heart and soul and voice;  
3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice,      With heart and soul and voice!



Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.  
He hath oped the heaven - ly door, And man is bless - ed ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!      Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!      Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!      Christ was born to save!



*Under Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord:*  
The Rt. Rev. Alex Cameron, Bishop of Pittsburgh

### **Staff**

The Rev. Alex Shuttleworth, *Rector*  
Robert Fire, *Music Minister*  
Tami Fire, *Children's & Pastoral Care Minister*  
Josh Gerdes, *Children's Minister*  
The Rev. Ben Hughes, *Assistant Minister*  
Jenna Hughes, *Asst. Youth Minister*  
Lam Gray, *Interim Asst. Youth Minister*  
The Rev. Elizabeth H. Rodewald, *Deacon*  
Niki De Luca, *Finance Manager*  
Bridget Michael, *Operations Manager*

### **Vestry**

Catherine Parham, *Senior Warden*  
Matt Beresik, *Junior Warden*  
Richard Cagley  
Alyssa Campbell  
Jane Flaherty  
Zack Gray, *Treasurer*  
Joe Nawrocki  
Anne Malone, *Secretary*



# Connect with CCFC

Position your phone's camera directly over the images below & follow the directions on the pop-up.

## Donate



## Apple Podcast



## Android Podcast



## Smartphone App



410 Christ Church Lane | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15238 | 412.963.8938  
[www.christchurchfoxchapel.org](http://www.christchurchfoxchapel.org)

All music reproduced in this bulletin used with permission CCLI #866834.