



Christmas Eve Program

DECEMBER 24, 2021

BASED ON THE HYMN “A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER”

BY DEACONESS JANET NICOL

This service is my reflection on the Christmas Hymn text, **A Great and Mighty Wonder**, written by St. Germanus who was a Greek Bishop of Cyzicus circa 700 AD. It was later translated into English by John Mason Neale who was an ordained clergy of the Church of England in the mid 1800's. It is most frequently set to the tune of *Es Ist Ein Ros*, which first appeared in a hymnal in 1599. My hope is that the beautiful poetry and lyrical music will enhance your understanding of the incarnation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as a most beautiful and holy mystery to behold and to remember every Christmas season.

Vespers

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!

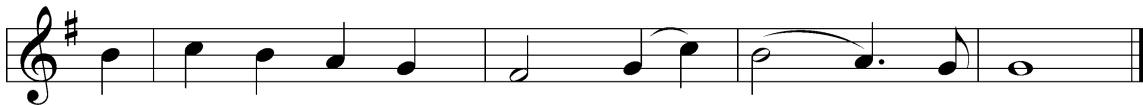


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

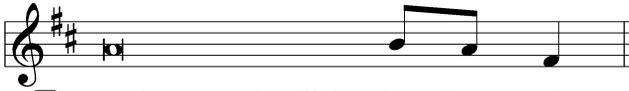


O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles

L O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Psalm 96 (spoken responsively)

¹Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

²**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

**⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

**⁸Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

⁹Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

Presentation of the Christmas Story:

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

(Children and Choir Sing)

1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! *Refrain*

(Congregation sings refrain accompanied by Chime Choir)

Refrain

Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be
glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Zachary Pickelsimer Luke 1:26-35 *"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."*

Connor Burns: Psalm 12:6- *"The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times."*

McKain Thrush: We know the prophecy of Jesus from Isaiah 7:14 which says, *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* Immanuel means "God with us."

Aaron Johnson: God became man by being born of a woman and that woman, Mary, a young virgin at the time, was chosen by God to carry the Word of God, pure and holy; just like the Ark of the Covenant which carried God's Word did in the Old Testament.

Sam Johnson: This is why God favored Mary with the presence of the Angel Gabriel and the Holy Spirit caused her to be full of The Word. What a great honor for Mary!

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Tune and text: Public domain

(Adult Choir Sings)

- 2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain*

(Congregation sings refrain accompanied by Chime Choir)

Refrain

Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be
glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Eva Pfeiffer: Luke 2:1-7 *"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."*

Taylor Andrews: The Apostle John tells us in his Gospel that the Word, Jesus, was with God in the beginning. He also tells us in John 1:14 *"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."*

Aaron Johnson: This Word assumed human nature in the womb of his mother, Mary, yet he also remains divine. He is inseparably joined in one person. He is one Christ, true God and true man.

Clara Andrews: In the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, which was written in the year 1577 to clear up some controversies that had sprung up about doctrinal issues, we read in the 36th paragraph of the 7th article: *"The divine essence is not changed into human nature. But the two natures, unchanged, are personally united."*

Sara Lynch: This helped to make it clear what is sung in our theme hymn about Jesus- The Word, became flesh, yet at the same time remains "on high." True God and true man! We sing to our True God as an infant babe.

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

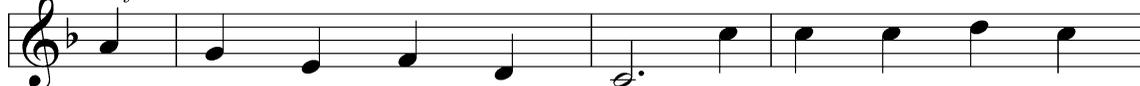
Tune and text: Public domain

(Children Choir Sings)

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain*

(Congregation sings refrain accompanied by Chime Choir)

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Will Schlueter: reads Luke 2:8-20 *“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”*

Eli Thrush: In Psalm 148, all of creation is called to praise the Lord. Verses 1-2, and 5 read *“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him all his hosts! Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.”*

Tori Schlueter: God created the universe by means of His Word. And we know that Jesus is the Word. We should not be surprised then when the Glory of God came to us in human form that the heavenly hosts could not resist singing His praises.

Sam Johnson: What a joyful moment for those lowly shepherds to witness! Isaiah 55:12 says, *“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”*

Connor Boyd: Isaiah teaches us that all of creation speaks of the Glory of God. We rejoice together with creation and the shepherds to praise God and His Glory.

386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

(Soloist Sings)

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. *Refrain*

(Congregation sings refrain accompanied by Chime Choir)

Refrain

Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be
glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

McKain Thrush: Matthew. 20:28: "...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Lincoln Thrush: The word "ransom" means to redeem or buy back. This was the reason Jesus became a man; to buy us back from sin, death and the devil.

Becca Boyd: 1 Timothy 2:5-6: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."

Allie Boyd: Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy precisely the same thing that Jesus himself said in the Gospel of Matthew. That He is the only way for mankind to be saved. We praise him and worship him this night for this very gift of redemption.

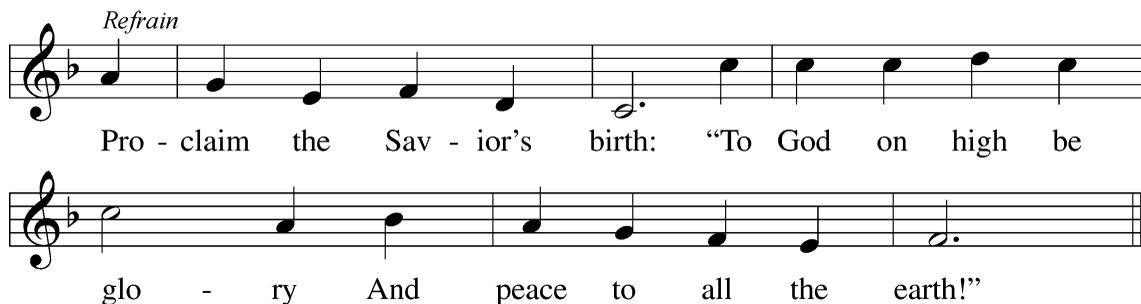
CHILDREN SING AWAY IN A MANGER

(Choir Sings)

- 5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. *Refrain*

(Congregation sings refrain accompanied by Chime Choir)

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be
glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Livie Pfeiffer: Hebrews 1:8: *"But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom."*

Tori Schlueter: These words from Hebrews were spoken about Jesus to a congregation of Jewish Christians many years ago. Today we still hear these words which remind us that Jesus is a king.

Eli Thrush: Genesis 49:10: *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."* God told us in the beginning of scripture that Jesus, son of David, would be a king from the tribe of Judah.

Anna Lynch: Revelations 19:13,15-16: *"He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."*

Zachary Picklesimer: Dr. Martin Luther wrote about this verse in Revelation. He said, *"the tyrants, heretics, and whatever opposes the Word are a potter's vessel. So, when it comes to a contest between them, it is impossible for the earthen vessel to prevail over the iron. The iron will break it in small pieces and pound away the potsherd. But with us who believe, true righteousness, wisdom, salvation, and life will remain, whether the world and Satan like it or not. For the Word of God will remain into eternity. Christ, our High Priest and King, will remain. We also who believe in Him shall remain. But the enemies of the Word will all fall and perish. Amen."*

Will Schlueter: Therefore tonight's theme hymn teaches that all idols and Satan's lies will perish but Jesus and endless peace will reign. Jesus' kingdom is not an earthly one but a heavenly one which gives us love and redemption. Praise be to God!

Canticle

Stand

- I** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

LSB 231

(congregation sing C; men sing I and women sing II)

- C** **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**
- I** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
- II** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
- II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- II** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- I** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
- II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Chime Choir- Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233



- C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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
forever and ever. Amen.

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

All Bible passages are from the ESV translation.

Participants:

Clara and Taylor Andrews
Allie, Becca and Connor Boyd
Connor and Clyde Burns
Sam and Aaron Johnson
Anna and Sara Lynch
Zachary Picklesimer
Eva, Livie, and Hannah Pfeiffer
Will and Tori Schlueter
Eli, Lincoln, and McKain Thrush

The Chuckery Ringers Chime Choir directed by Mrs.Elena Pfeiffer
The Chuckery Choir directed by Deaconess Janet Nicol
Soloist is Matthew Earl
Mrs. Frances Foos assisting children on piano