

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Mark Smith

PRELUDE

O Word of God Incarnate

David H. Hegarty

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Candle of Love is lit.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

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!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we come to worship you. To believe in you. To have faith. But at times our faith may waver. We may walk away from your side and do what you would not have us do. Strengthen our faith. Give us the faith of Mary and Joseph...*Time of silent reflection*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Who can forgive us our sins? Only Christ. And Christ was born for us, Christ died for us, and Christ reigns in power for us. Our sins are forgiven. Be at peace

SEASONAL RESPONSE

**All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace!
Good will to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!**

THE WORD OF GOD

ADVENT PLAY

Angie Rebert

Act I, Scene 1	Angel, Mary, Joseph	Luke 1:26-33, 35-37
Act I, Scene 2	Mary's Musings	
Act I, Scene 3	Mary and Joseph	
Act I, Scene 4	The Angel and Joseph	Matthew 1:19-20
Act I, Scene 5	Joseph's Musings	
Act II, Scene 1	Mary and Mary's Mother	
Musical Offering	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i> Barb Antoniewicz, soloist	M. Lowry & B. Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new; this child that you delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod, and when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know? The blind will see, the deaf will hear the dead will live again, the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven's perfect Lamb, and the sleeping child you're holding is the Great I Am?

Act III, Scene 1

Journey and Birth Events

HYMN

Away in a Manger

Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885
 Stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892

Attr. James R. Murray, 1887
 Harm. John Weaver, 1986

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for His bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low-ing, the poor Ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -

Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn-ing is night.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with Thee there.

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Act III, Scene 2

The Shepherds

Act III, Scene 3

The Wise Men

HYMN

The First Nowell

English carol
Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

1. The first Now - ell 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

shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay a - 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 -

*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. Now - ell, Now -

ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
 Fell reverently upon their knee,
 And offered there in His presence,
 Their gold, and myrrh, and
 frankincense.
(Refrain)

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

SONG OF PRAISE

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord, we thank you for your blessing upon us. Help us to use these gifts
given for you for the work of bringing the Kingdom of God to Earth.
Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose
again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right
hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.**

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

PASTORAL PRAYER with the Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive
our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

HYMN

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Son God

J.S. Bach