

East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of
God, in loving memory of Bud Gouldthorpe and son
Dick.*

PRELUDE

Variations on "Lo How a Rose"

Murray Bradshaw

WELCOME

* OPENING HYMN **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** **#230**

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ministry Matters)

L: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy.

P: Today Belief and Love are the theme.

L: Today we will hear the story of surprising commitment.

P: We will learn of Mary and God's wonderful love.

L: Today we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

P: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: Today we light four candles- the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Reader 3: The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.

Reader 4: The fourth Candle is called LOVE, because of God's great love for us.

All: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, bring brightness to your spirits.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

Magnificat

Rev. Nancy Wichmann

* HYMN **"To a Maid Named Mary"** **#215** **vs. 1, 2, 4**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, we are so excited. Christmas is almost here. We want to jump ahead to an exciting and wondrous worship service. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, O God. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind us that your love is blossoming in our lives. As we hear Mary say "Yes!" to God's good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's love and faithfulness have been at work in you. You are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God's love and blossom. AMEN.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Share the peace of Christ Jesus with one another, saying "the peace of Christ be with you, always."

P: And also with you.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Once in a Royal David's City"

*** DOXOLOGY**

No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*** HYMN**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#384

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

#431

*Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.*

POSTLUDE

"Joy, Joy, Joy"

Bill Cain

**Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Therefore, when Christ comes into the world he says, “You didn’t want a sacrifice or an offering, but you prepared a body for me; ⁶ you weren’t pleased with entirely burned offerings or a sin offering.”

⁷ So then I said, “Look, I’ve come to do your will, God. This has been written about me in the scroll.”

⁸ He says above, “You didn’t want and you weren’t pleased with a sacrifice or an offering or with entirely burned offerings or a purification offering, which are offered because the Law requires them.” ⁹ Then he said, “Look, I’ve come to do your will.” He puts an end to the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ We have been made holy by God’s will through the offering of Jesus Christ’s body once for all.

(Common English Bible, adapted)

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary^a said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” (New Revised Standard Version)

Prayer List

Church of Christ and ministries of
East Parish United Methodist Church
All who struggle with their faith
Family and friends of Deb McAdams
Family and friends of John Kelly
Family and friends of Becky Bartczak
Family and friends of Corey Amlin
Sue Mitchells' family and friends
Hogan family (Sharon's friends)
Salisbury and Newburyport Assisted
Living and Memory Care Residents
Residents of Maris House
Steve Smith
Julie Allred
Colleen Sanford
The Arrison family
Kate (Jan's friend)
Harry (Jodie's husband)
William Seal
Ruth's DIL's father
Gail (friend of Alana)
Abigail and Jemma
Edith (broken foot)

Will Tift
Robert Short (Candace's son)
Alan Dane (George's friend)
Hailey Stone
Sandy Roughton's Aunt Mary
People of Danvers and Peabody High
Children, especially orphans
Victims of natural disasters
Victims of sexual abuse and assault
Division in The United Methodist
Church
For those whose voices are so often
ignored
For the slain everywhere and all
victims of violence
Deplorable treatment of refugees and
asylum-seekers on the southern
border of the US
All who have suffered with, because
of, or died from COVID-19 or
addiction.
For our country, desperately in need
of unity and humanity

United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

Pastor.....Pastor Nancy Wichmann (781)697-6344 (C)
Church Administrator.....Joanne Sheehan eastparishumc@verizon.net
Leadership CommitteeSharon Gill (978) 270-1045
Lay Leader.....Jan Juntunen 978- 518-7881
Organist.....Linda Ingram
Sexton.....Steve Choate (978)462-4578
Coffee Hour Coordinator.....Debbie Choate dcperl@verizon.net (978)462-4578
Worship Committee.....Debbie Choate dcperl@verizon.net (978)462-4578

Ministers.....The Congregation

8 Lafayette Rd, Salisbury MA 01952 (978) 465-8940

Website: www.eastparishumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eastparishumcSalisbury>



Given by

Debbie and Steve Choate

Jeff Duford

Nancy George & Mary Larnard

Sharon Gill

Jan Juntunen

George LaBelle

Ruth Pettingill

Ken and Sandy Roughton

Agnes Short

In Memory of

Harriett and Dave Stevens

Richard Choate

Deb McAdams

Clara Cail

Al Tobey

Carissa Parker

Porter & Louise George

John & Agnes Larnard

Lydia Collins

Frances Walthen

Cross Family Members

Gill Family Members

Pat, Pete, and Mark Juntunen

Bill and Ruth King

William LaBelle

Jane LaBelle

Richard "Soggy" Poirier

William and Lounette Roughton

Cam and Katie Mahank

George Short

Joseph Martin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the increase in COVID, the service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, December 26th.

Please tune in to Facebook “Live” at 5pm on Christmas Eve for a pastoral reflection.

Until further notice, the church will return to increased distancing and masks.

READERS FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – Volunteer readers are needed to help with “Lessons and Carols” on Sunday, December 26th. If you are interested in participating as reader for a short passage, please let Pastor Nancy or Debbie Choate know.

COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE – Winter can be a difficult time, especially if one lacks the resources with which to purchase needed items. We are collecting coats for a community coat drive over the next few weeks. If you have a gently used coat that could be repurposed, we kindly ask that you consider donating it to this worthy effort.

COMMUNION OFFERING – The Communion offering for December is pet food and tooth brushes/tooth paste. Items will be collected throughout December and delivered the first week of January. Thank you for your ongoing support of Pettengill House.

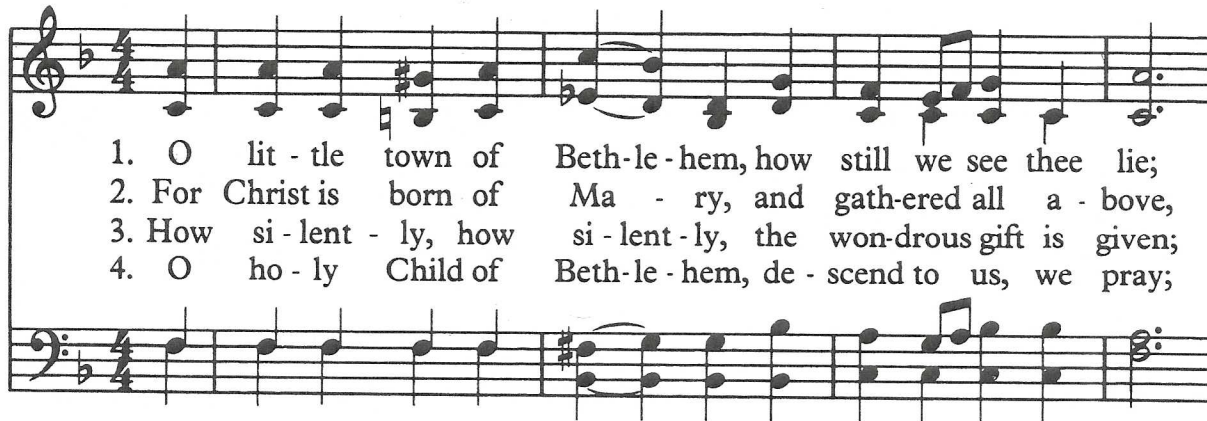
AFGHAN EVACUEES – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church will soon be hosting evacuee families from Afghanistan. They are taking monetary donations to assist these families as they move to the area and further assess their needs. If you are interested in helping, please contact St. Paul’s directly at 978-465-5351.

EMERGENCY CLOTHING – East Parish has partnered with the Salisbury Elementary School nurse and will be collecting emergency clothing for children. Items such as children’s sized socks and elastic-waist pants (including sweatpants), sizes 5-18 and adult small, are in great demand.

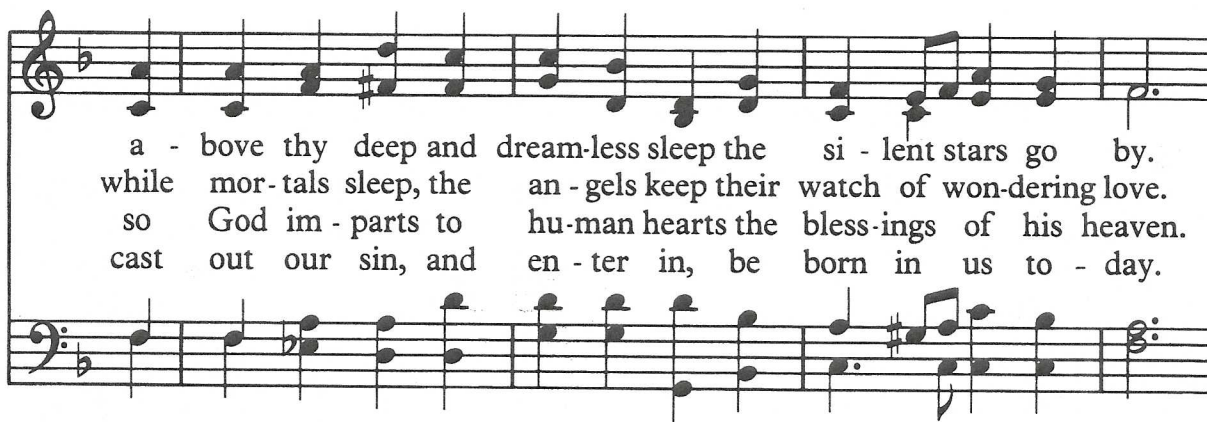
If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net.

If you would like to make a contribution of or for altar flowers, please see a member of the Worship Committee: Debbie Choate, Alana Gilbert, Karlene Johnson, Jan Juntunen, or Sandy Roughton.

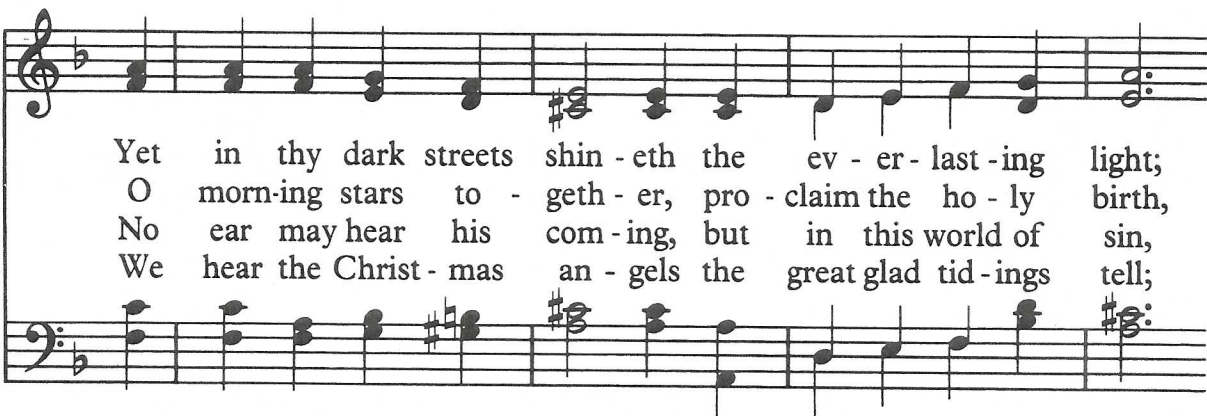
O Little Town of Bethlehem



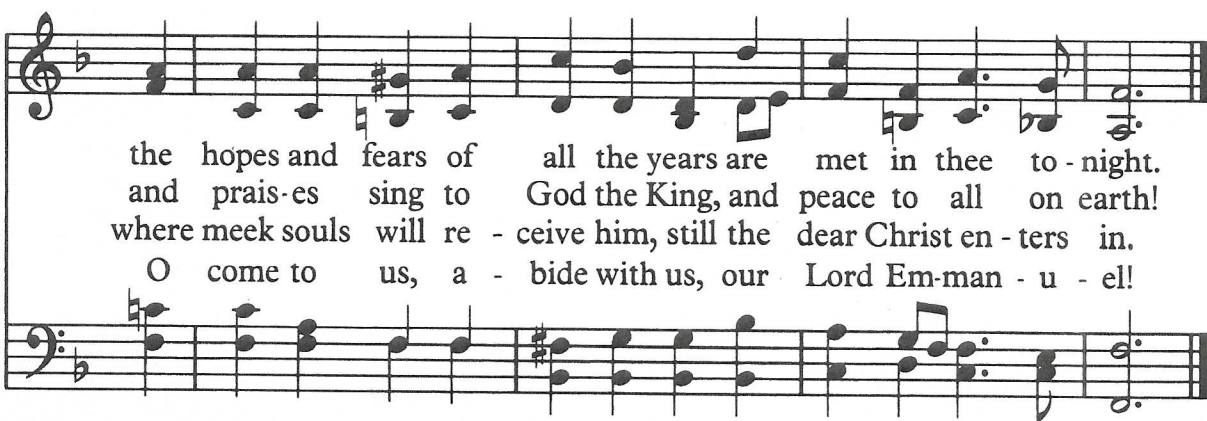
1. O lit - tle town of Beth-le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath-ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won-drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth-le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu-man hearts the bless-ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn-ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

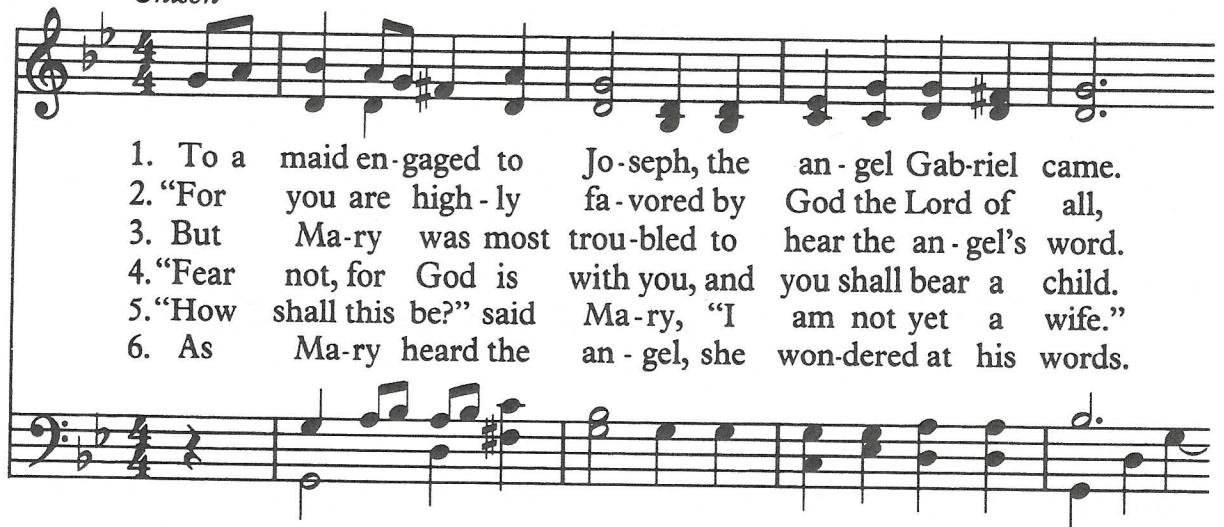


the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais-es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em-man - u - el!

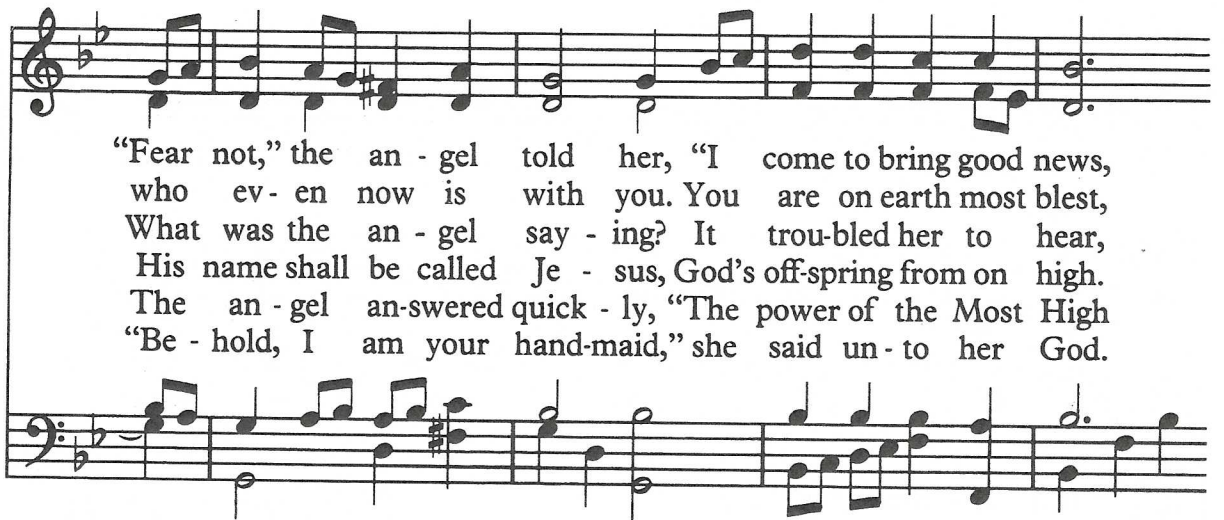
To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

215

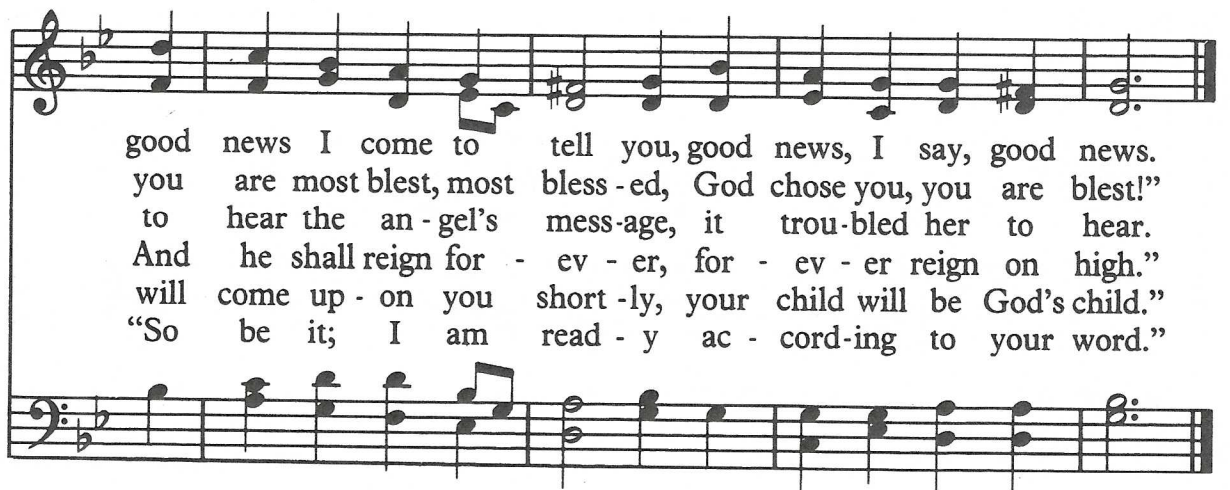
Unison



1. To a maid en-gaged to Jo-seph, the an-gel Gab-riel came.
 2. "For you are high-ly fa-vored by God the Lord of all,
 3. But Ma-ry was most trou-bled to hear the an-gel's word.
 4. "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 5. "How shall this be?" said Ma-ry, "I am not yet a wife."
 6. As Ma-ry heard the an-gel, she won-dered at his words.



"Fear not," the an-gel told her, "I come to bring good news,
 who ev-en now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
 What was the an-gel say-ing? It trou-bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je-sus, God's off-spring from on high.
 The an-gel an-swered quick-ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be-hold, I am your hand-maid," she said un-to her God.

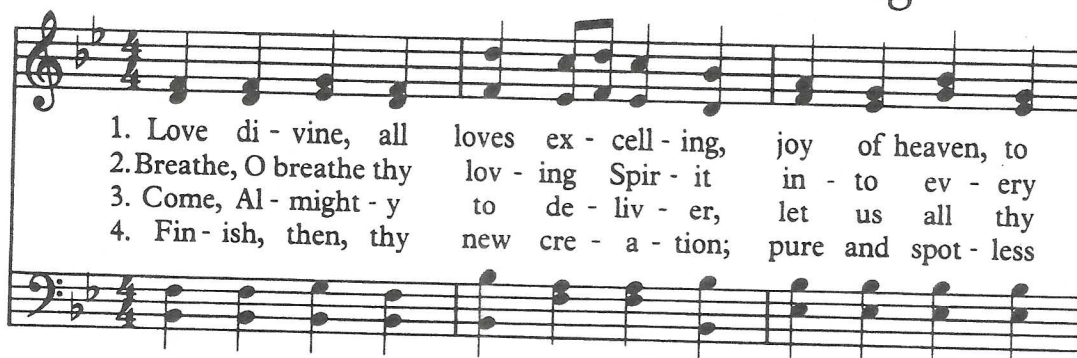


good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.
 you are most blest, most bless-ed, God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an-gel's mess-age, it trou-bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for-ev-er, for-ev-er reign on high."
 will come up-on you short-ly, your child will be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read-y ac-cord-ing to your word."

WORDS: Gracia Grindal, 1983 (Lk. 1:26-38)
 MUSIC: Rusty Edwards, 1983

ANNUNCIATION
 76.76.76

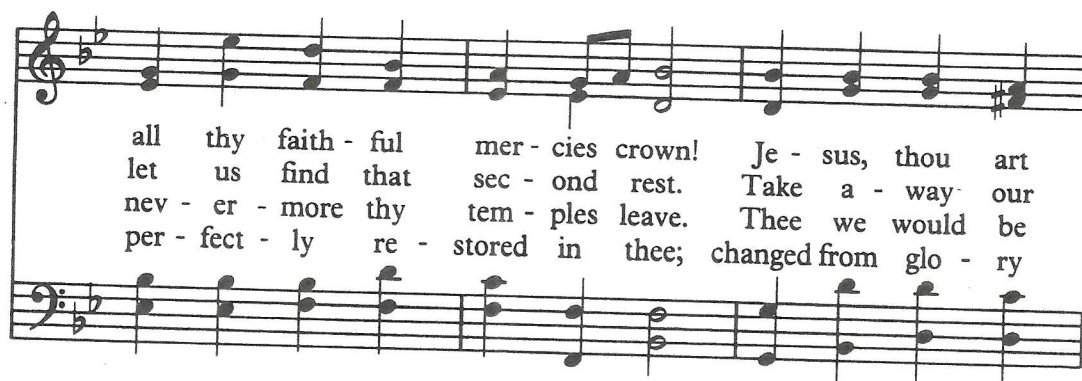
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



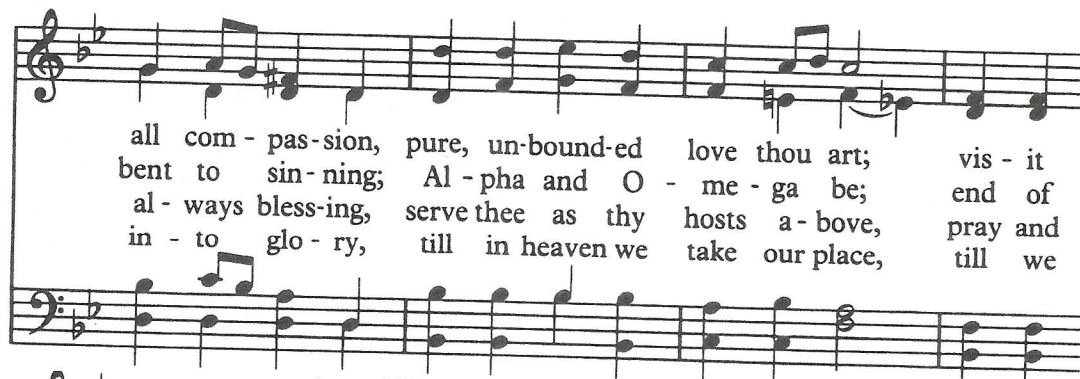
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



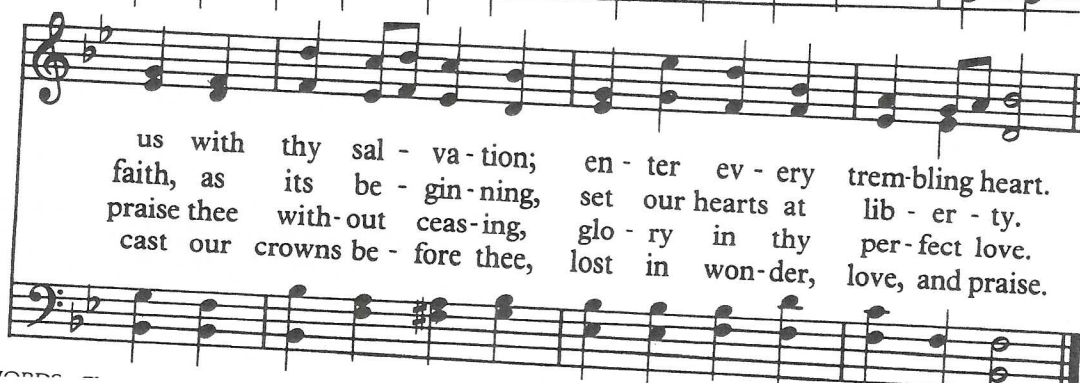
earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion



all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry



all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we



us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.