

WORSHIP NOTES

The first printing of *Away in a Manger* appeared in the Universalist periodical, *The Myrtle*, in 1884. The first two stanzas were printed with the prominent heading “Luther’s Cradle Song” and are introduced as follows: “Martin Luther, the great German reformer, who was born four hundred years ago on 10th of next November, composed the following hymn for his children; and it is still sung by many German mothers to their little ones.” However, it seems that this pious legend eclipses the truth. There does not seem to be an actual connection between this text and Martin Luther. The most likely conjecture is that some unknown and well-intentioned person created this text in connection with the 1883 celebrations commemorating the 400th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, perhaps for a church-connected dramatic production. If so, this song might have been included as “an example” of something Luther wrote for his children to recite or sing. This lovely carol is sung in England and Canada to the tune *Cradle Song*, though that tune was written by an American. Here in the States, we sing it more commonly to the tune, *Mueller*, written by James R. Murray (1841-1905).

The author of *Joy to the World!* is Isaac Watts (1674-1748) and was first published in *The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (London, 1719). While Isaac Watts did not write this hymn with the expectation that it would become a favorite Christmas carol, he did intentionally cast this paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 98 in Christian terms. He titles this section “The Messiah’s coming and kingdom,” an interpretation reflecting his conviction that the Psalms should be read from the perspective of the New Testament. So “the Lord” here is Jesus Christ rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Its hymn tune is *Antioch*, and while attributed to George Frederick Handel as arranged by Lowell Mason, that attribution to Handel is doubted by modern scholars. That said, Lowell was the first to join Watts’ text with this tune and he is the one who named it *Antioch*. Presumably that tune name is intended to honor the place where the followers of Jesus were first named Christians (Acts 11:26) and where the bishop Ignatius (c. 35-c. 107) traditionally introduced antiphonal singing.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. (Corinne Ingraham) James Stanley Glanville Piggot.

THE PLANTS in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our fathers, Nathaniel O. Abelson and James G. Talcott from their children, Dr. and Mrs. James Talcott.



CHRISTMAS MORNING’S PREACHER will be the Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton.

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton, *Transitional Senior Minister*
The Rev. Douglas T. King, *Senior Associate Minister*
The Rev. Adam D. Gorman, *Associate Minister*
The Rev. Michael L. Lindvall, *Pastor Emeritus*
Anthony B. Jones, Jacob D. Kennedy, Margaret L. Poteet, *Student Ministers*

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Keith S. Tóth, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Amanda Page Smith, *Director of Children’s Music Ministries*
Meg Cutting, *Wilson Family Yale Sacred Music Intern*

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Michael J. Appleby, Nathan P. Appleby, Leah C. Lee, Deborah M. Li, Caroline C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman, Christopher L. Allen, *Beadle*.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano: Isabella Livorni, Tonna L. Miller-Vallés, Artemisz Polonyi, Elizabeth Van Os. *Alto:* Sónia Batten, Agueda Fernández-Abad, Erica Koehring, Melissa Raymond. *Tenor:* Sean Clark, Johnny Maldonado, Jeffrey Taveras. *Bass:* Daniel Hoy, Ryan Stoudt, Nathaniel Sullivan.

SESSION

Sallie J. Abelow, Raj J. Alva, David M. Blais, Colette O. Bryce, Susan P. Crary, William S. Crutchfield, Paul J. Elmlinger, R. Scott Froehlich, Scripture Z. Gonzalez, Harold P. Hope III, Anne R. Huneke, Stefan Kruger, Michael F. Magsig, Robert D. McCrie, Oliver T. Moses, Helen B. Pennoyer, Clare C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman (Youth Elder), Richard H. Stowe, Conor S. Tochilin, Margaret H. Tranbaugh, Katherine G. Vosters, Ryan E. Widener, Suzanne W. Wilson, Victor L. Wu, Mario J. Verdolini Jr., *Clerk of Session*, Debra N. Seraphim, *On-Call Clerk of Session*.

DEACONS

Nathan P. Appleby (Youth Deacon), Beth A. Bell, Arthur W. Bingham, Nancy T. Blair, Stephana Bottom, Paige M. Cali, Christopher A. Carroll, Tenley L. Chepiga, Olivia V. Cranshaw (Youth Deacon), Carl C. Cordova III, E. Graham Clark, David M. Darst, Mark E. Dingle, Helen T. W. Elmiger, William J. Gambrill, Sylvia A. Gower, Kate S. Hrobsky, Amy E. Johnson, Loren E. Kittilsen, Christopher Lanning, Katrina K. Masterson, Amelia McDonald, John P. Muller, Grace Sarno, Andrew R. Skobe, Oscar T. Sloterbeck, Kristin S. Steen John D. Tuttle, Tanya S. Wells.

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— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

— TEN O’CLOCK —

Schedule of Worship for Christmas 2019

December 25, 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Communion Service

December 29, 11:00 a.m.
Hymn Sing and Reflections

WELCOME The moments before worship are a transition from “getting here” to “being here.” Since it usually takes a few minutes to quiet one’s mind, and to become open to the Spirit, it is most appropriate to give one’s friends a silent wave of the hand, a nod of the head, or a friendly smile in lieu of initiating a conversation.

AFTER THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, in order not to disrupt the worship service, latecomers will be seated by the ushers only at times when the congregation is standing, either during the Congregational Response following the assurance of forgiveness or during the second hymn.

VISITORS, please know how welcome you are. Please sign the Friendship Book when it passes you during the service of worship and identify yourself with a name tag to be found in the book. You are also cordially invited to attend Coffee Hour following worship.

IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP that follows, an asterisk (*) invites all to stand; items in bold type face indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14

Psalm 96:1-13
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE Music for Choir, Brass ensemble, and percussion
Thomas Hoyt & Kevin Cobb, *trumpet*
Lawrence DiBello, *French horn*
George Hoyt & Donald Hayward, *trombone*
Benjamin Harms, *percussion*

CHORAL INTROIT *Ian Tracey (b. 1955)*
“People, Look East”
People, look East, no longer fear, await the Lord, his time is near.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41** *Adeste, fideles*
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION
God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**
Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

HYMN 53 *Greensleeves*
“What Child Is This”
(please remain seated)

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Melanie L. Sovine*
Isaiah 9:2-7 (*Pew Bible, page 638*)

HYMN 25 *Mueller*
“Away in a Manger”
(please remain seated)

GOSPEL LESSON *Patrick A. F. Blott*
Luke 2:1-20 (*Pew Bible, page 58*)

*** HYMN 43** *Forest Green*
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

SERMON *Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton*
“God in the Manger, Glory in the Skies”

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)*
“Bögöroditsye Dyevo” (Ave Maria)

Bögöroditsye Dyevo, raduissya, blagödatnaya Mariye, Gospod’s töboyu. Blagöslövyen Tyi vzhenakh, i blagöslövyen plod chryeva Tvöyego, Yako Spassa rödila yessi dush nashikh. *Virgin mother of God, hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, For thou hast brought forth the Saviour who redeemed our souls.*
—*Text from the Orthodox Liturgy of Vespers*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

GRADUAL HYMN *13th c. Benedictine plainsong*
“Thee We Adore”
Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, Thee, Who at this blessed feast art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in Thy presence fail, Yet here Thy presence we devoutly hail.
—*Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274)*

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise...

SANCTUS 580 *John Merbecke (c. 1510-c. 1585)*
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory:
Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INSTITUTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle beginning with the front rows, receive bread, dip it in the chalice, partake, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available at the serving station farthest to the right as you come forward. All who would humbly put their trust in Christ, whatever their church or denominational affiliation, are invited to participate.

COMMUNION MUSIC *John Tavener (1944-2013)*
“The Lamb”

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, by the stream and o’er the mead; gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright; gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice? Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Little Lamb, I’ll tell thee, Little Lamb, I’ll tell thee: He is called by thy name, for he calls Himself a Lamb: He is meek, and He is mild; He became a little child. I, a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by His name. Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee!
—*William Blake (1757-1827)*

“The Shepherd’s Carol” *Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)*

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day’s work done, watching the frosted meadows that winter had won. The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still, silence more lovely than music folded the hill. There was a star, Lady, shone in the night, larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright. Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then telling of God being born in the world of men. And so we have come, Lady, our day’s work done, our love, our hopes, ourselves, we give to your son.
—*Clive Sansom (1910-1981)*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

THE SENDING

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *Daniel W. Hoy*
John 1:1-5, 9-14 (*Pew Bible, page 91*)

HYMN 60 *Stille Nacht*
“Silent Night, Holy Night”
(Please remain seated)
As the choir and congregation sing the carol, worshippers seated at the end of each pew are invited to take the light from an usher and pass it to their neighbor.

BENEDICTION

*** RECESSIONAL HYMN 40** *Antioch*
“Joy to the World”

POSTLUDE *Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687) arr. S. Drummond Wolff*
“Marche Royale”
Meg Cutting, *organist*
The Brick Church Brass and Percussion Ensemble

Chancel Committee members assisting with communion are Lindsay Higgins and Helen Pennoyer.