



***By Heaven's Light***

*A Christmas Cantata*

Sunday Worship: December 18, at 10:00



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

## ***The FOURTH Week of Advent:***

*December 18, 2022 at 10 am*

*“This is how God **loved** the world: he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

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### **HYMN #53: WHAT CHILD IS THIS**

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What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. [REFRAIN]

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [REFRAIN]

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord:

**We trust in the Lord's goodness;  
We rely on his mercy;  
We find shelter in his steadfast love.**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord:

**We walk in the Lord's way;  
We follow his example of love;  
We keep our covenant promises.**

In this Advent season of waiting:

**Lord, forget our sins.  
Remember your love;  
Remember each one of us;  
Remember your people everywhere.**

In this Advent season of waiting:

**Lord, we wait for your salvation;  
We rejoice in your love;  
We wait for the coming of Emmanuel—God with us.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN  
CHOIR CANTATA**

***“By Heaven’s Light”***

*Lyrics by Tom S. Long; Music by Allen Pote*

***Conducted by Patty Sundstrom***

***Pianist: Ann Kiliz***

***Narrator: Judy Ball***

***Soloists: Patty Sundstrom and Cheryl Guth***

**Choir Members**

*Karin Beard, Steve Cavin, Deborah de Beauchamp,  
Cheryl Guth, Laurie Kolb, Thirza Krohn,  
Judy Light, Bob Neisinger, Floyd Plemmons,  
Jim Rhoads, Marilee Rhoads, Elinor Robinson,  
Patty Sundstrom, Laurie Yeoman*

***PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD***

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make straight in the desert, a highway for our God.  
Prepare, prepare, ye the way of the Lord.

***EMMANUEL***

Though we live in the land of shadow, we see a light,  
And we look beyond the darkness, to the end of night.  
In the cry of a child of promise,  
The prophets tell our God will live among us: Emmanuel.

Desert voices ring, Alleluia!  
He will be a king, Alleluia!  
Everlasting one, Alleluia!  
Winning our release, Alleluia.  
God's eternal Son, he will be Prince of peace.

Emmanuel, in the land of shadow,  
Emmanuel, we see a light;  
Emmanuel, beyond the darkness;  
Emmanuel, the end of night.  
In the cry of a child of promise,  
The prophets tell our God will live among us: Emmanuel.

### ***THE ANGEL GABRIEL***

The angel Gabriel from heaven came;  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
Most highly favored lady, gloria!  
"For know a blessed mother you shall be;  
All generations praise continually.  
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria! Gloria!

### ***MARY'S SONG***

Rejoice, my soul will take wing,  
Ev'ry wonderful thing my creator has done, my spirit will sing!  
My God, you have made me your choice,  
Generations will praise you forever and ever and ever rejoice!  
The child of a servant inherits a throne,  
With God at my side I will not be alone.  
A Savior is answering Israel's cry,  
The high will be low in the low will be high.

Rejoice, my soul will take wing,  
Ev'ry wonderful thing my creator has done, my spirit will sing!

My God, you have made me your choice,  
Generations will praise you forever and ever and ever rejoice!  
Be glad all you hungry for now is the day,  
The poor will be fed and the rich sent away.  
Beware all you mighty secure in your greed,  
A Kingdom can grow from the tiniest seed.

Rejoice, my soul will take wing,  
Ev'ry wonderful thing my creator has done, my spirit will sing!  
My God you have made me your choice,  
Generations will praise you forever and ever and ever rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! My soul, rejoice!

### *THE JOURNEY*

Young Mary, joined by Joseph, made journey through the day.  
When darkness had descended, they found no place to stay.  
Then came to them a keeper, who understood their plight.  
He offered them a stable where they could spend the night.

### *SONG OF THE ANGELS*

“Don’t be afraid,” said an angel  
To shepherds who stood in amazement and shook with affright.  
“For unto you is born in a manger,  
A baby, a Savior,” ah, blest be the sight.  
“Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria,” did the angels sing,  
“Glory to God and peace on Earth,”  
The song of angels announcing the birth.  
Hurry to Bethlehem, run to the stable,  
And witness the One who was sent from above.  
Kneel and adore, and worship the Christ Child,  
Born of a woman and born of God’s love.  
“Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, gloria, Christ the Savior is born, Christ is born.”

### ***MARCH OF THE KINGS***

One great day, I met upon the way  
The kings of East as they came striding proudly.

One great day, I met upon the way  
The kings of east in all their fine array.

Oh, tell me why, in a stable nigh,  
They stoop so low to a baby in a manger.

Oh, tell me why, in a stable nigh,  
They worship Him who in a manger lies.

### ***AWAY IN A MANGER***

Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

### ***ONE FLAME***

One flame, dancing in the shadows,  
One flame, no greater than a spark,  
One flame from heart to heart is passing,  
One flame to overcome the dark.  
So lift your light and raise it higher,  
Defeat the night with holy fire.  
This flame of love, love and sacrifice, will fill the world,  
This light of Christ.



One life appearing in a manger,  
One life to bring us heavens call.  
One life laid down in perfect loving,  
One life to show the way to all.  
So lift your light and raise it higher.  
Defeat the night with holy fire.  
This flame of love, love and sacrifice, will fill the world,  
This light of Christ.

One flame, one light, one love, one life.  
One joy, one song, Alleluia, alleluia.  
Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Joy to the world, joy to the world,  
Joy to the world, the light has come, has come.

**THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

Brief Meditation: *“The Light of the World”*—Chuck Guth

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS**

*The ceramic jars in the offering plates are designated for the Deacons’ Fund **and** the World Vision Fund. Our deacons provide care, support, and financial assistance to those in the congregation in need. The World Vision Fund supports a child through World Vision.*

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**HYMN #22: “ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light: [REFRAIN]

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star. [REFRAIN]

All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. [REFRAIN]

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

\* *Please stand if you are able*



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Caretaker Hours: 9:00 – 1:00 (Mon, Tues, Wed; plus additional intermittent hours)

Tuesday Crew Facility Maintenance: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)

WEBSITE: [ABERDEENPRES.ORG](http://ABERDEENPRES.ORG)

### CALENDAR

December 24, 5:00: Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 10:00: Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

December 25, 10:00am: Informal Worship in Parlor