



Christmas Day 2020
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maineville, Ohio

Hymn: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 2 God from true God, and Light from 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, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

M: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C: **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

M: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

C: **Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C: **Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: It is with great joy that we celebrate the birth of our Savior from sin. Even amidst our joy, we do remember that our sin is the reason he came. With humble hearts then, let us bow before our God in repentance and seek his forgiveness:

C: Father in Heaven, forgive my lack of focus on your love and the sending of your Son during this Christmas season. I know that I am weak, even at Christmastime—a most important time for my faith. Forgive these particular sins and all that I have done wrong—through Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

M: Today I can say to you with great joy that your Savior has come! In Him you have full forgiveness of your sins. You are the people upon whom God's favor rests!

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen!

M: In the peace of forgiveness let us join in singing the song of the angels:

C: *Sing to the tune of (CW 63)*

Glory be to God above! Glory to the Lord we love!

Blessing, worship, thanks and praise Sing we now and all our days!

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Lord, You take our sin away; Send Your mercy now we pray.

Lord, You take our sin away; Listen to the prayer we say.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

O Lord God, be glorified By Your Church both far and wide!

Now we sing adoringly, Praise to You, great Trinity!

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray

C: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM 98

The congregation will sing the refrain to the tune of As with Gladness Men of Old. Pastor will read the verses of the Psalm.

**C: To the Lord a new song sing; Praise our God with songs of joy.
He has done a wondrous thing. All on earth, your songs employ
To the Lord a new song sing; He has done a wondrous thing!**

M: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**C: To the Lord a new song sing; Praise our God with songs of joy.
He has done a wondrous thing. All on earth, your songs employ
To the Lord a new song sing; He has done a wondrous thing!**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**C: To the Lord a new song sing; Praise our God with songs of joy.
He has done a wondrous thing. All on earth, your songs employ
To the Lord a new song sing; He has done a wondrous thing!**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 1:1–9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
his servants flames of fire.”

⁸ But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

THE NICENE CREED:

We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
 low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
 rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
 nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
 a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
 You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
 Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
 Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
 You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
 will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
 treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.
 star to guide, Where no clouds your glo - ry hide.
 may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Tune: DIX (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

The Hymn Response: *Sing to the tune of (CW 53)*

**Create my nature pure within And make my heart averse to sin;
Let Your good Spirit not depart, Nor hide Your presence from my heart.**

**I cannot live without Your Light, Cast out and banished from Your sight;
Your holy joys, my God, restore And guard me that I fall no more.**

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue! Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my powers shall join to bless The Lord, my strength and righteousness.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of faith which you have poured into our hearts because of your great mercy. Keep our faith strong through your Word and Sacraments that we may reflect your love and grace to those around us.

Heavenly Father, as we have been reminded of the Wise Men who came to worship you, we pray that you would guide us and strengthen us to follow you as the light of the world. Turn our eyes to see your presence in our lives as we find you in the Scriptures, encouraging, leading and loving us.

Lord Jesus, you long for each one of us to be at your manger and at your throne worshiping you as our Savior from sin. Lord, we have come to worship you! Receive our heartfelt thanks and praise; glory, laud and honor are yours! Just as the angels announced your birth, we give you glory for you are God in the highest!

Spirit of God, you hovered over the earth at creation and have continued to watch over the people of God, calling them to faith and keeping them in the family of God. In the same way, we pray that you would watch over us and our loved ones with your faithful care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Guide our steps and guard our path that we may ever follow you with joy and confidence. Allow our faith to flourish as we dwell in your Word and let it overflow in thankfulness as we live in your love. We approach you confidently in prayer as you have taught us,

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.**

Blessing

Hymn: Joy to the World



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



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.