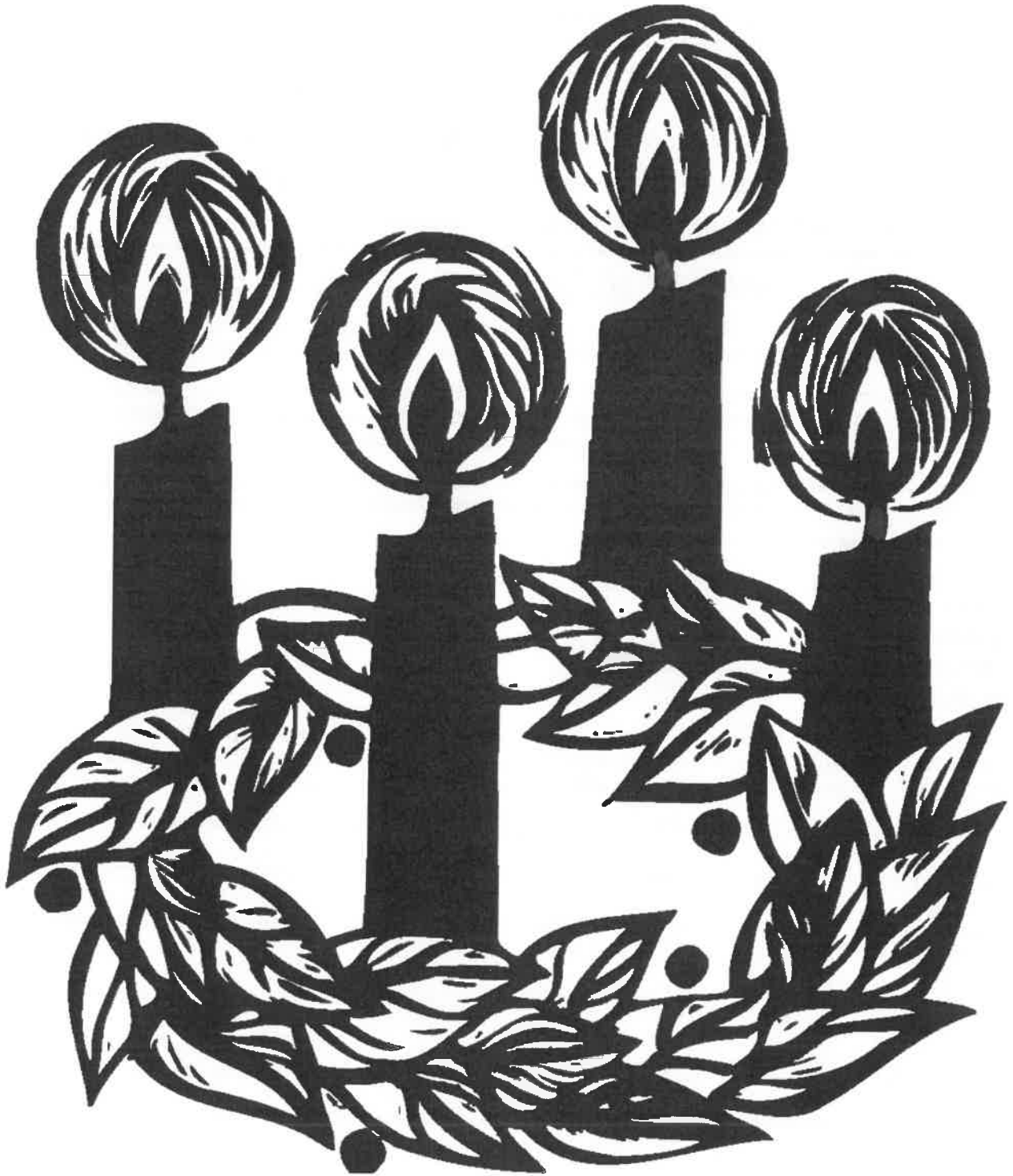


# Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024





**WELCOME** to Valley of Peace.  
We are glad you are here.

We give thanks to God for all people and want all people to feel comfortable participating in worship. If you need any assistance please let our Ushers know. We are happy to offer hearing assistance devices, move chairs to make worship feel more accessible for you, and offer any other support that would be meaningful for you in this space.

All ages are welcome to worship at Valley of Peace and we give thanks for the voices of our littlest ones. If you feel that your little one is wiggly, you are welcome to go with them to stretch their legs in the narthex where there is a small area with books and toys and you can hear the worship service. There are also bags available for you to put toys and books in and bring them into the sanctuary space.

And again, welcome to worship this day. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Interested in becoming a Member? Let Pastor Ashley know by March 10, 2025.

Our next New Member Class is: Sunday, March 16, 2025 after worship.

### SENSORY ACTIVITIES AND SPACES AT VOP

Sensory integration is the process by which individuals receive information through our senses, (Vision, Hearing, Smell, Taste, Touch, Vestibular/Movement, and Proprioception/Body Position), organize this information, and use it to participate in activities.

Each person reacts to sensory information differently. People of all ages can have sensory issues that make it more difficult to participate depending on the environment. Sensory issues are very complex because a person's sensory system could be a mixture of over reactive, under reactive, or actively engaged.

After assessing need, Emilie Moravec has been working with a few community members to make our space more welcoming for those with sensory needs. The following items are now available at the Welcome Center for individuals with sensory needs:

- Ear defender headphones
- Earplugs
- Sunglasses
- Weighted lap pads
- Battery powered fans
- Fidget blanket

Please speak with a usher or volunteer at the Welcome Center to find these items. Additional fidget supplies are available near the "busy bag" tree in the narthex outside of the sanctuary. These sensory tools are intended to promote regulation, improve focus, increase participation, and make our space more accessible and welcoming to children, teens, and adults with sensory processing needs.

If you are in need of change of environment while at Valley of Peace, the following areas are available:

- Narthex- provides space for movement right outside of the sanctuary. The worship service can still be seen and heard.
- Fireside Room - Near the top of the staircase, on the same level as the sanctuary. This space provides comfortable seating where the worship service can still be heard.
- Youth Room - The Youth room is located on the lowest level of the church and will contain a "quiet corner" with soft lighting and no worship sounds.

Sources: Mailloux Z & Smith Roley S. Sensory Integration Development and Early Signs of Difficulties. July 2013

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church  
December 22, 2024  
10:15 am

GATHERING MUSIC

+ Please  
stand in  
body or  
spirit.

We invite you  
to  
participate in  
worship by  
reading the  
**BOLD** print

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*The King Shall Come*

Charles Callahan

+INTROIT

#253 *He Came Down*

He came down that we may have love (x3); hallelujah forevermore.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader One: Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...

Reader Two: Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice, we light candles...

Reader One: One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love..  
(*Light the fourth candle of love*)

Reader Two: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

Reader One: May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

Reader Two: And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us.

Reader One: Friends, be not afraid, even now - even now- God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven.

+OPENING HYMN

#631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

All: vs. 1 & 4; Right Side: vs. 2; Left Side: vs. 3

+CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord  
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.  
*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

God of all time,  
**we confess that we have not prepared  
for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need  
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light  
and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
In +Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven  
and all things are made new.  
Rejoice in this good news!  
**Amen.**

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, O God, grant us a sense of your timing. In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of beginnings; that such waiting and endings may be the starting place, a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born, something right and just and different; a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love, in the fullness of your time. O God, grant us the sense of your timing. **Amen.**

FAITH MOMENT

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 11:1-10  
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL READING.....Matthew 1:1-17  
The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O God.**

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

+HYMN OF THE DAY *#292 Love Has Come*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
*Response*— Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+SHARING OF THE PEOPLE  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



OFFERTORY *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Jay Rouse

+OFFERTORY PRAYER  
Savior of the nations, come. **Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine every new and our lives reveal your presence. Amen.**

+HOLY COMMUNION  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, God of David, for your faithfulness is steadfast and your mercy has been from of old. You draw your people to you with your promise of salvation, and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill. From the house of David, you raised up your Messiah to restore Judah and to herald that your deliverance was near. In your Son's righteousness we find our life: for his righteousness was more than enough for your people who had waited so long for justice, who had yearned so long for redemption, who had trusted so long in your grace. Truly in his righteousness is fulfilled every hope of salvation in every generation. By his death, we can stand justified before you, and through his resurrection, we can share your holy life forever.

God of glory, for whose coming we wait, make this meal we share a sign that our redemption draws near. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church: strengthen our hearts in all holiness that we may be heralds of your kingdom. By your same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of power, you have promised to make your way to us; come quickly to those who wait for you. Raise up every head that is bent low in sin. Lift up every heart that is bowed down in shame. Uphold every soul that is made heavy by oppression. Inspire every weary throat to sing of the day when justice and mercy meet. Bring us through all that is passing away to the life that shall never pass away, when every eye shall be lifted up to gaze upon your Son in everlasting glory with all your saints, and when the redemption for which we have longed shall forever be ours, in the company of your Son and the power of your Spirit, holy One, blessed Trinity. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**+LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen**

+INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
Share in the feast of salvation.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

#266 *All Earth Is Hopeful*

*All are welcome to receive communion at Valley of Peace.*

*We serve communion every Sunday by intinction. After the pastor speaks the words of distribution to online worshippers, the ushers will then invite worshippers physically present to receive communion.*

*If you are receiving communion by intinction, there will be bread and gluten-free wafers available. As you come forward to receive communion, a communion server will serve you your preference. Please take the bread or wafer and dip it into our preference of either wine or juice. The first chalice will contain wine and the second chalice will contain grape juice.*

*If you prefer to not receive communion by intinction there are pre-packaged communion kits with a gluten-free wafer and grape juice. You may pick this up on your way to communion.*

*If you prefer not to receive communion at all, please come forward with your hands across your chest and you will receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.*

+COMMUNION BLESSING

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+BLESSING

+SENDING HYMN

#251 *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

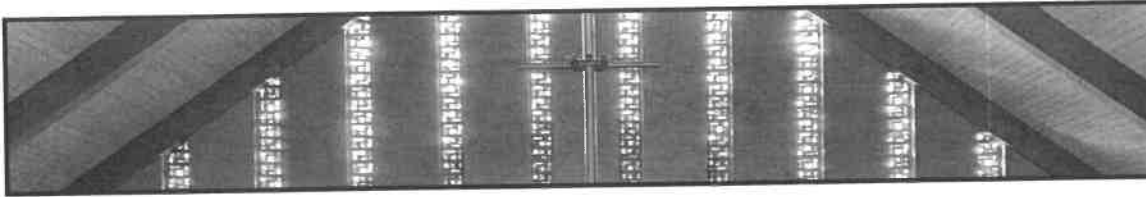
+DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Christmas Sonatina— Mov. III*

Carl Reinecke



## In Worship Today

Presider/Preacher.....	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Pianist/Organist.....	Beth Brandt
Director of Music.....	Hsu-hui Wang
Opener/Closer.....	Paul Mikelson
Greeter.....	Gina Privratsky & Lisa Thanghe
Welcome Center.....	Sally Daniels Herron
Advent Candle Lighting.....	The Broin Family
Ushers.....	Cecilia Pockl Schneider & Declan Schneider
Worship Assistant.....	Tara Kuckkan
Faith Moment.....	Pace Warfield
Readers.....	Tara Kuckkan, Paul Mikelson & Sara Hoge
Communion Assistants.....	Sara Blood, Gabe Blood, Dee Kendall & Pat Hepner
Coffee Cart.....	Chrys Johnson
Tech.....	Naomi Dybvig
Altar Care.....	Linda Franz
Bell Table Set Up.....	Darcie Rodman & Chuck Rudolph

**The Altar Flowers are given by Kathy Boesen  
In honor of Becca Anderson's birthday on the 24th!**

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Music printed and live-streamed with permission from One License #A719979 and CCLI License #2176842.

## In Worship on Sunday, December 29 at 10:15 am

Presider/Preacher.....	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Pianist/Organist.....	Beth Brandt
Director of Music.....	Hsu-hui Wang
Opener/Closer.....	Jim Jasper
Greeters.....	Laurie Eaton & Jim Jasper
Welcome Center.....	Abby Stetler & Matt Stetler
Ushers.....	Judy Greeninger, Casey Balint, Dee Kendall & Alex Balint
Worship Assistant.....	Sara Blood
Communion Servers.....	Melissa Dellwo, Mary Hovden, Kari Roll & OPEN
Reader.....	Paul Mikelson
Music Provided By.....	Leslie Gilyard
Coffee Cart.....	Nancy Rogness
Tech.....	Matt Dellwo
Altar Care.....	8 Linda Franz
Bell Table Set Up.....	Barb Mikelson & Paul Mikelson

## Valley of Peace Staff

### *Pastor*

Ashley Osborn  
(she/her/hers)  
[aosborn@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:aosborn@valleyofpeace.org)

### *Organist / Pianist / Accompanist*

Beth Brandt  
(she/her/hers)  
[organist@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:organist@valleyofpeace.org)

### *Director of Music*

Hsu-hui Wang  
(she/her/hers)  
[music@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:music@valleyofpeace.org)

### *Ministry Support Coordinator*

Kelsey Pierson  
(she/her/hers)  
[office@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:office@valleyofpeace.org)

### *Director of Children, Youth and Family*

Pace Warfield  
(they/them/theirs)  
[cyf@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:cyf@valleyofpeace.org)

## Reconciling In Christ Statement

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.





# 252 Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,  
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for  
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from  
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the  
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the  
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and  
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that  
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can  
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.  
 scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.  
 we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.  
 kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.  
 new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.  
 Music: Annabeth Gay, b. 1925  
 Text and music © 1971 United Church Press

CAROL OF HOPE  
 96 966

# 253

## He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional  
 Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949  
 Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

HE CAME DOWN  
 LM



he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light;  
 he came down that we may have peace;  
 he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

254

1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



## 631

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 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, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

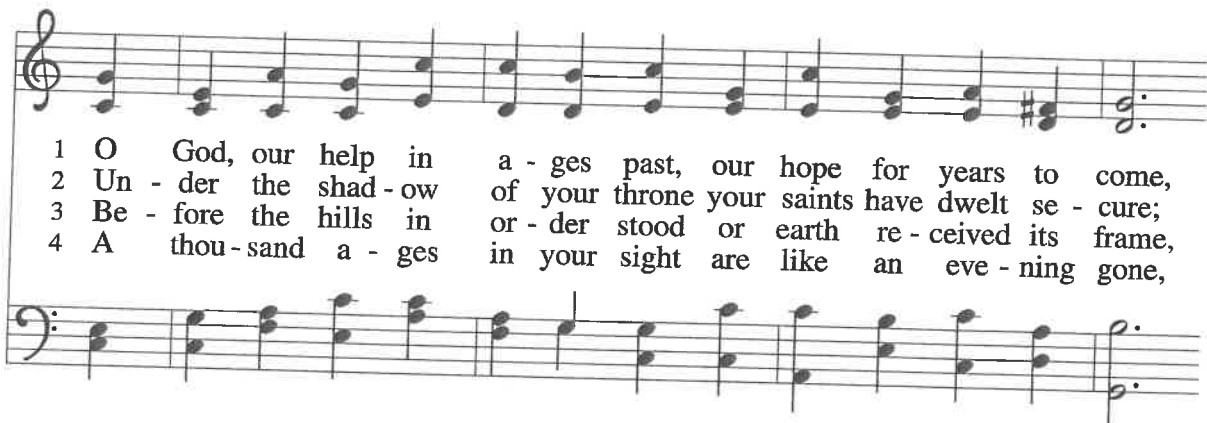




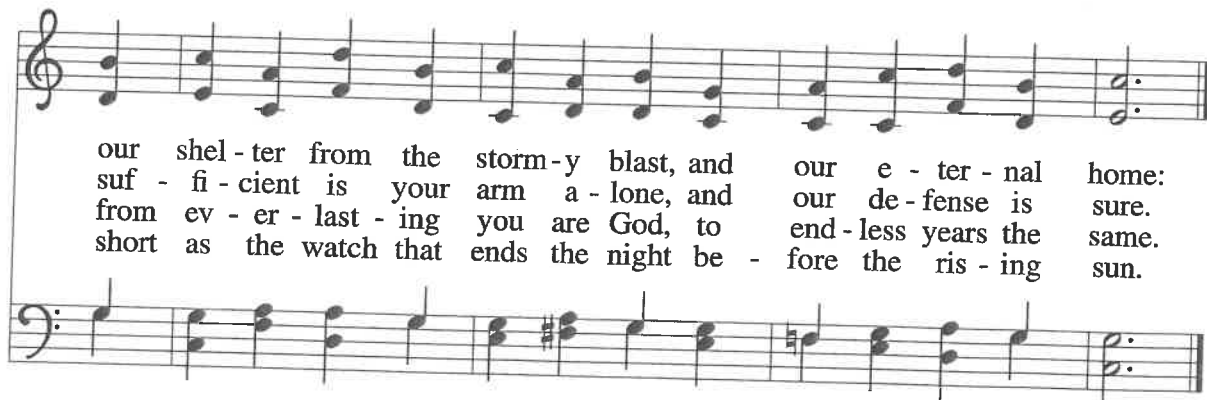
thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 still be our guard while troubles last  
 and our eternal home.





## 291

## Let Our Gladness Have No End



- 1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



- for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

*Refrain*

On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown  
 Music: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN  
 74 74 666

## 292

## Love Has Come



- 1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950  
 Music: F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856  
 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

UN FLAMBEAU  
 99 10 998





hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

# That Boy-Child of Mary

293

*Refrain*



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?  
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.  
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?  
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

- 5 One with the Father, he is our Savior,  
 heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.

*Refrain*

- 6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,  
 give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.

*Refrain*



## All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



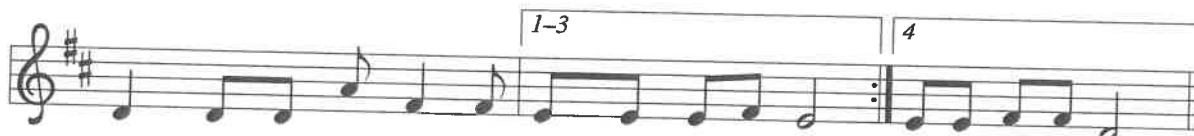
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*  
*"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"*  
*será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,*  
*con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.*
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*  
*nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*  
*Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,*  
*y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*  
*pero en el mundo está presente hoy.*  
*Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;*  
*y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.*



## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

251

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

