# Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Christmas December 28, 2025





#### **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 9, 2026 Our next New Member Class is: Sunday, March 15, 2026 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 an 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.
- <u>Fireside Room</u> 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 28, 2025 10:15 a.m.

Welcome to Worship.

Just a few things to note as you prepare to worship.

You are invited to participate in worship by reading the BOLD print.

When you see +, please stand in body or in spirit.

ELW is the red hymnal and ACS is the purple hymnal,
both located in the bottom of the pew in front of you.

If you need any assistance please ask an usher. They are happy to help.

GATHERING MUSIC

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day arranged by Phillip Keveres

WORDS OF WELCOME

**PRELUDE** 

He Is Born, The Holy Child

Traditional French Carol

+OPENING WORDS

In these days following Christmas, we linger near the manger still. We gather to hear once more the story of God-with-us, told in ancient scripture, in poetry old and new, in carols and in quiet.

May the Spirit gather us, open our hearts, and guide our feet toward peace on earth.

+OPENING CAROL Red ELW #294 In the Bleak Midwinter verses 1, 2, 3

FAITH MOMENT

FIRST LESSON Hope is Promise

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

POETIC REFLECTION: from "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and women were purse and wise. He came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

CAROL

Red ELW #272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming verses 1, 2, 3

# SECOND LESSON A Light in the Darkness

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 1:1-5, 10-14

POETIC REFLECTION: from "How the Light Comes" by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does... that it will find you in your wilderness, on your ordinary day, and light you, light you all the way

CAROL Red ELW #269 Once in Royal David's City verses 1, 2, 3

THIRD LESSON
The Birth of Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:1-7

POETIC REFLECTION: from "The Little Towns We Know" by Mary Oliver

There are lots of little towns in this world

where the holy arrives -

gently,

astonishingly -

asking only that we open the door.

CAROL Red ELW #275 Angels from the Realms of Glory verses 1, 2, 4

FOURTH LESSON
The Angels Proclaim Peace

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:8-14

POETIC REFLECTION: from "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,

when the star in the sky is gone...

the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost, to heal the broken, to bring peace among all people.

CAROL Red ELW #289 Angels We Have Heard on High verses 1, 3

# FIFTH LESSON Good News Shared with the Lowly

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:15-20

POETIC REFLECTION: from "A Great Joy" by Maya Angelou

Into this gloom of expectation

this silent night

breaks a song of joy -

a cry of hope:

"Good news! Great joy! Peace!

#### **CAROL**

#### Do You Hear What I Hear

Said the night wind to the little lamb

Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?)

Way up in the sky, little lamb

Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?)

A star, a star, dancing in the night

With a tail as big as a kite With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy

Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?)

Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy

Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?)

A song, a song high above the trees

With a voice as big as the sea With a voice as big as the sea Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?)

In your palace warm, mighty king

Do you know what I know? (Do you know

what I know?)

A Child, a Child shivers in the cold Let us bring him silver and gold Let us bring him silver and gold Said the king to the people everywhere

Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)

Pray for peace, people, everywhere

Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!) The Child, the Child sleeping in the night

He will bring us goodness and light He will bring us goodness and light

SIXTH LESSON
A Light for All Nations

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

POETIC REFLECTION: from "The Journey of the Magi" by T.S. Elliot

A cold coming we had of it...

but we returned to our places, these kingdoms, no longer at ease in the old dispensation.

CAROL Red ELW #292 Love Has Come verses 1, 2, 3

# SEVENTH LESSON A God Who Dwells With Us

SCRIPTURE READING: REVELATION 21:1-5A

POETIC REFLECTION: from "God of Promise" by Padraig O Tuama

God of beginnings, God of journeys,

God of dwelling among us -

make your home in our flesh and our days.

CAROL Red ELW #283 O Come, All Ye Faithful verses 1, 2

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

+SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC

Jingle Bells

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Red ELW #251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, verse 1

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, your light shines in our darkness and your love is born among us. Receive these gifts, and with them our lives, that we may bear your grace into the world. 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.

Holy God, Creator of all things, the Light who shone before the stars, we praise you for your love made known to us in Jesus, born into our world, sharing our joys and sorrows, calling us to justice, and feeding us with grace.

On the night in which he was betrayed...

With this bread and cup we remember his life among us; we remember his death and resurrection; we remember your promise to dwell with us always.

Send your Spirit upon this meal and upon your gathered people. Make us bearers of your light, and neighbors to the forgotten, and companions on the way of peace. **Amen.** 

#### +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

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION & HYMNS

Red ELW #281 Silent Night
Red ELW #296 What Child is This

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 worshipers, 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 your preference of either wine or juice. The first chalice will contain red wine and the second chalice will contain white 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 or do not want to be visible on the live-stream, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

#### +COMMUNION BLESSING & POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Radiant God, in this meal you have filled us with hope, light, and love. Send us now as your people, to share good news, to bear Christ's peace, and to join in the work of Christmas that continues long after the angel's song is stilled. Amen.

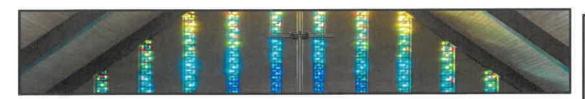
- +BLESSING
- +SENDING HYMN Red ELW #267 Joy to the World verses 1, 3, 4
- +DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Christmas Pastorale

by Charles Wesley



In Worship Today

Presider/Preacher	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Pianist/Organist	Beth Brandt
Opener/Closer	Paul Mikelson
	Wes Syverson
Welcome Center	Sally Daniels Herron
Faith Moment	Barb Mikelson
Ushers	Casey Balint, Alex Balint, Judy Greeninger, Dee Kendall
	Casey Balint, Alex Balint, Judy Greeninger, Dee Kendall
Worship Assistant	
Worship Assistant Communion Servers	
Worship Assistant Communion Servers Readers	
Worship Assistant Communion Servers Readers Coffee Cart	Teri and Marv Spartz, Carolyn Rask, Paul Mikelson
Worship Assistant Communion Servers Readers Coffee Cart Tech	

#### The Altar Flowers are given by Heather White in memory of her niece, Emily Parent

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#### In Worship on Sunday, January 4, at 10:15 a.m.

Preacher & Presider	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Pianist/Organist	Beth Brandt
Opener/Closer	Ruth & Jon Larson
	Diane Hinderlie
Welcome Center	Diane Hinderlie
Ushers	Pam & Wes Syverson, Shennon Jay, Dee Kendall
Faith Moment	Darcie Rodman
Worship Assistant	Darcie Rodman
Communion Servers	Ruth & Jon Larson
	Nancy Rogness
	Melissa Dellwo
Altar Care	Steve Collin

For more information and a calendar of activities visit www.valleyofpeace.org

#### Valley of Peace Staff

Pastor
Ashley Osborn
(she/her/hers)
aosborn@valleyofpeace.org

Organist/Pianist/Accompanist
Beth Brandt
(she/her/hers)
organist@valleyofpeace.org

Director of Music
Christine Weatherman
(she/her/hers)
music@valleyofpeace.org

Interim Ministry Support
Coordinator
Sally Daniels Herron
(she/her/hers)
office@valleyofpeace.org

Interim Director of Children, Youth and Family & Pastor Ashley Osborn (she/her/hers) 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.

## In the Bleak Midwinter

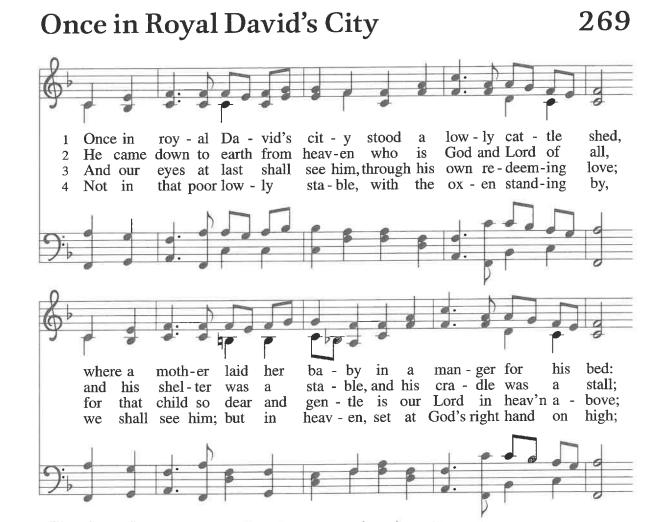


## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4 Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 ES IST EIN ROS 7676676

- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare, still such a cradle would not do to rock a prince so great as you.
- 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough on which as king so rich and great to be enthroned in humble state.



Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle that moth-er mild, Mar - y was and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly. with the poor where he is his chil-dren on to the place gone. leads and he crowned. chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo-ry there his



## On Christmas Night



- the Chris-tians sing to hear the news all On Christ-mas night
- re deem er sad, since our earth be why should we on Then
- his face, then and health come life be - fore de - parts When sin
- have light, which made the an we All dark - ness



Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing gels bring. On an since be sad, should we earth glad? Then why on made us then face, place. When de - parts be fore his sin its have light, which of dark - ness we this night. All out sing



an - gels bring: of great joy, news of news the news the hear re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin re - joice with us its place. An - gels and health come in God in made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to



Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: English traditional

SUSSEX CAROL 888888

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#### 275

# Angels, from the Realms of Glory

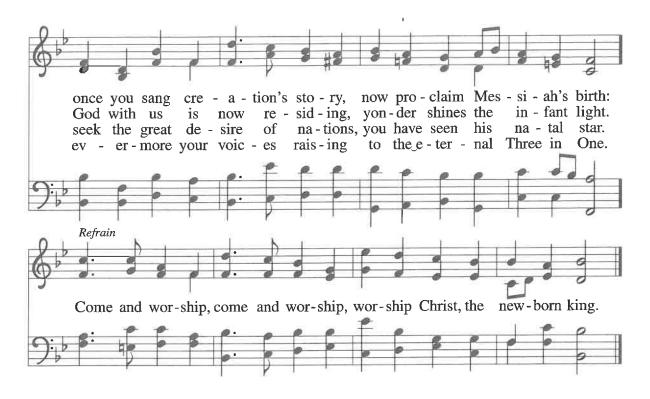


- An gels, from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all
- Shep-herds, in the fields a bid-ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- vi sions beam a far; Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright - er
- in prais-ing God, the Fa ther, Spir it, Son, cre - a - tion, join



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

REGENT SQUARE 878787



## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

276



- cat tle stall; in - fant low - ly, for his bed a In - fant ho - ly,
- till the morn-ing new 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig - il



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of gos - pel

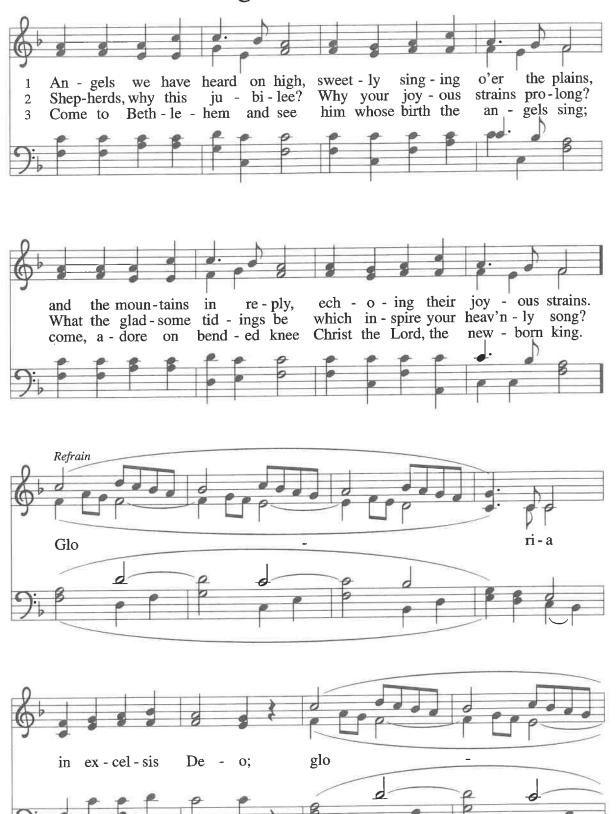


Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid-ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

# Angels We Have Heard on High

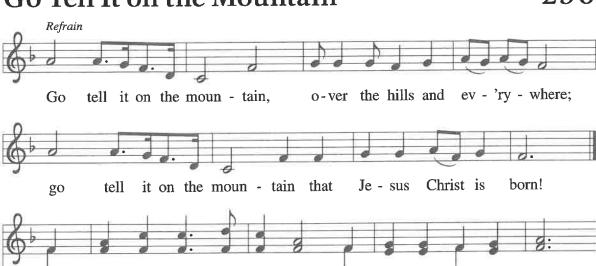


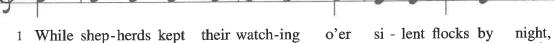
Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864 Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958 GLORIA 7777 and refrain



## Go Tell It on the Mountain

290





2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

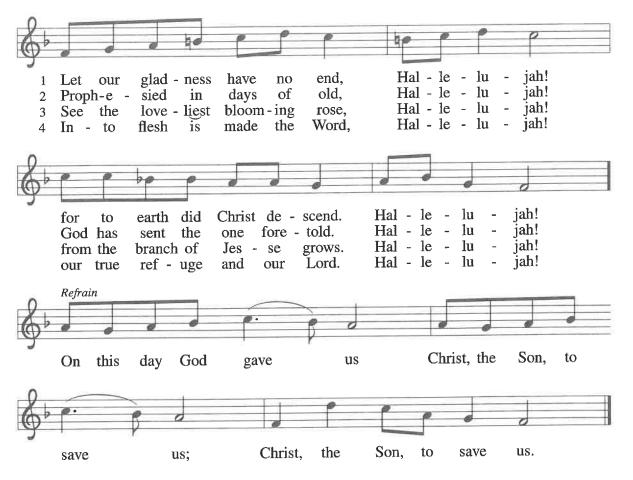




there shone a ho - ly light. be - hold, through-out the heav-ens that hailed our Sav-ior's birth. rang out the an - gel cho-rus and God sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn. sent us



# Let Our Gladness Have No End



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

NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN 7474666

## 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 -
- 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 -



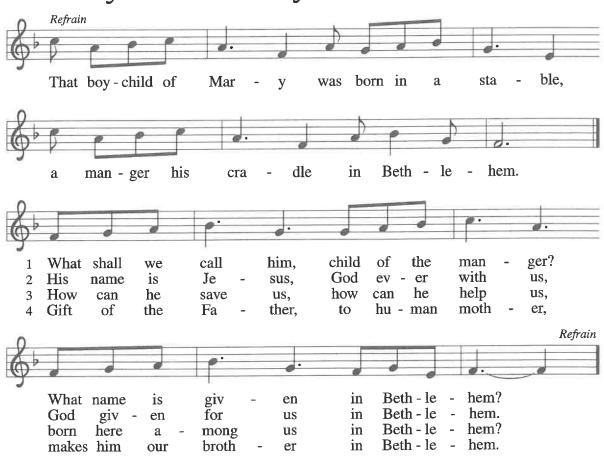
come to pro-claim it; heav-en has Beth - le - hem skies. See, all moth - er; glow in the eyes of his See the sleep in the hay. Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. last - ing and free. Love is

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music UN FLAMBEAU 9910998



## That Boy-Child of Mary

293

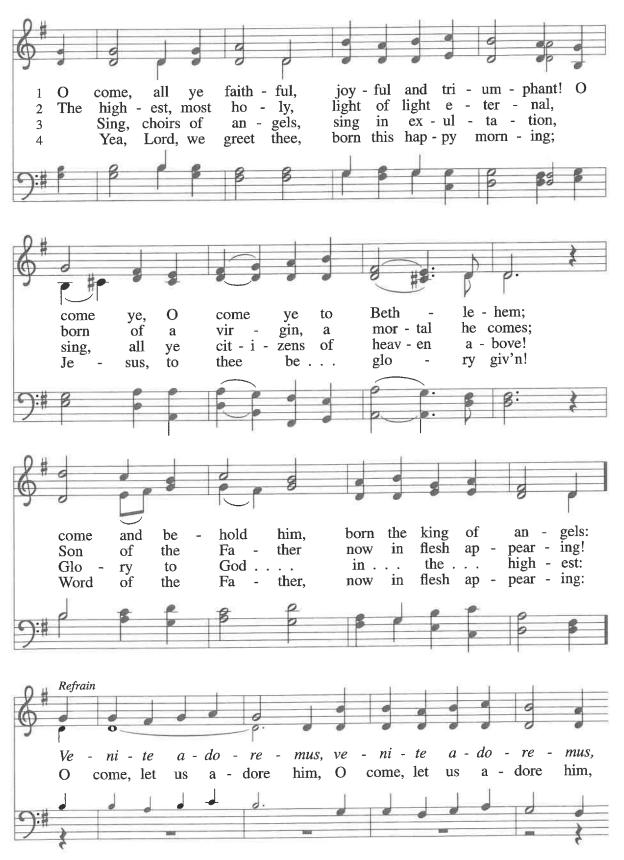


- 5 One with the Father, he is our Savior, heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.

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

  \*Refrain\*

# O Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: attr. John Francis Wade ADESTE FIDELES Irregular



## 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

284

that

a

as



- the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled, 'Twas in
- a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found;
- ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



be earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; \*God the Lord of all the skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round; but rag - ged robe of rab - bit the help - less in - fant there. The was the ring of glo - ry on Come, ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you.



their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn: fore as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high: chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt. be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a!

<sup>\*</sup> original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

251

