



REFORMATION COVENANT CHURCH  
WORSHIPPING OUR REIGNING SAVIOR  
1201 JQ ADAMS ST. OREGON CITY, OR 97045

THE  
ADVENT  
OF TRUE  
FREEDOM

DEVIN SMITH  
JOHN 8:31-36

2019  
FOURTH ADVENT  
SUNDAY



# WELCOME

## TO REFORMATION COVENANT CHURCH

**WE** ARE GLAD YOU ARE JOINING US TODAY as we worship our great and gracious God, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If this is your first time with us, allow us to introduce ourselves.

**Worship Service.** Our weekly service follows a responsive pattern of worship found in Scripture, as a dialogue or conversation between the Lord and His people. Here God meets with us, speaks to us, and blesses us; we speak and respond back to Him in praise, thanksgiving, and renewed commitment.

**Communion.** Each week at RCC we celebrate the Lord's Supper, receiving bread and wine as covenantal tokens of Jesus' body and blood. Christians – young or old – who are baptized, and are in good standing in Christ, are invited to partake.

To facilitate Communion distribution, we encourage a representative of each household or group to come forward using the outer aisles to receive the Communion elements. Gluten-free bread is available on the pulpit side.

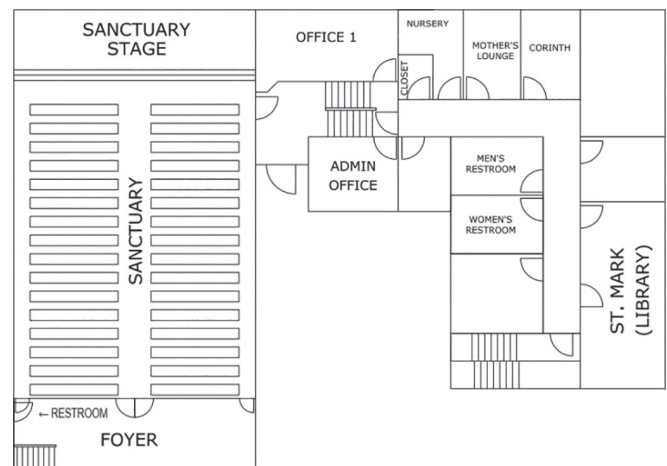
**Nursery.** We love having children involved in the whole service. Please don't worry if someone with you is wiggly – we are glad to have you all worshipping with us! During the sermon, nursery care is available for children two and under. There is a Nursing Mother's

room located adjacent to our Nursery, if you feel you need quiet or privacy. A video feed of the service can be viewed here, as well as in the Fellowship Hall below the sanctuary.

**Restrooms.** Restrooms are located down the stairs from the Foyer and in the educational wing.

**Weekly Meal.** Every week RCC hosts a weekly Agape meal after the service (served as a potluck). We always have plenty of food, and would love for you to join us for fellowship after worship!

**Contact.** If you would like us to contact you this week, please leave your name, phone number, and/or email below, and give this page to one of our Greeters, Deacons, or Elders.



*SOLI DEO GLORIA* ~ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFORMATION COVENANT CHURCH • [www.ReformationCovenantChurch.org](http://www.ReformationCovenantChurch.org)**

**ELDERS:** Gary Barnard, Bo Cogbill, Matt Dau, Michael Lortz, Roger Payne, George Shubin

**DEACONS:** Jeff Cone, Daniel Forster, Bryan Hangartner, Dave Tooze


**CONTACT:** Elders: [elders@reformationcovenant.org](mailto:elders@reformationcovenant.org) • Deacons: [deacons@reformationcovenant.org](mailto:deacons@reformationcovenant.org)

• All officers: [officers@reformationcovenant.org](mailto:officers@reformationcovenant.org)

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS (Irregular)  
John Francis Wade, *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

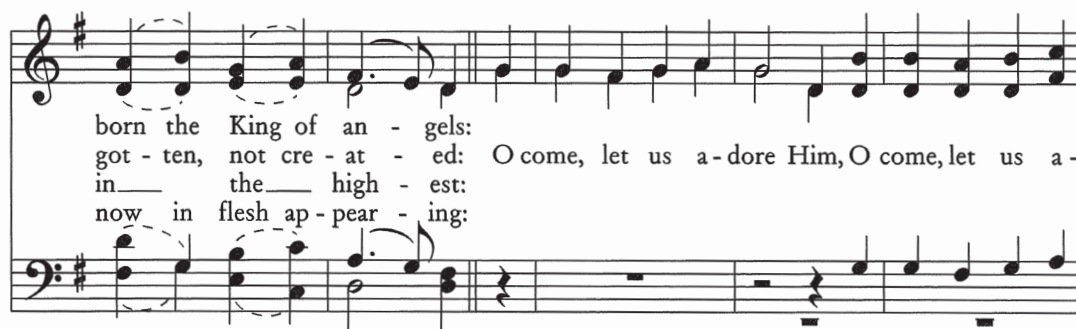
Latin hymn  
John Francis Wade, c. 1743  
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841



1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye, O  
2. God of God, Light of Light; Lo, He ab-  
3. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; Sing, all ye  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-sus, to



come ye to Beth-le-hem. Come and be-hold Him,  
hous-ing not the Vir-gin's womb; Ver-y God, be-  
cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove! Glo-ry to God,  
Thee be-glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,



born the King of an-gels:  
got-ten, not cre-at-ed: O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-  
in the high-est:  
now in flesh ap-pear-ing:



dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

☞ Congregation: Amen!

*Matthew 28:19*

The LORD be with you!

*Ruth 2:4*

☞ And also with you!

Unto us a Child is born;

*Isaiah 9:6*

☞ Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called,

☞ Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

PASTOR GREETINGS  
CONGREGATION  
RESPONDS

## THE LORD CLEANSSES US IN CHRIST

*purification offering, gift of glory*

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”

*John 1:10–11*

Beloved, our Lord has invited us to draw near to him with an honest heart. He has graciously promised to receive all those who come to him with heavy burdens of guilt and shame. Therefore I exhort all who are here today to accompany me with a pure heart and a humble voice, unto the throne of heavenly grace.

SILENT CONFESSION

☞ Most merciful God, I confess to you that I am by nature sinful and unclean, and that I am most miserably helpless before my adversaries. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that I am not able to understand, but which are all known to you. For this reason, I flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your forgiveness and deliverance, through my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JOINT CONFESSION

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

*John 1:12–14*

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for your sins and to be raised for your justification; and for His sake forgives you all your sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ☞ Amen



Hal - le - lu - yah! Praise to God the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it!

Glo - ry to You, O Lord, both now and for - ev - er, Hal - le - lu - yah!



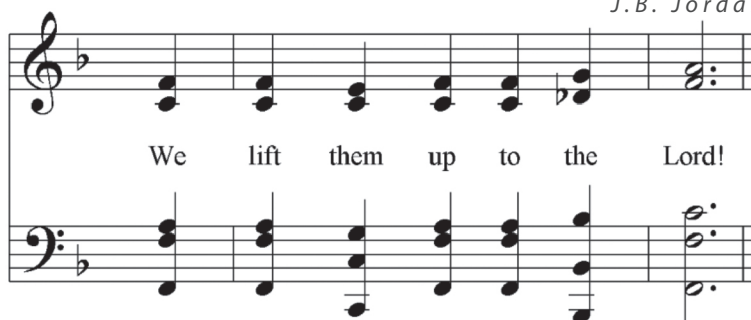
CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD  
*ascension offering, gift of knowledge*

**SURSUM CORDA** — *lift up your heart*

Lift up your hearts!

*J.B. Jordan*

PASTOR LEADS LIFTING  
 UP OF YOUR HANDS



We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the LORD, our God!

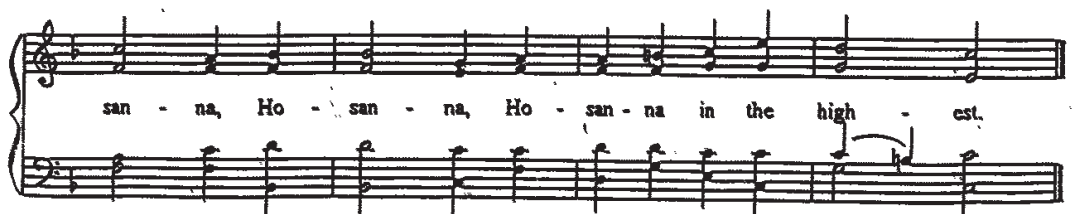
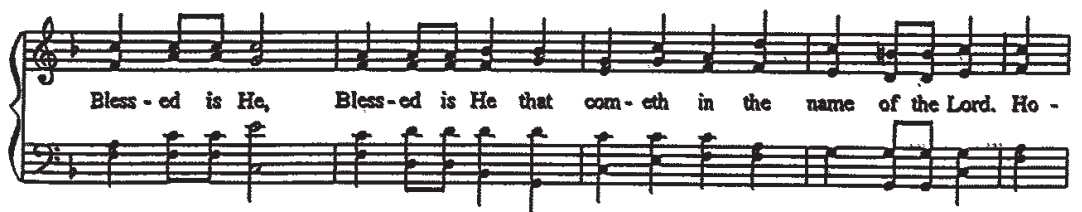
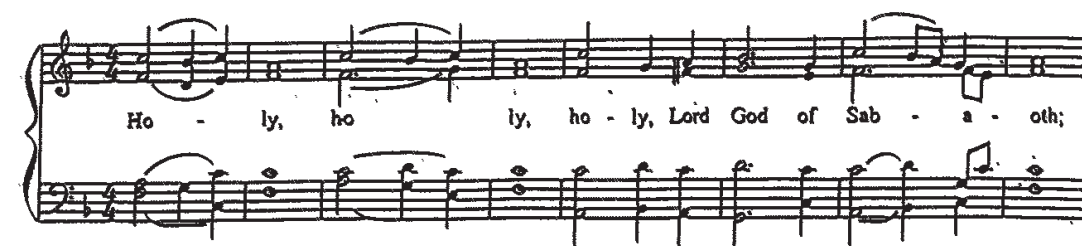


It is pro - per and right to do so.

It is truly proper, right, wholesome, and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give praise unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; evermore worshipping Thee!

PASTOR SPEAKS

## SANCTUS







1. The peo-ple who in dark-ness walked  
Have seen a glo-rious light;  
Now day has dawned for those who dwelt  
In death's sur-round-ing night.  
To hail Thee, Sun of Right-eous-ness,  
They with re-joic-ing come  
As when with joy they share the spoil  
Or bear the har-vest home.

2. For Thou the burden hast removed  
That on their shoulders lay,  
Hast broken the oppressor's rod  
As once on Midian's day.  
For boots by tramping soldiers worn  
And garments rolled in gore  
The raging flames will all consume  
To mark the end of war.
3. For unto us a Child is born,  
To us a Son is given,  
And on His shoulders He shall bear  
All power in earth and heaven.  
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
The Mighty God is He;  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace  
His holy Name shall be.
4. His government and royal power  
Shall without end increase,  
And He on David's throne shall reign  
In everlasting peace.  
On justice and on righteousness  
His kingdom He shall build.  
The LORD of hosts will show His zeal:  
His word shall be fulfilled!

## **GALATIANS 5:1–25**

*(selections)*

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,

☞ **And do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law;

☞ **You have fallen away from grace.**

For through the Spirit, by faith,

☞ **We ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.**

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything,

☞ **But only faith working through love.**

You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? For you were called to freedom, brothers.

☞ **Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,**

But through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:

☞ **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

But I say, walk by the Spirit,

☞ **And you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit,

☞ **And the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh,**

For these are opposed to each other,

☞ **To keep you from doing the things you want to do.**

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

☞ **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh**

With its passions and desires.

☞ **If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

PASTOR STARTS

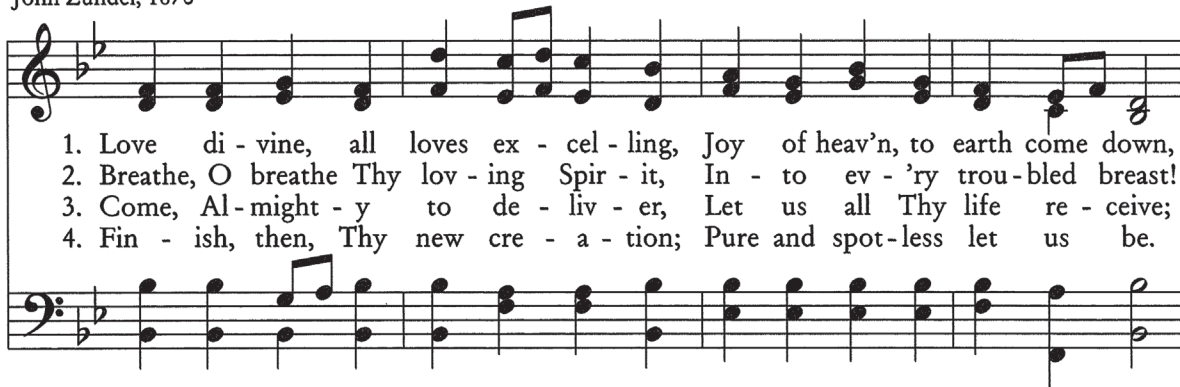
CONGREGATION  
RESPONDS



# Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER (8 7. 8 7. D.)  
John Zundel, 1870

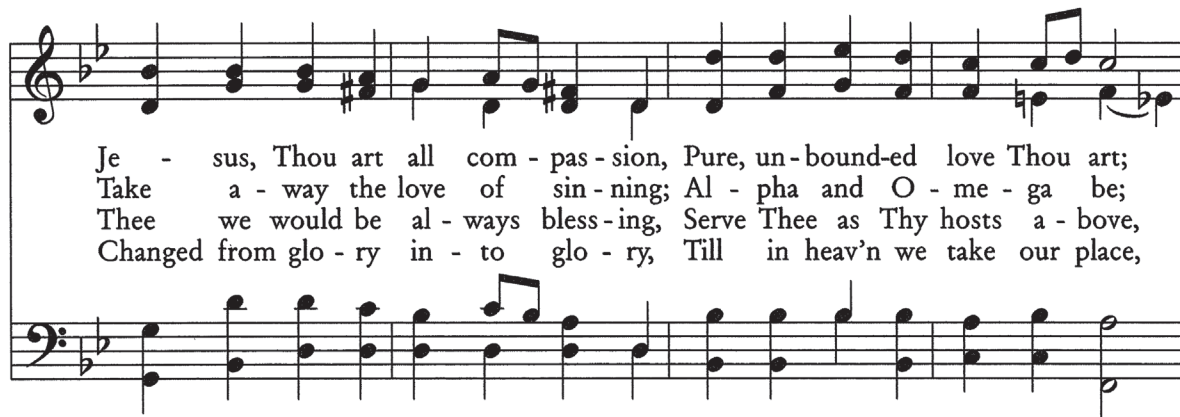
Charles Wesley, 1747




1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it, In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast!  
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be.



Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!  
Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.  
Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,



Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## JOHN 8:31–36

*English Standard Version (ESV)*

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

# THE ADVENT OF TRUE FREEDOM

BO COGBILL | DECEMBER 22

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## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD - TRIBUTE OFFERING

"Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. O, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth."

*Psalms 96:8-9*

PLEASE BRING  
FORWARD YOUR  
TITHES AND  
OFFERINGS DURING  
THIS SONG

### Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA (7 7. 7 7. Ref.)

French carol

French carol

arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## SONG OF SUPPLICATION

If you have a prayer request for the public prayer, please fill out a prayer card and pass it to the center aisle at this time. Someone will collect the cards during this song.

FILL OUT  
& SUBMIT  
PRAYER CARDS

### The First Nowell\*

223

THE FIRST NOWELL,  
Irregular with refrain

English traditional carol  
harmonized in Bramley and Stainer, *Christmas Carols Old and New* (1871)

Traditional melody;

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
3. And by the light of that same star, three Wise Men  
4. This star drew nigh to the north - west; o'er Beth - le -

1. shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay a - keep - ing their  
2. east be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great  
3. came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their in -  
4. hem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and

*Refrain*

1. sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
2. light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
3. tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
4. stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
fell reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence,  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
6. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

\*NOTE: In this carol, Nowell (Latin novellae) means news, and Noel (Latin natalis) means birthday.

## THE GREAT PRAYER

CONCLUDING WITH 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.

*Matthew 6:9-13*

CONGREGATION  
PRAYS ALONG  
WITH PASTOR



COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

*peace offering, gift of life*

## PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust in Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized and are in good standing in the Church of Jesus Christ are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

Leader: Christian, in Whom do you believe?

LEADER BEGINS

- ☞ I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy, catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Apostle's Creed*

CONGREGATION  
RESPONDS



## EUCHARIST DISTRIBUTION SONG

### I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, 1807-1882

WALTHAM

J. BAPTISTE CALKIN, 1827-1905

1. I heard the bells on Christ-mas day Their old fa-mil-iar car-ols play,  
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all Chris-ten-dom  
3. And in de-spair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,  
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead: nor doth He sleep;  
5. Till ring-ing, sing-ing on its way The world re-volved from night to day—

And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of peace on earth, good-will to men.  
Had rolled a-long th'un-bro-ken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men.  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men."  
The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."  
A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with piano accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the first five lines of the song. The final line of the song is a chorus that repeats. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.



## FINAL SCRIPTURE READING

CONGREGATION  
STANDS

## Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH (C.M.)  
Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;  
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

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

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## BENEDICTION

"Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the purification offering, the ascension offering, and peace offerings."

*Leviticus 9:22*

### Nunc Dimittis

Ancient Plainsong  
Based on Psalm Tone 5  
arr. Valerie Lortz

Luke 2:29-32

Lord now let-test Thou Thy servant de - part in — peace, ac - cord-ing to Thy Word, For mine

eyes have seen Thy sal-va-tion; which Thou hast pre-pared be - fore the face of all peo-ple, a Light to

ligh - ten the Gen - tiles and the Glo - ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra - el.

Glo - ry — be to the Fa-ther, and to — the — Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it — was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.