



**Covenant Church**  
**Presbyterian Church in America**  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**  
**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 10, 2023**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Please join us for our Holiday Fellowship meal after our worship service today. There will be no evening service.

Ladies, please join us in celebrating with Katie and Robert Welsch who welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Leigha Bea on September 21st. There will be a Baby Shower on December 16th at 2PM here at Covenant to celebrate this blessing. Please RSVP to Madison Taylor by the end of today, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for our annual Lessons & Carols Worship Service Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Ladies, please see Jan House if you are interested in signing up to help in the nursery 1-2 times in the spring semester. You can also email the church office for more details.

Mark your calendars for an evangelism training opportunity on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Don Snipes from Evangelism Explosion will be teaching through their *Share Your Faith* Workshop. We are hoping to get a headcount a few weeks before the event so the sooner folks sign up the better. It will be \$15 per person for materials. Lunch will be provided. Friends and family from other churches who would like to come are more than welcome! Please contact Liam Carr if you have any questions. The sign up link for this event will be sent out again this week.

## **† Call to Worship**

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

## **† Invocation & Lord's Prayer**

Unison

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.

## **† Hymn of Praise**

**#313 (TH#218)**

**"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

## **Prayer of Confession of Sin**

Hear our words and our groanings, O Lord. Give attention to our cry for mercy. You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. Your word says you destroy those who speak lies; you abhor the bloodthirsty and deceitful. But, O Lord, we are evildoers. We have spoken lies. We are boastful, deceitful and bloodthirsty.

By your mercy alone, by the abundance of your steadfast love may we enter your house. Because of your Son, O Lord, let us find refuge in you. Take away our sins and let us sing for joy. Cover us with your favor as with a shield. For the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**Psalms 56:12-13**

I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. <sup>13</sup> For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

† **Hymn of Assurance**

**#320 (TH #226)**

**“As with Gladness Men of Old”**

† **Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the 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 men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. Amen.

**Choral Anthem**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark! The herald-angels sing "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! The herald-angels sing "Glory to the new-born king"  
Christ, by highest heaven adored Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come Offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald-angels sing "Glory to the newborn King"  
Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings;

Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king"

Pastoral Prayer

### **Scripture Reading**

**John 1:1-13 & 8:12**  
Pew Bible page number 886

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>8:12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

### **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

**"Jesus is the Light of the World"**

Worship with Tithes & Offerings

† **Doxology**

**#571 (TH #735)**

**"Gloria Patri"**

† Prayer of Dedication

† **Closing Hymn**

**#318 (TH #218)**

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

† Benediction

# **SERMON OUTLINE**

## **December 10, 2023**

### **10:30 a.m.**

**John 1:1-13 & 8:12**  
**“Jesus is the Light of the World”**

#### Introduction

1. Jesus is the Light of the World. (8:12a)
2. The Light of Jesus Shines in the Darkness. (1:4-5)
3. We Are Called to Witness to the Light. (1:6-8)
4. Jesus is the Only True Light. (1:9)
5. If You Believe in Jesus You Will Not Walk in Darkness. (8:12b)

#### Conclusion

5. Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind  
 God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!  
 Trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
 from his poor manger to his bitter cross.  
 Tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
 till our imperfect state God doth replace.

6. Then may we hope, th'angelic throngs among,  
 to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
 he that was born upon this joyful day  
 around us all his glory shall display;  
 saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
 eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

John Byrom, 1749; alt.

YORKSHIRE 10.10.10.10.10.10.  
 John Wainwright, 1750

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

313

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,  
 5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
 • seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

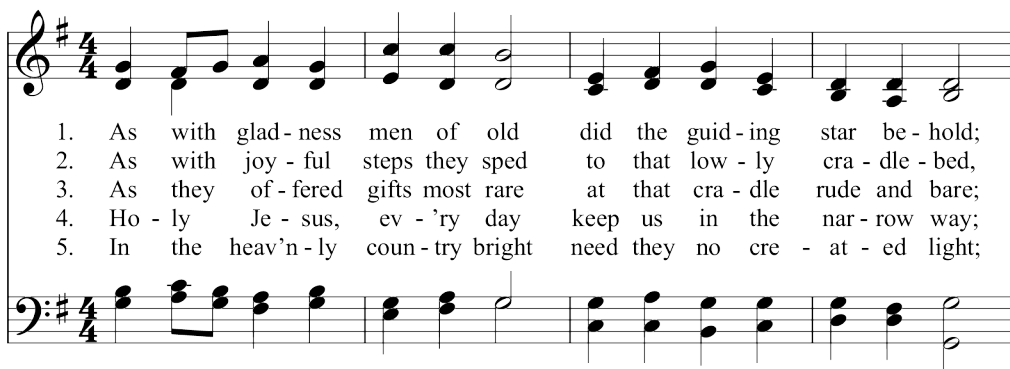
Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

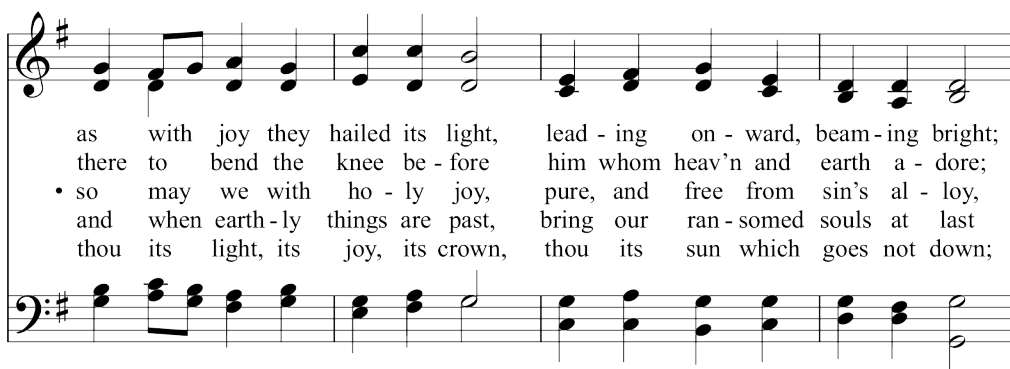
James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
 Henry Smart, 1867

## As with Gladness Men of Old



1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly cra-dle-bed,  
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle rude and bare;  
 4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;  
 5. In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
 • so may we with ho-ly joy, pure, and free from sin's al-loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
 • all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.  
 there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King.

## Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

The first system of musical notation for 'Gloria Patri' is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble staff is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The bass staff accompaniment is: G3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), B2 (half).

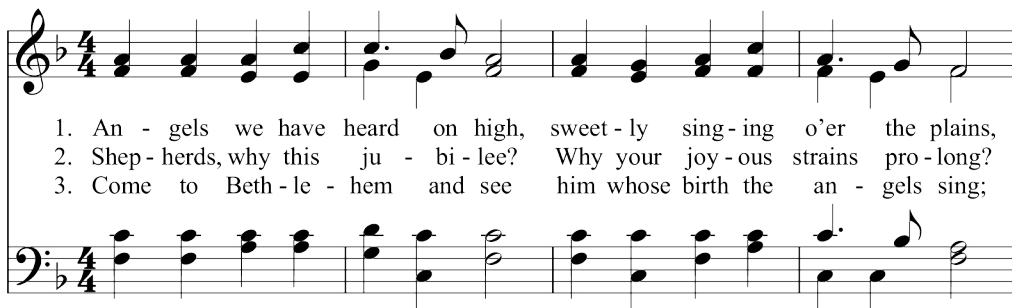
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody is: C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The bass staff accompaniment is: G3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), B2 (half).

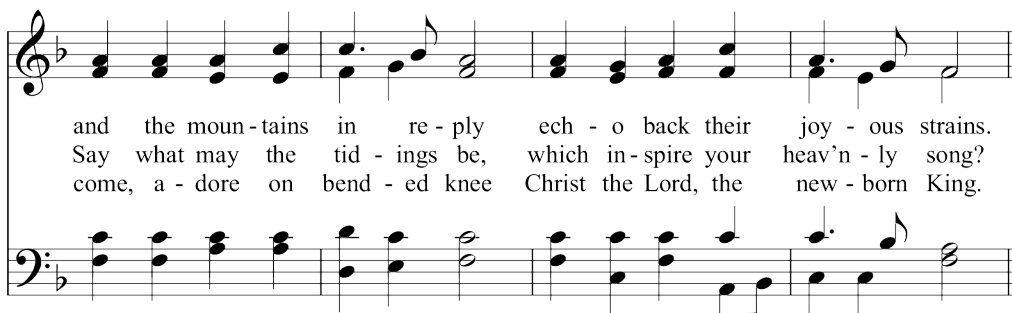
now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff melody is: C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The bass staff accompaniment is: G3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), B2 (half).

## Angels We Have Heard on High



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;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the 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.

## Refrain



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



glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.