

Service of Lessons & Carols



Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020 ~ 10 am
First Sunday of Christmas
at historic

Upper Tincum Evangelical Lutheran Church
188 Upper Tincum Church Road
Upper Black Eddy, PA
(610)294-9391

<http://facebook.com/uppertincumlc>

The Rev. John W. Hansen, Pastor
Tel. (973) 580-3010
Kyle Page, Director of Music

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME

P As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through ✚ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C Amen.

GATHERING CAROL

LBW #50

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

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 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

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

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

GREETING

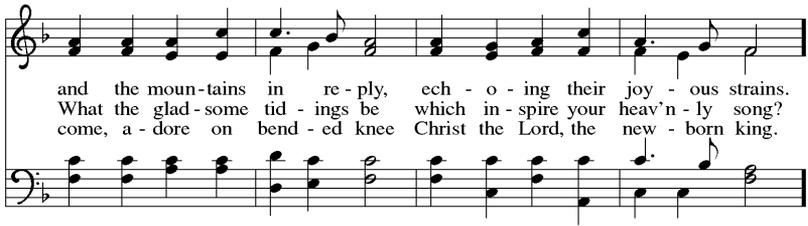
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

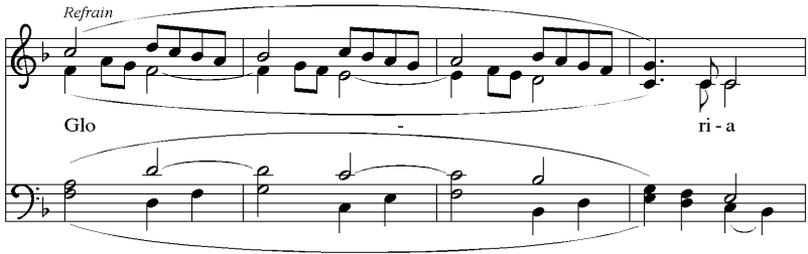
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

LBW #71 “Angels we have Heard on High”

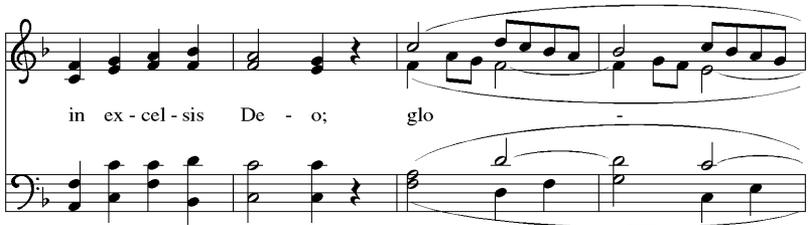
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech-o-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.



Refrain
 Glo - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo



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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PSALM 8 (read responsively)

¹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

²**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴**what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

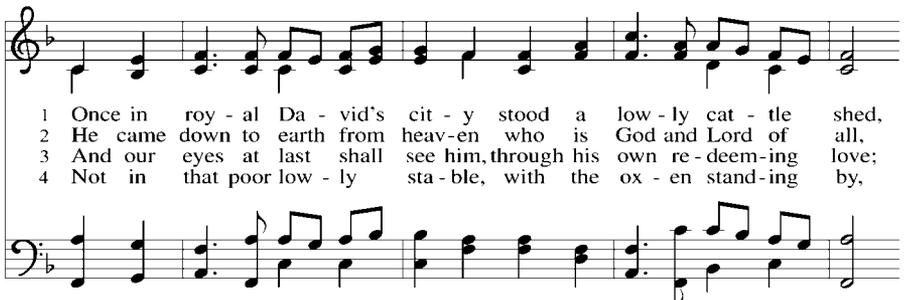
⁸**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

⁹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

LESSON: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

CAROL: WOV #643 "Once in Royal David's City"



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
 and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

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

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

A brief time for reflection on the lessons may follow.

LESSON: Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

CAROL: LBW #58 "Lo, How a Rose Is Growing"

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of fin - est grace;
 2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry the an - gels sang that night;
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, with fra - grance fills the air;
 5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt all hu - man woe;

6

the proph-ets had fore-told it: a branch of Jes-se's race
 He came to us through Mar-y who shel-tered him from cold.
 how Christ was born of Mar-y; he was the Son of light.
 his bright-ness ends the dark-ness that kept the earth in fear.
 O Sav-ior, king of glo-ry, who tri-umphed o'er our foe:

would bear one per-fect flow'r here in the cold of
 Through God's e-ter-nal will this child to us was
 To Beth-le-hem they ran to find him in the
 True God and yet true man, he came to save his
 bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of

win-ter and dark-est mid-night hour.
 giv-en at mid-night calm and still.
 man-ger as an-gel her-alds sang.
 peo-ple from earth's dark night of sin.
 heav-en and in-to end-less day.

Text: German. 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal. b. 1943
 Music: FS IST EIN ROS. *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng.* Köln, 1599

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“For unto you is born a Savior, who is *Christ*, the Lord”

LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

¹ “Who is this that comes from Edom, from Bozrah in garments stained crimson? Who is this so splendidly robed, marching in his great might?” “It is I, announcing vindication, mighty to save.”

² “Why are your robes red, and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?” ³ “I have trodden the wine press alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their juice spattered on my garments, and stained all my robes.”

¹¹Then they remembered the days of old, of Moses his servant. Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is the one who put within them his holy spirit?

RESPONSE: LBW #45 "O Come, All ye Faithful" (*refrain only*)

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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

LESSON: John 1:19-23, 29-34

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹

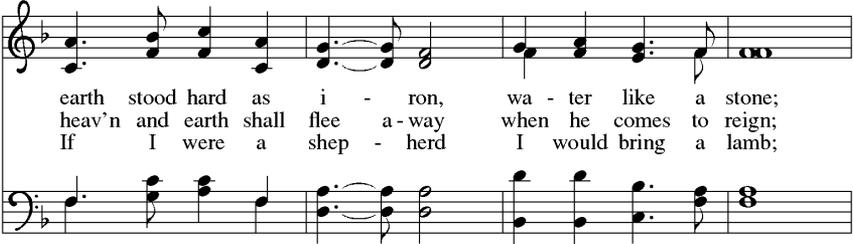
myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

A brief time for reflection on the lessons may follow.

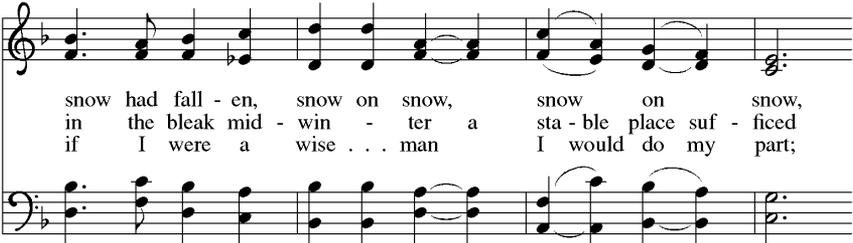
CAROL: ELW #294 "In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan,
 2 Heav-en can-not hold him, nor . . . earth sus-tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep-herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord”

LESSON: Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
 the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

RESPONSE: LBW #41 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in!
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

LESSON: Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne

of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

A brief time for reflection on the lessons may follow.

CAROL: LBW #44 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"



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



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



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:



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

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
 Music: W ZŁOBIE LEZY, Polish carol

NICENE CREED

C 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 and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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 worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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

SHARING THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Christ Child be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace.)

THE OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: LBW #56 "The First Noel"

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

P Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A God of glory, you bring your word to birth among us. As you spoke through prophets and ancestors, empower your church to proclaim your name with boldness and tenderness, that your salvation is revealed to all the ends of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You founded the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands. Protect the beauty of mountains and valleys. Save glaciers, tundra, and arctic lands from the threat of changing climates. Sustain all things by your powerful word. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You send messengers to announce peace. Build trust among nations. Strengthen relationships that reach beyond borders. Grant safety to ambassadors, relief workers, military personnel, and health care providers who travel across the world. Reveal your redemption through their work. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You bring hope to all people. Bring wholeness to all who long for your comfort and companionship. Revive aching spirits and restore tired bodies. Bring healing and wholeness to all who long for mercy (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You are the fullness of grace and truth. Bless ministries of generosity in this congregation and community. Open our doors in welcome, extend our tables to guests, and send us out with provisions for those who lack food, water, shelter, clothing, or companionship. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. Claim us as your children in this life and in the next. Encourage us by the witness of the saints across the ages who have testified to your light and life (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

SENDING CAROL: LBW # 70 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
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;

Refrain

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

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

P Christ is born!
Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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