# St. Brendan's Episcopal Church Juneau, Alaska "A Harbor for God's Love" Holy Communion With Reserve Sacrament Godly Play: The Nativity Story



Christmas Eve December 24, 2025 Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

# Holy Communion with Reserve Sacrament Godly Play: The Nativity Story

Led by Worship Leaders trained and licensed by the Diocese of Alaska Dave Muldoon~ Officiant

#### **Christmas Eve**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

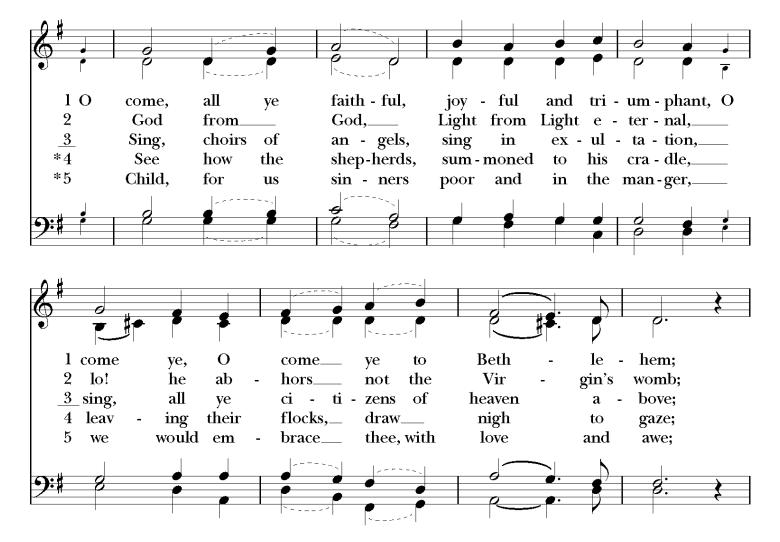
# Liturgy of the Word

Please Stand as able and join in singing the Opening Hymn

# **Opening Hymn**

# O come, all ye faithful

# Hymnal 83





6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

All standing, the Officiant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

#### **Confession of Sin**

The Officiant says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark* 12:29-31

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Officiant and People together say

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

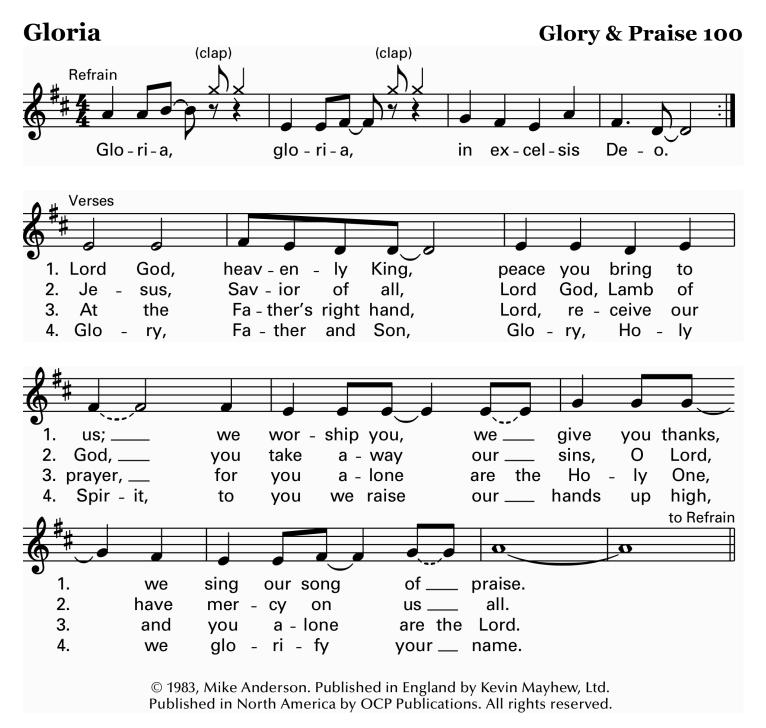
The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Officiant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The following is sung, all standing as you are able



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# **Collect of the Day**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People together say

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**Rob Smith** 

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

All sit.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

Psalm 96 Dan Hall

#### Cantate Domino

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \* sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*
  he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
  he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*
  let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \* when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

A reading from Titus

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

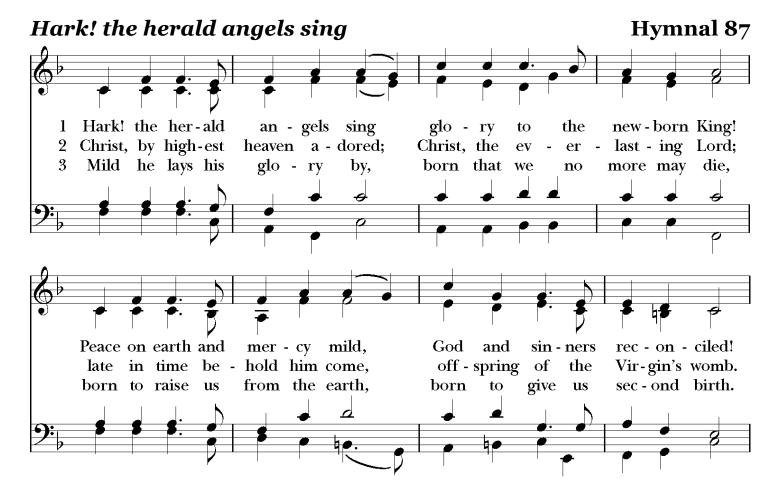
The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able for the singing of the Sequence Hymn

# **Sequence Hymn**







Congregation may remain seated during the reading of the Gospel.

**Holy Gospel** 

Luke 2:1-20

**Dave Muldoon** 

Officiant

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Officiant

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

# Godly Play: The Nativity Story Dave Muldoon, Narrator

Please be seated

**NARRATOR:** A Christmas Eve Liturgy of the Nativity story written for Godly Play by Jerome W. Berryman told with assistance of the St. Brendan's Godly Play class.

This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go.

The little town we seek sits in the hill county some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered here on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread". In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night, it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A weary cow chews his barley and broken straw then leans and rests after the day's plowing to the valley. A lamb nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

# Music: O Little Town of Bethlehem

**NARRATOR:** As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth. They walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago. They have come, like so many others, because the Roman's Emperor wants to count each one, so he can take money as a tax.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, they knocked on every door in town. (KNOCK, KNOCK)

**CONGRATION ONE:** No rooms available. We have people from across the country.

**CONGRATION TWO:** Sorry, we are all full.

**NARRATOR:** But it was late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Music: Once in Royal David's City

**NARRATOR:** Stars brighten in the sky. All creation is breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that his father filled with straw.

Music: Away in a Manger

**NARRATOR:** In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of light is something even brighter: An Angel. The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, The Lord". Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing,"

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere.

**NARRATOR:** The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself at the center of all that love.

Music: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

**NARRATOR:** Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Maji. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, whenever it goes, to find the king, its shining shows them.

Music: We Three Kings

**NARRATOR:** The kings' journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him sweetsmelling frankincense, bitter myrrh and bright gold, brought so far with so much love.

So now we all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.

Come forward now. Bring your gifts of stars and yourselves to place around the manager. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, for this night is holy and filled with overflowing silence.

#### **Nicene Creed**

All stand, as able, and together say

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.

# **Prayers of the People: Form II**

**Barbara Learmonth** 

All remain standing. In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

All remain standing as able

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for *Sean* our Presiding Bishop, *Mark* our Bishop for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

#### Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

#### Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. We pray for: Holly & family, Jessie, Tracy, Ann, Johnny, Seena, Daisy, Mary & Stan, Marilyn, Jeannie, Caroline, Laurie, Tamira, Heather, Fred, Henry, Sharon & family, David & Jackie, Gavin, Dee, Sam & Joyce, John, Judi, Linda, Heaven, John, Mike, Ashu, Karen, Ann, Eyerus, Maria, Justine, John, Don A., Mariah, Miryam, Rudy, David, Steve, Julie, Linda,

Marilyn, Stephanie, Penny, Marlene, Jim, Cyndy, Anne, Aaron & Devonne, Dwayne, Constance, Troy, Cheryl, Jordan, Jeremy; for the victims of domestic violence and gun violence; all who live and work at the Johnson Youth Center, SEARHC'S: Ravens Way, and Lemon Creek Correctional Center; all who live with addictions; all who suffer from long term illnesses; and for those who love and care for them.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

#### Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

#### Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

#### Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

#### Silence

 $O\!f\!f\!i\!ciant\ and\ people\ read\ the\ f\!ollowing\ collect.$ 

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen* 

#### **Peace**

All stand, as able

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# **Holy Communion**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14* 

# <u>Christmas offering</u> The offering this year will be donated to the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

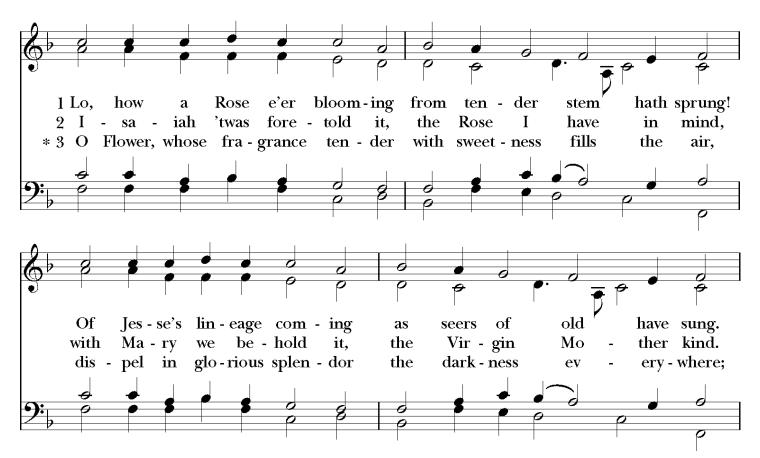
Please write Christmas Offering on memo line. If mailing in your offering, please send to St. Brendan's at 4207 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801.

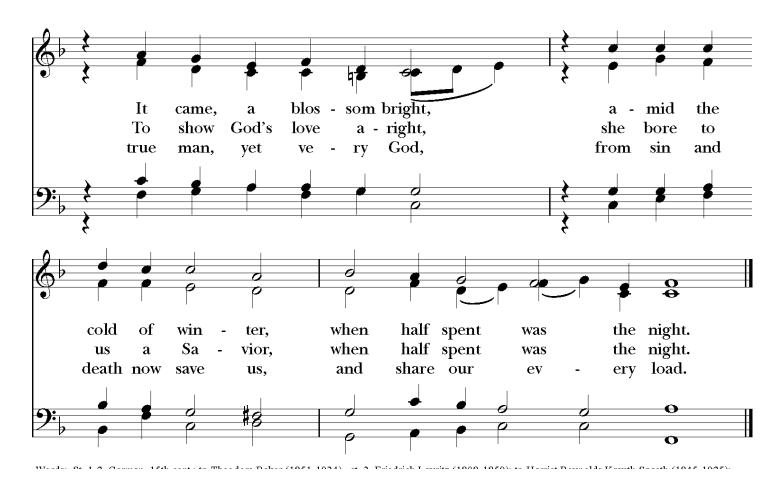
# **Offertory Hymn**

Please stand as able and join in singing the Offertory Hymn

## Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

# Hymnal 81





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The People stand, as able, and sing the Doxology as the offering is brought forward and placed on the Credence Table.

# Doxology (a hymn of praise)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow: Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



# **Prayer of Preparation for Communion**

A General Thanksgiving (BCP Pg. 836)

Officiant and People say

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen*.

The Officiant says

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Officiant and People together sing

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant says

Let us make our Holy Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people and received by faith.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We are no longer strangers or guests but one family in the Lord. Let the Chalice Bearer know if you prefer alcohol free wine. Chalice Bearers – Rob Smith & Barbara Learmonth

# **Communion Hymn**

**Stephanie Hall** 

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

The Officiant and People together say

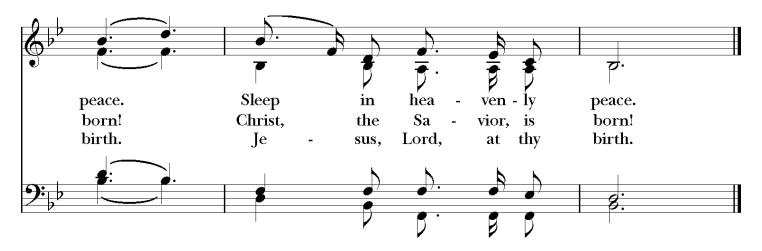
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **Silent Night, Holy Night**

# Hymnal 111

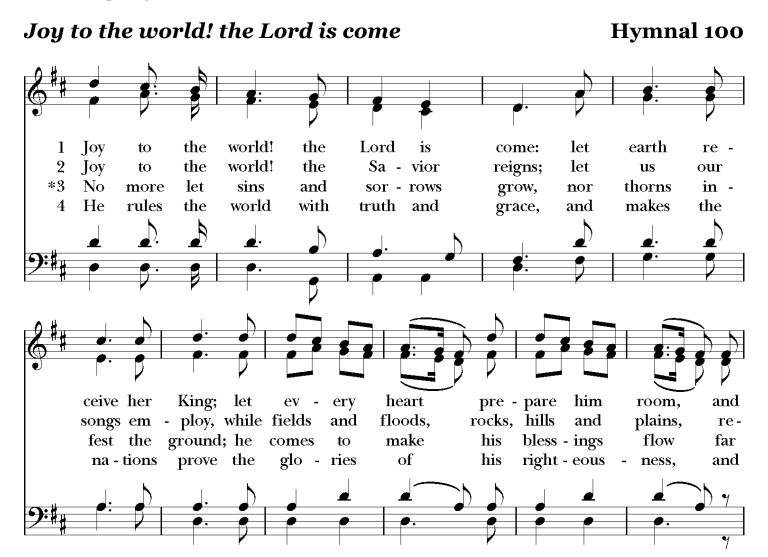
The lights will be dimmed while singing this hymn and candles in the congregation will be lit.





As the lights come up, please stand as able and with great joy join in singing the Closing Hymn.

# **Closing Hymn**





#### **Dismissal**

Officiant People

Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Officiant says

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans* 15:13

# A reception in Adams Hall will follow the service. All are welcome.

Christmas Day Service

Morning Prayer Rite II will be read on Christmas Day
at 10:30 a.m.

No Music – a time for quiet reflection.



**Gloria** Type: Music; First Line: Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo Language: English Contributors: Mike Anderson Tune: © 1983, Kevin Mayhew **Lo, how a Rose (v. 3)** Type: Words; First Line: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming Language: English Contributors: Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth Text: © 1985, Church Publishing, Inc.

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