



**OAK GROVE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

DECEMBER 3, 2023

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Friendship Sunday School Class

John F. Wade

Welcome and Announcements Joys and Concerns

Changing the Paraments

Harmon Family
Robinson, Hernandez, Lubbs Family



O come, O come, Im - man - u - el

With the prophet Isaiah, we remember a day of old when God's people longed for relief from their oppression and cried out for salvation. God heard their cry and said to the prophet Isaiah:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."



O come, O come, Im - man - u - el

With the saints of the church past and present, we anticipate the day when the glory of the Lord will be fully revealed, and every creature in heaven and on earth will sing praise to Jesus:

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"



O come, O come, Im - man - u - el

Song

Of the Father's Love Begotten Prudentius/Plainsong, arr. J Blaha
The Oak Grove Tenors

Lighting the Advent Candles

Taylor Family
SALT Sunday School Class

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you." (Is 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Lighting first Advent candle.

Prayer of Invocation

Our God, as we light this candle in anticipation of your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, may we not become so familiar with our traditions that we cannot be moved by the shocking hope that you offer. Awaken us to your activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with you, our God, our neighbors, and even our enemies. Amen.

*Advent Hymn

Advent Carol (vs. 1)

17th c. Carol/Tim Harvey

Advent Carol – First Sunday of Advent

17th Century Carol



1 Come, now Christians, and re - tell the sto - ry



of the ti - me that our God came near.



Christ is bo - rn, Cre - a - tor is com - ing



In - to our dark - ness light for a - ll. Hope! Hope!



Liv - ing a - mong us, bring - ing Hope! Hope!



Born in a man - ger stall.

Hanging the Wreaths

Frantz, Hanger Family

We hang garlands and wreaths in honor of Jesus—who loved us so much that that though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

He grew up before God like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

*Advent Hymn

O Savior, rend the heavens

175

Scripture:

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

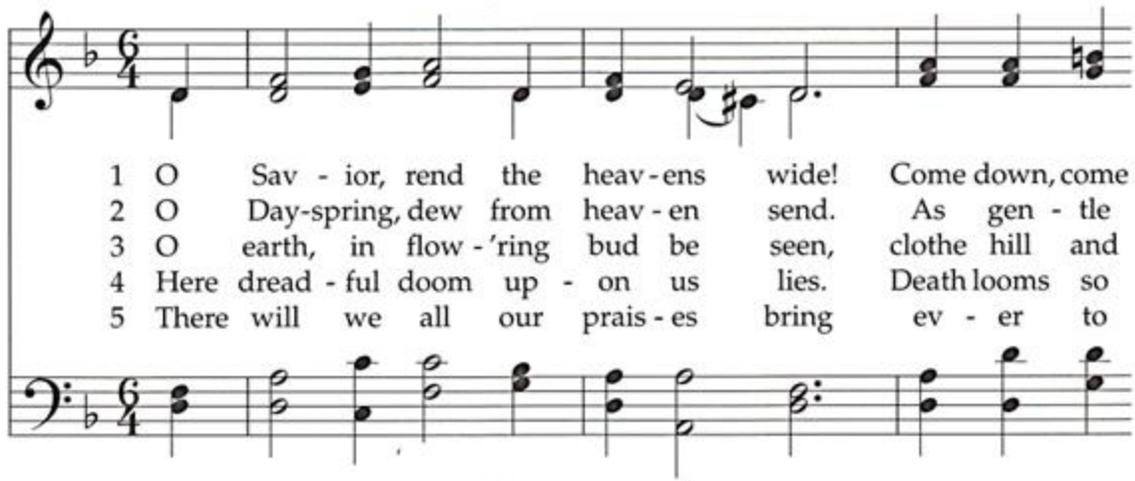
Eli Raymond

Charlie Purcell, Gavin Robinson

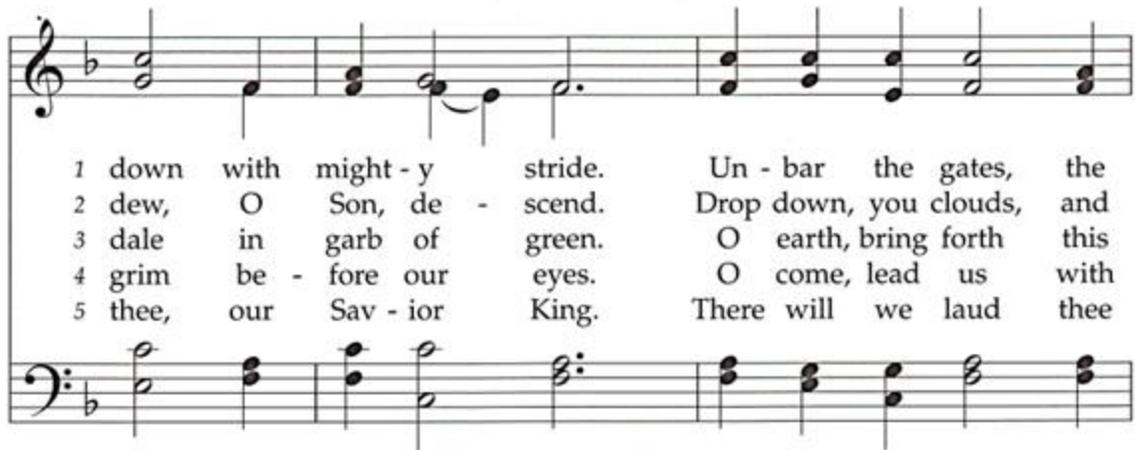
Sermon: *Shocking Hope*

O Savior, rend the heavens 175

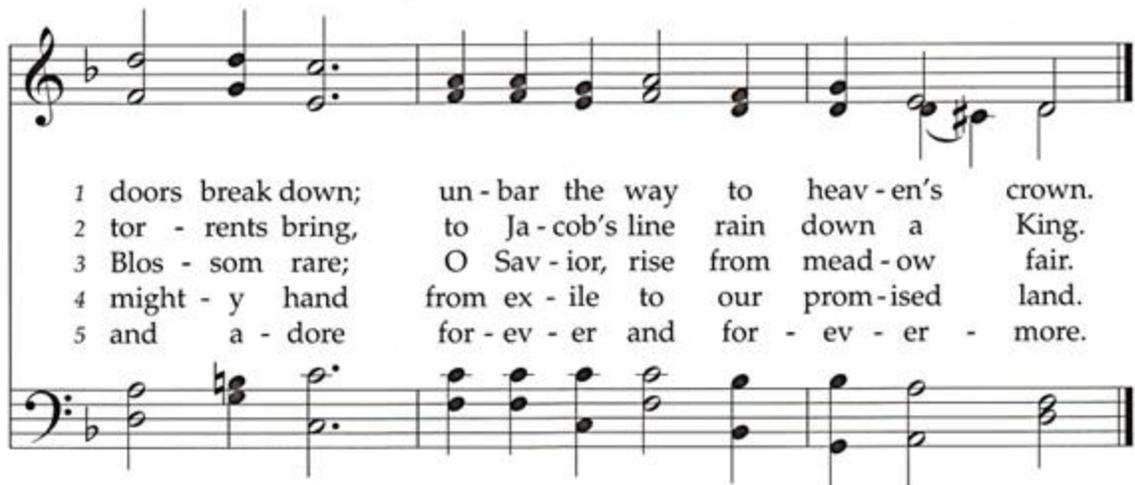
O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF LM



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide! Come down, come
2 O Day-spring, dew from heav - en send. As gen - tle
3 O earth, in flow - 'ring bud be seen, clothe hill and
4 Here dread - ful doom up - on us lies. Death looms so
5 There will we all our prais - es bring ev - er to



1 down with might - y stride. Un - bar the gates, the
2 dew, O Son, de - scend. Drop down, you clouds, and
3 dale in garb of green. O earth, bring forth this
4 grim be - fore our eyes. O come, lead us with
5 thee, our Sav - ior King. There will we laud thee



1 doors break down; un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
2 tor - rents bring, to Ja - cob's line rain down a King.
3 Blos - som rare; O Sav - ior, rise from mead - ow fair.
4 might - y hand from ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
5 and a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, "O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf," *Gesangbuch*, Köln, 1623; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1965, *The Mennonite Hymnal*, 1969, alt.

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Music: *Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666; harmonized by Esther Wiebe
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Decorating The Tree

Robinson, Belcher Family
Elmore-Martinez, Barnett Family
Smith Family

The Christmas tree is a beloved tradition that helps tell the story of our faith. In some of the darkest days of the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah spoke of God turning the barren wilderness into a place of blessing where water and plants—and even pine trees—would manifest God’s loving action to save and provide. God looks with favor upon those who find themselves in the wilderness of brokenness, hopelessness, and despair. We are called to lend our strength in bringing hope and shalom.

The Chrismon ornaments each reveal an aspect of Jesus’ character: Jesus is Savior, shepherd, the source of our faith, hope, and love, ruler over all of creation, King of kings and Lord of lords. During this Advent season, familiarize yourself with the symbols and their meaning as we take our place in God’s Kingdom.

Place the ornaments that tell the story of God’s great promises revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Offering

Song

Away in a Manger
Seeker Sunday School Class

James R. Murray

Yingling Family – Readers
Ushers- Jaxson Leddy, Logan Pullen, Lucy Pullen and Cooper Purcell

God, whose generosity in love extends beyond all our expectations and shatters any limits we would place on grace, calls us to

share our bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; to clothe the naked, and not hide ourselves from our own kin. (Isaiah 58:7)

As a people shaped by God's generosity, we worship Jesus this Advent season through the sharing of our regular offerings and through the special offerings of prison postage, and mittens for those with cold hands.

Receive these offerings, Jesus, as a sign of our commitment to you.

Offertory

Gabriel's Message

arr. Lau

*Congregational Response

Gloria

204

Gloria

204

GLORIA III

Canon 1 Dm Gm C F 2 Dm Gm C F

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

3 Dm Gm C F 4 Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Jacques Berthier, *Music from Taizé*, Vol. I, 1978, 1980, 1981

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Nativity

Duncan Family

Song	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> Coffee Club Sunday School Class	Brooks/Redner
Nativity characters		
*Hymn	<i>The first Noel</i>	# 199
*Benediction		
*Choral Benediction	<i>Gloria</i>	Peruvian
*Postlude	<i>Adeste Fideles</i>	Wade

199 The first Noel, the angel did say

THE FIRST NOEL Irregular with refrain

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 nigh to the North - west, o'er
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

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

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

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

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