

Central United Methodist Church

*Hark!
the
Herald
Angels Sing*



Service of Lessons and Carols

Celebrating Charles Wesley's 315th Birthday

Sunday, December 18, 2022 | 11:00 a.m.

Let Us Sing of Our Savior's Birth!

† Please stand in body or spirit. | Congregational responses in **bold**.

THE PRELUDE

Christmas Fantasy
Central Brass & Organ

arr. Joel Raney

THE CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

THE GREETING

Rev. Sigrid Mottram

† THE CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ our Lord.

† THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Rejoice in Jesu's Birth*

Festival Choir & Congregation

1. Re - joice in Je - su's birth! To us a son is given, To
2. His name, his na - ture soars be - yond the crea - ture's ken! Yet,
3. Al - migh - ty God is He, au - thor of heav'n - ly bliss, the
4. His gov - ern - ment shall grow, from strength to strength pro - ceed, His
5. Now for Thy pro - mise' sake, O'er earth ex - al - ted be; the

us a child is born on earth who fills both earth and heav'n! His
whom an - gel - ic host a - dores, He pleads the cause of men! Our
Fa - ther of e - ter - ni - ty, the glo - rious Prince of Peace! Wi -
righ - teous - ness the church o'er - flow, and all the earth o'er - spread: His
King - dom, power, and glo - ry take, which all be - long to Thee! in

shoul - der props the sky, this un - i - verse sus - tains! The
coun - se - lor we praise, our ad - vo - cate a - bove, who
der and wi - der still He doth his sway ex - tend, With
pre - sence shall in - crease the hap - pi - ness a - bove, the
zeal for God and man, Thy full - sal - va - tion bring! The

God su - preme, the Lord most high, The king Mes - si - ah reigns!
da - ily in His church dis - plays His mir - a - cles of love.
peace di - vine His peo - ple fill, and joys that ne - ver end.
full pro - gress - ive hap - pi - ness of ev - er - last - ing love.
un - i - ver - sal Mon - arch reign, the saint's e - ter - nal king!

Text: Charles Wesley

Tune: DIADEMATA | George J. Elvey 1868

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Moffitt Family

Leader: "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." Isaiah 9:6-7

People: **We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Lanny Lancaster

Beloved in Christ,
as we anticipate this Christmas season it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

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 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, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

The Joy of Christmas
Central Ringers

arr. Lloyd Larson

† THE DOXOLOGY

Advent Doxology

Festival Choir & Congregation | Nathan Clements, organ

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures he - re be -
low; Praise God a-bove ye hea - venly hosts; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly
Ghost! Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u -
el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL | 15th Century French

† THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Mottram

Service of Lessons and Carols

Rise, the woman's conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Emily Pigg

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

And Can It Be

Charles Wesley; arr. Dan Forrest

Trinity

*And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me?
He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.
No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love, how can it be? Amazing love!*

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies.

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Kenny Brown

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Festival Choir & Congregation



1. Come, thou long— ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet— a king,



from our fears— and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest— in thee.
born to reign— in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all— the earth thou art;
By thine own— e - ter - nal spir - it rule in all— our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire— of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by— thine all— suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to— thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744

Tune: HYFRYDOL | Rowland H. Pritchard, 1830

Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Erica Kirby | Children's Message

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. 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.

Emmanuel, God with Us

Nockles/arr. Lloyd Larson

Youth Choir

*O Emmanuel, God with us; Spirit revealed in us,
That we may be the hope to the world!
O Emmanuel, God with us; With a light to break the darkness
that we may show your hope to the world! Be God in us.
Emmanuel! Wonderful Counselor, Lord of life, Lord of all,
He is the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Holy one, Emmanuel!*

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a,6-9

Taylor Apple

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots, The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Creation will Be at Peace

Anna Laura Page

Festival Choir

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead.
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, a child will lead them all.*

Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35,38

Natalie Gordon

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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^[d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Gospel Magnificat

Patti Drennan

Festival Choir; Janet Lancaster, soloist

*Oh, my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
He has seen in me a humble servant. Now generations will call me blessed,
for God has done great things for me, and holy is His name.
He gave food to the hungry with food to eat and banished all the rich away.
The promise of His mercy fills me with joy today!*

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Andrew Young

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.

Peace, Peace

Powell; Arr. Fred Bock

Trinity & Youth Choir

*Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.
Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Caroline Hargett

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.

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith & Wayne Kirkpatrick

Lilly Ferguson, soloist

*All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alle, sing alleluia!
All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia!
All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! All is well.*

Come, Desire of nations, come, fix in us thy humble home.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Wils Childers

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped,^[a] they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

One King

Borders/Alexander

InnerChange

*Kings of earth on a course unknown, bearing gifts from afar;
Hoping praying following yonder star.
Silhouette of a caravan painted against the sky;
Wise men searching for the holy Child.
One king held the frankincense, one king held the myrrh,
One king held the purest gold, and one King held the hope of the world.
A star hangs over Bethlehem; A journey ends in the night.
Three kings, trembling, behold the glorious sight.
Heaven's treasure, Emmanuel, drawing men to bow down;
Tiny Baby, born to wear a crown.
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tiny Baby born to wear a crown.*

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Gracie Plyler

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Sing Noel, Sing Hallelujah!

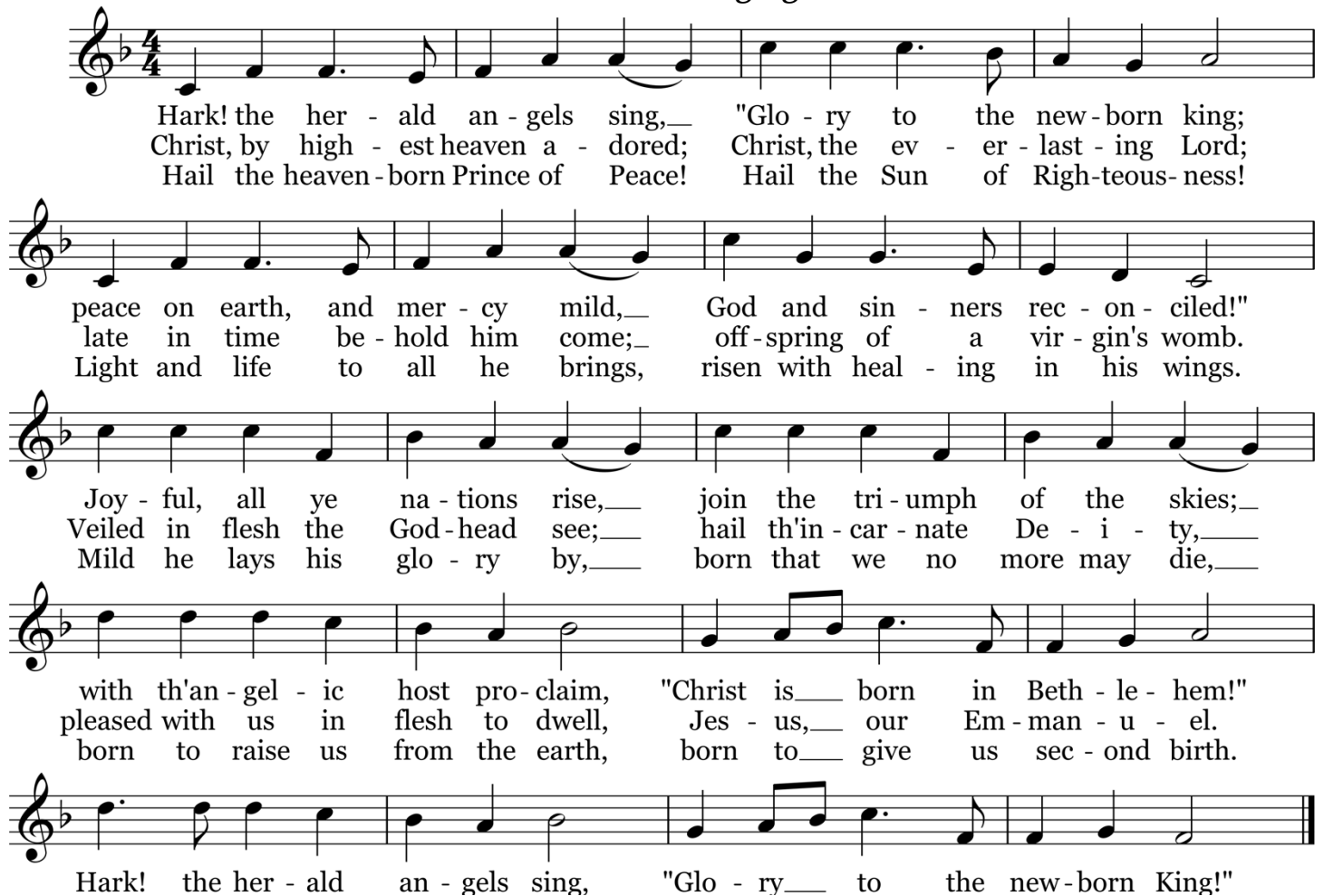
Michael W. Smith | Arr. David Clydesdale

Festival Choir

*Come, behold this child in the manger, gift of the Father's great love.
Angels look down as His glory surrounds them, starlight from Heaven above.
Sing Noel, sing Hallelujah, God with us now come to dwell.
Sing noel, lift high His praises; Christ our Emmanuel.
Lift up your heads, all who wander in darkness; shine, for your Light has come.
Down through the ages, though sins battle rages, Christ, our Messiah has won.
Sing Noel, Sing Hallelujah; Come adore on bended knee. Sing Noel,
lift high His praises; Christ, come to set us all free.
Let every daughter and son of the Father rise on this Christmas morn;
With heaven voicing all praise and rejoicing, Christ, our redeemer is born
Sing noel, Sing Hallelujah, all creation great and small
Sing noel, lift high His praises; Christ, come to save us all!*

† THE HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Festival Choir & Congregation



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteous-ness!
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come; off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,
with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jes - us, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1734

Tune: MENDELSSOHN | Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

† THE DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Lancaster

† THE POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Albin Whitworth

Please remain in your place until the conclusion of the Postlude.

Central United Methodist Church Music Ministries

Audio Visual Team

Kenny Brown
Gabe Febus
Sammie Febus
Joel Ferguson

Central Brass

Brent Edwards
Ed Mills

Central Ringers

Handbell Choir

Edie Anderson
Barbara Antonucci
Nancy Gustafson
Janis Maurer
Barbara Pfau
Rebecca Yanacsek
Donna Young

Chancel Choir

Barbara Antonucci
David Clements
Nathan Clements
Jessica Febus
Lorie Gabriel
Hannah Helms
Janet Lancaster
Neal Lauber
Barbara Pfau
Eric Shupe
Kristi Shupe
Grace Snelgrove

Trinity Ladies Ensemble

Liv Brown
Debbie Deese
Jessica Febus
Lorie Gabriel
Janet Lancaster
Sandi Mills
Diana Ollis

InnerChange Praise Team

Liv Brown
Gabe Febus
Jessica Febus
Jon Hightower
Janet Lancaster
Sheryl Midwinter
Vince Rivers
Kayla Stewart

Youth Choir

Millie Baucom
Nathan Clements
Henry Dilworth
Sammie Febus
Natalie Gordon
J.C. Hightower
Jack Hightower
Ana Leon
Tera Millward
Kayla Stewart

The Festival Choir is comprised of members from all ensembles listed above.

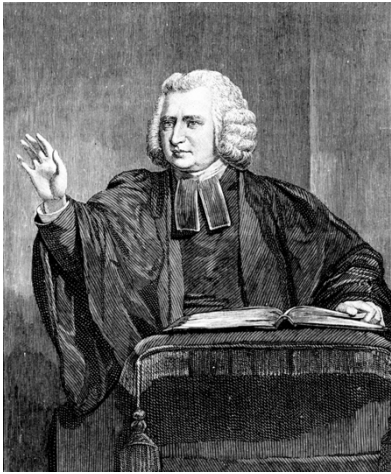


Connect at Central
God • Each Other • Community

Upcoming Christmas Services

Christmas Eve | Saturday, December 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary
Christmas Day | Sunday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m. | Chapel

Charles Wesley



December 18, 2022, marks the 315th anniversary of the birth of the beloved hymn writer, **Charles Wesley**. He was born in 1707 at Epworth, Lincolnshire, England and died March 29, 1788 in London. Charles was an English clergyman, poet, who, with his elder brother John, started the Methodist movement in the Church of England.

He published more than 4,500 hymns and left some 3,000 in manuscript. Famous composer, George Frederic Handel wrote music specifically for some of these hymns. Among Wesley's best-known hymns are "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Christ the Lord Is Ris'n Today," "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," "Rejoice, the Lord Is King," and "Jesu, Lover of My Soul." Many of Wesley's hymns transcend denominational hymnody and appear in hymnals of virtually all protestant churches.

Today's Lessons and Carols service was based on text from "Hark! The Herald Angels sing. They text is based on Luke 2:8-14, the portion of the Christmas story where the angels appear to the Shepherds. It first appeared in the Wesley Hymnal *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, in 1739 and was originally composed as ten verses under the title, "Hymn for Christmas Day." The version we sing today is not Wesley's original text. It has been altered many times by many editors. The most significant alteration was by George Whitfield in 1753 when he changed the first line from "Hark how all the welkin rings!" to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" Welkin means sky; vault of heaven and is not common in today's vernacular. The most common tune for this hymn is MENDELSSOHN, but earlier versions paired the text with EASTER HYMN (Christ the Lord is risen today). This Christmas Carol is one of the most known and cherished around the world.

Source: *Companion to The United Methodist Hymnal* by Carlton Young. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993 & <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Wesley>

Original Text of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark how all the welkin rings!
Glory to the King of kings,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
Universal nature say:
Christ the Lord is born to Day.

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 men to appear,
Jesus! Our Immanuel here!

Hail the heavenly 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.

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head.

Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore,
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to thine.

Adam's likeness, Lord, efface;
Stamp Thy image in its place;
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in thy love.

Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee the life, the inner Man;
O! to all Thyself impart,
Form'd in each believing heart