

# ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR
## Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling, Celebrant
Connie Mayo, Music Director

**A Service of Healing**
**First Sunday after Christmas**
December 29, 2024

---

*This service of prayers for healing asserts that God's purpose for us all is a life of wholeness, as expressed in the life and teaching of Jesus. The ministry of healing is an integral part of our Christian witness.*

*In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community nor does it promise a cure. Rather, the church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in times of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.*

***During communion, after receiving the bread and wine, there will be an opportunity for those desiring healing to receive a blessing with the laying on of hands by a member of the healing team.*** *Whether or not you choose to receive such a blessing (indicated by extending your open hands), we know that God's healing purpose, the promise of God's fulfilling and sustaining love, is for every one of us, and is carried in bread and wine as well as in the laying on of hands. We invite you to receive God's healing presence in all the ways that feel right for you.*

## The Gathering of the Community

*Leader:* We honor the Indigenous people everywhere, particularly the Wabanaki Nations, acknowledging that the land we now occupy is their ancestral home. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth.

*Congregation:* **May we find the courage to acknowledge the brutality and violence of our forebears who seized these lands, and may we be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, and for all creation.**

*The bell is rung three times*

**Prelude:** Zu Bethlehem geboren Helmut Walcha

**Opening Hymn 96** Angels we have heard on high *(in back of bulletin)*

*Leader*: We gather in Your presence, God,
*Congregation:* **in our need,**
**and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

We come to You, for You come to us in Jesus,
**and You know by experience what human life is like.**

We come with our faith and with our doubts;
**we come with our hopes and with our fears.**

We come as we are, because You have invited us;
**and You have promised never to turn us away.**

God our healer, whose mercy is like a refining fire: by the lovingkindness of Jesus, heal us and those for whom we pray; that being renewed by You, we may witness Your wholeness to our broken world; through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit.
**Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**
Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
**Amen.**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying
*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God**

**Hymn 82** Of the Father's love begotten *(verses 1-3, in back of bulletin)*

**Second Lesson: Letter to the Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying
*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn 81** Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming *(verses 1 and 2, in back of bulletin)*

**The Gospel: John 1:1-18**

*Reader:* The Gospel according to John
*Congregation:* **Glory be to you, O Christ**

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.
*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord
*Congregation:* **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Reflection**

*Silence*

**A Creed from the Iona Community**
**We believe in God whose love is the source of all life**
**and the desire of our lives,**
**whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,**
**whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all**
**and whose love, defeating even death,**
**is our glorious promise of freedom.**
**Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,**
**in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ,**
**we commit ourselves, in the service of others,**
**to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth**
**and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,**
**to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love,**
**and in the company of the faithful so to be the church,**
**for the glory of God. Amen.**

**The Prayers**
*Leader:* Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing, grant the power of your grace.

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers. We remember those on our prayer list:

Judy C., Beverly Braxton, Michelle, Louise Stevens, Bob Temple, Tom Russell, Peter Tarlton, Will Oneil, Isabelle Valencia, Dan Fowler, Janet, Mimi Maslan, Susan Manne, Semantha and Lee, Emily Gibson, Beth and Tito Kyzer, Judy, Megan, Bishop Thomas Brown, Naomi, Robert B. Tobin, Anne Burton, Hewit, Mary Ann and Terry, Nishah, David Morrish, Corbin, Rebecca, Pam B., Jaxson, Heather Corey, Stephen Gill,

Brent Was, Bill Scaife, Stewart and Julie, Gary and Wellesley, Mary Blanco, Max,
Mary Lawrence Hicks and family, The family of Bob Budd, Nancy Greene, Peter Brown,
Nick, Seth, Linda Shepard and family, Mary Ann Shaw, Lindsay Bowker,
Nancy Boothby, Marcia Scott, Tony Stoneburner, Carol Stoneburner

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled;
**May they be made whole.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering;
**Grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin;
**Mend broken relationships in our lives and restore wholeness in our relationship with our Mother Earth.**

Grant to the dying peace; give the departed eternal rest.
**Uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved.**

Hear us, O Lord of life:
**Heal us, and make us whole.**

Please add your own prayers

*The congregation is invited to add their own prayers*

*Leader:* We invite prayers from those who are with us virtually.

Let us pray.
*Congregation:* **O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Confession of Sin**
*Celebrant:* God of wild, windy and prodigal love,
*Congregation:* **We confess our bondage to fear,**
**Our smallness of heart,**
**Our lack of imagination,**
**Our guardedness in giving,**
**Our complicity in systems of racial and economic injustice,**
**Our misuse of the gifts of creation,**
**Our resistance to the Way of Jesus.**
**We ask your mercy and the power of your Wholly, Holy Spirit**
**to burn through our defenses,**
**to break open our hearts,**
**to ignite our imaginations and**
**to raise us from the dead,**
**that we might be signs of your healing and liberating love in the world.**

*Celebrant:* Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear this good news:
You have been set free by the love of God made known in Jesus and by the power of God's creating, liberating Spirit. Rise from what binds you into the love that calls you, and burn with God's Holy Spirit in all that you do. In the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit.
*Congregation:* **Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

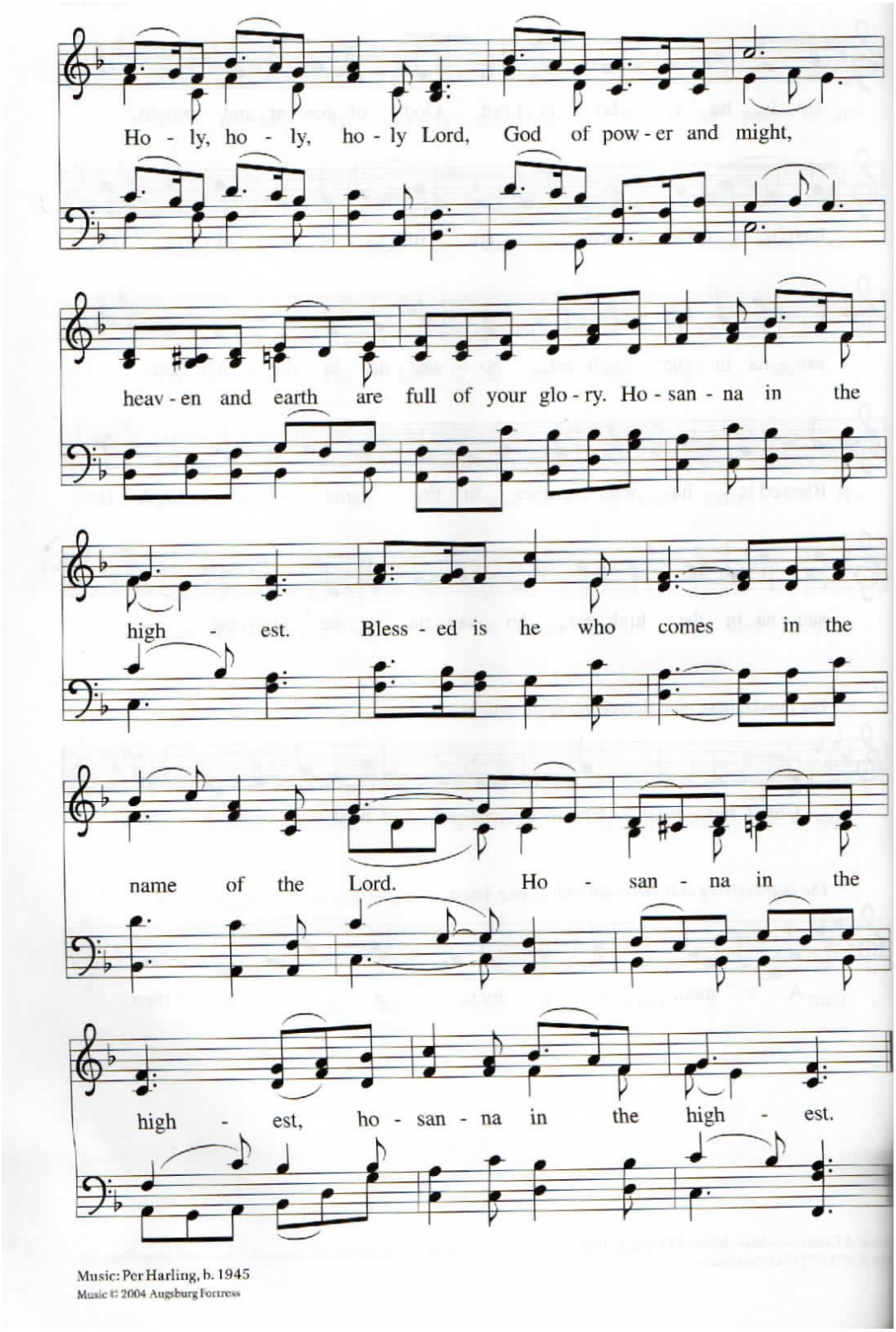
*The people are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Offertory Hymn 114** 'Twas in the moon of wintertime *(in back of bulletin)*

**Eucharistic Prayer**
*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.
*Congregation:* **And also with you.**
*Celebrant*: Lift up your hearts.
*Congregation:* **We lift them to the Lord.**
*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
*Congregation:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high,
for in the communion of your love
Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.
Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you.
With the angels of light who envelop us,
with all the saints before and beside us,
with brothers and sisters, east and west,
we sing to you.
And with our loved ones, separate from us now,
who yet in this mystery are close to us,
we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**Sanctus ELW 193**




Music: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who walks with us the road of our world's suffering,
and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread
and having blessed it he broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying,

This is my body, given to you.

In the same way he took wine
and having given thanks for it, he poured it out
and gave the cup to his disciples, saying,

This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood.
Take this and share it.

**Hear us, O Christ,**
**and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine.**
**May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life.**
**May they heal, renew, and make us whole.**
**And as the bread and wine**
**which we now eat and drink are changed into us,**
**may we be changed again into you,**
**bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh,**
**loving and caring in the world. Amen.**

Gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit, let us all pray the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,**
**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread.**
**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,**
**And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Fraction Anthem**
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

*Celebrant:* In recognition with those who are worshiping with us remotely we pray.
*Celebrant and Congregation:* **Gathered in the name of Jesus, whether we are here or on Zoom, we are united by the power of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine. Called together as a community of faith from far and wide, we know nothing can separate us from each other as we offer our thanksgiving and praise.**

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the people of God …

*Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine.*
*Those desiring healing should open their palms and a member of the healing team will come to them for the laying on of hands.*

And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.
*Congregation:* **We pray for those who are with us virtually that they experience God's presence and love in any part of their lives that is in need of healing.**

**Post Communion Prayer**
*Celebrant*: In thanksgiving for the gifts of grace and mercy that have nourished us at this table, we pray for the courage to bear these gifts to the world, remembering the life to which Jesus calls us.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

*Congregation:* **To find the lost,**
**To heal the broken,**
**To feed the hungry,**
**To release the prisoner,**
**To rebuild the nations,**
**To bring peace among brothers,**
**To make music in the heart.**

*The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

**Blessing**
*Leader:* May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.
May we be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
*Congregation:* **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn 107** Good Christian friends, rejoice *(in back of bulletin)*

**Postlude:** Noel Louis Claude D'Aquin

**Announcements**

All hymns except the Sanctus from RiteSong ©2023 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.
Hymns and Sanctus reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-715565. All rights reserved.
Parts of this service were adapted from "A Public Service of Healing" from *Enriching Our Worship 2.*
Creed and Communion Liturgy: © Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission.
www.ionabooks.com
Confession written by Elaine Hewes.

**Giving our Priorities Shape (GPS) Action**

**Love in Action**
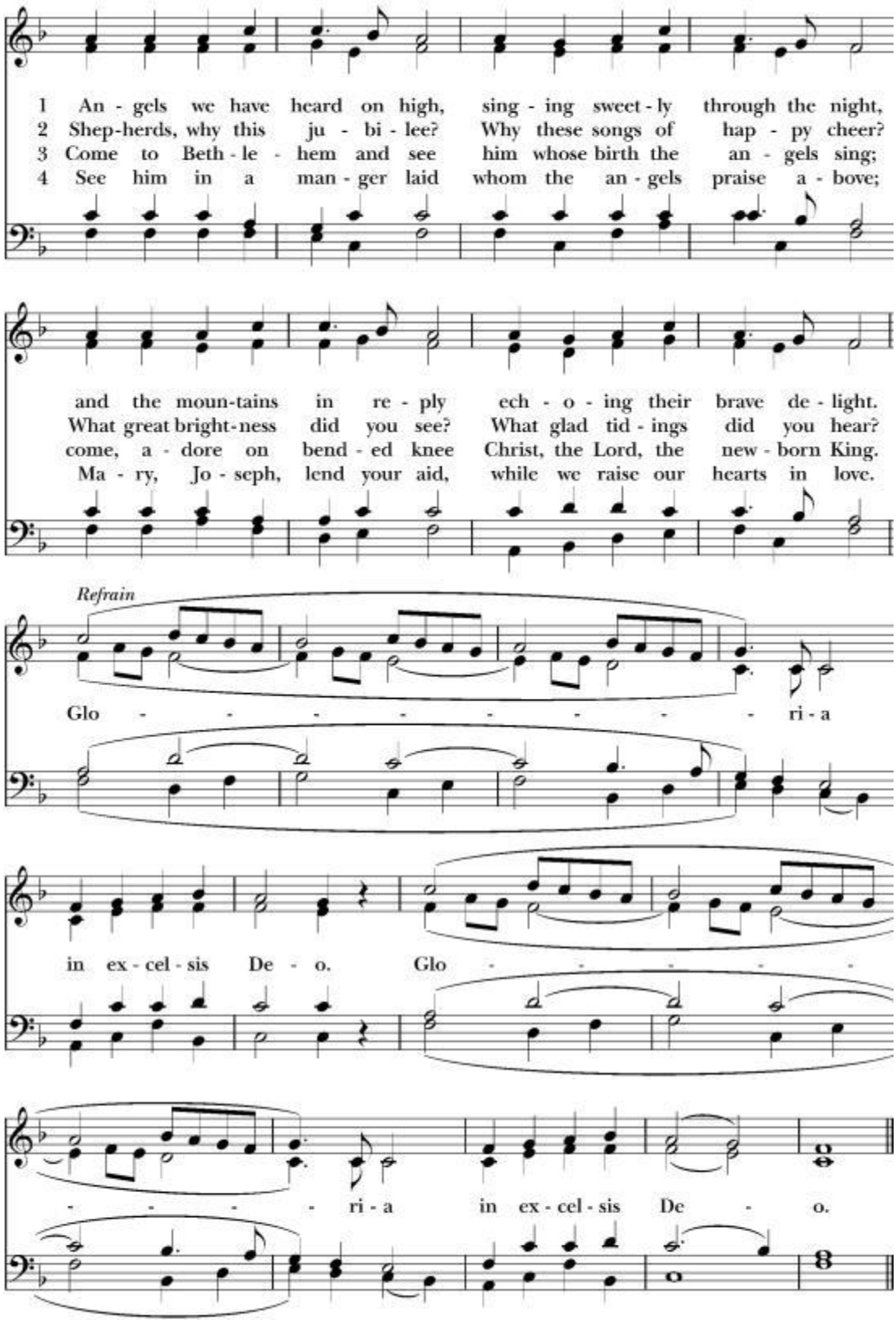
Reach out to neighbors or friends, near or far, who do not necessarily have a family with whom to celebrate the season. A phone call, a letter, an in-person visit, or an invitation to lunch, dinner, or breakfast might lift someone's spirit at a time when they are feeling more alone than usual. A gift of our time and attention is more precious and more of what we all need than anything we can buy at a store.

## CALENDAR
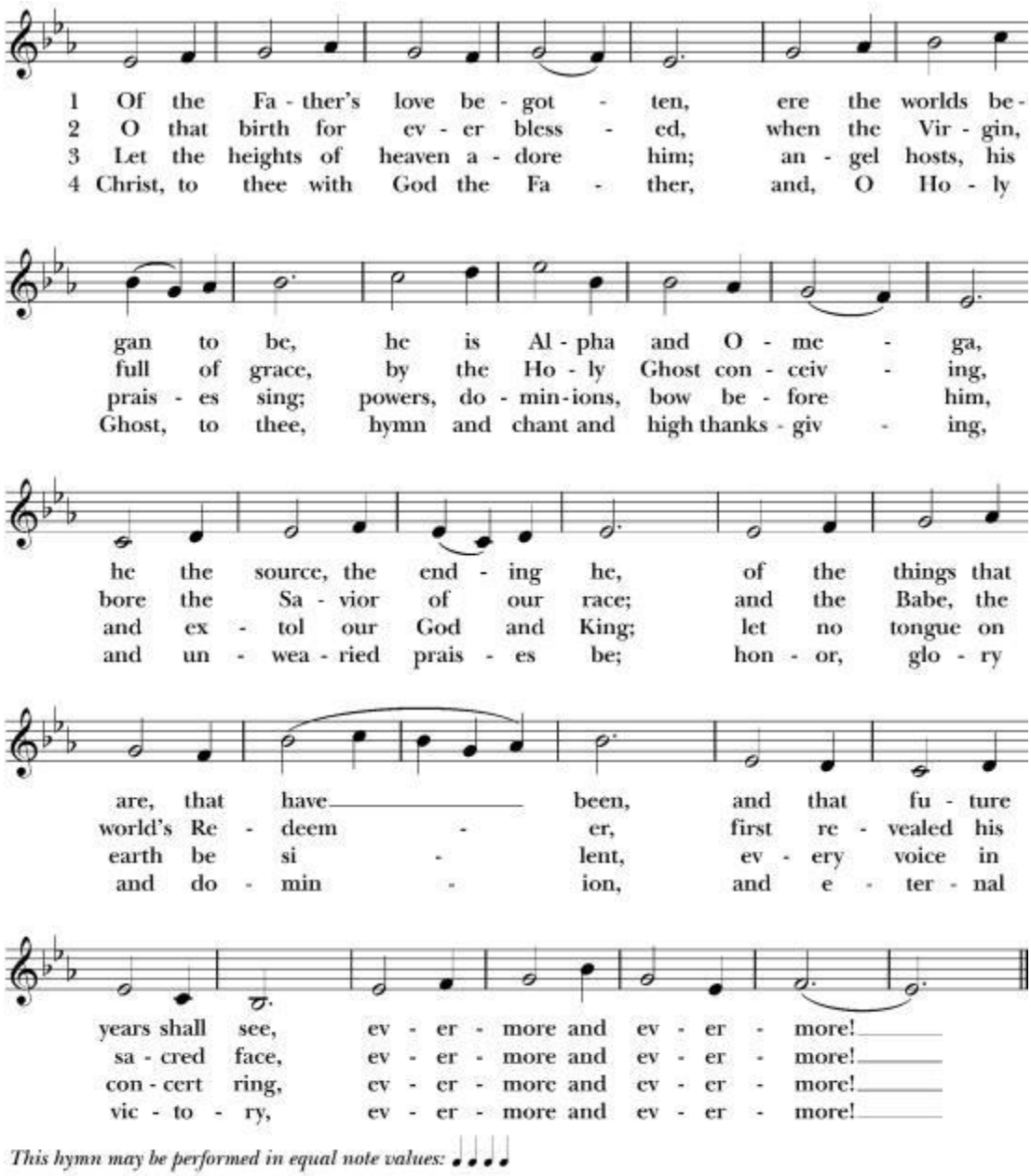
**All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday, December 30 | 8:30 a.m. Simmering Pot<br>4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom) |
| Friday, January 3 | 9:00 a.m. Worship & Music Ministry meeting (Zoom) |
| Sunday, January 5 | 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Pastor Elaine Hewes presiding |

## Angels we have heard on high *The Hymnal 1982,* #96
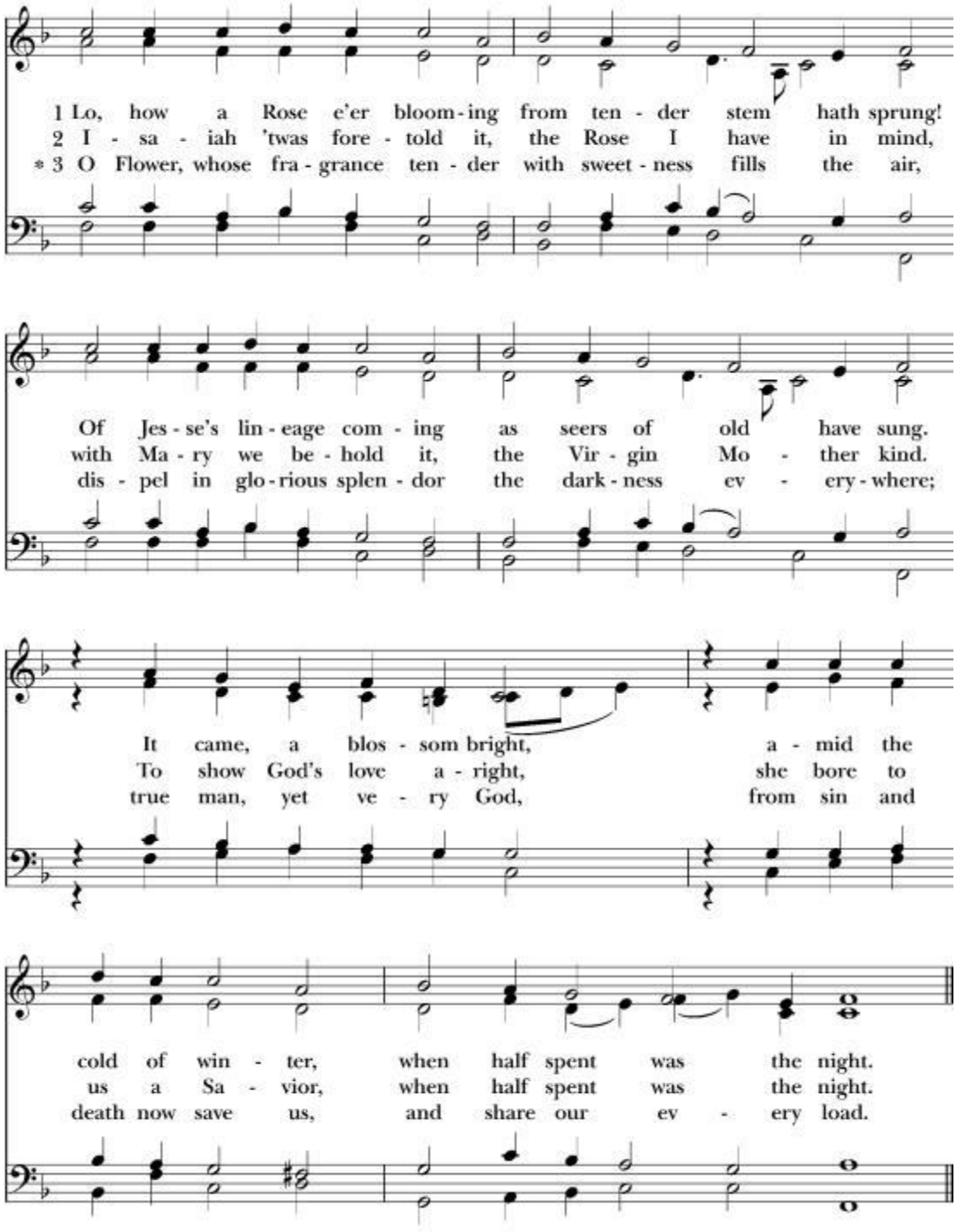


## Of the Father's love begotten *The Hymnal 1982,* #82

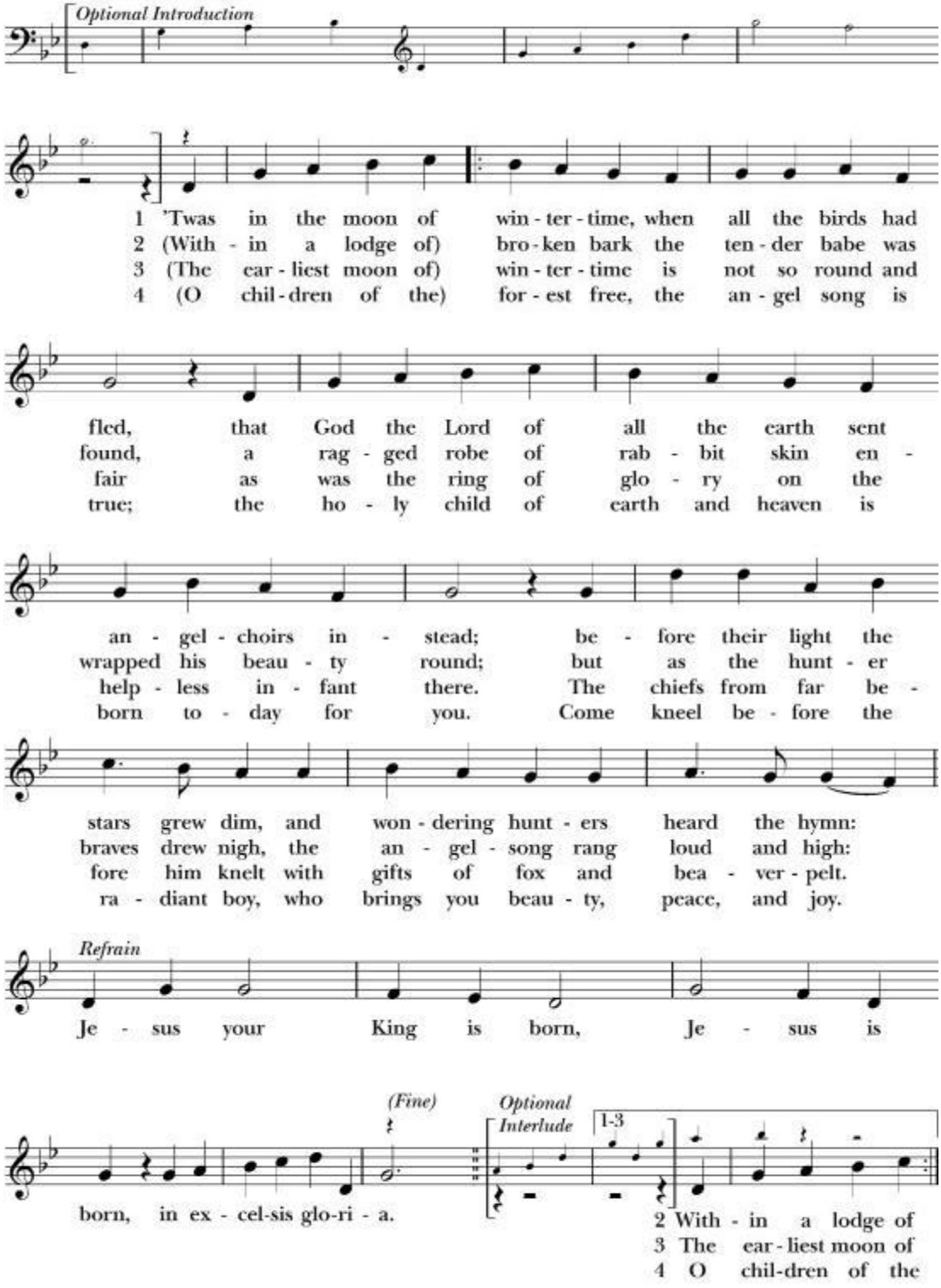



*This hymn may be performed in equal note values:* ♩♩♩♩

## Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming *The Hymnal 1982,* #81



## 'Twas in the moon of wintertime *The Hymnal 1982,* #114


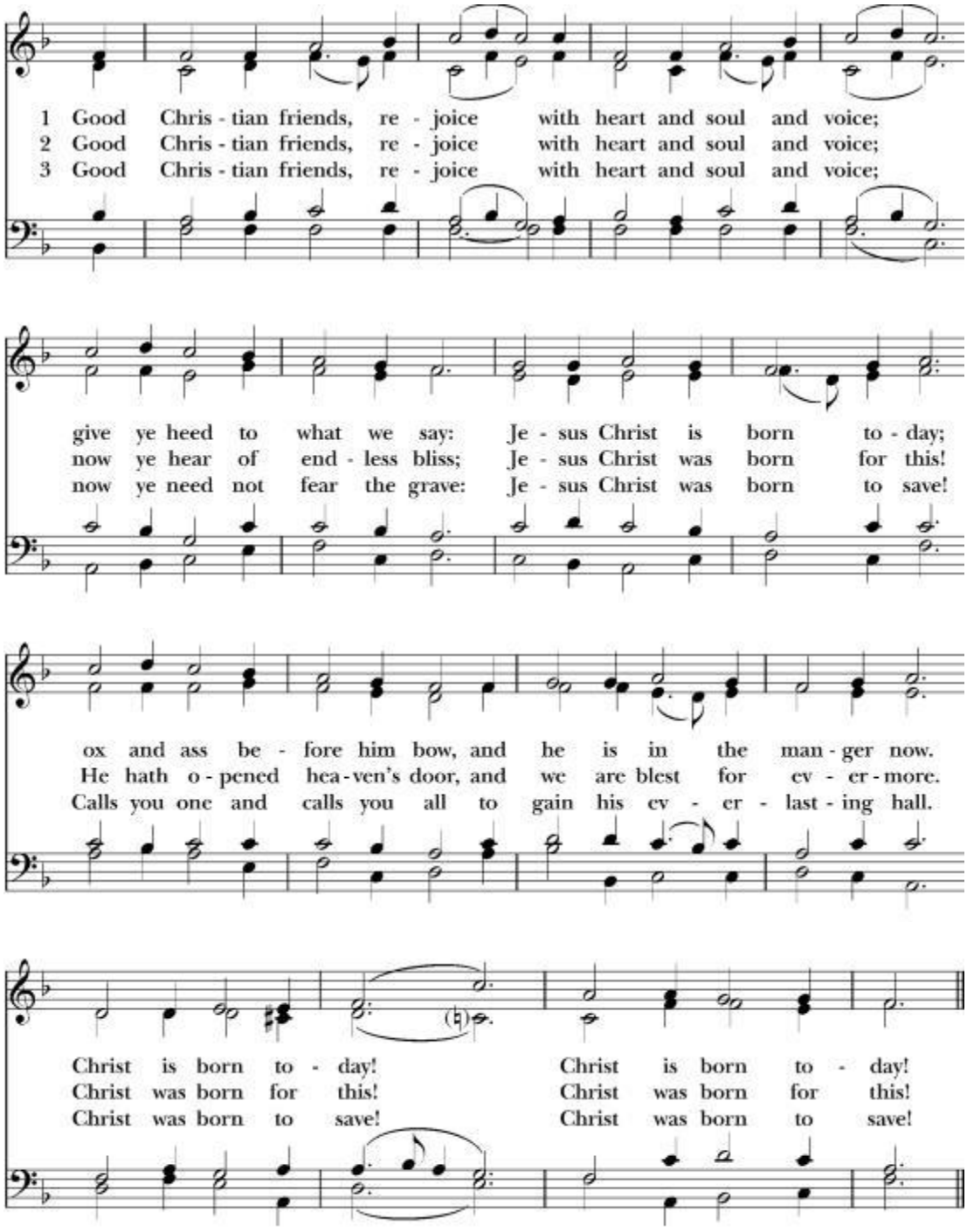
## Good Christian friends, rejoice *The Hymnal 1982,* #107

