

**LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to men a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

**TRADITIONAL**

The shepherds heard the story  
Proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of glory  
Was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
And in the manger found Him,  
As angel heralds said.

O Savior, Child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe,  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know;  
Bring us at length we pray,  
To the bright courts of Heaven,  
And to the endless day!

Music from 16<sup>th</sup> Century Germany "Es Ist Ein Ros" Lyrics from 15<sup>th</sup> Century German Carol (Public Domain)

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD**

**TOMLIN**

The splendor of a King, Clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice,  
All the earth rejoice  
He wraps himself in light,  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at his voice,  
And trembles at his voice

Age to age he stands And time is in His Hands  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End  
The Godhead, Three in one Father, Spirit, Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb

**CHORUS**

Name above all names

*How great is our God, sing with me*  
*How great is our God, and all will see*  
*How great, How great is our God*

You are Worthy of all praise  
and My heart will sing how great is our God  
(x2)

**CHORUS**

Written by Chris Tomlin/Ed Cash/Jesse Reeves ©2004 worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps music/Alletpop music (EMI)

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**KING JOHN/WADE**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels.

**O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,**

**REFRAIN**

Lyrics by John Francis Wade (1751) and by King John IV of Portugal (Public Domain)

**GIVING AT THE GATHERING CHURCH.**

Be sure to pick up a copy of the most recent financial information at the back table, or visit [www.allgather.org/giving/](http://www.allgather.org/giving/) for more information.

Four ways to give financially: (1) In the black box on the back table on Sundays, (2) online through Paypal ([www.allgather.org/giving/](http://www.allgather.org/giving/)), (3) by automating a draft through your bank, or (4) by mailing a check to PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516.



December 4, 2011  
Isaiah 7:10-16 | Matthew 1:18-25

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE**

*"Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart."*

-*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,"* Charles Wesley (1747)

HAPPENING AT THE GATHERING CHURCH ( <a href="http://www.allgather.org/calendar">www.allgather.org/calendar</a> )		
PRESENT BEFORE GOD	CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER	ENGAGED IN THE WORLD
<p><b>GATHERING KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:</b> Next Sunday morning, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll celebrate Joy Sunday by listening and participating in a performance by the Gathering Kids. Come worship the Lord as our children lead us in our joyous Advent preparation for Christmas.</p> <p><b>SUNDAY PRAYER TEAM:</b> Join the prayer team each Sunday before worship at 9:30am to pray for our church and local communities.</p>	<p><b>SET-UP &amp; CLEAN-UP:</b> Craig Silvanic is recruiting people (of all sizes and strengths) to help prepare our space for worship and fellowship every Sunday morning, and to clean up following potlucks. This is an especially critical need during the holidays, with people traveling and with special services scheduled. Please see Craig or email him (<a href="mailto:csilvanic@gmail.com">csilvanic@gmail.com</a>) to be a part of this crucial ministry of the church; many hands make light work!</p>	<p><b>CREEKSIDE CHRISTMAS:</b> Plan to volunteer your time next Saturday (Dec 10<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm - 5 pm when we will provide FREE childcare for Creekside families and have a FUN afternoon of Christmas crafts and games for the children. If you'd like to volunteer your time for this afternoon, see <a href="#">Paige Rossman</a> and visit <a href="http://www.allgather.org/advent">www.allgather.org/advent</a> for more information and opportunities to serve during this season.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION:</b> To have an announcement included email: <a href="mailto:happenings@allgather.org">happenings@allgather.org</a>. Keep up with the Gathering Church on Twitter (<a href="https://twitter.com/allgather">@allgather</a>) or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/allgather">www.facebook.com/allgather</a>. Check out Music from the Gathering Church: <a href="http://music.allgather.org">music.allgather.org</a> (to stream or buy) or <a href="http://gatheringmusic.tumblr.com">gatheringmusic.tumblr.com</a> (blog).</p>		

**ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

**REFRAIN**

**TRADITIONAL**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

**REFRAIN**

See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.

**REFRAIN**

Lyrics French Traditional, Translated James Chadwick (1862) and Music by Edwin Barnes (Public Domain)

**WELCOME.**

Welcome to the Gathering Church. We are a church that is focused on doing three things well: being present to God in worship, being connected to each other in community, and being engaged in the world by serving and sharing God's love. Thank you for gathering this morning to worship the Lord.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH.**

Each week during the season of Advent (the four weeks that lead up to Christmas), we celebrate Christ's coming as the Light of the World by lighting candles. Each candle signifies an aspect of the mounting expectation for the arrival of Israel's, and our, Savior: Hope, Love, Joy, & Peace.

**IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

It came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heavens all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:

**WILLIS/SEARS**

Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.  
  
O ye beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

Music – "Carol" Richard Willis (1850) Lyrics – "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Edmund Sears (1849)

**ADVENT AT THE GATHERING CHURCH.**

**"The Best of All is, God is With Us"**  
**Advent Devotional:** Pick up a copy of the free printed Adult and Children's Advent devotional at the back table and download and share the digital version available at [www.allgather.org/advent/](http://www.allgather.org/advent/).



**Music from the Gathering Church's Christmas Nights (2010):** Listen and buy last year's Advent EP at [music.allgather.org](http://music.allgather.org) or iTunes. Great for devotional listening and a great gift.



**HOW HE LOVES US**

He is jealous for me,  
Loves like a hurricane, I am a tree,  
Bending beneath  
The weight of his wind and mercy.  
When all of a sudden,  
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory,  
And I realize just how beautiful You are,  
And how great Your affections are for me.  
And oh, how He loves us so,  
Oh how He loves us, How He loves us all

**McMILLAN**

**Yeah, He loves us, Whoa! How He loves us, Whoa! how He loves us, Whoa! How He loves.**

We are His portion and He is our prize,  
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes,  
If grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.  
So Heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss,  
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest,  
I don't have time to maintain these regrets,  
When I think about, the way...

**CHORUS**

Written by John Mark McMillan ©2005 John Mark McMillan

**BLESSED BE YOUR NAME**

Blessed be Your name  
in the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name  
And blessed be Your name  
when I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord  
Still I will say

**Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name**

Blessed be Your name  
when the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's "all as it should be"  
Blessed be Your name

Written by Matt and Beth Redman ©2002 Thankyoumusic (EMI) CCLI #3798438

**KIDS' DISMISSAL & PASSING OF THE PEACE.**

As the children are dismissed to participate in Gathering Kids activities, find someone you don't know, welcome them, and exchange a sign of Christ's welcome and peace.

**COMMUNION.**

Come and receive of the feast that Jesus offers those who follow him. During this time we remember Jesus' sacrifice and are nourished by his Body that was broken on the cross for us. For those with Gluten allergies, let your server know and they'll provide you with a Gluten-free option. For all those serving either with the children or the band, there will be a server available in the music room immediately following the end of service.