

## 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**

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

## MESSAGE.

Lead Pastor Mark Acuff will offer a brief message around the joy of Christmas from Matthew's gospel.

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Lyrics by Isaac Watts (1719) Music by Lowell Mason (1839) (Public Domain)

## O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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

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

## WATTS/MASON

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

## KING JOHN/WADE

**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.

**REFRAIN**

## GIVING AT THE GATHERING CHURCH.

**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.

## 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**

*the gathering church*



December 11, 2011

Isaiah 35:1-10 | Matthew 2:1-12

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

"Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine."

—"Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee," Henry van Dyke (1907)

## HAPPENING AT THE GATHERING CHURCH ([www.allgather.org/calendar](http://www.allgather.org/calendar))

### PRESENT BEFORE GOD

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Join us on Christmas Eve (Sat, 12/24) at 5:30pm at Creekside Elementary School for our annual worship service of carols and communion. No childcare will be provided, but kids are very welcomed. **THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS MORNING (12/25).**

### LEADERSHIP TEAM NOMINATIONS:

Be sure to nominate by talking to a current member of the Leadership Team, filling out the form online ([www.allgather.org/nominations/](http://www.allgather.org/nominations/)), or slipping your nomination card in the Black Box!

### CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER

**SET-UP & CLEAN-UP:** 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 ([csilvanic@gmail.com](mailto:csilvanic@gmail.com)) to be a part of this crucial ministry of the church; many hands make light work!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out yesterday with our Creekside Christmas Celebration!

**YEAR END GIVING:** Each year the Gathering Church has closed the year by giving ten percent of our income to missions partners. To meet our giving goals this year, we'd have to hit our \$26,000 December goal. Be a part of this season of generosity, every little bit helps us, as a church community, give more to those who are partnering with us in the Good News of Jesus.

### ENGAGED IN THE WORLD

**COMMUNICATION:** To have an announcement included email: [happenings@allgather.org](mailto:happenings@allgather.org). Keep up with the Gathering Church on Twitter (@allgather) or [www.facebook.com/allgather](http://www.facebook.com/allgather). Check out Music from the Gathering Church: [music.allgather.org](http://music.allgather.org) (to stream or buy) or [gatheringmusic.tumblr.com](http://gatheringmusic.tumblr.com) (blog).

## HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see

Written by Charles Wesley (Lyrics) 1739 and Felix Mendelssohn (Music) 1840 (Public Domain)

## WESLEY/MENDELSSOHN

Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
  
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n 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  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

### 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.

### GATHERING KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

For the past several months, the children of our congregation have been learning and practicing songs and readings, this morning they'll present the fruits of their labors and tell the joyous story of Jesus' Nativity. This program has been adapted from *The Living Creche* (written and arranged by Anna Laura Page and JeanAnne Shafferman).

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## REDNER/BROOKS

Sung by the Children's Choir

Music by Lewis Redner (1868) Lyrics by Philips Brooks (1867) (Public Domain)

### 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 from our community.



## TO A VIRGIN MEEK & MILD

Soloist: Morgan Taylor

Music & Lyrics by Vigleik E. Boe (1935) & Oscar Overby (1935) (Public Domain)

## BOE/OVERBY

### TRADITIONAL

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.

### Refrain

Traditional English Carol (1868) (Public Domain)

## SILENT NIGHT

## MOHR/XAVIER

Soloist: Olivia Rossman

Lyrics "Stille Nacht" by Joseph Mohr (1816) and Music by Franz Xavier (1818) (Public Domain)

## THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

### TRADITIONAL

Sung by the Children's Choir

Traditional 12<sup>th</sup> Century English Carol. Melody from *Orientis Partibus* (Public Domain)

## ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

## MONTGOMERY

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:

### REFRAIN

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar:  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star

### REFRAIN

Music from James Montgomery (1816) Lyrics from Henry Smart (1867) (Public Domain)

## THE FIRST NOEL

### TRADITIONAL

Sung by the Children's Choir

Traditional English Christmas Carol "The First Nowell" (Public Domain)

## WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

## REDNER/BROOKS

Sung by the Children's Choir

Written by Matt Redman ©2005 Thankyou Music CCLI# 4674166