

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

TRADITIONAL

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.

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.

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.

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 16th Century Germany "Es Ist Ein Ros" Lyrics from 15th Century German Carol (Public Domain)

IN CHRIST ALONE

GETTY/TOWNEND

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend ©2001 Thankyou Music

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.

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

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

REFRAIN

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

UPCOMING WWW.ALLGATHER.ORG/CALENDAR		GIVING WWW.ALLGATHER.ORG/GIVING
Advent Materials: Available for free download at www.allgather.org/advent/ .	and Hanging of the Greens: Stay after church on Sunday 12/23 to help decorate for our Christmas Eve service. We'll order in some food and "hang the greens" together.	YTD GIVING (12/16) \$278,540 2012 BUDGET GOAL \$300,000
Gathering Church Mustard Seed Grants: Have a great idea about how to love and serve people locally (or globally)? Apply for a Mustard Seed Grant: www.allgather.org/engaged/mustard-seed-grants . Applications are due 1/20/13.	Christmas Eve: Invite your friends and family to our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service at Creekside Elementary School on 12/24 at 5:30pm. Children are welcomed but there will be no childcare provided.	WAYS TO WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING: (1) In the black box on the back table on Sundays. (2) Online through Paypal. (3) By automating a draft through your bank. (4) By mailing a check to PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516.
Fill out a visitor's card to be included in church communications. To have an announcement included email: happenings@allgather.org . Keep up with the Gathering Church on Twitter (@allgather) or www.facebook.com/allgather . Check out Music from the Gathering Church: music.allgather.org (to stream or buy) or blog.allgather.org .		



December 23, 2012
Luke 2:1-7



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Come, then, let us hasten yonder;
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder,
Love Him Who with love is yearning;
Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.
- Paul Gerhardt (1656)

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

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!"

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the Gathering Church. We are a church that is growing in 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

The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The main symbolism portrayed by the wreath is the growing intensity of light as the candle lighting includes an additional candle each worship day and as anticipation builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming.

JOY TO THE WORLD**WATTS/MASON**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH**MAHER**

Great is Your faithfulness, O God
 You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
 You lead us by still waters into mercy
 And nothing can keep us apart.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob
 You use the weak to lead the strong
 You lead us in the song of Your salvation
 and all Your people sing along.

CHORUS

**So, remember Your people,
 Remember Your children,
 Remember Your promise, O God.
 Your grace is enough.
 Your grace is enough
 Your grace is enough for me**

Yeah, Your grace is enough, heaven reaches out to us,
 Your grace is enough for me
 God, I sing your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love
 Your grace is enough for me, for me. It's enough for me

Written by Matt Maher ©2003 Spiritandsong Thankyou Music 4477026

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR**WILLIS/SEARS**

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.

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.

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

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

DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN & THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

As the children are dismissed to participate in Gathering Kids activities, find someone you do not know, welcome them, and exchange a sign of Christ's welcome and peace. As the kids leave, please fill in the two center seating areas. There are bibles available for use on the back table if you didn't bring one.

SERMON NOTES

[Something I have learned.]

[Something I will share.]

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. In front of the stage there is an area available for kneeling and prayer. Feel free to take some time before and after receiving to pray.