



**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried; he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at  
the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty. From there he will come to  
judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion  
of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**\*WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:2, 6, & 7b (NIV)

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing/ King of Heaven  
King of Kings*

**WELCOME TO ALL**

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

*While By My Sheep* /arr. M. Hayes  
Kathleen Golias, Piano

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

I Thess. 4:13-5:11 (NIV)

SERMON

*Are You Ready for Advent?*  
*Advent series: Between Two Advents*  
Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

**WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

PREPARATION

THE INVITATION

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*In Christ Alone*

**WE REMEMBER THOSE IN NEED**

THE LOVE OFFERING/CLOSING HYMN **198** vss. 1-2, 4-5

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

## SONG LYRICS

### *195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! 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.

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.

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, words and music public domain

**Hark, the Herald Angels Sing/ King of Heaven**

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 angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem  
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, 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  
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King

King of Heaven come down, King of Heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign shining like the day  
King of Heaven come  
King of Heaven rise up  
Who can stand against us, You are strong to save  
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb  
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 the newborn King

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come  
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come  
King of Heaven come down  
King of Heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign shining like the day  
King of Heave come

## *King of Kings*

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father Praise the Son Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory Majesty Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father Praise the Son Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory Majesty Praise forever to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

Praise the Father Praise the Son Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory Majesty Praise forever to the King of kings

And the Church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father Praise the Son Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory Majesty Praise forever to the King of kings

*In Christ Alone*

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

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 ev'ry sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

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

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



***198 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!***

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!

A Helper just He comes to thee,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

## SCRIPTURE READING

I Thess. 4:13-5:11 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these words.

<sup>5:1</sup> Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.