

WHITE MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14, 2025 | 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The sound of bells summons us to gather for worship.

Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, you have chosen us as your own and you give us new life in Christ. Fill us with his spirit of compassion and love, and may his peace always reign in our hearts. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 35

Hymn 105 People, Look East

BESANÇON

*stanzas sung by choir
all join at "People, look east and sing today..."*

*Hymn 134 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Confession and Pardon

Anne Galliher

God speaks to our fearful hearts:
be strong and do not fear!
This we know: God's love is everlasting,
and so we pray.

God of joy, this we know: you call us to learn the ways of Christ and often choose a different way. The Psalmist tells us that "joy comes in the morning." Jesus came to bring us joy in order that our "joy may be complete." Joy is part of the serious business of heaven. And yet we frequently choose less than joy. We frequently accept cheaper substitutes. Help us commit ourselves to focusing on your Advent declarations. Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts wide so that we will greet the birth of Jesus with a full measure of joy. Help us run to Bethlehem like the shepherds so long ago.

Silent prayers



cantor: Lord, have mer - cy on us.



all: Lord, have mer - cy on us.

God strengthens our weakness
and makes feeble hearts firm.
In the name of Jesus Christ, for whom we wait,
we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.



* Asterisks invite us to rise in body or spirit.

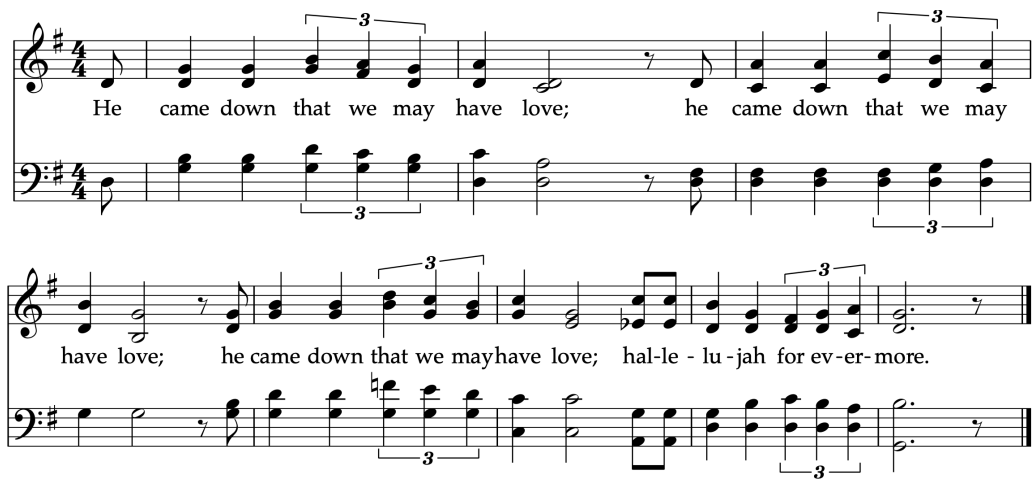
Words in bold are for everyone to say or sing.

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper by intinction. If you prefer pre-packaged elements, please pick these up in the narthex or Jane Bell Gathering Space prior to the service.

These two hymns share a buoyant vitality. Like today's Isaiah reading, they imagine what God's arrival looks like, giving us images of earth, plants, creatures, dwelling places, stars, and—most of all—love.

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

in the manner of Christ



Sharing of the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Welcome and Announcements

Illumination and Wreath

People of God,
Live in joy.

The Taylor Family (9:30)
 The Riddick Family (11:00)

New Testament Reading Matthew 11:2-11

pew Bible p. 10

Psalm 146:5-10

refrain

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy—
 O tidings of comfort and joy!**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

refrain

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
 The LORD watches over the strangers;
 he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
 The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
 Praise the LORD!

refrain

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

pew Bible p. 623

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon This We Know: The "Cost" of Joy

Christopher Edmonston

Young children are invited
 to come forward for the
 lighting of the Advent
 wreath.

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Offering

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

G. F. Handel – *Messiah* (9:30)

Ancient peoples searched the sky
Voicing our eternal "why?"
Heaven answered with a sign: a star, proclaiming Love divine.

Adam Tice/Sally Ann Morris (11:00)

Sages journeyed from the East bearing gifts for Prince and Priest.
Seeking Wisdom, starlight-stirred, they worshiped God's incarnate Word.

Chasing starlight still today, people dream, explore and pray.
God is with us – given birth as starlight leads to Love on earth.

At 9:30, the Adult Choir sings this great chorus from Handel's *Messiah*—one of Isaiah's many visions of God's arrival. At 11:00, the Youth Choir offers a poignant anthem—again, the images of skies, stars, arrival, and love.

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

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

...With watchers on earth and citizens of heaven, we join our voices:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.



Ho-san-na in the high - est! Ho-san-na in the high - est!

...Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Our sung responses in the Communion liturgy come from Richard Proulx's *Missa Emmanuel*, setting these central words to the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Today we receive communion by intinction. You are invited to come to stations at the front or the rear to receive the bread and then to dip it in the cup. All bread is gluten-free, and all cups contain grape juice.

This expansive hymn of Advent waiting begins with the question of how we will welcome God's arrival. Its final line—"...your renewed creation your glory shall display"—effectively gathers up in a single sentence so much of the vibrancy of today's texts. The hymn's tune is not only sung during Advent; we often sing it on Palm Sunday—an instance of music's ability to link the seasons in the liturgical year's broad arc.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking, Pouring, and Serving

Prayer

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*Charge & Benediction

*Chiming of the Trinity

*Postlude O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

J.S. Bach

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The Cornerstone: Generosity 2026
As of Wednesday, December 10 we have received 438 pledges representing \$2,761,024.53 million towards
our goal of \$5.4 million/1,000 pledging households. If you would like to make a pledge please visit
whitememorial.org/give. Thank you for your generosity.



[Scan or click here to submit a prayer request.](#)

AFTER HOURS PASTOR ON CALL: 919-605-4593

Each Sunday we offer three opportunities for you to worship with us at White Memorial in the Sanctuary and OnPoint@1704 in the Main Hall. While you will notice differences in music, location, and worship leadership among our different services, what unites us in our worship is our scripture, liturgy, and sermon. All services use the same Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, readings from Scripture, and Affirmation of Faith.



WELCOME TO WHITE MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC (USA)

We're so glad you are
worshipping with us today.

Visiting?

Deacons are in the Narthex
to offer a friendly greeting,
answer questions, and provide
directions.

Looking to Become a Member?

New members are received
after attending the *Believing &
Belonging @WMPC* class.
Visit whitememorial.org/join or
contact Elizabeth Viohl at
ext. 206 for class dates,
registration, and details.

Things to Know

Restrooms

Hallway to Jane Bell Gathering
Space (Pulpit side) and first floor
of the Luther Building.

Childcare

Available for children
up to 4 years old.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m. for all ages.

Refreshments & Coffee

The Connector and Main Hall.

Hearing Assistance

Loop system and FM system
available in the Sanctuary.

AED/Narcan Locations

WMPC campus has five AED/
Narcan locations around
campus: Narthex- Sanctuary,
Main Hall-Edinburgh,
Lobby-Ross, Lobby-Calvin,
3rd floor-Luther

Live Streaming

Services available at
whitememorial.org.
Facebook & YouTube

Bulletins

Recycled after services as part
of our care for God's creation.



Joys & CONCERNS

There are no joys and concerns to share this week.

If you have experienced a birth, marriage or death you want to share with the church,
email Lisa Crumpler at lcrumpler@whitememorial.org

If you have a relative or church friend who is hospitalized,
call the Pastoral Care line 919-834-3425, ext. 210 or email Caroline Parker
at cparker@whitememorial.org so our pastoral staff can reach out.

If you have a pastoral care need outside of regular business hours,
call our after-hours pastor on call at 919-605-4593.

THE CORNERSTONE: GENEROSITY 2026

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have received 438 pledges representing
\$2,761,024.53 million towards our goal of
\$5.4 million/1,000 pledging households. If
you would like to make a pledge please visit
whitememorial.org/give. Thank you for
your generosity.

UNCLAIMED STOCK GIFTS

Will the generous donors of the following
stocks please email or call Jody Grayson
at 834-3425 ext. 204 to identify your gift
so that we can give you proper credit?
Allspring, American Express, AvidXchange
Holdings.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that all year-end contributions
must be received by the Finance Office by
Sunday, December 28, 2025 or postmarked
by December 31, 2025 to be claimed as a
2025 donation.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEW OFFICERS

The Churchwide Nominating Committee
starts meeting in mid-January to consider
nominations for church Elders and
Deacons, class of 2029. Nominations are
now being accepted. Please give prayerful
consideration to placing a church member
into nomination for these critical leadership
roles. The nomination form can be found
online. All recommendations must be
received by February 2, 2026.

HOSPITALITY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve presents multiple
opportunities to welcome people in the
manner of Christ as we celebrate his birth.
We need people to serve on the Hospitality
Team (also known as ushering) to foster
an atmosphere of welcome and to ensure
worship services flow smoothly on a day
with hundreds of people in attendance.
These folks arrive early to hand out candles
and bulletins and provide invaluable
support to our staff. If you are available to
serve at a worship service (3:00, 4:00, 5:30,
7:00 p.m.) [please register here](#) or contact
Anne Galliher at agalliher@whitememorial.org.

LUTHER ELEVATOR TEMPORARILY OUT OF SERVICE

The Luther elevator is currently undergoing
repairs and will be unavailable for the
next couple of weeks. We are diligently
working to get the elevator operational and
apologize for any inconvenience this may
cause. Thank you for your patience and
understanding.

A Snapshot of What's Happening This Week at WMPC

Sunday, December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

- **Club 4/5 Movie Night**
5:00 p.m. | Calvin 100
- **Children's Movie Night**
5:00 p.m. | Calvin 200

Monday, December 15

Psalms 42; Isaiah 29:17-24

- **Bridge With Friends**
1:00 p.m. | The Hub
- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Tai Chi**
5:30 p.m. | Pickard Hall

Tuesday, December 16

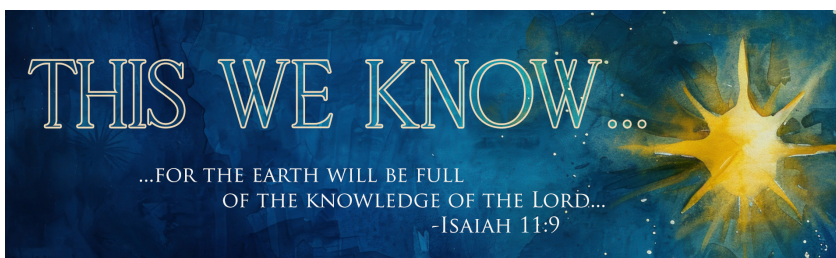
Psalms 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12

- **Men's Breakfast/Bible Study**
7:00 a.m. | Geneva Hall
- **Women's Breakfast/Circle**
7:00 a.m. | The Connector
- **Gentle Yoga**
8:30 a.m. | C200
- **Caregiver's Coffee**
10:30 a.m. | The Hub
- **Mahjong**
1:00 p.m. | TBD contact Anne Galliher

Wednesday, December 17

Psalms 42; Zechariah 8:1-17

- **Chair Yoga**
10:00 a.m. | C200
- **Lectio Divina**
11:00 a.m. | Virtual
- **Yin Yoga**
11:15 a.m. | C200
- **Note in the Pocket**
1:30 p.m. | Offsite
- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Advent Midweek Service**
6:30 p.m. | Chapel



ADVENT WORSHIP TIMES

December 21 Lessons & Carols

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary (no 10:45 a.m. service)

Wednesday December 17

Advent Evening Prayer

6:30-7:00 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

Children's Bell Services

3:00 & 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Candlelight Service

5:30 p.m. | OnPoint in Main Hall

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Sunday, December 28

Combined Worship Service

9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

ADVENT PODCAST EPISODE FOUR DROPS MONDAY

In these final days before Christmas, Grier Booker Richards and Eric Wall will discuss holiday preparations, and how we can best prepare our own hearts to receive a love that demands our attention, our courage, and our hope. Because we know when God's love arrives, nothing stays the same. The episode will be released Monday at 6:00 a.m. on our website, Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

CHILDREN'S MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday December 14 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Calvin 200

Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade are invited to watch *The Star* from 5 - 7 p.m. in C200. Bring your sleeping bag or blanket and join us for movie night in Calvin 200! Pizza is \$6.00 per person. [Click here to register.](#)

CLUB 4/5 MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday December 14 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Calvin 100

4th & 5th graders are invited to join us for Movie Night! On December 14 at 5:00 p.m., we'll watch *The Santa Clause*. Bring your sleeping bag or blanket and join us for movie night in Calvin 100! Pizza is \$6.00 per person. [Click here to register.](#)

2026 WOMEN'S RETREAT
JANUARY 23-25
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

Beloved on the Earth:

Being, Belonging, Becoming

with Rev. Gracie Payne
Associate Pastor for Engagement
Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

whitememorial.org/register



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

An Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women is conferred upon an individual for recognition of faithful service in some area of the church's work. Look around you...whom do you see as one who gives honor and glory to God while serving him actively and faithfully in our church and community? Whom should be recognized in a special way? Whether this person works behind the scenes or in front, we want your nominations for this person now. Please submit your nominations, along with your nominee's history of service and your statement of why you are nominating this person on the form found on the website and in select places around campus. Return form to June Ann Ward at jaly257@nc.rr.com. Deadline for receipt of this nomination is February 11, 2026.

Congregational Care + Health

CAREGIVER'S COFFEE

Tuesday December 16 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | The Hub

Are you a family caregiver or would you like to fellowship with family caregivers? Are you interested in learning more about the many community resources available to you? If so, please come for coffee, conversation, and connection at our next Caregiver's Coffee on Tuesday, December 16 from 10:30 a.m. - noon in the Hub. All are welcome; please feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to join you. For more information, please contact Martha Grove Hipskind, mghipskind@whitememorial.org.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Monday December 22 | 7:00 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

All Are Welcome is a faith-based small group that offers worship, fellowship and emotional and spiritual support for LGBTQ+ adults. You're invited to participate in the group as we create a safe space of welcome and engagement. We will meet on Monday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Davidson Chapel. For more information, contact Kathy Hart at hartmusic1@gmail.com or Lee Hunter at lhunter@whitememorial.org.

"DEAR WILLIAM" CHURCHWIDE BOOK STUDY

The WMPC Mental Health & Wellness Ministry and Youth Ministry are partnering to host internationally acclaimed author David Magee via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 28**, to discuss his powerful memoir *Dear William*. With honesty and heart, Magee shares his family's intergenerational struggle with substance abuse and mental health challenges. His poignant and uplifting message transforms tragedy into a call to hope and healing, inspiring a commitment to help others. Prior to the webinar, we will have two book discussion sessions on **Wednesday, January 7 and Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in K200**.

A Snapshot of What's Happening This Week at WMPC

Thursday, December 18

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17

- **Keenagers**
10:45 a.m. | Geneva Hall
- **Note in the Pocket**
1:30 p.m. | Offsite
- **Jesus Encounters**
2:30 p.m. | R400

Friday, December 19

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22

- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

Saturday, December 20

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29

For more information about any of these events, please visit our website whitememorial.org or call the church office 919-834-3424.

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor
Cynthia Baggett, Director of Weekday School
Genevieve Brooks, Director of Family Ministry
Cate Church Norman, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Claire Cox-Woodlief, Executive Director
Brock Downward, Director of Music Emeritus
Jennifer Eastman, Director of Young Children's Ministry
Jim Ferry, Parish Associate
Anne Galliher, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Engagement
Kelly Gold, Director of Children's and Youth Music
Tom Harris, Parish Associate
Martha Grove Hipskind, Health Ministry Coordinator
Kathy Howell, Communications Director
Lee Hunter, Pastoral Resident
Bailey Morton, Director of Youth Ministry
Eric Nanz, Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts
Linda Nunnallee, Director of Community Engagement
Grier Booker Richards, Associate Pastor for
Faith Formation and Worship Ministries
Art Ross, Pastor Emeritus
Judy Yates Siker, Parish Associate
Lynn Springfield, Director of Elementary Ministry
Colisha C. Stanford, StepUp Director
Martha Stevenson, Educator Emerita
Eric Wall, Director of Music



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Outreach

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Churchwide Collection

Each week when school is in session, our church provides food-insecure children at Oberlin Middle and Lynn Road Elementary Schools with healthy meals and snacks. Contact Jan Stewart, thestewarts2614@gmail.com. Amazon link is on website. If you'd prefer to shop you can pick up a shopping list on the Outreach room door (K100).

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

A Place at the Table is in search of dedicated volunteers to join their café team. Volunteers will be responsible for various tasks, including greeting guests, preparing food, and even assisting with dishwashing. There is something for everyone! The primary volunteer focus is to help foster a sense of love and support. Volunteers can commit to working once a week, every other week, or any other schedule that suits their availability. Flexibility is crucial in ensuring that the café can meet its operational needs effectively. Currently, they are in urgent need of additional hands to help them thrive.

CHRISTMAS SHARE

Christmas Share, an alternative giving program, has made significant contributions to our community and international partners totaling more than one million dollars since its inception. Established over three decades ago by Presbyterian Women, it remains an important Christmas outreach initiative.

During Advent a table will be set up on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the connector for you to make donations and to select your cards.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA

We have a long-standing tradition of collecting contributions in memory of a loved one or in honor of family, friends, or members of the church family during Advent. Your gifts may be for any amount of \$25 or more, and the money raised enables us to provide the florals and greenery used in our worship spaces during Advent and Christmas, as well as throughout the year. Those honored or memorialized will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve (deadline for print is December 18). Contact Lisa Crumpler at lcrumpler@whitememorial.org for more information.

COOKIE SERVICE PROJECT FOR SHEPHERD'S TABLE SOUP KITCHEN

Attention Bakers! Help spread Christmas joy by sharing homemade festive cookies with the 250 guests served daily at Shepherd's Table. Package cookies in single-serving sized bags (bags available in the Ross Building lobby). **Drop off cookies December 14 & 15 in the Ross Building.** Details and sign-up available online: <https://tinyurl.com/shepherdstablecookies>. For more info, [email Jan Stewart](mailto:email%20Jan%20Stewart). Let's share the sweetness of the season!

ABOUT PLAY PALS

Play Pals is an after-preschool play group designed to foster both gross motor skill development and social-emotional growth in children ages 3-5. Led by a licensed pediatric physical therapist and a child development specialist, the group provides structured, play-based activities that encourage gross motor skills, coordination, confidence, and cooperative peer interaction.

Threes:

Classes for children in a 3s class are offered on Thursdays from 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Session One: January 8-March 15 (No class February 19)

Session Two: March 12-May 7 (No class April 2)

Fours & K:

Classes for children in a 4s or K class are offered on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Session One: January 6-March 3 (No class January 20)

Session Two: March 10-May 5 (No class March 31)

Registration can be found on our website

Cost: \$240/per session

SKATING PARTY

Kindergarten-5th graders are invited to join us on **Saturday, January 10** for a skating party from 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at United Skates of America. Cost is \$13 per person paid at the rink (includes admission and skate rental.) Adult chaperones who are not skating are free. Register: white.memorial.org/register.

YOUTH LOCKOUT

Friday | January 16 | 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.

Registration: whitememorial.org/register

All middle and high school youth are invited to register for this all night extravaganza! We meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night to check in before we load up on the charter buses and church vans for the most epic 12 hours of your year (thus far). This year's activities will be announced through the weekly email youth newsletter. Past trips have included bowling, laser tag, trampoline parks, roller skating and more! You don't want to miss this wild night!

Questions? Contact Kaitlyn Thornton at kthornton@whitememorial.org. It takes 20 - 25 adult chaperones to make this event happen, so if this sounds fun to you, please contact Bailey Morton at bmorton@whitememorial.org or Paige Hokunson at phokunson@whitememorial.org ASAP!

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Join us in Geneva Hall, Sunday morning, **December 21 at 9:30 a.m.** for a time to re-connect, relax and revive over coffee.

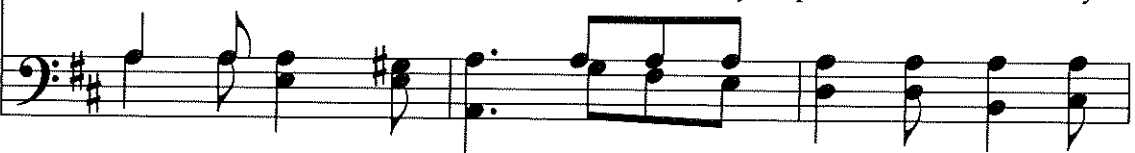
People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



Peo - ple, look



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and


sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.


O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104




1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.