

A
SERVICE OF SEVEN
ADVENT
LESSONS AND CAROLS



December 10, 2016
4 p.m.

About this Service

Welcome to the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church! Thank you for joining us this afternoon for an Advent Service of Seven Lessons and Carols. In the Christian church calendar, Advent takes place over four weeks before the celebration of Christmas on December 25. The season is a time for reflection, and even introspection, as we imagine what it was like to wait for the fulfillment of the prophecy of a coming Savior. It was once a penitential season, similar to Lent, as believers sought to make themselves ready for the gift of salvation. This meaning has largely been lost in modern times as we skip the quiet reflection and jump directly to the sparkle of Christmas. We are not good at waiting.

It's easy to imagine that believers throughout the millennia would have shared some of our impatience at waiting for the advent of a Savior. Imagine what it would have been like to wait, as an Israelite enslaved to the Babylonians or Egyptians, as generation after generation passed with no deliverance. Holding onto the hope of Advent would not have been easy. Yet, with the encouragement of the prophets, hope remained as a glimmer of light shining through the darkness. Our circumstances are different, living as we do in relative prosperity and freedom compared to the rest of the world. But our challenge remains the same: to hold onto hope, to see and to share the light and truth that shine from above.

This Seventh-day Adventist Church is part of a denomination that has such a compelling connection to Advent that it became part of its name. In 1833, William Miller, a farmer and Baptist lay preacher living in Upstate New York, began to share publicly his belief that the second Advent of Jesus Christ would occur sometime in the year 1843. He came to this belief after a study of the prophecies of Daniel. It took some time, but by 1840, his message of the imminent return of Christ had become a movement that bore his name. The Millerite movement swept the country, publishing and distributing millions of tracts to declare the good news. Further discussion and careful study of the Bible prophecies resulted in the setting of a firm date for the second coming, October 22, 1844. Many Millerites, so convinced of the teachings, sold their possessions and waited on hillsides on the eve of October 22, firm in their belief that they would be transported to heaven.

When the prediction didn't come true, many Millerites gave up their belief in a literal second advent. But, out of this "Great Disappointment", as this event came to be known, a new movement emerged as former Millerites continued their study of the Bible and held onto a belief in a literal second Advent. By 1860, the fledgling movement adopted the name "Seventh-day Adventists." Distinguished by a belief

Cover illustration:

The Lamb of God as it appeared to St. John in the Book of Revelations.

From a woodcut by Albrecht Dürer

in the sanctity of a seventh-day Sabbath, the Bible as the word of God, and a belief in the literal Second Coming of Christ, the Seventh-day Adventist movement today has grown to approximately 18 million members, spread throughout the world.

In 1934, Reverend Eric Milner-White created “A Procession of Advent Carols” following the success of the “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” he had created in 1919. He wrote that the purpose of the service was “not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it...to express the desire of all nations and ages.” The service we celebrate this afternoon has roots in that tradition, but with the added dimension of a focus on the second Advent, as pointed to by the first Advent. A portion of the Welcome and Closing Blessing, read at the opening and closing of the service, comes from the pen of Ellen G. White, an influential writer and founder of the Adventist movement. In these ways, this service is unique to our denomination and perhaps could be rightly called an Adventist Service of Lessons and Carols.

It is our hope that you would become an active participant in this service today, feel renewed strength and hope, and experience the warmth of the light of Christ. Allow your imagination to enter into the drama and anticipation of Advent through the reading of Scripture, the hearing and singing of melodies ancient and new, and the corporate experience of worship and fellowship in this place. If you are here for the first time, we hope it will not be the last. We invite you to return next Saturday morning, **December 17 at 11:15 a.m.** as we complete the Christmas story begun today with a festive service accompanied by choir, brass octet, percussion and organ with new carol arrangements written by David Wachner. *M.W.*

An offering will be received following the service this afternoon. Your generous gifts make these concerts and service possible. If you would like to know more about our Evensong Concert series, receive concert updates in the mail or via e-mail, or to know more about other programs offered by this church, please fill out the enclosed card and place it in the offering plate.

Please join us for a reception after the service in the fellowship hall.

Spencerville Sanctuary Choir

Mark Willey, director

Joy-Leilani Garbutt, organ & piano

Brass

Nathan Clark and David Workman, trumpets; Joel Wealer, horn;

David Sisk, trombone; Willie Clark, tuba

WELCOME

Chad Stuart
Senior Pastor

PRELUDE

Medieval Intrada
Creator of the stars of night

K. Lee Scott
(b. 1950)

INTROIT

Advent Responsory adapt from G.P. Da Palestrina
(c. 1525-1594)

I look from afar.

And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, One with another,

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come

To reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor Charlotte McClure

“As the message of Christ’s first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies (E.G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 234). The Saviour’s coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, “The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.” Ezekiel 12:22” (E.G. White, *Ibid.*, p. 31).

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God’s eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ Himself taught us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in 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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May the Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*Verses 1 through 3 will be sung by the choir in procession.
Following verse 3, please stand and join in singing the final verse.*

PROCESSIONAL

Let All Mortal Flesh

text from Liturgy of St James
French carol tune, PICARDY
arranged Joy-Leilani Garbutt

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of Lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank, the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way;
As the Light of light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes, the powers of hell to vanquish,
As the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six wing-ed ser - aph, cher-u-bim with sleep - less_ eye,
veil their fac-es to the_ pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:
“Al-le-lu-ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most_ High!”

Seated

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 1-15

Read by Meaghan Kuczma, 7th Grade, Spencerville Adventist Academy

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

This is the truth sent from above

words: Traditional English
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1871-1958)

1. This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from the door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.
2. The first thing that I will relate,
That God at first did man create;
The next thing which to you I tell
Woman was made with him to dwell.
3. Thus we were heirs to endless woes
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run:
That he'd redeem us by his Son.
4. And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear,
And here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.
5. Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Read by Emily Barnabas, a 7th Grader at White Oak Middle School

The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

Verses 1 and 2 will be sung by the choir.
Stand as directed and sing verses 3 and 4.

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

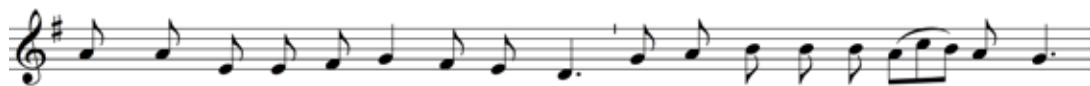
9th century text

15th c. processional tune, VENI EMMANUEL

last verse arr. D. Willcocks



1. O come, O come, Im-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el
2. O come, O wis-dom from on high, who or-dered all things might - i - ly;
3. O come, O Branch of Jes - se's stem, un - to your own and res - cue them!
4. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come and op - en wide our heav - 'nly home.



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
to us the path of know - ledge show and teach us in its ways to go.
From depths of hell your peo - ple save, and give them vic-tory o'er the grave.
Make safe for us the heav - en-ward road and bar the way to death's a - bode.



Re - joice! Re-joice! Em - ma - nu - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

seated

CAROL

Lo, How A Rose

15th c. text and tune

Es ist ein rose

arr. Deborah Govenor

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 beheld it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves,
And lightens every load.

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-45

Read by Ekaterina Tomenko Di Pinto, Dentist

The angel Gabriel promises to Mary that she will bear the Savior of the world.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

tune and text, Basque carol
arranged by Malcolm Archer
(b. 1952)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Please stand and join in singing.

CAROL

Comfort, Comfort Now My People text by Johannes Olearius
tune from Genevan Psalter, GENEVAN 42
arranged, Mark Willey



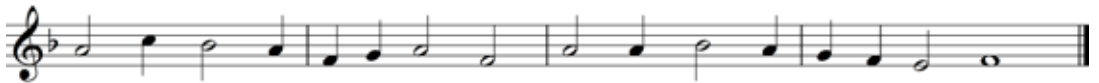
1. Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2. For the he - rald's voice is cry - ing in the de - sert far and near,
3. Then make straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er pla - ces plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mour - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing all to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is ne - ver bro - ken.

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

Read by Greg Macalinao, Athletic Director, Spencerville Adventist Academy

Isaiah describes the creation of a new Jerusalem.

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

CAROL

Jacob's Ladder

Traditional text
Music by Stephen Darlington
(b. 1952)

As Jacob with travel was weary one day,
At night on a stone for a pillow he lay;
He saw in a vision a ladder so high,
That its foot was on earth and its top in the sky.

*Aleluia to Jesus whose birth sets us free
And hath raised up a ladder of mercy for me,
And hath raised up a ladder of mercy for me.*

This ladder is long, it is strong and well-made,
Has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed;
Many millions have climbed it and reach'd Sion's hill,
And thousands by faith are climbing it still.

Come, let us ascend! all may climb it who will;
For the angels of Jacob are guarding it still:
And remember, each step that by faith we pass o'er,
Some prophet or martyr hath trod it before.

And when we arrive at the haven of rest,
We shall hear the glad words, 'Come up hither, ye blest,
Here are regions of light, here are mansions of bliss.'
O, who would not climb such a ladder as this?

FIFTH LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Read by Alex Ngamije, Administrative Resident, Adventist HealthCare

Paul foretells the resurrection of the righteous.

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

SOLO

Recit and Aria (from *Messiah*)

Georg Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Melville Moses Andrade, bass

that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

CAROL

E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

text by Ruth Manz
music by Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sin,
who loved us all, and shed his blood
That we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord
The Lord almighty God
Who was and is, and is to come.
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming soon.
E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun
For Christ will be their all!

SEVENTH LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and Revelation 21: 1-7

Read by Anne Willsey, grandmother

John describes the Second Advent and the coming of the New Jerusalem

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

*The choir sings verses 1 through 3.
Please stand as directed and sing verses 4 and 5.*

HYMN

The Light of Christ

text by Bill Knott
music by Mark Willey

Choir

1. Light of light, before the darkness Filled the spaces of Your reign;
All was radiant, all was joyful; None knew loss, and all knew gain.
All Your angels bow in wonder; All Your creatures raise Your song;
With the chorus of the ages We rejoice that we belong.

2. Change of change, You left Your Father, Found a mother, holy Child;
Stripped of glory, climbing downward, Trading peace for angry wild.
You came once to save Your people; You were born to break our chains;
Come again, O great Redeemer; Be the end of death and pain.

3. Joy of joy, Your angels worshipped With the shepherds on our hills
At Your birth predicting boldly You would heal all our ills.
All Your angels bow in wonder; All Your creatures raise Your song;
With the chorus of the ages We rejoice that we belong.



4. Guide of guides, you taught all peo - ple Of Your Fa - ther's end-less love;
5. King of kings, you come to take us To Your - self and to Your home;



Bring-ing light that pre-dates dark-ness, Lad - der to the realms a - bove.
All the bro - ken, all the stran-gers; Gath-ered in, no more to roam.



You came once to save Your peo - ple; You were born to break our
All Your an - gels bow in won - der; All Your crea - tures raise Your



chains; Come a - gain, O great Re-deem - er; Be the end of death and pain.
song; With the cho - rus of the a - ges We re - joice that we be - long.

CLOSING BLESSING

“The gospel message proclaimed by Christ’s disciples was the announcement of His first advent to the world. It bore to men the good tidings of salvation through faith in Him. It pointed forward to His second coming in glory to redeem His people, and it set before men the hope, through faith and obedience, of sharing the inheritance of the saints in light. This message is given to men today, and at this time there is coupled with it the announcement of Christ’s second coming as at hand. The signs which He Himself gave of His coming have been fulfilled, and by the teaching of God’s word we may know that the Lord is at the door.” (E.G. White, Christ’s Object Lessons)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, he has come to his people and set them free. The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining, the Word of Life which was from the beginning.

See what love the Father has given us.

See what love the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God. You are my sons and daughters: this day have I begotten you.

See what love the Father has given us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Remain standing and sing

CAROL

Joy to the World

text by Isaac Watts

tune attrib. to G.F. Handel, ANTIOCH

arranged by John Rutter



1. Joy to the world, the Lord shall come! Let earth re - ceive her King;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav - en, and heav - en and na - ture sing.
love, And won - ders, and won - ders of His love.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Keith Snell

Today's service features a newly composed hymn, a collaboration between Bill Knott, Editor and Executive Publisher of Adventist Review, and Mark Willey, Director of Music here at the Spencerville Church. Since only five verses of the text were sung for the service, the entire text is printed below.

The Light of Christ

Bill Knott

1. Light of light, before the darkness
Filled the spaces of Your reign;
All was radiant, all was joyful;
None knew loss, and all knew gain.
**All Your angels bow in wonder;
All Your creatures raise Your song;
With the chorus of the ages
We rejoice that we belong.*
2. Change of change, You left Your Father,
Found a mother, holy Child;
Stripped of glory, climbing downward,
Trading peace for angry wild.
**You came once to save Your people;
You were born to break our chains;
Come again, O great Redeemer;
Be the end of death and pain.*
3. Joy of joy, Your angels worshipped
With the shepherds on our hills
At Your birth predicting boldly
You would heal all our ills.
4. Strength of strength, you grew to fullness,
Tempted, harassed, with no sin;
Unlike any other human
You were innocent within.
5. Guide of guides, you taught all people
Of Your Father's endless love;
Bringing light that predates darkness,
Ladder to the realms above.
6. Love of love, you touched our bodies,
Healed our spirits, calmed our fears;
You put life into our living,
Gave abundance to our years.
7. Lamb of lambs, You gave Your body,
Substitute for broken fools;
Through Your grace
You saved who scorned you,
Lifted us above the rules.
8. Death of death, you rose victorious,
Breaking chains, the Lord of life;
Taking prisoners from the devil,
You have conquered in this strife.
9. Priest of priests, You serve Your temple,
Interceding for our wrongs;
Sanctifier of Your people;
Teacher of courageous songs;
10. King of kings, you come to take us
To Yourself and to Your home;
All the broken, all the strangers;
Gathered in, no more to roam.
11. Lord of lords, we ever greet You,
Great Redeemer, grace on grace.
May it be our grand ambition
To behold Your glorious face.

*Refrains alternate after each verse

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