

^p ***Straight from the "Hart"***

December 03, 2023 -- Advent - Hope

The Arrival -- The Signs of Christmas



Sharing the journey
to know, love, and serve

Welcome to Hartland UMC's "Straight from the "Hart"". We are glad you are here and participating in worship through this service script.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we offer you thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, this season of Advent. We have gathered because we believe the prophets who said you would establish your rule as the most important of all nations and that they will stream to you. As we prepare for the birth of your son, we share gifts with the kind of joy and excitement that are common when people anticipate the birth of a child. Bless these gifts in your holy Name. Amen.

Responsive Call to Worship (R: Reader C: Congregation)

R: Deep darkness covers the people. Lift up your eyes and see.

C: We search the skies for a sign of hope.

R: Then you will see and you will be radiant -- your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

C: We listen for words of promise.

R: Arise, shine, for the Lord your Light has come. His glory will shine on you.

C: We long to realize the birth of hope in our day.

R: Kings and nations shall come to his bright dawning

C: and will offer him their worship -- for God's Son has come.

Loosely inspired by Isaiah 60:1ff

Music For those who come to him, he becomes our help and our hope. Let's sing
O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by W.H. Monk, 1861



1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.
2. Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Advent Candles – Hope

Bible Reading

This is our help and hope.

You had absolutely no connection to the Anointed; you were strangers, separated from God's people. You were aliens to the covenant they had with God; you were hopelessly stranded without God in a *fractured* world. But now, because of Jesus the Anointed *and His sacrifice, all of that has changed*. God gathered you who were so far away and brought you near to Him by the *royal* blood of the Anointed, *our Liberating King...*

Because He has raised Jesus the Anointed from death, through His great mercy we have been reborn into a living hope — reborn for an eternal inheritance, held in reserve in heaven, that will never fade or fail. Through faith, God's power is *standing watch*, protecting you for a salvation that you will see completely at the end of things.

Ephesians 2:12-13, 1 Peter 1:3b-5 3b (VOICE)

Poetic Reading

Hear Walter Brueggemann's prayer that recognizes that at times it is a struggle to find hope even in this season of anticipation.

Advent Prayer

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses
who yearn more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
Look upon your [people] in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue

and this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
to the edge of our finger tips...
Come in your power ... and make all things new.
abr. from "Advent Prayer" by **Walter Brueggemann**, in
"Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann"

Prayer Let's pray. O Lord, you are our hope! We are so thankful that you, our God, came to live, fully human, among people like us, in order to bring us your salvation. Prepare our hearts for celebrating you this Christmas. May our hope and worship be a sweet gift to you, in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

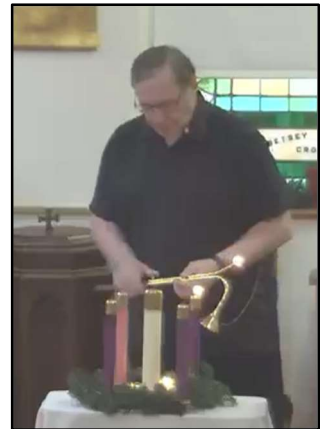
Music Now let's sing the "Advent (Light the Candle) Song"

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

Words & Music: Mary Lu Walker © 1975 Mary Lu Walker

[Candle One is lit while we sing]

1. Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
we have started on your way, time to think of Christmas day.
Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright fill our hearts with Christmas light.



Music Let's prepare our hearts for prayer by singing...

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland H. Pritchard, 1830; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906

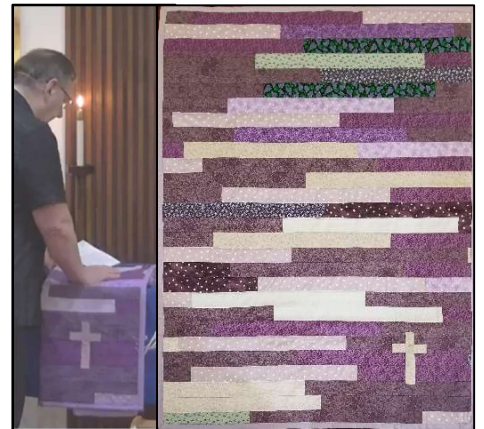
1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayers

Dear Lord, Holy One and Bright Star who has risen over us who live in darkness, we pray you fill the hearts of leaders, nations, cities, and faith communities with wisdom and grace, leading us all in your way, your hope, your love and your peace.

We are thankful that you laugh with those who laugh today. We lift up our joys. Our hope is found in you. Help us in all we do and say, to be your love -- shining forth. Be with those who are suffering, struggling, and or are in pain of heart, soul, mind, or body. May your glory arise in every person and every situation. **Petition** Specifically, today, * Pat Schleh requests we pray for her sister-in-law Marianne who is having hip surgery on Wednesday. We continue to pray for * Tom Spencer who has begun healing from a back injury. * for Carol Werner (Kathy Novak's mother) * for Mr. Bransner with cardiac problems, * for Scarlett & Skylar Morehouse, * for Joyce Vahala, * for peace in the world and in our lives, and for anyone who is suffering in the midst of violence or turmoil, * and finally for those we have not named out loud but are still on our hearts and minds, we pause to lift these as well... (Pause)

Quilt and we also pray for Jan Martin, for whom we dedicate this quilt. Dear Lord, today we ask from you a special blessing on our sister in Christ, Jan Martin. We pray for your loving arms to enfold her with your strength to give her faith and endurance throughout this difficult journey. In the quiet times, as Jan wraps this quilt around her, let your peace reign within her, and your spirit calm her. We know she is a strong believer in the power of prayer, so throughout each day, let the love and prayers of this church bring comfort to her heart, and strength to her body.



Even in the darkest of times, may it remind her that our heavenly Father is here, holding a special place in his heart for each one of us and is with us each moment of every day...always awake, keeping watch, holding her close, sharing her innermost thoughts, reminding us that we are never alone.

It is through your loving grace we offer this blessing on this quilt and on Jan, in the name of the One who knows all our joys and all our pains and is our ultimate healer, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

portions of prayer ad, from portions of "Prayer of Intercession for Epiphany" by Terri, posted on RevGalBlogPal's A Place for Prayer. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca>

Intro to and Bible Reading 2

As the new Christian year begins, we start anticipating the birth of Christ. The front of the bulletin quotes the foreign prophet Balaam who anticipated that day in

the far distant future -- much to the frustration of the leaders of his own people. For those at home, it says: "I see him coming, but not now, I see him coming, but not soon. A star will [rise] from the family of Jacob. A new ruler will come from the Israelites." Matthew saw the birth of Jesus as a fulfillment of the prophet Micah's continuing anticipation of the glorious king that would rise over his people and bring peace to the world. While Matthew needs to only grab a short quote to put in the minds of his readers the whole thought of Micah, we will insert. at that point a longer excerpt from the prophet...



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

Matthew 2:1-5 (NIV)

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are the smallest town in Judah. Your family is almost too small to count, but the "Ruler of Israel" will come from you to rule for me. His beginnings are from ancient times, from long, long ago. The Lord will let his people be defeated until the woman gives birth to her child, the promised king. Then the rest of his brothers will come back to join the people of Israel. He will begin to rule Israel in the power of the LORD. Like a shepherd, he will lead his people in the wonderful name of the LORD his God. And they will live in safety because then his greatness will be known all over the world. He will bring a time of peace.

Micah 5:2-5a (ERV)

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they

were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:7-11 (NIV)

Music Bethlehem was the place, so let's sing about that town...

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868, Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth!

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Sermon The Arrival: The Signs of Christmas

The magi usually arrive on the 12th day of Christmas, which is Epiphany, January 6. But their "late arrival in the story" may have, more than anything else, had more to do with the distance they had to travel. So for this year, for a change, we'll see if they can teach us something different than they do on Epiphany by letting them start us off on our Christmas journey this year. This is the first day of Advent which I sometimes use as an acrostic to say: Advent is: **A**nticipating **D**ivine **V**isitation **E**xpecting **N**ew **T**hings).

Obviously, the Magi were searching the skies (or they wouldn't have seen anything). What was the purpose of their quest? Was it a cry for help in difficult times? Were they desperate for something new in their nation? Was it simply a normal discipline of their religious or other experience? Or was it something they

weren't even looking for, but once they saw it, they couldn't "unsee" it. One thing we do learn from them is that God is so filled with love for people that he will accommodate himself to the people he is trying to reach – he will communicate with signs in a way that --- if they are willing to look and listen, they will be able to understand what God is trying to communicate with them. He doesn't talk "over our heads."

But sometimes we look for signs in the wrong places, and that makes it hard for us to see them. I was born and raised in Michigan. On major intersections, where do we look for the traffic light? [up and in front]. Exactly. When I went to seminary, in Kansas City, that is not where they were. They on the corner where your walk signs, and stop signs are. I had to relearn how to find my way safely through the roads because of their different way of placing directions to drivers. They also have a different way of merging and unmerging from highways, but that is a different story. 😊 If you are driving in the right lane on the highway, almost without warning you will find yourself exiting the highway unless you move a lane left. They do that a little up here, (but with much more advance warning); but not near as often as down there.

Today's text helps us know where and how to look to see what God is wanting to tell us. The wise men saw his star rise and came to worship.

Whatever expertise they had, they knew how to understand and apply what they saw. We may or may not get such a direct message from nature – yet it is clear that if we look at creation through spiritual eyes, God can use it to speak to us and teach us – and actually he can use everything around us, not just nature. But the Psalmist wrote:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV)

In my college days I remember going out on walks at night seeking – because I was in an extremely receptive stage of my life, seeking and expecting. God used things, often common things around me, to teach spiritual truths. When such truths are verified (as best I could verify them), the point isn't just to learn them, but to act on such learnings. The wise ones were so sure of God's sign to them that they left home and traveled many, many, many, many, many miles – just to see what

God was doing, because they understood that there was a king (foreign to them) that would have a huge impact not only among that king's own people, but among all the nations of the world.

The danger for us, of course, is that it is not always easy to accurately hear God's proclamations through things that don't speak with actual words, or trust (the right understanding) of the words of people who do use them. That is why I said that what we learn needs to be verified.

The next thing they did when they got close to where the star was leading them, was to ask questions of anyone and everyone who might have heard about what they were seeking. The question reached Herod, who is not the best example, for sure – paranoid as he was – but his position also gave him access to experts who were able to give information that would get the wise men closer yet. We too, should consult mature Christians for their wisdom in the Christian life. But even they are human, so ultimately, we must consult the life of Jesus in Scripture. Someone once suggested that we read one chapter of Luke each day (beginning Dec 1). This is only the third, so we could easily catch up if we wanted to do that. The book concludes after 24 chapters, so on Christmas Eve participants will have experienced the birth, life, teachings and actions of Jesus, including his death, resurrection and final instructions -- reminding us why we celebrate this season, and maybe too, each participant may also discover some signs to follow in their own lives – some changes in life that are needed to follow him more closely, which leads to our last and most important sign of Christmas -- the wise men, loaded with more information, continued to follow the star until they reached the house where Mary and Jesus were staying. They bowed (they were humble). They worshiped, and gifted him with their treasures.

Ultimately, God's sign, God's message to us is Jesus himself. As the angels told the shepherds that the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger *would be the sign* to them that a Savior, the Messiah, is born for them; (See Luke 2:11-12) It is not enough for us, just as it was not enough for the wise ones, to grasp a sign as a sign and know what it means, to study all about it and know all the ins and outs of the sign – they had to do more than that, they had to experience Jesus personally.

That is what we need to do too – it is not enough to just know all the facts about everything, those facts have to mean something. We too need to experience God's risen Jesus and Spirit within our own hearts, and not only to know him as a person, but to allow him complete guidance in our lives. Just as the star guided the wise

men to the manger to bow and worship and give gifts and a token of their devotion, so we need to allow our relationship with Jesus to guide us to live and worship and give and serve as our sign of devotion to him.

The physical signs of the coming of Christmas become more prominent each week as we walk into stores, and hear the music, we see the street decorations going up, and how some transform homes and yards into beacons of, not to mention the purchase of gifts and sending of cards and preparations for family reunions. Celebrating the season of Christmas through such signs are a good thing. But this season, let those things also point us beyond just what we are doing, and to our God and help us to prepare us to look and listen for what he wants to give us as he comes to be born in us again this year. What might that mean for our lives today? Are we living in a way that we might become a sign of his love for others?

As we heard during the candles, the focus of Advent's start is hope. Hope is something that moves us into the future. Sometimes when I look through social media, I get the feeling that many people are really hoping they were living 50 years ago. Nothing wrong with reminiscing and enjoying memories and that kind of thing, but sometimes it seems like people are saying "we need to go back there." And the foundation of our hope may come from the past, (such as Christmas and Easter) but the direction of our hope must always be pointing forward.

I think I told you once, of the children's story, Johnny the Lizard. I'll just summarize it very quickly. An unusual trait of some lizards is that in crisis, life and death kind of crisis, they will lose their tails, and the muscles in those tails will continue to wiggle and bob, and the predator will see the tail jumping about over here while the lizard is over there, and it is distracted, hopefully allowing the lizard to get away. Johnny was that type of lizard in our story. He had an extreme crisis. Actually, what he did was that he went out sunning, and he fell asleep. Some mean kids came along. They grabbed him and played with him, and they were holding him by the tail. Johnny separated from his tail and ran away, and he could hear the kids laughing as he ran because the tail was still flipping around in their hand. They had fun with it for a while, but then discarded somewhere along the way. Well, Johnny missed his tail, so he started to hunt for it. (like the wise men hunting for the star). He looked all over for it. Also, like the wise men, he asked anyone he could find if they had seen that tail. He searched for months, looking for information, until finally one observant expert asked, "Why do you want two tails?" Johnny was confused

until he turned around to see he had grown a new tail. As luck would have it, -- you know the saying -- as soon as you stop looking for something, you find it -- well, on his way home from that encounter he found his old tail. He picked it up and carried it with him until a frog pointed out how icky it was, and then he discarded it. As he continued home, he realized how much time he had wasted trying to recapture something that was an important part of him --- in the past --- and that he loved so much, but what he really needed was to drop the old longings and move into a new day.

It was hope that drew the Magi from their far away homes, hope that forced them to research and ask all kinds of questions, hope that brought them to the young Jesus, hope that put them on their knees and present gifts to this new king, it was hope that caused them to believe in his worldwide influence. It was hope in this new future that brought them on their spiritual quest.

The Psalmist prays for help and signs to show and guide his ways -- asking where he should look -- and then answers his own question by saying that he looks to the Lord because he trusts and puts his hope in God, his salvation. Based on a couple Psalms that had these kind of themes, Aaron Shust composed these lyrics (and I paraphrased them a bit to shorten it up): I meet with you, (with God) he says. My soul sings out for your Word throws doubt far away, My heart cries out that you are near! I wait for you and my soul finds rest. When selfish -- you show me grace. You are my refuge. I won't be shaken by troubles for you give me a peace that passes understanding -- for my hope is in you all the day long.

I saw an illustration of a manger once, the caption read: Children Need a Stable Background. Christmas hope is "stable-ized" and grounded on the foundation that God is with us and loves us...and in whom we receive unconditional love and find our identity as we strive to follow his light into our future.

Communion

Invitation And what better way to renew our hope than through Communion. You don't need to be a member. Our table is open to all who want their identity to be found in Christ, to receive (or receive again) His unlimited, unconditional love as we strive to follow his light in worship and in life.

Affirmation: The Apostle's Creed Let's prepare our *minds* with an Affirmation of what we believe as expressed in the Apostle's Creed.

(C – **Congregation** joins on bold font)

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Music And believing this about our Lord, we are thankful that when we look for him, and we aren't too distracted — we will see his signs, his “stars”, bursting all around us — he will show us the way. And if we stick with him, he may even use us to show others the way. Therefore, let's remind ourselves of Jesus' presence with us as we enter the Advent Season by singing

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Words and Music: Bob McGee, 1976

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Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called, Emmanuel.
 God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.
 Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called, Emmanuel.
 God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Confession

We continue to prepare our hearts by a time of confession. Our Father in Heaven, like the wise ones, we enter your presence humbly, offering ourselves to you, or at least, that is what we wish we would do. But we must confess that we who have been baptized into your name have not always kept the covenant we have made with you. We have at times revolted against your kingship, and even more often have not given you and your kingdom the time and commitment you deserve. We have not always bowed before you and recognized you as Lord, nor modeled your ways... Forgive us and renew us according to the promise of Your Scripture,

Assurance

which says: ... that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we walk

in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Almighty Father, you caused light to shine out of darkness and shine into our hearts, cleansing us from all sins, and restoring us to the light of the knowledge of God's glory, as seen in Jesus Christ, our Savior—and on the basis of these promises,

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

(All): GLORY TO GOD. AMEN.

The Great Thanksgiving

Therefore, The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And this is why we consider it a right, good, and joyful thing, always, and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty. You created all that is, you created light out of darkness, and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. Even when we turned away, your love remained steadfast. In the fullness of time, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang, glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, as our light and salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born, and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light. In His baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach

the good news, proclaim release to the captives, healing of the sick, freeing the oppressed, and announcing the salvation of the world. By the baptism of his suffering death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Now Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on your people and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that in receiving them, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to you, and in taking them in, we are taking in your divine presence, not because of works we have done, but because of your divine mercy to us, and enable us to be renewed to walk in new ways, grow into your likeness, and to always dwell in you, as you do in us. We, being your people, and you being our God, we can pray with confidence as children of God who in trust and hope seek your guidance in the prayer your Son Jesus taught us to pray. Lord's Prayer (sung)

The Bread and Cup

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [Take and eat]

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [Take and Drink]



Communion Blessing

Now may the everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, the hope of all nations who come to the brightness of his rising -- May he fill our world with his glory, and show himself as the true light, the bright and morning star to the whole world, until

the day dawns when his star rises in each of our hearts, and every heart around the world.. . Amen.

Music Let's sing one of my favorite Christmas songs, it isn't with the other Christmas songs, it is elsewhere in the hymnal, Love Divine, All Loves excelling, comes to earth to save us.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747 Music: John Zundel, 1870

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blessing Now may God the Father be with us as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth. May the Spirit inspire us as we join our hearts in praise of Jesus, that the hope of Christ might touch us all, and through us – everyone we meet. Amen.