

A satellite view of the Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. The Earth is illuminated from the right, with city lights glowing across the continents. The Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico are visible. The background is the dark void of space with some stars.

A Light to the Nations

3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 5, 2021

Service of Lessons and Carols

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

Grand Rapids, Michigan

It is common to read the Old Testament as a collection of books that shine a spotlight on the people of Israel and assume that it was not until Pentecost that the global dimensions of God's redemption would become clear. But such a narrowly nationalistic vision does not last long for careful readers of Isaiah. From start to finish, Isaiah evokes a much larger vision of redemption, insisting that from the start God's call to Abram and Sarah was for the sake the world.

Isaiah helps us hear God's own expansive vision:

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

—*Isaiah 49:6*

In an era in which narrow nationalisms are emerging yet again in so many places around the world, it is important to dwell with the countercultural, global vision of Isaiah's prophecies. What a gift it is to do so with students from China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, and the United States, the countries represented in the choirs for this service.

What a gift it is to have ready access to poetry and music from fourteen countries over five continents to sing in this service—a tangible witness to the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit all over the world. May the Holy Spirit enlarge the scope of our hope through all we do in this service, helping us to live with eager expectation for all that will one day be revealed:

**The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
The nations will walk by its light.**

—*Revelation 21:23–24a*

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Grand Rapids, Michigan

Organ Prelude:

**Chorale and Two Settings on “Savior of the Nations, Come”
3 Settings on “All Glory Be to God on High”**

Samuel Scheidt, Walter Pelz, Michael Burkhardt

Wilbur Held

Choral Introit: “Angel Choirs in Heaven Rejoice” (Ukraine)

arr. Kyrylo Stetsenko

Capella

Angel choirs in heaven rejoice
praising God with one great voice,
now ye people near and far,
sing to Christ, our morning star.

Kings, strike the harp and sound the horn,
a greater King to us is born.
Christ is born!
Saints and angels, glorify!
Nations, raise your voices high!
God with us, alleluia, God with us!

Unto us the angel came,
bringing news in God’s good name.
News like this was never heard:
God made flesh in Christ the Word.

Text: Nancy McKibben © 2000 Nancy McKibben

Music: Ukrainian Carol, arr. K. Stetsenko © 2000 Musica Russica, Inc.

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*** Processional: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

arr. Stephen Cleobury

Congregation

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite, PD
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, arr. Stephen Cleobury © 1999 Encore Publications
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*** Greeting and Bidding Prayer**

Pastor: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

All: **To him who loves us
and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

—Revelation 1:5–6

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent we prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. We have gathered to hear, in readings from the holy scriptures, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people and bring healing to the world God so loves. We rejoice, in carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. We encourage each other in Christian hope, so needed in a world filled with sorrow and despair. We unite our hearts to pray for the nations of the world; for those who have not heard the good news of God or who do not believe it; for those who live today in the valley of the shadow of death; and for the church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear and may in pure joy celebrate the lavish grace of God. We do so remembering with gratitude those who rejoice with us around the world and, on another shore that multitude no one can number from every nation, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in this Lord Jesus we are united in fellowship. These prayers we humbly offer as we meditate on the readings from holy scripture, and also now, in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

All: **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.**

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen!

I. The nations stream to the mountain of the Lord

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and amazing are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!
Lord, who will not fear
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your judgments have been revealed."

—Revelation 15:3-4

“오 소 서 / Come Now, O Prince of Peace” (South Korea)

arr. Joel Navarro

Campus Men's Choir, Capella, and Women's Chorale

오소서 오소서
평화의 임금
우리가 한 몸
이루게 하소서

Ososo, ososo,
pyonghwa eui imgum
uriga hanmom
iruge hasoso.

*Come now, O Prince of peace,
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.*

오소서 오소서
사랑의 임금
우리가 한 몸
이루게 하소서

Ososo, ososo,
sarang eui imgum
uriga hanmom
iruge hasoso.

*Come now, O God of love,
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.*

오소서 오소서
자유 임금
우리가 한 몸
이루게 하소서

Ososo, ososo,
chayu eui imgum
uriga hanmom
iruge hasoso.

*Come now and set us free,
O God our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.*

Congregation joins (in the language of your choice):

오소서 오소서
통일의 임금
우리가 한 몸
이루게 하소서

Ososo, ososo,
tongil eui imgum
uriga hanmom
iruge hasoso.

*Come, Hope of unity,
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all nations.*

Text: Geonyong Lee © 1990 Geonyong Lee; English paraphrase, Marion Pope © 1990 Marion Pope
Music: Geonyong Lee © 1990 Geonyong Lee; arr. Joel Navarro © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.
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“Jesus Cristo, esperança do mundo / Jesus Christ, Hope of the World” (Brazil)

arr. Greg Scheer

Capella

Un poco después del presente,
alegre el futuro proclama
la fuga total de la noche,
la luz que ya el día derrama.

A little beyond this our time
the future announces with gladness
no war, no disaster, no crime,
no more desolation, no sadness.

Venga tu reino, Señor;
la fiesta del mundo recrea
y nuestra espera y dolor
transforma en plena alegría.
Aié, eiaá, aié, aié, aié.

Lord, may your kingdom come;
the joy of our world recreate
and all our hope and our longings
transform in the fullness of life.
Aié, eiaá, aié, aié, aié.

Capullo de amor y esperanza,
anuncio de flor que será,
promesa de hallar tu presencia
que vida abundante traerá.

A bud of your hope is sprouting,
the token of flowers in spring:
a world to arrive, no doubting,
with justice and joy that you bring.

Nos diste, Señor, la simiente,
señal de que el reino es ahora;
futuro que alumbra el presente,
viniendo ya estás sin demora.

The seeds of your kingdom we bear,
your future is drawing so near;
the earth with your help we prepare
until you, in fullness, appear.

Text: Silvio Meincke © 1982; tr. Pablo D. Sosa © GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Edmundo Reinhardt and João Gottinari © 1982; arr. Greg Scheer © 2020 Greg Scheer
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“Jesus Cristo, esperança do mundo” is a Brazilian carol recently translated from Portuguese into both Spanish and English. This may be the single Advent carol most suited to be sung trilingually across the entirety of South and North America, continents whose populations include 180 million Portuguese-speaking Christian worshipers in Brazil, 200 million English-speaking worshipers in the United States and Canada, and 350 million Spanish-speaking worshipers throughout Mexico, Central, and South America.

II. The promise of the Prince of Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

I have come as light into the world, so
that everyone who believes in me should
not remain in the darkness.

—*John 12:46*

“Jyothi dho, Prabhu / Give Us Light” (India)

arr. Valerie Shields

Campus Men's Choir, Capella, and Women's Chorale

ज्योति दो जीवन दो प्रभु ।	Jyothi dho, jiivan dho, Prabhu.	<i>Give us light, give us life, O Lord.</i>
ज्योति दो प्रभु ।	Jyothi dho, Prabhu.	<i>Give us light, O Lord.</i>
जीवन दो प्रभु ।	Jiivan dho, Prabhu.	<i>Give us life, O Lord.</i>

Text: Charles Vas © 1990, Christian Conference of Asia, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
Music: Charles Vas © 1990, Christian Conference of Asia, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; arr. Valerie Shields © 2008 GIA Publications, Inc.
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“Jyothi dho, Prabhu” is an example of a bhajan, a traditional Indian devotional song of praise that uses repetitive lyrics.

“Christe, Redemptor omnium / O Christ, Redeemer of Us All” (Italy)

Claudio Monteverdi

Campus Men's Choir

Christe, Redemptor omnium, ex Patre, Patris unice, solus ante principium natus ineffabiliter,	<i>O Christ, Redeemer of us all, who comes from the Father, the Father's only son, who alone, before the beginning, was ineffably born,</i>
Tu lumen, tu splendor Patris, tu spes perennis omnium, intende quas fundunt preces tui per orbem servuli.	<i>O Light, O Splendor of the Father, Everlasting Hope of All, attend to the prayers poured out by your servants throughout the world.</i>
Iesu, tibi sit gloria, qui natus es de Virgine, cum Patre et almo Spiritu, in sempiternal saecula. Amen.	<i>Glory be to you, O Jesus, who is born of the Virgin, who is with the Father and the loving Spirit forever and ever. Amen.</i>

Text: 6th century hymn, PD; tr. Alexis VanZalen © 2021 Alexis VanZalen
Music: Claudio Monteverdi, arr. Alexis VanZalen © 2021 Alexis VanZalen
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The hymn “Christe, Redemptor omnium” has been sung at evening prayer (vespers) services during the Christmas season since the sixth century, though not usually with this tune. This music comes from one of the preeminent composers of the seventeenth century, Claudio Monteverdi, who wrote this music in 1641 to accompany multiple texts with the same meter.

“Walk in the Light” (United States)

arr. André Thomas

Capella

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hark! The herald angels sing
(Jesus, the Light of the world),
“Glory to the newborn King”
(Jesus, the Light of the world).

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
(Jesus, the Light of the world.)
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
(Jesus, the Light of the world.)

Text: Refrain by George D. Elderki, PD; Stanza by Charles Wesley, PD
Music: Traditional, arr. André Thomas © 2005 Choristers Guild
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III. The knowledge of the Lord in abundance

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1–9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
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 kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

On the holy mount stands the city he
founded;
the Lord loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God.

Among those who know me I mention
Rahab and Babylon;
Philistia too, and Tyre, with Ethiopia—
“This one was born there,” they say.

And of Zion it shall be said,
“This one and that one were born in it;”
for the Most High himself will
establish it.
The LORD records, as he registers the
peoples,
“This one was born there.”

Singers and dancers alike say,
“All my springs are in you.”

—*Psalm 87*

“Riu, riu, chiu” (Spain)

arr. Jim Leininger

Campus Men's Choir

Riu, riu, chiu, la guarda ribera:
Dios guardo el lobo de nuestra cordera.

*“Riu, riu, chiu,” the kingfisher sings:
God saves our lamb from the wolf.*

Muchas profecias ioan profetizado
yaun en nuestros dias lo hemos al conzado.
Adios humanado vemos enelsuelo
yalhombre nel cielo porquel lequistera.

*Many prophecies told of his coming,
and now in our days have we seen them fulfilled.
God became human; on earth we see him,
and in heaven we see humans because God loved them.*

Este viene a dar a los muertos vida
y viene a reparar de todos la cayda.
Es la luz del dia a questo mozuelo
estes al cordero que San Juan dixera.

*He comes to give life to the dead,
he comes to redeem the fall of all;
this child is the light of day,
he is the very lamb Saint John prophesied.*

Text: Anonymous, PD; tr. composite

Music: Attr. Mateo Flecha the Elder; arr. Jim Leininger © 2000 JEHMS, Inc., a Division of Alliance Music Publication, Inc.
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In this piece from the mid-sixteenth century, the words “riu, riu, chiu” are onomatopoeic, representing the sound of the kingfisher (la guardia ribera). This bird aggressively guards its young, a metaphor for God’s protection of Mary and the defeat of sin and Satan (here represented by a wolf) through Jesus’s birth.

“Silent Night” (Germany)

arr. Dan Forrest

Capella

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
son of God, love’s pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
“Alleluia” to our King,
“Christ the Savior is born.”

Originally written in Austria in 1818, “Silent Night” has become a Christmas staple in English-speaking countries today. What may be less known is that the German text was translated into Spanish about the same time as it was translated into English, reminding us of God’s gift of salvation to the whole world.

Text: Joseph Mohr, PD; tr. John Freeman Young, PD
Music: Franz Grüber, PD; arr. Dan Forrest © 2019 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.
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“Anta atheemon / You Are a Great God” (Lebanon)

arr. Greg Scheer

Women's Chorale

Anta atheemon ya Allah.

Atheemon, fi mahabatika,

atheemon, fi amanatika.

Atheemon, fi tahririka,

atheemon, aydun fi, shefaika.

You are a great God, a mighty God.

How great, how great you are.

You are a great God in unfailing love,

a great God in your faithfulness,

a great God in deliverance,

a great God in your mighty healing power.

Text: Ziad Samuel Srouji © 1990; tr. Emily R. Brink and Anne Zaki © 2021 Ziad Samuel Srouji

Music: Ziad Samuel Srouji © 1990; arr. Greg Scheer © Ziad Samuel Srouji

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IV. The feast of the Lord for all peoples

Scripture: Isaiah 25:6–10

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make
for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines
strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears
from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from
all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The Moabites shall be trodden down in their place
as straw is trodden down in a dung-pit.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

—Revelation 7:9–10

“The Rice of Life” (Taiwan)

arr. Swee Hong Lim

Women’s Chorale

The rice of life from heaven came
to bring true life from God above.
Receive this gift, God’s mercy claim,
in joy and pain give thanks for love.

True rice the hungry world has fed,
the rice required for life below.
Provide this gift, God’s mercy spread,
in weakness God’s compassion show.

The rice of God for all is meant,
no one who comes is turned away.
Believe in Christ whom God has sent,
in humble trust God’s will obey.

The living rice, for all a sign,
came down eternal life to give.
Abide in Christ, the living vine,
in Christ with people die and live.

Text: J. Andrew Fowler © 1990 Christian Conference of Asia, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: I-to Loh © 1990; arr. Swee Hong Lim © 2008 GIA Publications, Inc.
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The text of “Rice of Life,” written by an American missionary to Malaysia, reinterprets the Biblical metaphor of Christ as the Bread of Life for rice-centered Asian cultures. The melody is an adaption of a rice-pounding song of the Bunun tribe of Taiwan, and the choir’s gliding, or “scooping,” used by the choir represents a technique used in Bunun singing.

*** “By the Sea of Crystal” (United States of America)**

descant arr. Larry Visser

Congregation

Text: William Kuipers, 1933 © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources
Music: John Vanderhoven, 1933 © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources; desc. Larry Visser © 2021 Larry Visser
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The Calvin College Radio Choir sang “By the Sea of Crystal” for weekly live recordings of the Back to God Hour Radio broadcast throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The text was written in 1933 by William Kuipers, a Christian Reformed minister from New Jersey who was attempting to find words to sing to Elgar’s “Pomp and Circumstance.” He hoped the hymn could be published in the 1934 *Psalter Hymnal*, but because Elgar’s tune was under copyright, the denominational magazine of the Christian Reformed Church (*The Banner*) held a contest to find a new tune. Another winner received the \$10 first prize, but this tune from Grand Rapids pastor John Vanderhoven that won honorable mention is the one that has been sung for nearly ninety years. The descant was written for this service by Larry Visser.

V. A light to the nations that frees the prisoners

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

—*Luke 2:27-32*

“Lift Up Your Heads” (Scotland)

John L. Bell

Women's Chorale

Lift up your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!
See how the King of glory waits, Alleluia!
The Lord of Hosts is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

But not in arms or battle dress, Alleluia!
God comes, a child a midst distress, Alleluia!
No mighty armies shield the way,
only coarse linen, wool, and hay.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God brings a new face to the brave, Alleluia!
God redefines who best can save: Alleluia!
Not those whose pow'r relies on threat,
terror or torture, destruction or debt.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God's matchless and majestic strength, Alleluia!
In all its height, depth, breadth, and length, Alleluia!
Now is revealed, its pow'r to prove,
by Christ protesting “God is love!”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: George Weissel, PD; tr. Catherine Winkworth, PD; adapt. John L. Bell © 2001 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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“Kwake Yesu nasimama / Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand” (Kenya)

arr. Greg Scheer

Campus Men's Choir

Kwake Yesu nasimama,
ndiye mwamba ni salama.

*Here on Jesus Christ I will stand.
He's the solid rock of my life.*

There's no other place I can hide
till the storm that rages subsides.
My voice cries to God from the flood,
and I'm saved because of his blood.

It is not the work of my hands
that has washed away all my sins.
I'm redeemed, and all of my days,
Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise.

When my days on this earth are done,
and I stand at God's holy throne,
my heart will not have any fear;
in Christ's righteousness I am here.

Text: Traditional Swahili © East Africa Annual Conference; English paraphrase, Greg Scheer © 2007, 2015 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Traditional Kenyan © East Africa Annual Conference; arr. Greg Scheer © 2007, 2015 GIA Publications, Inc.
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“Song of Simeon” (Geneva)

Louis Bourgeois

Capella

Now may your servant, Lord,
according to your word, depart in exultation.
My peace shall be serene,
for now my eyes have seen your wonderful salvation.

You did for all prepare this gift so great,
so rare, fulfilling prophet's story:
A light to show the way to Gentiles gone astray,
and unto Israel's glory.

Text: Dewey Westra, 1931, PD, ed. John E. Hamersma and John D. Witvliet, 1997 © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, PD; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564, PD; ed. John E. Hamersma and John D. Witvliet, 1997
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This setting of the Song of Simeon was written for use at Lord's Supper celebrations in John Calvin's church in Geneva by resident composer and music educator Louis Bourgeois, who wrote the tune “Old Hundredth” (“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”), and 100 additional tunes for both school-day singing and congregational singing of the psalms, including ten published in *Lift Up Your Hearts*.

VI. Salvation reaching out to the end of the earth

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1–7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region.

—Acts 13:46–49

“Natufurahi siku ya leo / Let Us Rejoice this Day” (Kenya)

arr. Boniface Mganga

Campus Men's Choir

“Ho ya he” Aleluya “Ho ya he”

“Ho ya he,” Alleluia, “Ho ya he.”

Natufurahi siku ya leo
Tulitukuze jina la Bwana

*Let us rejoice this day!
Let us praise the name of the Lord!*

Mjini mwa Daudi alizaliwa
Yesu mwenyewe mwana wa Mungu

*In David's city he was born,
Jesus Christ the Son of God.*

Tuyakumbuke mapenzi ya Yesu
Aliyoyaleta yeye mwenyewe

*Let us remember the love of Jesus
That he hath brought unto us.*

Text: Traditional Swahili © 1996 Earthsongs
Music: Traditional Taita, arr. Boniface Mganga © 1996 Earthsongs
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Arranged by Boniface Mganga, the founding director of the well-known Muungano National Choir of Kenya, “Natufurahi siku ya leo” sets a Swahili text to a traditional folk tune of the Taita tribe. The opening words, “Ho ya he,” are an expression of extreme happiness, here used to celebrate Jesus’s birth.

***“Angels We Have Heard on High” (France)**

Congregation

Text: French, 18th c.; tr. Crown of Jesus Music, 1862, alt.
Tune: GLORIA; French, 18th c.; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937
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VII. The gifts of the nations acceptable on God's altar

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-7

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried
on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall be acceptable on my altar,
and I will glorify my glorious house.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

—John 1

“The First Noel” (England)

arr. Dan Forrest

Women’s Chorale

Noel! Born is the King!

The first Noel, the angels did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heav’nly Lord,
that hath made heav’n and earth of naught,
and with his blood humankind hath bought.
Noel! Born is the King!

Text: English carol, PD

Music: W. Sandys’ *Christmas Carols*, 1833, PD; arr. Dan Forrest © 2011 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.
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“De tierra lejana venimos / Song of the Wise Men” (Puerto Rico)

arr. Gary Fry

Capella

De tierra lejana venimos a verte,
nos sirve de guía la estrella de Oriente,
O brillante Estrella que anuncias la aurora,
no nos falte nunca tu luz bienhechora.

*From a distant land, the Savior we come seeking,
using as our guide the star, so brightly beaming.
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God’s morning,
heaven’s wondrous light, O never cease thy
shining!*

Gloria en las alturas al Hijo de Dios,
gloria en las alturas y en la tierra amor.

*Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven,
and upon the earth be peace and love to all.*

Text: Traditional Puerto Rican, tr. Gary Fry © 2007 Walton Music Corporation

Music: Traditional Puerto Rican, arr. Gary Fry © 2007 Walton Music Corporation
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The traditional Puerto Rican carol “De tierra lejana venimos” describes the journey of the Wise Men—a fitting carol for the Feast of Epiphany (January 6), also known as día Reyes, or “Three Kings Day.” As in many Spanish-speaking lands, children customarily leave out food and drink for the Magi, who bring them gifts. This makes día Reyes one of the most important parts of Christmas festivities in Puerto Rican culture.

Acclamation

1 Timothy 3:6

Pastor: Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:
Jesus Christ appeared in the flesh,

All: **was vindicated by the Spirit,**

Pastor: was seen by angels,

All: **was preached among the nations,**

Pastor: was believed on in the world,

All: **was taken up in glory.**

Prayer

Pastor: God of grace and glory,
in this world so filled with despair, we cling to your promise:
surely Christ is coming soon.
As we wait for this glorious appearing,
we pray for the world that you so love,
and for the multitudes you are gathering that no one can count,
from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

All: **Send your Holy Spirit to bring healing to the nations,
and to strengthen us to be people of eager expectation
and ministers of your peace.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

“Abana alathi fi ssama / Abana in Heaven” (Lebanon)

arr. Greg Scheer

Congregation, with Campus Men’s Choir, Capella, and Women’s Chorale

Text: Laila Constantine © *Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt*, Council of Pastoral Work and Evangelism;
tr. and adapt. Anne Emile Zaki, Emily R. Brink, and Greg Scheer © 2008 Faith Alive Christian Resources
Music: Laila Constantine © *Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt*, Council of Pastoral Work and Evangelism;
arr. Greg Scheer © 2008 Greg Scheer
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* Benediction

Pastor: May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept
sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

All: **Alleluia! Amen.**

*** Recessional: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Congregation

Text: Attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, PD

Music: Attr. John F. Wake, 1743, desc. © 1947 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company
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Organ Postlude: “Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”

Keith Chapman

*We are deeply grateful to Norma de Waal Malefyt, who has served as organist
for this annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols for 25 years.*

*An offering of thanks will be received as you leave the sanctuary,
designated by the deacons of LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church
for Calvin University music scholarships.*

These carols and anthems are available in the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Choral Series:

“Abana alathi fi ssama / Abana in Heaven,” arr. Greg Scheer

“Anta atheemon / You Are a Great God,” arr. Greg Scheer

“Jyothi dho, Prabhu / Give Us Light,” arr. Valerie Shields

“Kwake Yesu nasimama / Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand,” arr. Greg Scheer

“오 소 서 / Come Now, O Prince of Peace,” arr. Joel Navarro

“Song of Simeon,” ed. John E. Hamersma and John D. Witvliet

“The Rice of Life,” arr. Swee Hong Lim

We are grateful to Greg Scheer for revoicing the following anthems for the ensembles at this service:

“Lift Up Your Heads,” John L. Bell

“Natufurahi siku ya leo / Let Us Rejoice this Day,” arr. Boniface Mganga

“Kwake Yesu nasimama / Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand,” arr. Greg Scheer

“Anta atheemon / You Are a Great God,” arr. Greg Scheer

“The Rice of Life,” arr. Swee Hong Lim

We are grateful for the language coaches that worked with the choirs:

Judah Manoraj (Hindi), Chan Gyu Jang (Korean), and Carlos Lemagne (Spanish)

Service Leaders

3 p.m.

Presiding Minister – John D. Witvliet, Director, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Bible Bearer – Emma Schmidt, Women’s Chorale

Cross Bearer – Noah Pehrson, Campus Men’s Choir

Reader I – Michael LeRoy, President, Calvin University

Reader II – Pearl Shangkuan, Professor; Director of Choral Activities

Reader III – Timothy Steele, Co-chair, Visual and Performing Arts

Reader IV – Carissa Katje, Capella

Reader V – Aidan Bakker, Campus Men’s Choir

Reader VI – Benita Wolters-Fredlund, Dean for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Reader VII – Sarah Visser, Vice President for Student Life

6 p.m.

Presiding Minister – Peter Jonker, Minister of Preaching, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

Bible Bearer – Amy Miller, Women’s Chorale

Cross Bearer – Noah Pehrson, Campus Men’s Choir

Reader I – Aaron Polet, Campus Choir, Assistant Director

Reader II – Elizabeth VanderLei, Academic Dean, Professor of English

Reader III – Noah Toly, Provost

Reader IV – Jonas Tilburt, Capella

Reader V – David Wunder, Dean for Faculty Development and Research Initiatives

Reader VI – Eva Heeterbrij, Women’s Chorale

Reader VII – Jennifer Holberg, Department Chair, English and Gender Studies;
Co-Director of the Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Instrumentalists

Organ – Norma de Waal Malefyt

Piano – Cynthia Haas and Linda Hosington

Oboe – Alanna Rynders

Violin – Xu Joel Yan and Kate Witvliet

Cello – Sam Fynewever

String Bass – Greg Scheer

Percussion – Luke DeVries

Trumpet – Jonathan Karnes and Ryan Dick

Trombone – Peter Tigchelaar and AJ Muusse

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Campus Men's Choir

Aaron Polet, conductor

Cynthia Haas, accompanist

Tenor

Kwabena Agyei, *Accra, Ghana*
Charles Amponsah, *Accra, Ghana*
Daniel Choi, *Siliguri, India*
Rodrick DeOliveira, *Ada, MI*
Anthony Dunten, *Frankfort, IN*
Eunjin Han, *Jeonju, South Korea*
Aidan Hillman, *Rockford, MI*
Jordan Kerkstra, *Grandville, MI*
Redding Martin, *Rochester, MI*
Noah Pehrson, *Papua New Guinea*
Henry Teusink, *Holland, MI*

Bass

Caleb Arguna, *Melbourne, FL*
Aidan Bakker, *Shoreline, WA*
Andrew Doyle, *Haddon Heights, NJ*
David Ensley, *Comstock Park, MI*
Weston Fields, *Beaver Dam, WI*
Minsu Jeong, *Hwaseong-Si, South Korea*
Michael Kajiwara, *Des Plaines, IL*
Luke Lu, *Huai'an, China*
Isaac Lundell, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Horacio Portillo, *Bluff Dale, TX*
Lucas Postuma, *Grand Rapids, MI*
Jediah Vanderleest, *West Olive, MI*

Capella

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, conductor

Linda Hoisington, accompanist

Soprano

Elizabeth Canfield, *Western Springs, IL*

* Skylar Higgins, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Anneka Katje, *Grand Rapids, MI*

†* Carissa Katje, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Cath Kortman, *Grandville, MI*

Annika Peterson, *Ionia, MI*

Elle Reynolds, *Littleton, CO*

Sydney Steen, *Hudsonville, MI*

Madeline Witvliet, *Wyoming, MI*

Alto

Angela Blinne, *Fort Collins, CO*

† Corinna DeVries, *Kentwood, MI*

Malena Gustafson, *White Lake, MI*

Alison Hoekstra, *Hudsonville, MI*

Ellie Jones, *Saint Charles, IL*

Coletta Manske, *Grand Rapids, MI*

†* Katelyn Mazzola, *Sterling Heights, MI*

Anna Song, *Aldie, VA*

McKenna Walter, *Tucson, AZ*

Tenor

Bryce Bundens, *Devon, PA*

Christophorous Cedric, *Indonesia*

* Austin Duimstra, *Cedar Spings, MI*

Sam Fynewever, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Evan Langerak, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Carlos Lemagne, *Matanzas, Cuba*

Junchen (David) Qu, *China*

Bass

† Benjamin Bruxvoort, *Pacifica, CA*

Peter Chesebro, *Wayland, MI*

David Clausing, *Grand Haven, MI*

† Joshua DeWindt, *Hudsonville, MI*

Andrew Jackson, *Davison, MI*

Mark Stefely, *Mount Prospect, IL*

†* Jonas Tilburt, *Phoenix, AZ*

Matthew Toldy, *Huron, OH*

Jordan VanderKamp, *Kentwood, MI*

† *Officers*

* *Section Leaders*

Women's Chorale

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, conductor

Linda Hoisington, accompanist

Soprano 1

Emma Delfin, *Harrison Twp, MI*

Laura Gundlach, *Lindenhurst, IL*

* Eva Heeterbrij, *Grand Rapids, MI*

Elise Kirkpatrick, *Dayton, OH*

Arielle Moody, *Tuckerton, NJ*

Maia Reynolds, *Byron Center, MI*

Emily Troyer, *Hudsonville, MI*

* Abby Vander Ploeg, *Byron Center, MI*

Soprano 2

Rachel Bosman, *Lansing, IL*

* Amy Miller, *Cranberry Twp, PA*

Joy Park, *Spring Lake, MI*

* Emma Schmidt, *Rockford, MI*

Ashley Wells, *Byron Center, MI*

Annie Winikka, *Newberg, OR*

Kate Witvliet, *Wyoming, MI*

Alto

Adelia Ehrlich, *Oshkosh, WI*

Madison Hoogstra, *Lansing, IL*

Talia List, *Plymouth, MI*

Amalia Newhouse, *Hudsonville, MI*

Grace Pilarski, *Rockford, MI*

Zoe Schwendemann, *Bloomer, WI*

Kezia Tjahjanto, *Jakarta, Indonesia*

Michaela Ulam, *Sherwood, OR*

Beatrice Utama, *Jakarta, Indonesia*

Lilly Winiarski, *Naperville, IL*

* *Officers*

*This program is printed not only to guide us in this service,
but also as a devotional guide for personal, family, or small group use.*

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