Mt. Zion United Church of Christ 1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406 Telephone: 717-755-6117 E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Associate Pastor Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

December 17, 2023

<u>10:30 AM</u>

### Third Sunday of Advent: In the Stable When Jesus Comes: He Will Bring Joy to Guide Us Christmas Cantata

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate at the back. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We offer a hearing assistance system called Listen Technologies. If you would like to use a receiver, please check with the volunteers at the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance! We pray God's blessing upon you.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS AND CONCERNS OPENING READING

## WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Advent Introit & Blessing

arr. Nordmeyer

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in preparation **Congregation: For good news is about to be proclaimed.** L: We gather in expectation

#### C: For joy is about to explode in our midst.

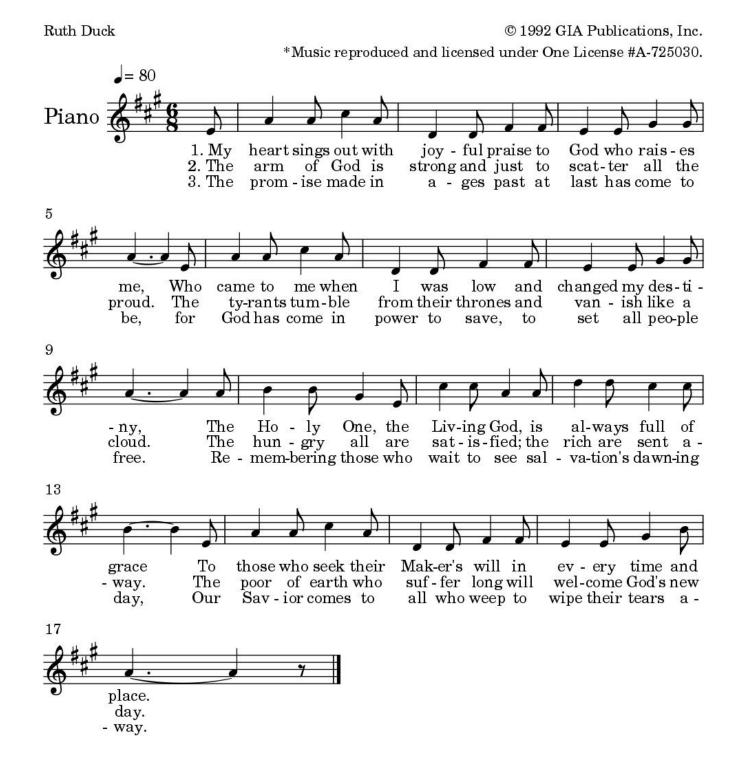
L: We gather in celebration

C: For we are those people who have said ... yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.

L: With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

## HYMN (see below)

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise



## **CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY**<sup>1</sup>

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

## C: And we wait in joyful expectation,

L: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,

## C: Renew your peace within this weary world.

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

## C: And we wait with hope filled hearts,

L: Draw close, God's beloved son,

## C: Teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.

L: Joy to the world! Our God is coming to bring us "good news." May we sing songs of praise and gladness. We know that our Savior reigns. Let us light the Candle of Joy.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

## C: With this light, We wait with joy,

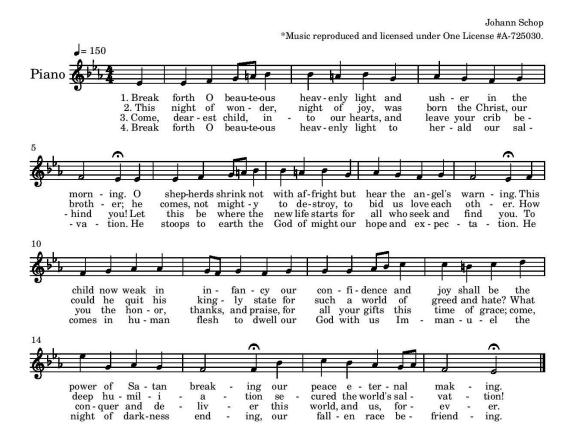
L: Knowing with joy that you will guide us.

## C: Lord we wait, bubbling in expectation of your birth.

HYMN (see below, v. 1)

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

## Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light



#### **\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

## CALL TO CONFESSION PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

L: Advent God,

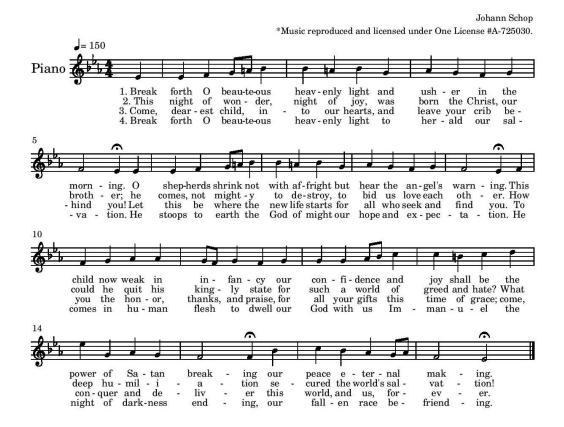
C: we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King. Ears attuned to the song of angels. Eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts joyfully focused on the pathways you guide us to, held in the promise of a Savior. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (see below, vs. 4 & 3)
Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light
ALL SING: Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, to herald our salvation. He stoops to earth, the God of might, our hope and expectation. He comes in human flesh to dwell, our God with us, Immanuel, the night of darkness ending, our fallen race befriending.

Come dearest Child into our hearts and leave Your crib behind You. Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find You. To You be honor thanks and praise for all Your gifts this time of grace. Come conquer and deliver this world and us forever.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Joy to the World O Little Town of Bethlehem Traditional Traditional

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## WORSHIP CHOIR WORSHIP CHOIR

Do You Know the Way to Bethlehem Runnin' Down to Bethlehem

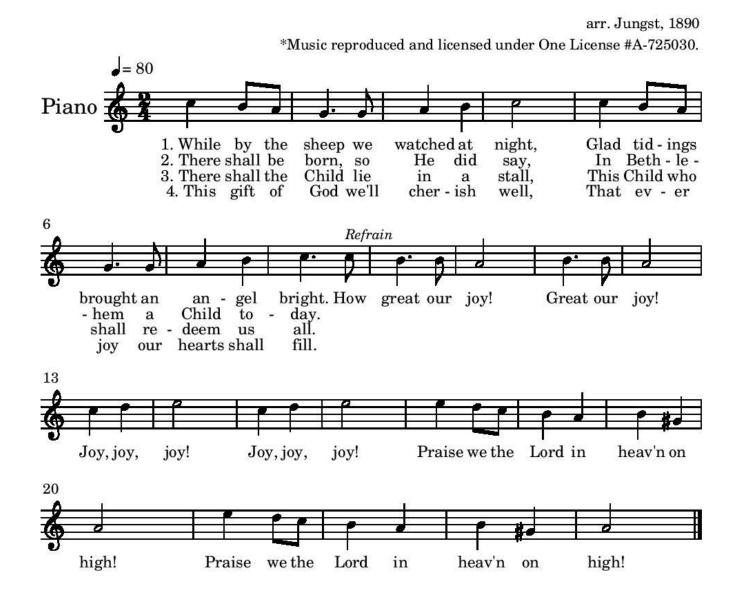
## by Wagner by Choplin

HYMN (see below)

How Great Our Joy

## arr. Jungst

# How Great Our Joy



PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM

God Made a Way

Heath & Layton

#### WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Jesus What a Wonderful Child

Carney

#### **OFFERTORY**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 370 NCH (see below, v. 4) What Gift Can We Bring? ALL SING: This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!

## What Gift Can We Bring (Mueller)



#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

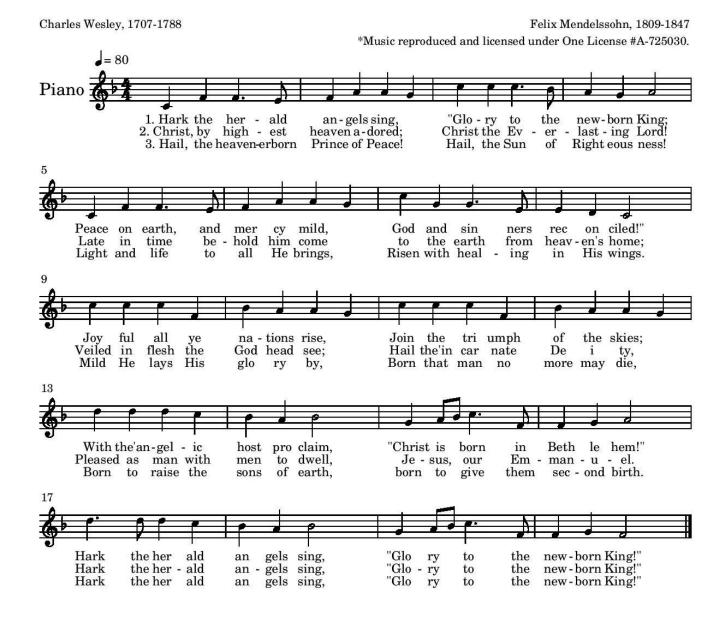
#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM HYMN** (see below) Joy Unto the World

arr. Foster/Wasson Hark the Herald Angels Sing

# Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Traditional)



#### **PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM** WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Joy Has Dawned

Getty & Townend Let the People Sing Joy Bolin/Handel/Koch/Oakley/Wade/Watts

## \*BENEDICTION<sub>3</sub>

\*HYMN Advent Introit & Blessing (Share the Light) **POSTLUDE** 

arr. Nordmeyer

## Thank you to all who participated in the Cantata!

## Worship Choir

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Andrea Adams Vanessa Bicher Debbie Butcher Lana Fritz Carol Hartman	Brenda Beyer Jen Miller Melody Stine Paula Strayer	David Firestone Michael Maletz	Tom Bair Braden Bicher
Barb Neff	<b>Accompanist</b> Travis Pinci	<b>Choir Director</b> Denny Daugherty	

#### Instrumentalists/Vocalists

Caitlin Damon-Vocalist Denny Daugherty-Vocalist/Acoustic Guitar Catie Kiefer—Vocalist

#### Children's Choir/Bell Choir

Jack Bicher Addie Bickleman Jackson Markel Hayden McCarthey Macey McCarthey

Freddie Northridge Nova Ramsey Tobias Rhinehart Elliot Stine

## Hand Chime Choir

Andrea Adams Christian Maletz Vanessa Bicher Jen Miller

Charlie Hull Tim Rhinehart

Thank you to Lee & Patsy Brown for donating our beautiful Christmas Tree and the Christmas wreaths!

Thank you to Mason Damon for creating the beautiful bulletin cover this week!

Thank you to Carol Bair, Brenda & Jim Beyer, Elaine Bevivino, Karen & Mike Gibbs, and Faye Heal for setting up our nativity scene.

Welcome Team Members: Caitlin Damon, Jennifer Damon, Sarah Shaffer, Melissa Shindler

Tech Team: Elaine Bevivino, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch, Joe Vacante

## References

<sup>1</sup>The Candle Lighting Liturgy is adapted from prayers written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/ and Advent-candle litanies written by Rev. Jolene Cadenbach, Pastor of Arcadia United Church of Christ in Arcadia, CA. and accessed on https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/lighting-advent-candles.html on 11/13/23

<sup>2</sup>The Prayer of Confession is adapted from writings John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. www.faithandworship.com and accessed 11/13/23

<sup>3</sup>The Benediction is adapted from and Avent Blessing written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws and accessed for use on 11/13/23

# **NOTES**