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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

July 06, 2025

9:45 AM

**Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown**  
**Angels and Demons**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper.  
Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, 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 when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance 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 narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE** (played by the Holy Dingalings)

*Blessed Assurance*

Traditional

**GATHERING LITURGY<sup>1</sup>**

L: We gather today as seekers of discovery, carried by wonder, embraced by mystery, drawn here by the God who is always revealing more.

**C: We come with expectant hearts, ready to meet the Living God.**

L: This is the wonder we cannot keep silent:

**C: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts: that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted His Son**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

to the care of ordinary people, and became vulnerable that we might know the strength and wonder of His Love. A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp. A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

L: Let us worship this God of wonder, mystery, and love.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 104 RED HYMNAL (vs. 1-2)**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

# Angels from the Realms of Glory

James Montgomery, 1816

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry Wing your flight o'er  
 2. Shep-herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your  
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi - sions  
 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in

4  
 all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with man is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de-scend-ing,

7  
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,  
 Yon - der shines the in - fant Light: Come and wor - ship,  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star: Come and wor - ship,  
 in His tem - ple shall ap - pear: Come and wor - ship,

10  
 come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.  
 come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.  
 come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.  
 come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*TIME OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

**C: you invite us to live in mystery—to walk by faith, not by sight. But we confess: we prefer certainty. We long for clear paths, fixed plans, and predictable outcomes. You call us to trust in your promises, to see the world through your eyes of mercy. But too often, we rely on our own understanding, measuring life by what we can control.**

**You speak of new creation, of old things passing away and everything becoming new. But we hold on to the familiar, afraid to let go of what no longer gives life. It is hard to live by faith.**

**Forgive us, O God of mercy. Forgive us for playing god, for clinging to illusions of control, instead of resting in your mystery and love. Teach us again to walk by faith. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear this good news: The God who scattered stars across the heavens also plants seeds of grace in the soil of your soul. Though the work is hidden, though the growth is a mystery, God is making all things new—even you. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, we all are forgiven, set free to live by faith, and called to grow in love.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS**

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 424 ELW** (see next page, vs. 1-2, 4)

*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

J. Athelstan Riley, 1858-1954

Koln, 1623

\*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Ye watch-ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright  
 2. O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more  
 3. Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye  
 4. O friends, in glad-ness let us sing, su -

4

se - raphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the  
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their  
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le -  
 - per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le -

6

glad strain: "Al-le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince-doms,  
 prais - es: "Al-le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal  
 - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs  
 - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the

9

*Refrain*

pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs: "Al-le -  
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:  
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:  
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:

12

- lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!" Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Jesus the Light of the World*

Elderkin

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SPECIAL MUSIC** (sung by Norma Hull & Jen Miller)

*Chariot's Comin'! (Swing Low, Sweet Chariot)*

arr. Besig & Price

### COMMUNION LITURGY

INVITATION

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

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.**

COMMUNION HYMN (see next page)

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Holy and gracious God,

**C: we give you thanks for this meal of mystery, where you have fed us with your love and renewed us for the journey ahead. Send us out, still curious, still seeking, and always guided by your grace. Amen.**



\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

## (Traditional)

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

The musical score is written for piano in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 8/6. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score consists of five staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in five columns, with the first column containing the main text and the subsequent columns containing the lyrics for the first four verses. The music is a simple, flowing melody with a gentle, lullaby-like quality. The lyrics are written in a clear, serif font, and the overall layout is clean and professional.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with  
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose  
 4. For lo, the days are hasten - ing on, by  
 5. Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the

4

glo - ri - ous song of old, From an - gels bend - ing near the earth to  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heav - en - ly mu - sic floats o'er  
 forms are bend - ing low, Who toil a - long the climb - ing way with  
 proph - et bards fore - told, when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes  
 world has suf - fered long. Be - neath the an - gel strain have rolled two

8

touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, From  
 all the wear - y world; A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 pain - ful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and gold - en hours come  
 round the age of gold; When peace shall o - ver all the earth its  
 thou - sand years of wrong; And man at war with man hears not the

12

heaven's all gra - cious King!" The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to  
 bend on hov - er - ing wing, And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the  
 swi - ftly on the wing; O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and the whole world give back the song which  
 love song which they bring; O hush the noise ye men of strife and

16

hear the an - gels sing.  
 bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 hear the an - gels sing.  
 now the an - gels sing.  
 hear the an - gels sing.

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 105 RED HYMNAL** (see next page)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Traditional

### **References**

<sup>1</sup>The opening liturgy includes the writing of John Birch, posted on [Faith and Worship - Prayers and Resources](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html) and used with permission as accessed at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html> on 6/11/25.

<sup>2</sup>The prayer of confession is inspired by the work of by Peter Bankson. Posted on the **Worship Elements** page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> and accessed on 6/11/25.

**Welcome Team Members—**Brenda Beyer, Faye Heal, Doris Loucks, & Barb Stebbins

**Liturgist—** Andrea Adams

**Tech Team—** George DeMers, Jack Herlocker, Ron Miles

**Special Musicians—**The Holy Dingalings, Norma Hull & Jen Miller

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Angels We Have Heard on High

## (Traditional)

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing  
 2. Shep - herds why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the

4  
 o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their  
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your  
 an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the

8  
 joy - ous strains Glo -  
 heav'n - ly song?  
 new - born King.

12  
 ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo -

16  
 ri - a, in ex - cel - sis

20  
 De - o.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.