Welcome to worship at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023



John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry Lindsey Waltermyer, Grace band leader

We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!

All worship can be viewed online at newhanoverlutheran.org facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch and on YouTube.

May your worship experience strengthen you with God's love and grace.

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Artim family

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW #257

vs. 2

Please rise as you are able.Gathering HymnHark, the Glad Sound!ELW #239

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground) Centering Song

3

What hope we hold this starlit night A King is born in Bethlehem Our journey long we seek the light That leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age Four-hundred years can He be found But broken by a baby's cry Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Chorus: Emmanuel Emmanuel God incarnate here to dwell Emmanuel Emmanuel Praise His name Emmanuel

The Son of God here born to bleed A crown of thorns would pierce His brow And we beheld this offering Exalted now the King of kings Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

Chorus

Ending: Praise His name Emmanuel

"Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)" Words and music by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash. © 2009 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Wondrously Made Songs. Administrators: Capitol CMG Publishing, Music Services, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Please be seated. Children's Message

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Lindsey Waltermyer

Nance White

Grace Band

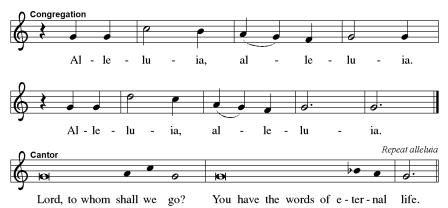
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him. and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Here ends the reading.

Please rise as you are able. Gospel Acclamation

Lee Wesner, cantor



Gospel Mark 1:1-8 The holy gospel according to Mark Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,' "

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated. Message

Pastor Scott

Please rise as you are able. Song of the Day Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Bell Choir, Tom McHugh, trumpet

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" by T. Olivers. Arranged by S. Tucker. © 2015 Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.

Apostles' Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of Intercession Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Lord's Prayer Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Please be seated. Offertory

Choir Anthem

A Star a Song

Chancel Choir

"A Star a Song" Words and music by Hal H. Hopson. © 1975 Choristers Guild on the Choristers Guild LETTERS. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Announcements

Please rise as you are able. Sending Hymn On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry ELW #249

Dismissal Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Go get'em!!!

Postlude

Joyous Praise Unending

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Announcements

Today

The bulletin is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Pastor Scott, thanking him from the residents at Walnut Woods for bringing worship, prayers, communion and informative slideshows.

The flowers are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of their church family by the Wesners.

The Word in Season devotion booklet is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Steve's mother's 85th birthday by Steve and Faye Weidner.

Serving Today Head Usher: George Trowbridge; Ushers: Bryce Manthorne and Rick Solazzo; Lector: Nance White; Children's Sermon: Lindsey Waltermyer; Acolyte: Bryce Manthorne

Serving Next Sunday Head Usher: Todd Rothermel; Ushers: Stacey Rothermel and Nate Ewing; Lector: Harry White; Children's Sermon: Pastor Scott; Acolyte: Ava Hubley

Altar Guild Serving this Month Deb Solazzo, Barb Eisenhart and Marsha Staub

The Nursery room is now open. It is located between the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall. Parents are welcome to use the room during worship services as needed. The room provides for a comfortable play area in a joyful environment, toys and books included. The room has access to a changing room and a private nursing room next door.

Special Congregational Meeting will be held this morning following the worship service. All "Voting Members" are encouraged to attend. The official agenda is to vote and adopt the following documents: 1.) CONSTITUTION for NEW HANOVER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2023 and 2.) 2024 New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church Budget. No other items may be voted upon or brought up for discussion per the current constitution.

Update your information NHELC is preparing a new directory with member names, addresses, phone numbers and family picture. To ensure accuracy, the information we currently have on file is available on Sundays in the Welcome Center and in front of the stage in Fellowship Hall. We ask you to review and update your family's information at one of these locations. If you cannot check your records in person and for you to submit your family photo, contact Nance White at 610-741-7977 or Nance2237@yahoo.com.

Christmas Gathering Social, Thursday, December 14th, noon – 3:00 PM All are invited for a Christmas Gathering social at NHELC in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a delicious luncheon and friendly fellowship followed by a Christmas hymn sing. In keeping with the holiday gift-giving spirit, participants are invited to prepare Care Packages for the homeless. A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the welcome center to help with planning this event. Sign-ups are due today. Bring Christmas cookies to share. For information on the event or to help organize, contact Pastor Scott at psstaub@gmail.com.

Calendar

Worship Service – Today, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online Food Drop Off – Today, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen Food Delivery Pickup – Today, 10:00 AM, portico Special Congregational Meeting – Today, 10:00 AM, sanctuary Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Today, 10:15 AM, room 21 Praise Band Rehearsal – Today, 11:15 AM, sanctuary Kids' Choir Rehearsal – Today, 11:20 – 11:50 AM, room 15 Advent Social Sunday – Today, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, rooms 1, 11

Prayer Ministry – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary **Cub Scouts** – Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, rooms 1, 14, 21-23, 27, 31, 33

AARP Board – Tuesday, 10:30 AM, room 30 Boy Scouts – Tuesday, 6:30 PM, room 1 Finance – Tuesday, 7:00 PM, offsite

Women's Breakfast – Wednesday, 8:30 AM, Shorty's Sunflower Café

- Food Drop Off Wednesday, 1:00 2:00 PM, kitchen
- Food Delivery Pickup Wednesday, 1:30 PM, portico
- Addiction 12 Step Wednesday, 6:00 7:00 PM, room 32
- **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** Wednesday, 6:30 7:45 PM, room 15
- Food Ministry Board Wednesday, 6:30 9:00 PM, room 33
- Christmas Gathering Social Wednesday, Noon 3:00 PM, rooms 1, 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal – Thursday, 6:15 – 7:30 PM, room 15

Scout District Roundtable – Thursday, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, room 1

- Worship Service Next Sunday, 9:00 AM sanctuary and online
- Food Drop Off Next Sunday, 9:00 10:00 AM, kitchen
- Food Delivery Pickup Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, portico
- Christmas Pageant Next Sunday, 10:15 AM, room 1

Praise Band Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 11:15 AM, sanctuary

- **Kids' Choir Rehearsal** Next Sunday, 11:20 11:50 AM, room 15
- Christmas Caroling Next Sunday, 1:00 3:00 PM, offsite, room 1
- **Rejoicing Spirits** Next Sunday, 2:00 4:00 PM, room 1 and Welcome Center and Sanctuary

Women's Breakfast is this Wednesday, 8:30 AM at Shorty's Sunflower Café on North Charlotte Street in Pottstown. Reservations are needed. To reserve your seat, contact Sandy Wesner at 215-679-9021 or email slwesner@comcast.net by Tuesday noon. And don't forget, husbands are invited too.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17th, 10:15 AM This year's pageant is a *Stellar Christmas* and will include some of the music from VBS in addition to some Christmas music. It will be out of this world!

An Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling Event! Sunday, December 17th, 1 – 3 PM Gather your friends and family members for a fun and uplifting time, singing favorite and beloved Christmas carols to our NHELC homebound members. Carolers will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to plan the routes and pick up the goodie bags prepared at the Advent Social. After caroling, we will return to the church to enjoy some cookies and hot cocoa. Caroling is a wonderful opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer. Contact Director of Music Ministry Patricia Nyce or Jean Moser (610-367-0342) with any questions about the caroling.

Longest Night NHELC is working with St. James Pottstown to host a Longest Night Labyrinth and Prayer Walk on **Thursday**, **December 21**st. The event will be held at St. James Lutheran Church at 1101 E. Hight St. in Pottstown. The labyrinth will be available from 5 - 9 PM. This is open house style. Come when you can and leave at your will. A labyrinth is a path of prayer and is for all ages. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no dead ends and there are no choices to make. There is one path to the center. Walking the labyrinth is a prayer one does with the whole body. It provides a three-fold process of experiencing God.

More instruction will be provided at the Labyrinth Walk. Other options will be available for those who have difficulty walking the labyrinth.

Ample parking is available at the rear of the church. An elevator and stairs are available for entering the building. Nikki Young will be present during the event. Contact Nikki with any questions.

Live nativity brings the Christmas story to life! You can be a part of the live nativity during the 9:00 AM worship service on Christmas Eve day. Sign up today and witness the Christmas story through the eyes of one of those from biblical past who observed the birth of our Savior. A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the welcome center. Hurry. There's a limited number of open cast positions.

Help Resources

Mental Health and Wellness Millions of people across the nation are affected by mental health conditions. Check out the websites below and the resources they have to offer. NAMI has local centers in both Reading and Lansdale. They offer in-person and online support groups.

Contact Information

NAMI Help Line 1-800-950-6242 and is available Monday -Friday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM ET. Text "Helpline" to 62640 or if in crisis call or text 988. PA Addiction Helpline 1-800-662-HELP (4357). Online live chat offered at 1-717-216-0905 or text Website References

www.NAMI.org National Alliance on Mental Illness www.ddap.pa.gov Department Drug and Alcohol Prevention www.nimh.nih.org National Institute of Mental Health Grieving/Wellness Online Support https://grateful.org/welcome/

You Can Help

Readers are needed for the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 31st. A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the Welcome Center for those who would like to read for the Lessons and Carols service.

Thrivent members get free money they can use to help NHELC programs.

Thrivent Action Teams

Did you know Thrivent members receive free of charge two (2) \$250.00 gifts a year to help our church? For details and help to do this, contact Pastor Scott at <u>psstaub@gmail.com</u>, or call him at 610-326–1335 ext. 1, or logon if you know how to do it alone at https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

You may also be given free Choice Dollars directly to the church! Simply go onto your account and search for choice dollars at https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice.

You can make a personal donation to New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church and Thrivent pays the processing fees. It's that simple!

Again, contact Pastor Scott if you have any questions or need help navigating the sign-ups.

If not a Thrivent member, you may still donate directly to these ministries. Go to newhanoverlutheran.org to donate, serve or learn more about these ministries.

Wanted: Assistant Caretaker for Cemetery Duties consist of taking care of cemetery and church grounds, helping with maintaining equipment and assisting with funerals. If interested in this position, contact Norm Hunsberger at 484-431-3622 or nhunsberger29@gmail.com.

Dreaming of being a TV producer/director? Sign up with Amy to learn how you can produce and direct our weekly worship service. The sessions will be scheduled for two hours at a time so you can learn and practice using the equipment. There are two spots or one family spot available per training session. A sign-up Genius is available at <u>www.newhanoverlutheran.org</u>. All Dates are subject to change.

Volunteers are needed to help during the church service: Ushers, Lectors, Children's Sermons, Acolytes and Communion Assistants. Contact Faye Weidner at omiweidner@gmail.com or 484-929-5958 if you can help.

Food Ministry

More than 160,000 meals have been delivered! NHELC's Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry is changing lives. And, you can be a part of the team. 1) You can donate food. Drop off your donation on Wednesdays between 1 - 2 PM and Sundays between 9 - 10 AM. Items most needed include: hamburger, chicken (thighs and breast meat), pasta (ziti, elbows, bowties), cheese (mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan), potatoes, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) and eggs. 2) Donate money through Thrivent Gift Cards. Place monetary donations in the offering plate or mail to the church. 3) Deliver meals. Sign up at https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/.

Christmas Eve Worship

NHELC offers three worship services on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th. Invite your family and friends to join you in worshipping at NHELC this Christmas Eve.

9:00 AM Service Features a live nativity

4:00 PM Service Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

8:00 PM Service Candlelight Christmas Eve worship Special music will begin at 7:30 PM

Prayer Requests

Long-term: Sarah Bowman, Keeley Staples, Logan Conley, Tina Farrell, Carol Buchholtz Yost

Shut-in: Penny Frymoyer

Grieving: the family and friends of Jim Price, Vivian Speca and Beverly Kehs (Donna and Charlie Kehs' sister-in-law/sister)

Military: Shawn Dietz, Michael McHugh, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Megan Fricker, Kyle Woods

Peace for violence in our area and nationally

Toni Rath	Katy Mahon-Miller	Matt Hall
Luann Hanley	Carol Estes	William Trotter
Kathy Kane	Maxwell Girard	Pat Fryer
Jean Renninger	Pr. Kork Moyer	Betty Lou Shadle
Julia Hauck	Tony Mancini	Raul Castro
Amy LeVan	Jeffrey Kunsch	Wilma Lahr
Melissa	Bernadette Phillips	Mary Lou
Doug Weaver	Joan Wagner	Robert Ganovsky
Dorothy Bingaman	Emily Ocelus	Eric & Wendy Hess
Sue Care	Deb Matthews	Marceline
Anne Eshleman	Daniel Johnson	Chris Fatzinger
Hank Droneberg	Pena family	Kim Frain
Jen Perez	Frank D.	Pam Helfrich
Barb & Tom Faust	Andy Van Dyke	Janet
Pam Abbott	Holli Muffler	Louise Karns
Mary Van Dyke	Pr. Jennifer Phelps	Jessica Trout
Denny Smith	Verdie Smith	Mabel Gaugler
Sandy Wesner	Helen Foulke	Carla Hausmann
Joan Price	Rodney Snell	Betty Seroski
Ralph Borneman	Lucille Powell	Virginia Specht
Bill Lowry	Tom Fleagle	Mary Alice Mack
Jeffrey Weems	Joan Scheffey	Arnold Amundsen
Steve Weidner	Chuck Beck	Diane DeLong

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

2941 Lutheran Road Gilbertsville, PA 19525 Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 AM – 2 PM Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment

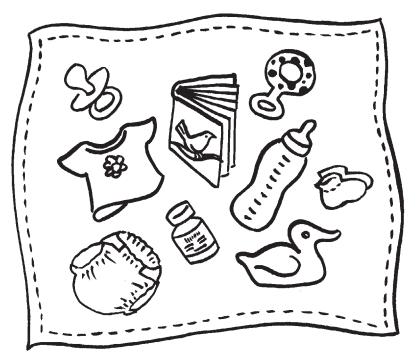
Contact Information Pastor, The Rev. Scott Staub psstaub@gmail.com Director of Children, Family & Youth Ministry, Nikki Young nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org **Church Office Manager, Susan Gutshall** susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org **Director of Music Ministry, Patricia Nyce** patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org Food Ministry Director, Chris Fatzinger Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com Grace Band Director, Lindsev Waltermyer goldielw@gmail.com Handbell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart eisenbarb@aol.com **Peer Support Recovery Ministry Team** peersupport@newhanoverlutheran.org Sexton, Jen Boyer jcboyer0408@gmail.com **Bookkeeper, Maria Boyer** mariaboyer@comcast.net Cemeterv Norm Hunsberger, nhunsberger29@gmail.com



ſend

Get ready for a baby

How would you get ready for a baby at your house? How might you help someone else get ready for a new baby?



Circle a couple of things that you'd like to give to a new baby. Ask an adult to help you wrap them up and make a special delivery!



God, thank you for being with us as we get ready for Jesus to come! Amen

this week

At home, help get ready for something—a meal, a visit, an outing.



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the second Sunday of Advent, and we're still watching and waiting for baby Jesus. We also need to start getting ready!

In the Advent wreath shown below, color two candles, then unscramble the letters and discover an important message from the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist.

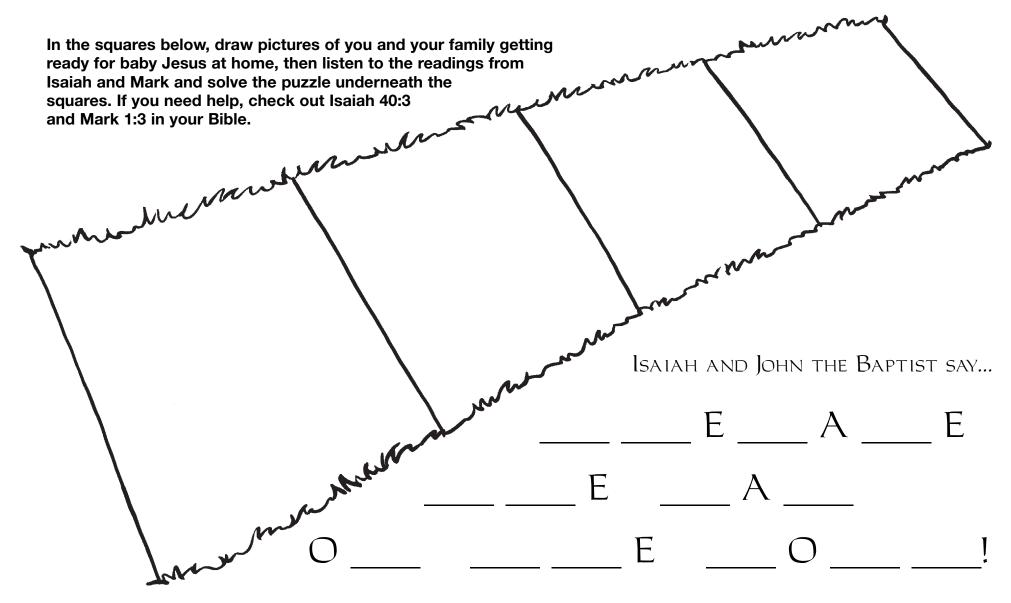


hear & celebrate

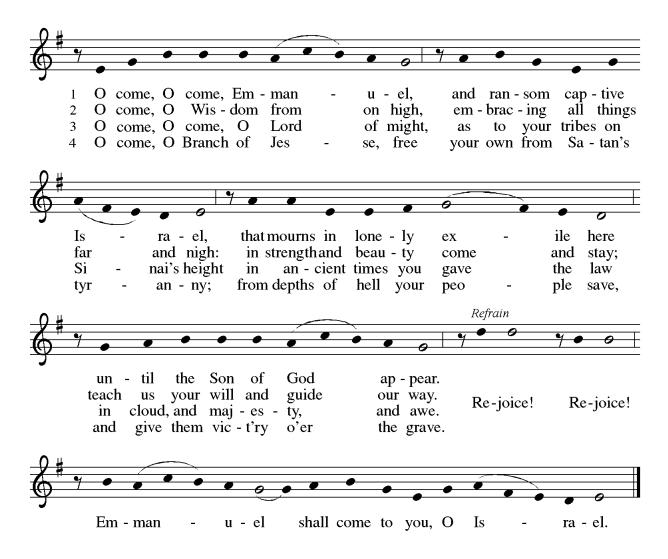
Build a road and get ready!

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah the prophet and John the Baptist both worked hard telling people about God and reminding them to get ready for the Messiah, God's chosen one.

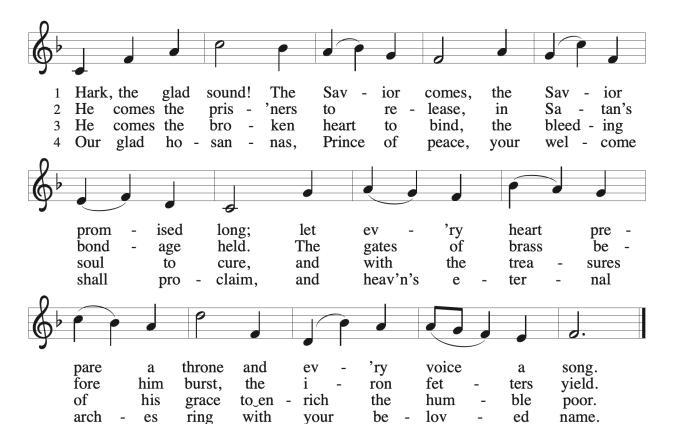


O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Text: Psalteriolum Cantinum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite. Music: French processional, 15th cent. Text st. 2 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Hark, the Glad Sound!



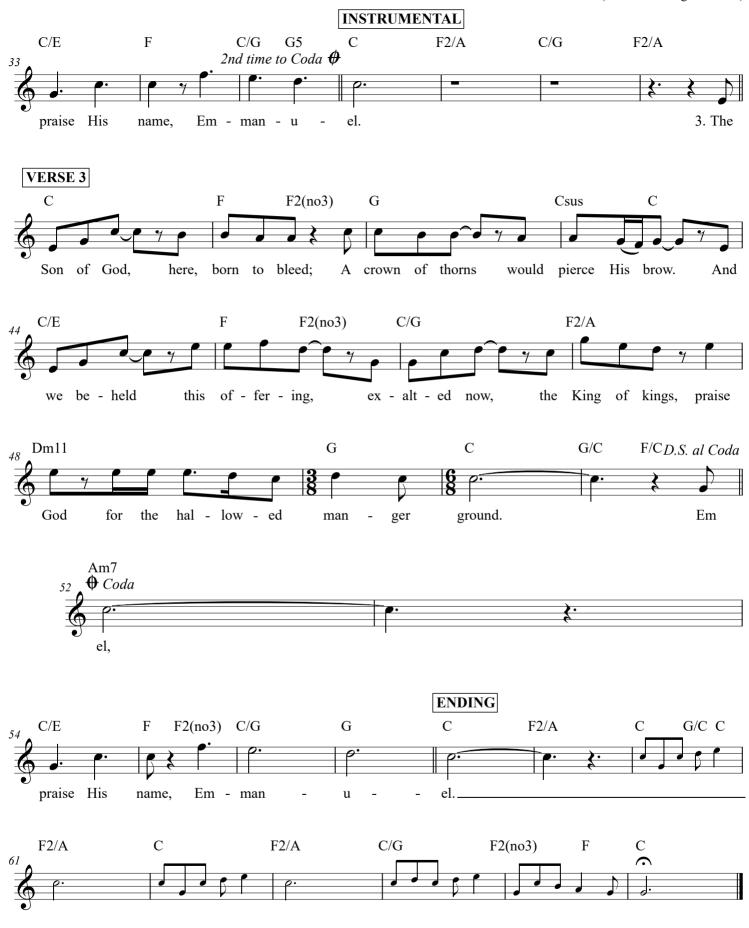
"Hark, the Glad Sound!" Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Music: CHESTERFIELD, THOMAS HAWEIS, 1734-1820. Text and music are in public domain.

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

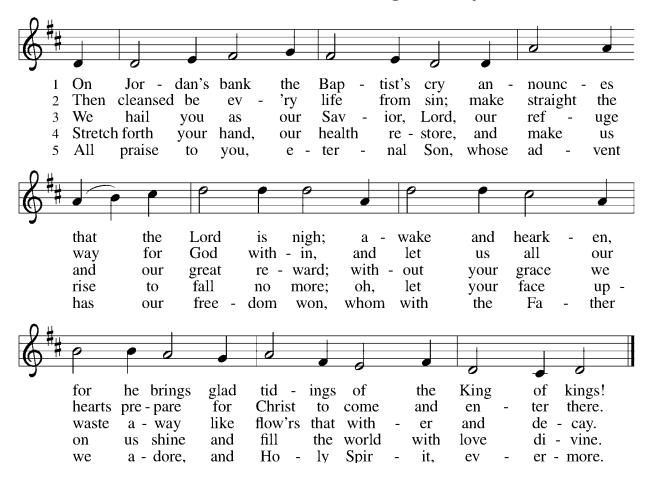
Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash



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On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite. Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text and music are in public domain.