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**UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 21, 2025

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS**

PRELUDE O Little Town of Bethlehem *arr Joel Raney*

***INTROIT FOR ADVENT #219** (*repeat 3 times*)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love.

People: There is no greater power than love.

Leader: It is stronger than rulers and empires,

People: stronger than grief or despair,

Leader: stronger even than death.

People: We know the strength of such love, because God first loved us.

Leader: As we light the advent candles, we pray that Christ's coming may light our lives and fill us with God's spirit.

People: May we know the creative power of hope.

Leader: May we practice the peace that comes from justice.

People: May we be filled with such joy that we must share it with others.

Leader: May God's love transform us and be magnified within our lives,

People: That we may follow in the way of Christ who comes to dwell among us.

[four candles are lit:]

*** HYMN OF THE MONTH #237** Now the Heavens

PRAYER CONCERNS

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Interlude on the Coventry Carol *W. S. Lloyd Webber*

Please join in a time of silent prayer as you listen to the meditation

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

GIFT OF MUSIC Wexford Carol *Luanne Crosby*

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: He was with God in the beginning.

Leader: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Leader: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

People: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Leader: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

People: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

Leader: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Leader: He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

People: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Leader: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

People: We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Leader: From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

People: For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Leader: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

*** HYMN #241**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please consider these options: checks, cash, or arrange for your bank or credit union to send a monthly check to UUC at no charge to the donor.

OFFERTORY

Chorale Prelude on “In Dulce Jubilo” *JS Bach*

*DOXOLOGY # & BLESSING

#71A: Praise God, the source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.

All glory, honor to God’s name.

*HYMN # 213

Poor of the Earth

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

Surprise, It’s God

Rev Stan Mitchell

*Hymn #265

Angels from the Realms of Glory

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

LeMon

Soli deo gloria, Soli deo gloria

To God alone all glory be, To God alone all glory be

Amen, amen, amen

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain *arr by Mark Hayes*

***Please stand as you are able.**

Please join us across the street for coffee and fellowship

December Leadership: Trustee: Dale Watson, **Fellowship:** Luanne Crosby, **Deacon:** MaryBeth McDonough, **Elder:** Cathy Rees

Prayer Concerns

Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia

Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Bob & Deb Lewis, Bob Condrate, Joan &

Brad Bowden, Luanne Crosby’s friends: Kathy Kalushka (breast cancer) & Kathy Bohlen (cancer),

Joan Schulze’s niece, Marnie Johnson, Joe Fasano as he relocates to CT to be with his daughter. Her address is c/o Kate Foster, 10 Monroe St. #515, Norwalk, CT 06854

Serving Today

Guest Preacher.....Rev Stan Mitchell

Lay Leader.....John Buckwalter

Greeter(s).....Watsons

Flowers.....Advent Wreath

Coffee Hour.....Dosch/Evangelista
Keyboard.....Laurel Buckwalter
Usher.....Porter
Zoom Hosts.....Jim Ninos

Upcoming Guest Preachers

Dec 28: Prayer Breakfast

Greeters

Lay Leaders

Flowers

Dec 28: Prayer Breakfast

Coffee Hour

Usher

237 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

SUO GAN 8.7.8.7 D

D Em7 A7 Bm D/A

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

Em A7 D Bm F#m Em/G A7

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra-grance

Bm D/F# Em A7 D G

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

D Bm F#m Em7 A7 Bm F#m

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



Em/G A7 Bm D/F# Em A7 D

neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
 fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
 grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.



241 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular

Descant, verse 3

3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

A - de - ste fi - de - les læ - ti tri - um - phan - tes, ve -

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O

2 True God of true God, Light of light e - ter - nal,

3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;

Em D A7 D G D A7 D

ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem.

our low - ly na - ture he hath not ab - horred;

sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove:

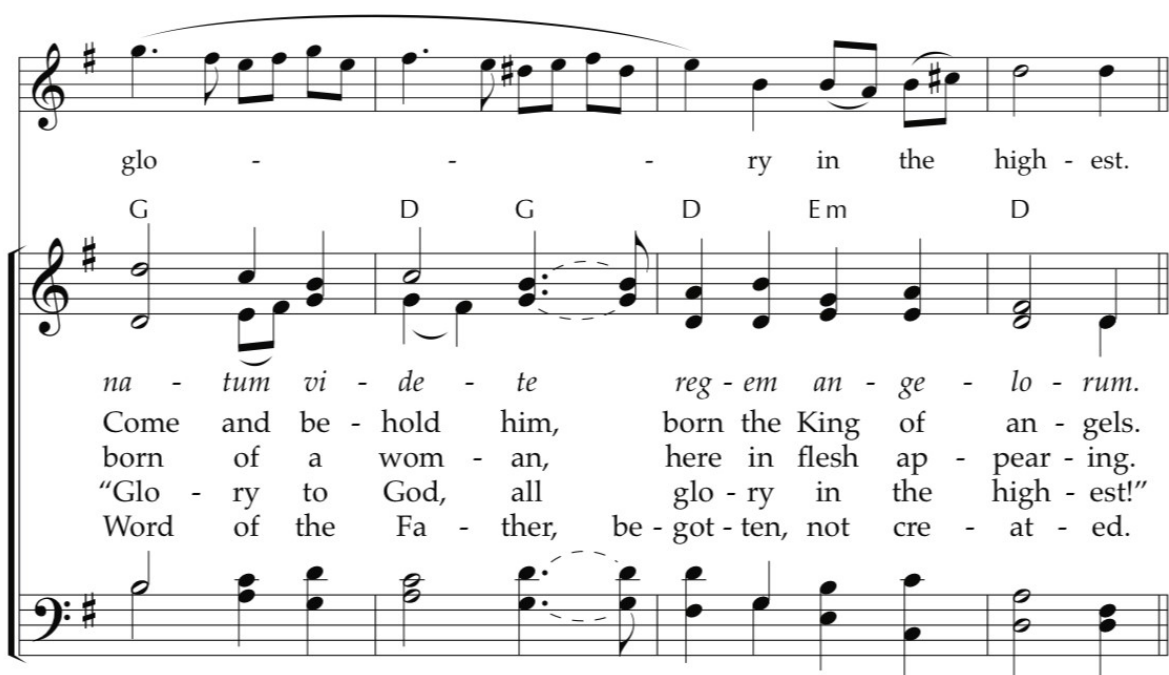
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

*Congregation sings in unison when in combination with verse 3 descant or with verse 4 alternative accompaniment.

Text: Latin; stanzas 1, 3, 4 trans. attr. John F. Wade (England), ca. 1743, "Adeste fideles læti triumphantes," *Office de St. Omer*, 1822; trans. Frederick Oakeley (England) and others, alt.; stanza 2 Etienne J. F. Borderies (France), 1822; trans. William Mercer (England), 1854

Music: attr. John F. Wade, ca. 1743, *Essay on the Church Plain Chant*, 1782; desc. David Willcocks (England), © 1961 Oxford University Press, Oxford

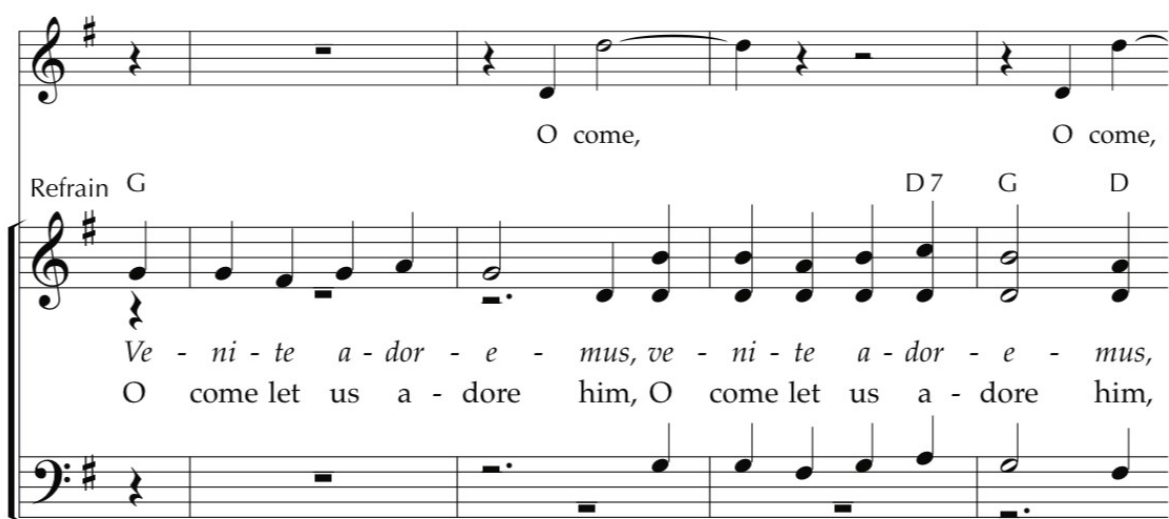




glo - ry in the high - est.

G D G D Em D

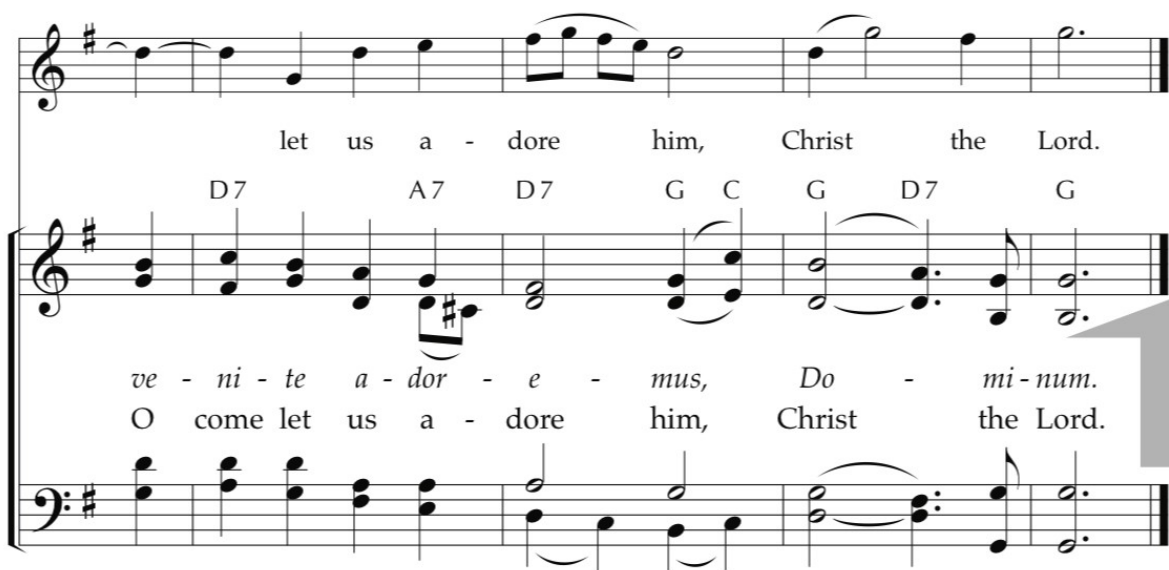
na - tum vi - de - te reg - em an - ge - lo - rum.
 Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels.
 born of a wom - an, here in flesh ap - pear - ing.
 "Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!"
 Word of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed.



O come, O come,

Refrain G D7 G D

Ve - ni - te a - dor - e - mus, ve - ni - te a - dor - e - mus,
 O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him,



let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

D7 A7 D7 G C G D7 G

ve - ni - te a - dor - e - mus, Do - mi - num.
 O come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

213

Poor of the Earth

WAYFARING STRANGER 9.8.9.8 D

Cm G Cm G/D Cm/E \flat C7/E
 1 Poor of the earth, I am a shep-herd; in rug-ged
 2 An - oth - er dawn, the sun be - fore me, an - oth - er
 3 With each new day, I pause in won-der, to look at
 4 This day is done, my prayers un - an - swered, once more I

Fm A \flat Gsus G Cm G Cm G/D
 fields, I make my home. Yet I at - tend the words of
 day to bide and watch. I trust in God and I am
 Beth - le-hem a - far. From this small town will come a
 sigh as dark-ness falls. Your will be done, I must be

Cm/E \flat C/E Fm G7 Fm/C
 proph-ets, and I can hope. How will I know?
 wait - ing. Day fol-lows day. How will I know?
 sav - ior, born in our midst. How will I know?
 pa - tient; I long for news. How will I know?

Cm Fm B \flat 7 Eb C7/E
 Sprung from the roots, the line of Jes - se, will come one
 The nights are cold; I do not mind them, my lambs rest
 When time is right, God, share your pur-pose; rul - ers and
 My bones are tired, my soul is hun-gry, my ston - y

Fm Dm7 \flat 5 Gsus G Cm G Cm G/D
 cho - sen for us all. The proph-et's songs fore - tell a
 safe with - in my care. Com - pan - ion moon is night-ly
 kings, they must be told. I live a - part. I wait in
 bed a - waits me now. Do not for - get your faith-ful

Cm/E \flat C7/E Fm G7 Fm/C Cm
 lead - er— a vir-gin's child. How will I know?
 chang-ing; my con-stant God: How will I know?
 si - lence. Who will tell me? How will I know?
 shep - herd. Per-haps to - night. How will I know?

For capo chords, see the accompaniment edition.

Text: Jacque B. Jones (USA), 2011, © 2014 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: American traditional (USA); arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (USA), © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer

265 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

C F C

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions—bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

G7 C Am E

all the earth. As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, shall be - hold God's love un - end - ing:

Am G/D D7 G

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth;
 yon - der shines the in - fant light; come and wor - ship,
 guid - ed by his na - tal star;
 Christ will once a - gain ap - pear;

C7 F Dm7 Gsus G7 C

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

For a lower key, see "For the Healing of the Nations" #705.

Text: James Montgomery (Scotland), *The Sheffield Iris*, 1816, alt.

Music: Henry Smart (England), *Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship*, 1867