

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 29, 2013

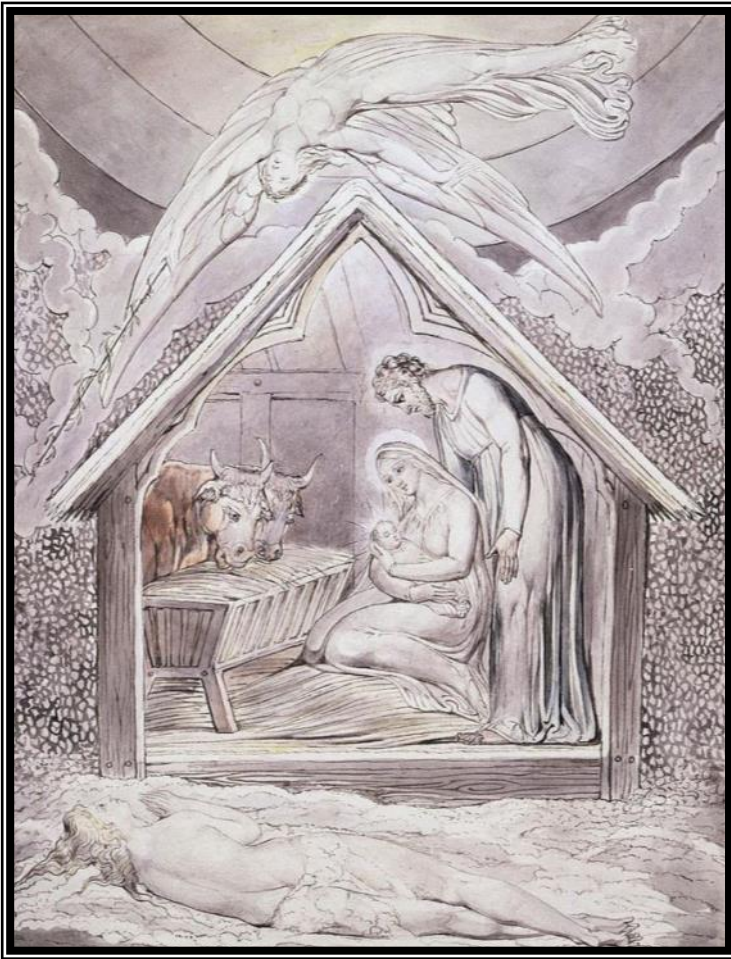


Illustration to Milton's "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity,"
by William Blake
Watercolor
1809

William Blake (1757-1827) was an English poet, painter and printmaker. Largely unrecognized during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. His prophetic poetry has been said to form "what is in proportion to its merits the least read body of poetry in the English language". He produced a diverse and symbolically rich corpus, which embraced the imagination as "the body of God" or "human existence itself".

Considered mad by contemporaries for his idiosyncratic views, Blake is held in high regard by later critics for his expressiveness and creativity, and for the philosophical and mystical undercurrents within his work. His paintings and poetry have been characterized as part of the Romantic movement and "Pre-Romantic", for its large appearance in the 18th century.

Source: Wikipedia and Wikipaintings.org

WE GATHER

OPENING VOLUNTARY

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

ARR. JOHN INNES

* Whenever you see this symbol, please stand if you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The light of God shines in the darkness,
People: **and the darkness did not overcome it.**
Leader: How beautiful are the feet that bring good news.
People: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem, even as the star shone in the heavens and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us. No one can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all of creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN 146

GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

The Twelve Days of Christmas is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days *before* Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th). In some traditions, the first day of Christmas begins on the evening of December 25th with the following day considered the First Day of Christmas (December 26th). In these traditions, the twelve days begin December 26 and include Epiphany on January 6.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all through Jesus Christ, who gave himself to redeem us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love. We forget your great mercy and seek out other saviors. Forgive us, loving God. Make us sisters and brothers, sharing with all your children good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ's grace we have become children of God and heirs to the hope of eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*JOYFUL RESPONSE HYMN 137

HE CAME DOWN

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have {love; peace; joy;} he

came down that we may have {love; peace; joy;} he came down that we may

have {love, peace, joy;} Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Leader: Why did he come?

WE PROCLAIM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 118:22-24

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:34

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR WHEN
THE CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES LOSE THEIR FIZZ"

JOE MARTING

A special "Thank You" to Joe Marting for preaching today while Pastor Annie is on vacation. Joe was a pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church for 31 years. He retired in August, and this is his first time preaching since retiring!

WE RESPOND

*HYMN 115

AWAY IN A MANGER

MUELLER

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF PETITION (congregation responds "Lord, hear our prayers.")

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

(PLEASE SIGN THE FRIENDSHIP PAD.)

*OFFERTORY HYMN 144

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

CRANHAM

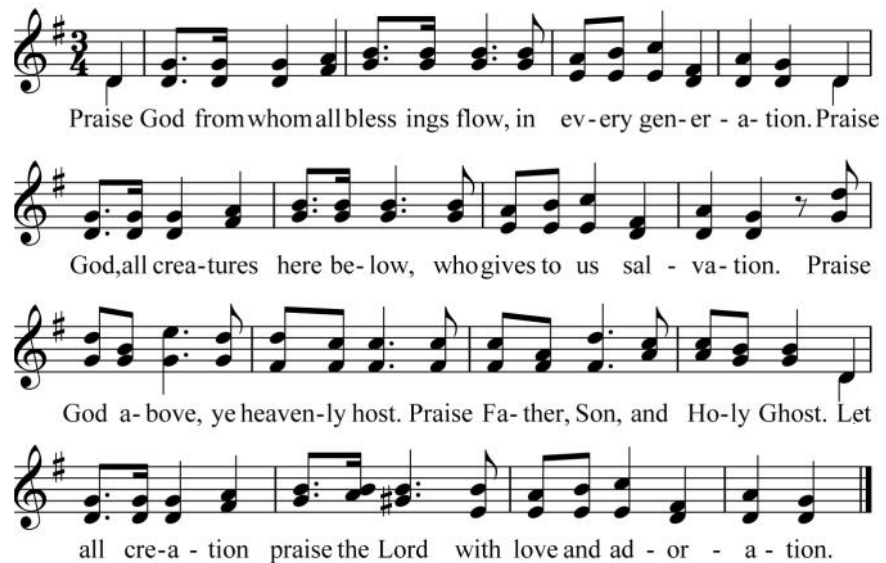
Christina Rossetti (1830 -1894) was the author of the poem *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Her poetry is marked by symbolism and intense feeling. She is increasingly being considered a major Victorian poet, often compared to Emily Dickinson, but the comparison is made more in the choice of spiritual topics rather than her poetic approach. (source: <http://www.poets.org>)

The music for the hymn was written by Gustav Holst (1874-1934). Holst was an English composer, arranger, and teacher. His distinctive compositional style was influenced in part by the English folk song revival of the early 20th century. He wrote numerous works in various genres, but his best known composition is *The Planets*. His work significantly influenced a younger generation of English composers including Benjamin Britten and Michael Tippett. (source: wikipedia)

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

O TANNENBAUM



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in ev-ery gen-er - a - tion. Praise
God, all crea-tures here be-low, who gives to us sal - va - tion. Praise
God a - bove, ye heaven-ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Let
all cre-a - tion praise the Lord with love and ad - or - a - tion.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

UNISON

Giver of all good gifts, we thank you for your blessings in our lives—big and small, known and unknown. As you have come to be with us in Jesus, may the gifts that we give today witness to your love, always being born into the world. Move through our lives that we may give you glory and show forth the wonder of your love. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

*NEWS OF THE CHURCH

*CLOSING HYMN 140

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

IRBY

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

ARR. DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

FAITH DES PERES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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