St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

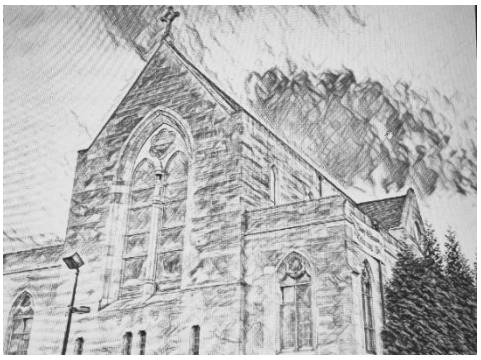
Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton

Our mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite II

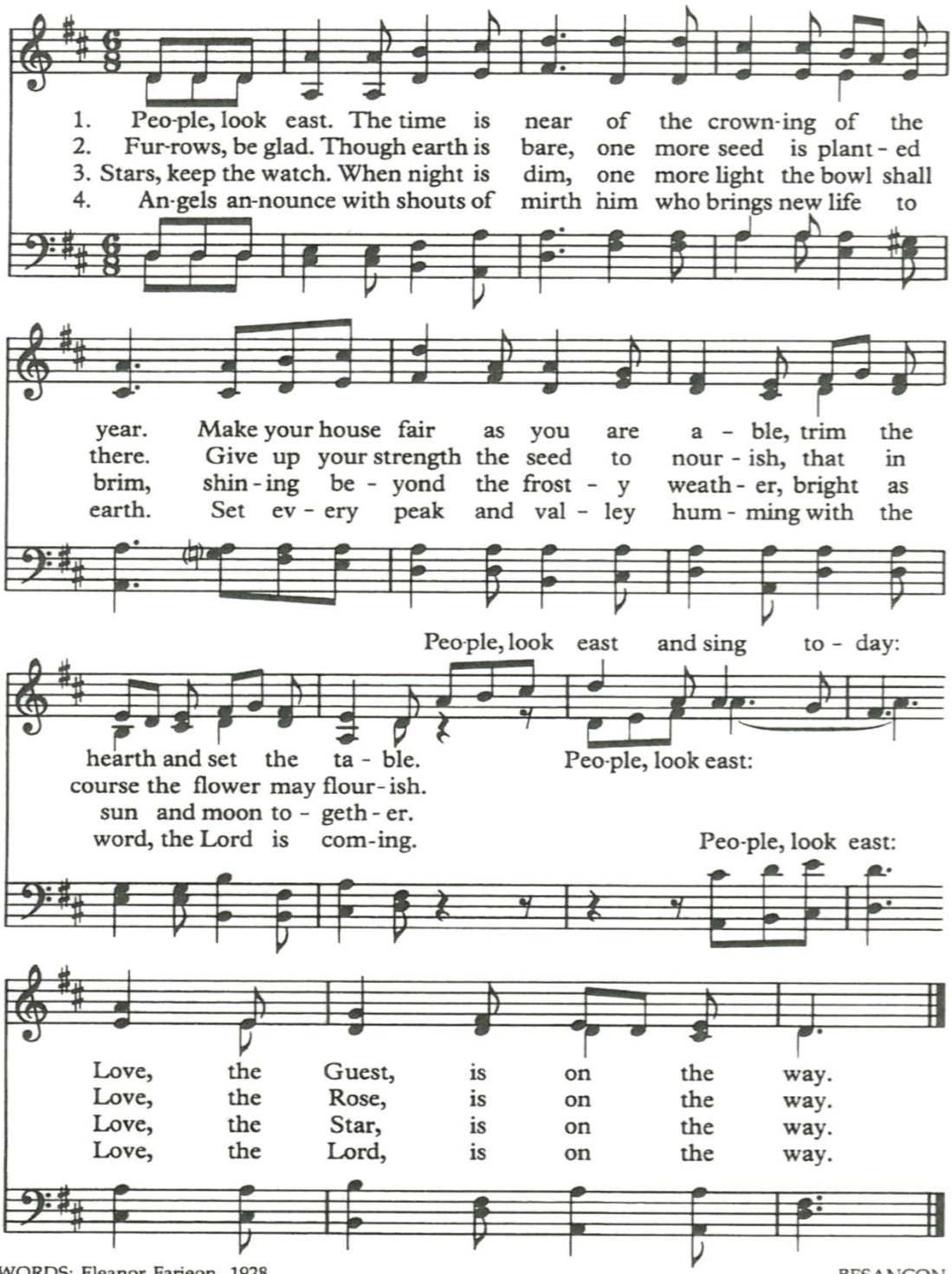
Readings and Psalm
First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm: Canticle 3
Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Prelude: Fughetta on *Besancon* by Richard Shepard

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN *"People Look East" (Besancon) (H 56)*



WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928
MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

BESANÇON
87.98.87

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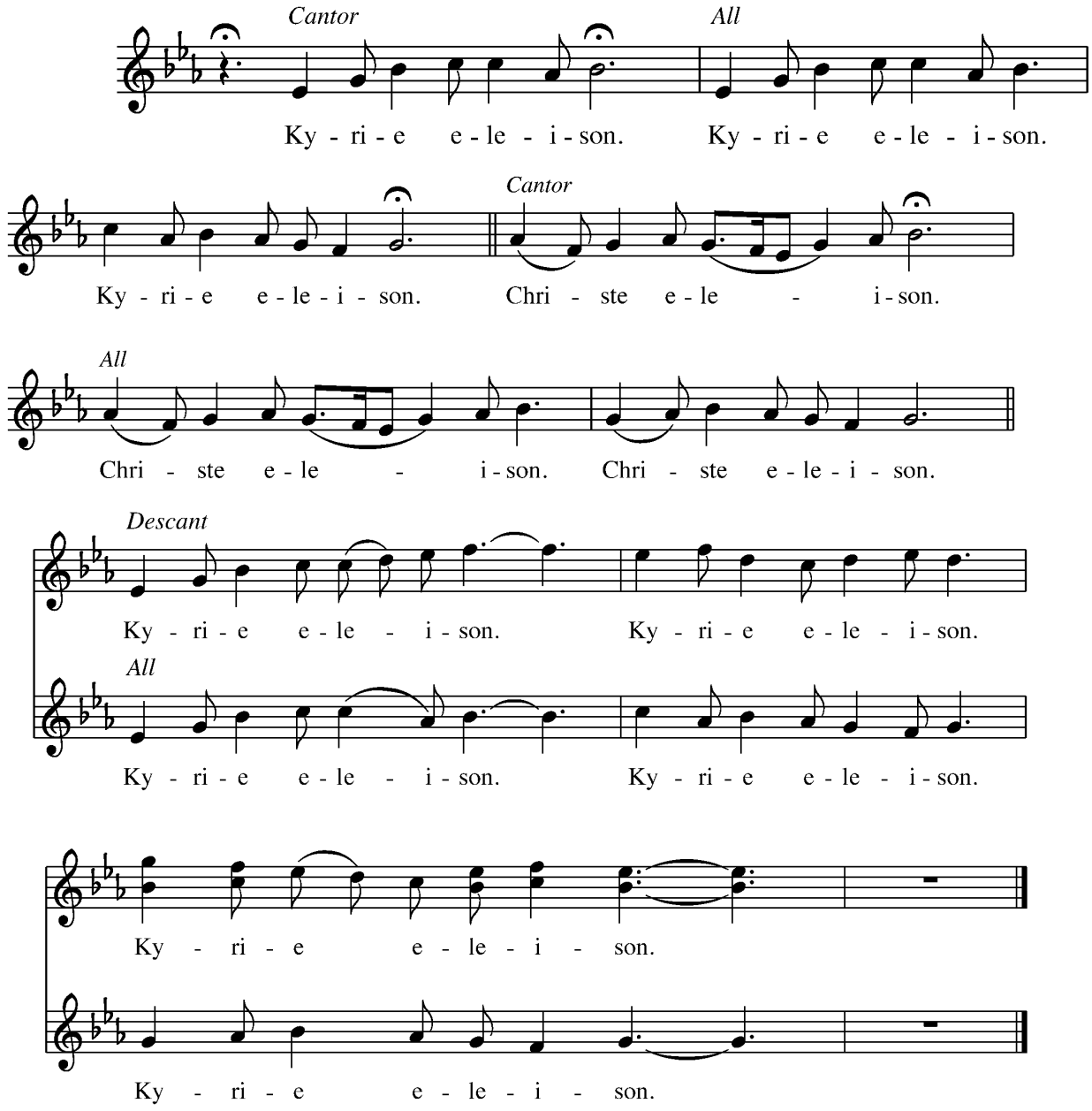
OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: EOM2 108 KYRIE ELEISON (BOLES)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

The people sit.

A Reading from the Second book of Samuel.

1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all
his enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a
house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all
that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant
David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I have not
lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but
I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about
among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of
Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not
built me a house of cedar?"

8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I
took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;
9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from
before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the
earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they
may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no
more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I
will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the
LORD will make you a house. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever
before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Canticle 3: The Song of Mary

Remain seated.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Remain seated.

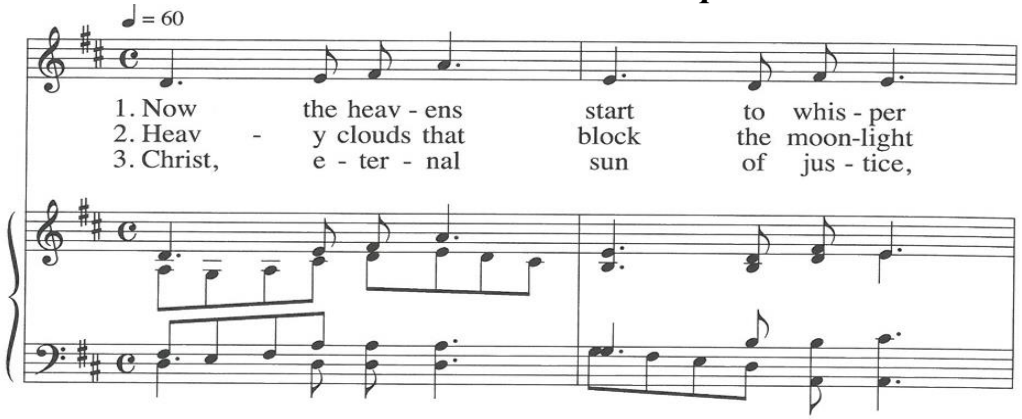
A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

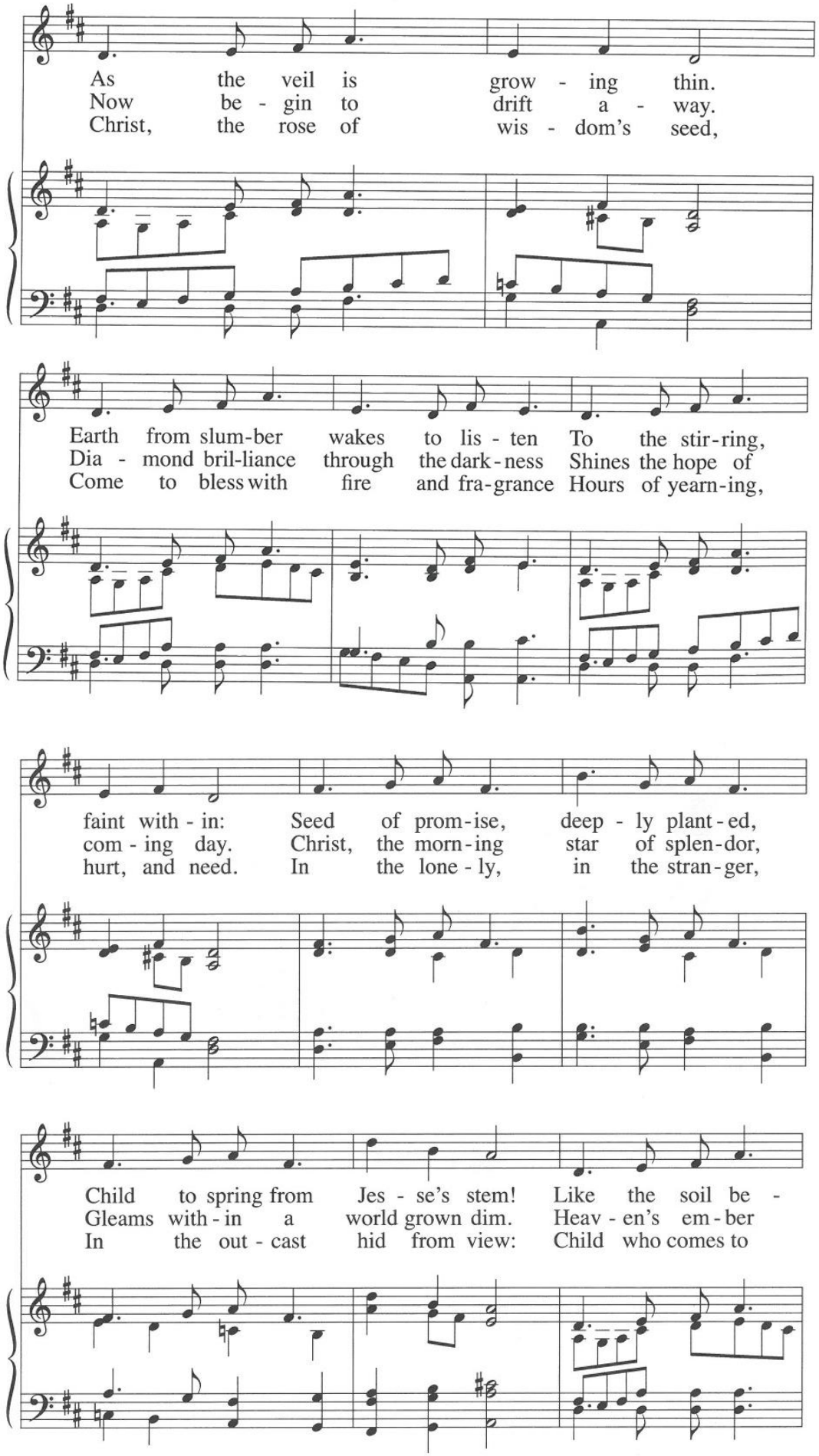
[25]Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation
of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long
ages [26]but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the
Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of
faith—[27]to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

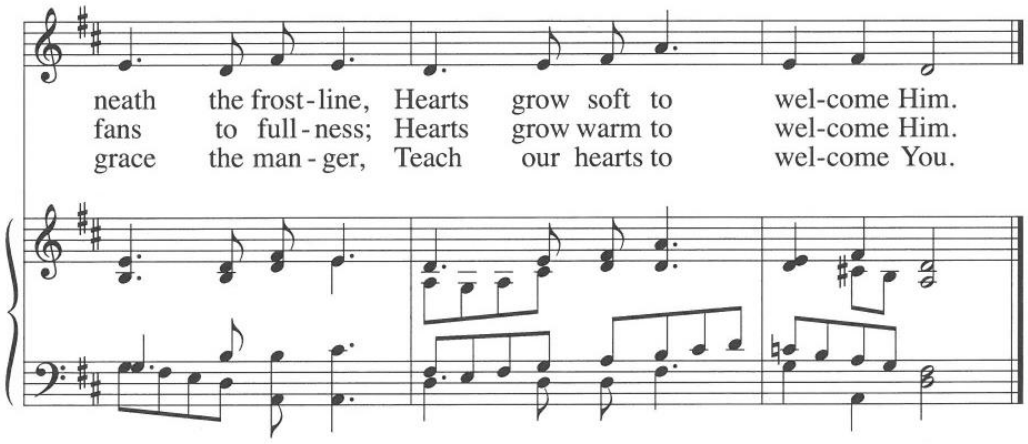
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN*: "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"*

All stand.




As the veil is grow - ing thin.
Now be - gin to drift a - way.
Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,
Earth from slum-ber wakes to lis - ten To the stir-ring,
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness Shines the hope of
Come to bless with fire and fra-grance Hours of yearn-ing,
faint with - in: Seed of prom-ise, deep - ly plant-ed,
com - ing day. Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor,
hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the stran-ger,
Child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
Gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em-ber
In the out - cast hid from view: Child who comes to



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: SUO GAN, 8 7 8 7 D; Welsh melody; arr. by Nicholas Palmer, b.1963, © 2008, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[26]In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called
Nazareth, [27]to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary. [28]And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you." [29]But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what
sort of greeting this might be. [30]The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you
have found favor with God. [31]And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus. [32]He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most
High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. [33]He will reign
over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

[34]Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [35]The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow
you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. [36]And now,
your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month
for her who was said to be barren. [37]For nothing will be impossible with God." [38]Then
Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: *Rev. Robin Woodberry*

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

THE CREED

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. ***Amen.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Karen Boivin, Daniel Hayward and Maggie Melanson while MDiv students at Queen's School of Religion, Kingston ON

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord our God

Leader: God of Wonder,
We come before you in anticipation of what is to come;
We are excited
We are fearful

We are relieved
We are uncertain
In all these emotions, you are here with us.

Leader: God of No Limits,
We give you thanks for the boundless gifts you have given us:
This universe which you have created with its infinite mystery;
This earth that sustains us with its resources and beauty;
This created life, with all its relationships, of which we are a part;
For all these acts of love, we give you thanks.

Leader: God of Love,
We give you thanks for your Church
The community of those who came before, are here now, and are yet to come.
Help us to work together in the building of your kingdom here on earth
That we might live in justice, peace and harmony with all.

Leader: God of Many Blessings,
We call to mind all the ways in which you have blessed us individually,
With family and friends that fill us with belonging,
with studies and ministries that challenge and excite us
with good health and happiness.
In silence, O God, we give you our thanks for other blessings that you have laid before us…. for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Dan Lewton, and John Titmas.
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: God of Wisdom and Understanding,
As we give thanks we also hear the words of Scripture, urging us to bring all the concerns of our hearts to you.
And so we come with prayers of petition and intercession:
For a time when all this world might know peace
When hunger and oppression might end
When those who suffer might know freedom from pain.
In our individual lives, O God, we name and offer the sighs of our hearts.
Hear them now as we call out these prayers to you……. For Ed Sutek, Peggy Neidig, Flo Myers, June Geary, Margaret Fox, Laurie Rohr, Brian Berstler, Jackson, Rick, Alisha Rittenour, Stacy, John Titmas, Kamau, Lee Arnold, Shawntae, and Jolonda.
And for the bereaved family of Donald Rankin. Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

Leader: God of Patience and God of Surprises,
Teach us, in this time of waiting, to be open to let go of all those things
That hide your presence from us.
Catch us by surprise, catch us with wonder,
Fill us with the gift of your grace and your love
In this time of Advent and all the days to come. ***Amen***

CONCLUDING COLLECT
Said by all

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION OF SIN
The People sit, stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. ***Amen.***

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord

Church Announcements

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
"Mary said, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;'" *Canticle 15*

OFFERTORY HYMN*: "Come Lord Jesus" by Oliver Tarney*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

(Please remain standing)

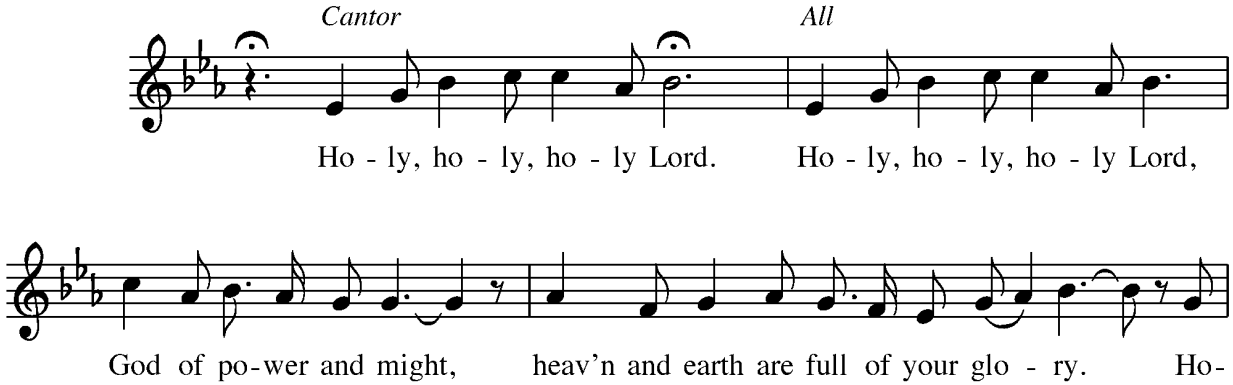
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

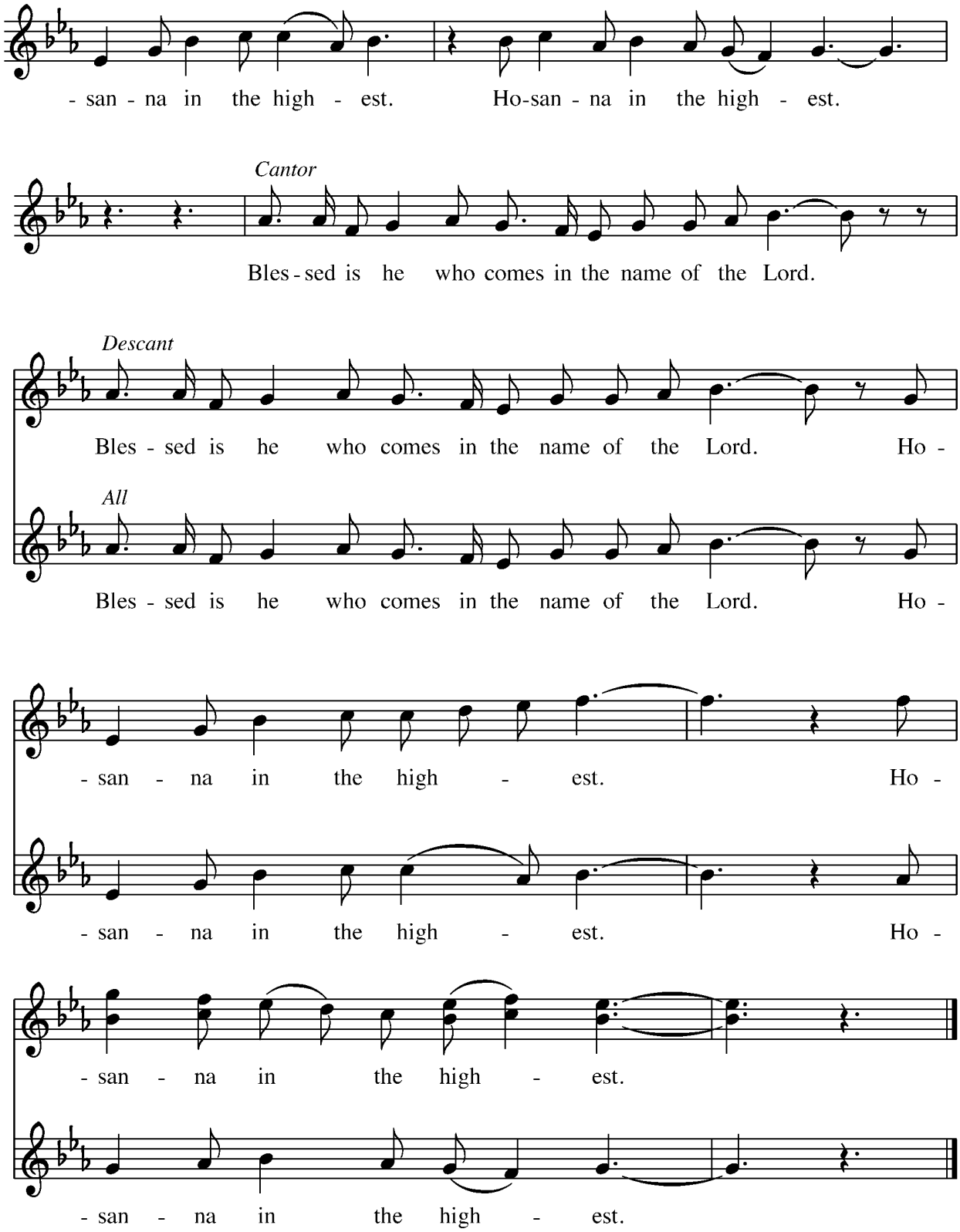
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS: *"Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Boles)* (*EOM2 125)*
Celebrant and People




- san - na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Cantor
Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Descant
Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
All
Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
- san - na in the high - est. Ho -
- san - na in the high - est. Ho -
- san - na in the high - est.
- san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

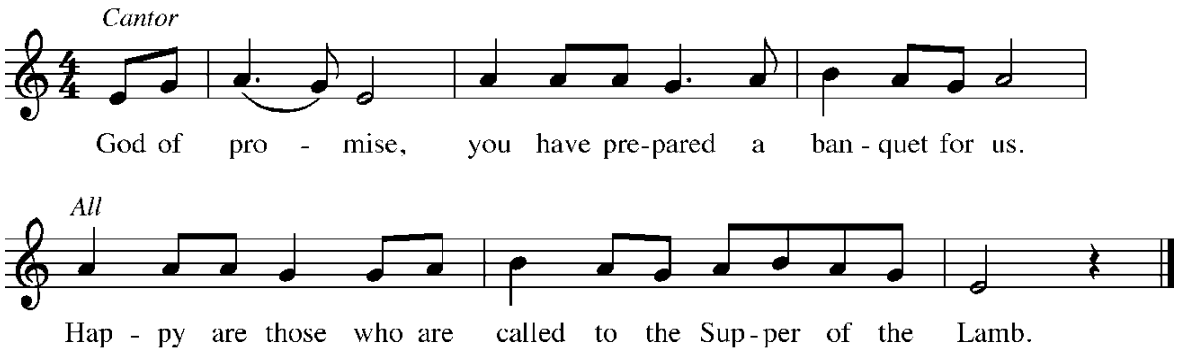
THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.***

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: "*God of Promise" (EOM1)*



Setting: Jonathan Dimmock, from **Missa Appalachia**, © 2002 Jonathan Dimmock.
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Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFTS

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

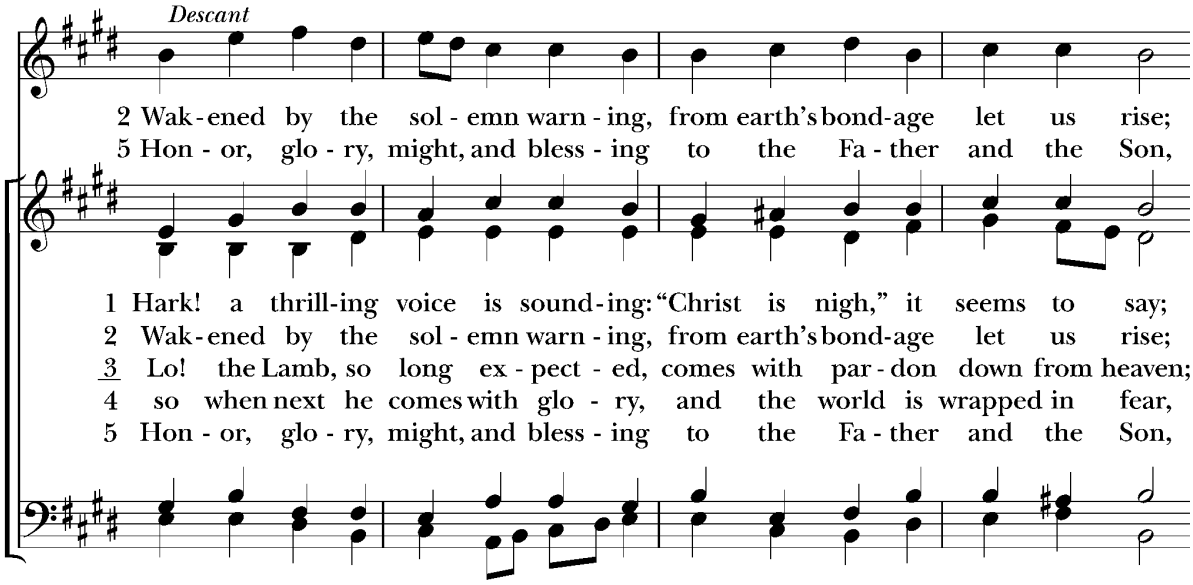
Let us pray together

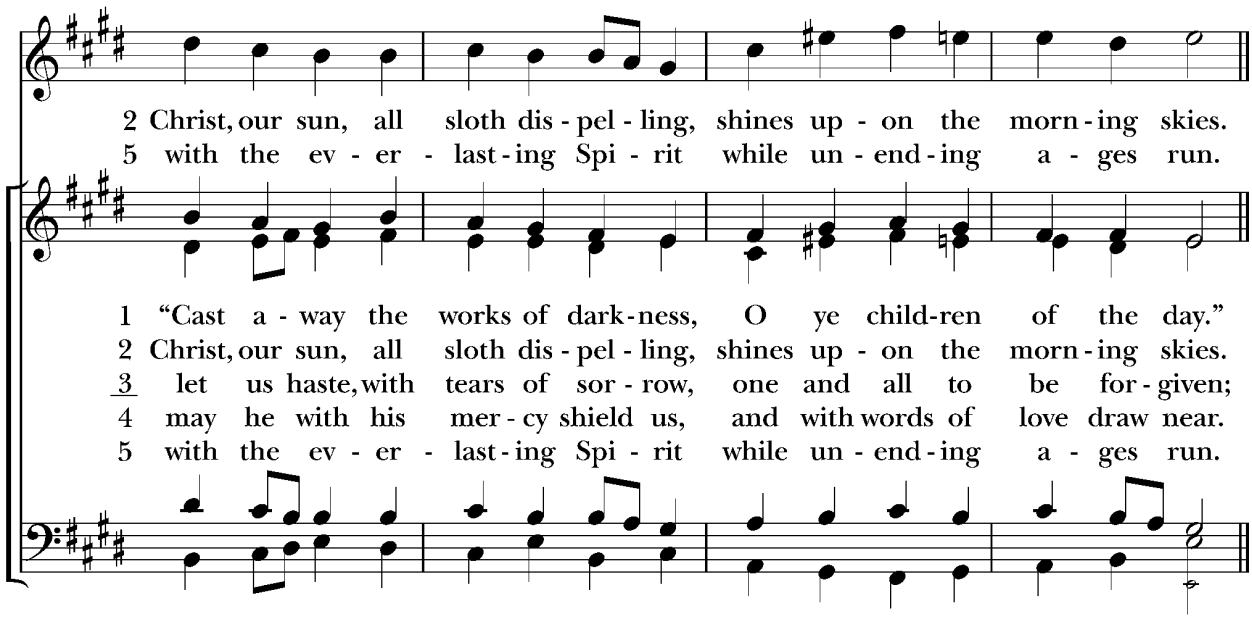
Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *"Hark! a Thrilling Voice is Sounding"* (H 59)





DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Hymn Improvisation on *Merton* by David Thorne

Participants in Today's Liturgy:

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry
Director of Music:	Edward T. Grimes
Lector:	Carol Sutek
Eucharistic Minister:	Douglas Colmery
Crucifer:	Douglas Colmery
Camera/Audio:	David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Altar Guild:	Barb Anderson, Karen Swope
Counters:	Carol Sutek, Cara Warren

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! Immediately following the service, the greening of the church will take place. Please stay and lend a helping hand.

TONIGHT Festive Christmas Eve Service, 7:00p
Please come and join us for a wonderful time in celebration of the birth of our Lord. Each one reach one by inviting family and friends!

Wednesday Study Group: Recessed until January 3rd.

Vestry Meeting: The committee will meet on Wednesday, December 27th at 7p.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7p-8p. Please see the music director, Edward Grimes for more information.

Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols: On Saturday, January 6th at 4 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Massillon will be again hosting this service. All are invited to attend and/or participate.

Discernment Day, January 13 from 9:30am - 4:00pm, @ Bellwether Farm: Ministry Discernment Day is intended to help those who feel a call to service better understand that call in the context of the Baptismal Covenant, to explain the logistics of the discernment process, and, should you choose to enter a deeper exploration of a call to ordained ministry, to prepare you to work more effectively with a discernment committee.

In addition, individuals interested in the opportunity to consider different models of lay ministry, or in the discernment process in general, are warmly encouraged to attend as well. This is an all-day event sponsored by the Commission on Ministry (COM). Lunch will be provided.

For those who have been thinking of a call to an ordained ministry, attending this day with your rector or senior warden is a requirement. If you have questions or need more information, please contact The Rev. Jessie Dodson, Canon to the Ordinary.

Diocesan Winter Convocation: Join us at Winter Convocation, February 2-3, 2024, at Kalahari in Sandusky to get a one-day preview of College for Congregational Development. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Church Office, at 330-455-0286

Constant Contact Update

Starting at the beginning of the year, we will begin using the Constant Contact program to assist us with our emailing and contact needs. Some of you may remember that we have used this program in the past, and it is widely used throughout the Diocese. If we do not have your email on file, a request to be added to the program will be sent to your email. **You will need to accept the request in order for us to add you**. If we already have your email in the program, no action is needed on your part. You should receive the email request by Dec. 31st so please look for it. Contact Rev. Robin with questions, at 330-506-6647.

December Birthdays

4th-Richard Oloya
5th- William Kendrick
11th- Sondra Brahler
18th-Peggy Neidig
23rd- Dan Lewton
24th- John Titmas

Upcoming Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, December 24th, Festive Christmas Eve Service, 7:00p

Monday, December 25th, Christmas in The Home
(Service Bulletin is available in the Narthex)

Save the Date: January 21, 2024
Annual Church Meeting

All ministries are asked to get their reports into the Church Office no later than January 14th.

December/January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 ADVENT 2 8 am Rite 1 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Rite 2	**11** 6 pm Communications Mtg	**12**	**13** 10 am Bible Study	**14** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**15**	**16** 11 am HOT Lunch 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
17 ADVENT 3 8 am Rite 1 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Rite 2	**18** 6 pm Finance Mtg	**19**	**20**	**21** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**22**	**23** 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
24 ADVENT 4 10:30 am Rite 2 7 pm Christmas Eve Service	**25** Christmas Day!	**26** Kwanzaa!	**27** 7 pm Vestry Mtg (Zoom)	**28** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**29**	**30** 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
31 10:30 am Service New Year's Eve!	**January 1** New Year's Day!	**2**	**3** 10 am Bible Study	**4** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**5**	**6** 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
7 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS! 10:30 am Service	**8**	**9**	**10** 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Finance Mtg.	**11** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**12**	**13** 9 am Gun Violence Prevention Workshop 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)

LET'S START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT

WITH SOME GOOD FRIENDS & GOOD CHEERS!

December 31
12 noon– 2p
in the Guild Hall

Session 1

Ministering for a Less Violent Community:

An Interfaith Workshop to Reduce Gun Violence

Saturday, January 13, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registration and refreshments 8:30-9:00

Community Room of St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

525 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton 44702

You are invited to send up to three members of your ministry team (ordained or lay).

At the conclusion of the workshop, your team will receive a jump drive with an Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Tool Kit and other resources to utilize with your faith community for dialogue, feedback about existing barriers to action, and subsequent workshops.

RSVP by January 4, 2024, with names of attendees to: interfaithcoalitionstark@gmail.com

Shalom, Salaam, Shanti, Peace, On Behalf of the Interfaith Violence Prevention Coalition of Stark County:

Rabbi John Spitzer, *Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Israel*

Reverend Robin Woodberry, *Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

Mustafa Ozguler, *Secretary, Islamic Society of Northeast Ohio*

Father Edward Keck, *Retired Catholic Priest*

Reverend Hector McDaniel, *Outreach Pastor, Union Baptist Church*

Laurence Bove, *Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Walsh University*

Please contact workshop co-chairs with questions:

Lynne Dragomier:

ldragom1@kent.edu or 330.417.7416

Reverend Robin Woodberry:

Robinw10@prodigy.net or 330.506.6647

The Interfaith Violence Prevention Coalition of Stark County

Working Together for Shalom, Salaam, Shanti, Peace

Visit the Kwanzaa Table by the Guild Hall

How to celebrate Kwanzaa with *mambo yote mazuri*

During Kwanzaa, families take time to reflect on the richness of the past, the potential of the present, and the promise of the future by capturing *mambo yote mazuri*, or "all things beautiful."

Each night of Kwanzaa includes a gathering dedicated to one of the holiday's seven principles, known as (*Nguzo Saba)*. Central to this nightly observance is the lighting of the (*kinara)*, a special candleholder with room for seven candles.

Each night, you light a new candle — the one that corresponds to the principle for that day — on the kinara.

The candles (*mishumaa saba*) come in three different colors: red, green, and black. The red symbolizes the struggles of the past, the black the African people, and the green the Earth and all the possibilities it holds.

What goes on the Kwanzaa table?

(Mishumaa Saba) the seven candles that represent the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles which African people are urged to live by to rescue and reconstruct their lives in their own image and according to their own needs.

(Kinara) the candle holder symbolic of our roots, our parent people -- continental Africans.

(Kikombe cha Umoja) the wooden unity cup is used to remind us to give thanks to our ancestors.

(Mkeka) the placemat is symbolic of our tradition and history and therefore, the foundation on which we build.

(Mazao) These are symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor.

(Muhindi) ears of corn symbolic of our children and our future which they embody.

(Zawadi) gifts symbolic of the labor and love of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children.

CC ON ... RR
CONGRUOUS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE RELATIONS
Scan QR code to register
MLK DAY
12PM • SERVICE
1-4PM • VOLUNTEER
5:30PM • DINNER
MONDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2024
MLK Jr. Joint worship service
Mt. Olive Baptist Church 1403 13th St SE, Canton,
12 pm - 1 pm
On-site volunteering
at StarkFresh Grocery Store locations in Alliance & Canton
1 pm - 4 pm
Dinner gathering/ Curriculum kickoff event
Mt. Olive Baptist Church 1403 13th St SE, Canton,
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
www.ccorrohio.org

Join us for the Social Justice Book Discussion

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Guild Hall

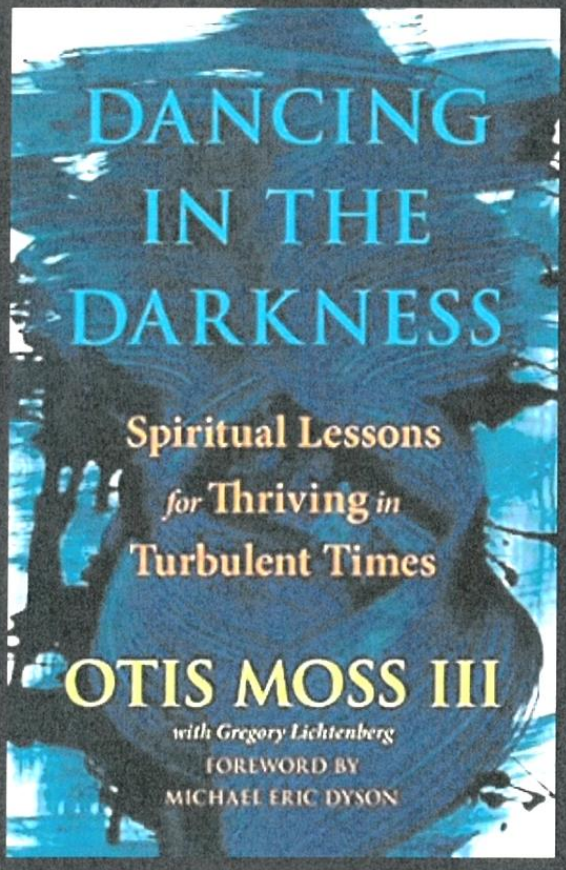
Light refreshments will be served.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE RELATIONS

CC ON ...RR

Social Justice BOOK Club

Dancing in the Darkness is a "life-affirming" guide to the practical, political, and spiritual challenges of our day. Drawing on the teachings of Dr. King, Howard Thurman, sacred scripture, southern wisdom, global spiritual traditions, Black culture, and his own personal experiences, Dr. Moss instructs you on how to practice spiritual resistance by combining justice and love. This collection helps us tap into the spiritual reserves we all possess but too often overlook, so we can slay our personal demons, confront our civic challenges, and reach our highest goals.



IN PERSON• 425 CLEVELAND AVE SW, CANTON

ONLINE• SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN

January 23rd • 7pm

www.ccorrohio.org

Presented by: Mt. Olive Baptist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, StarkFresh

A Prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

-Father Henri JM Nouwen

Sermon Notes

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne B. Jolly

Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend Dr. Robin Woodberry

Staff
Edward T. Grimes, Director of Music

Peggy Neidig, Office Manager

Paul Schmucker, Sexton

Music Begins Sunday Services at 10:25am are also live-streamed on Facebook.

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