



Hudson Memorial
Presbyterian Church (USA)



To know, love, and serve God in Jesus Christ

Christmas Joy in the Morning

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent: Christmas Joy

December 14, 2025

We Gather to Worship

People's Preparation

"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world."

— Norman Vincent Peale

Prelude

Original Arr. of Gabriel's Message and God Rest You Merry

Rich and Lindsey Richards

Welcome & Announcements

Marguerite Serrine

Please sign the Friendship Pad, passing it down the pew and then back to the center aisle.

Guests, we invite you to share your contact information.

Introit

Come Near, O Love Divine

R.V. Williams

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Richard & Shirley Blanks

Opening Hymn #104*

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

HYMNS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT

Children's Musical Moment

Mary Had a Baby

Joyful Noise Music

Spiritual

Congregational Carol #114

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

Christmas Handbell Anthems

Christmas Celebration

We Three Kings

Youth Bells

M. Keller

Hopkins, arr. McChesney

We Repent & Seek Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Marguerite Serrine

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. *(Silence)*

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri #581*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace*

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Please offer a sign of Christ's peace to those around you.

We Hear God's Word

Christmas Handbell Anthems *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*
Lindsey Richards, flute

arr. Morris

How Great Our Joy!
Dan Vig, piano

JUNGST, arr. Lloyd Larson

Hudson Handbell Ringers

First Lesson

Psalm 146:5-10

OT p. 581-582

Christmas Anthem

Sing We Now of Christmas
HMPC Women's Chorus

arr. Mark Hayes

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hear our joyful praises, echoing bright and clear.
Lift up your voice, O let the world rejoice!
Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Spread the yuletide spirit, comfort, and good cheer.
Sing out with gladness, banish any sadness.
Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Sing we now of Christmas, join the glad refrain.
All the earth rejoices, hope is born again.
Peace, goodwill to all, resounds the welcome call.
Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Sing we all Noel. Gladsome are the tidings that we tell.
Sing we all Noel. Joyfully we sing to you Noel.
Sing we now of Christmas, let the anthem ring.
Glory in the highest, hear the angels sing.
Join with all creation, songs of jubilation.
Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here . . .

Prayer of Illumination

Marguerite Serrine

Second Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

NT p. 11

One: The Word of the Lord,
Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Wait and See

Marguerite Serrine

We Respond in Faith

Christmas Anthem

The Shepherd's Carol
Hudson Men's Chorus

Spiritual, arr. Moore

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the baby was born;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain: Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It is the Star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. (*Refrain*)

Invitation to the Offering

Marguerite Serrine

Offertory

Carol of the Bells

Leontovych arr. McMichael

Lindsey Richards, flute; Jennifer Autry, cello; Tetyana Ryabchikova, piano

To make an online offering to HMPC, we invite you to use this QR code:



Congregational Response #145* *What Child is This (vs. 3)*

GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Marguerite Sirrine

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.

We Bear and Follow the Word into the World

Closing Hymn #136*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Rich Richards, guitar; Lindsey Richards, flute
(*Children's choir sings the refrain alone*)

HYMNS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT

Benediction*

Marguerite Sirrine

Choral Response*

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA, arr. Manor

Lindsey Richards, flute
Joyful Noise; Chancel Choir; Hudson Handbell Ensemble

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains:

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (*Refrain*)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (*Refrain*)

See within a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Recognition of HMPC Music Ministry & Rich Richards

Postlude

Postlude on Mendelssohn

David Wilcocks

*RISE, IN BODY OR SPIRIT



*We're so glad you've joined us for Christmas Joy worship today! After the service, please join us for a **reception** hosted by Presbyterian Women in Westminster Hall. Together, we'll celebrate the gifts of our music ministry and offer our gratitude and farewell to Rich Richards, our Director of Youth Ministry and Children's Music.*

***If you are a guest**, we hope you will join us for the reception! We also invite you to stop at one of the entryway tables for a gift bag and information about the church.*

Worship Notes

Thanks to all our instrumentalists and ensembles for sharing their musical gifts during worship this morning!

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Advent.

Ushers today - Harry Bond, Sarah Edge, Allie Maples, Dan Vig

Greeters today - Tripp Bradshaw, Jeanna Gatten, Roger Howard

Soundboard Operator - Davis Boone

Livestream Operator - Bob Stowe

Blue prayer cards are available in the pew racks. If you are in need of prayer, you may fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

For those sitting in the chairs at the front of the Sanctuary - Hymnals and Bibles are located under your seat.

Deacon on Call (DOC) for December is Joanna Hulsey. If you are in need of prayer, comfort or assistance, please call the confidential Deacon Prayer line at 919-390-2688.

Hymns, anthems, images, texts used with permission (CCS #8034 and CCLI #2211695)
Christmas Celebration – Michael Keller, ©1993 Agape. | *We Three Kings* – KINGS OF ORIENT, John H Hopkins, arr. by Keven McChesney ©1999 Jeffers Handbell Supplies. | *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* – arr. Hart Morris ©2015 Ring Out! Press. | *How Great Our Joy!* – JUNGST, Traditional German Carol, arr. Lloyd Larson, ©2022 Hope Pub. Co. | *Sing we now of Christmas*: Traditional French Carol, with new words - Mark Hayes, Music: arr. by Mark Hayes, ©1991, 2014 Birdwing Music. | *The Shepherd's Carol*: Words: African American Spiritual, Music: arr. by Donald Moore, ©2024 Carl Fischer. | *Angels, We Have Heard on High*: Words: Traditional French carol, tr. James Chadwick – Luke 2:8-20, Music: GLORIA, arr. Trevor Manor, ©2018 Choristers Guild. | *Postlude on Mendelssohn*, David Wilcocks, ©1995 Oxford University Press.

Bulletin Cover by Lesley Ash Jacobsen

Special Offering For December: Christmas Joy

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership, but those leaders can need help themselves. This Special Offering, a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, provides for Presbyterian church workers in need and furthers leadership development for communities of color. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the PCUSA Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, helping hundreds to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care or to otherwise meet financial challenges while Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development and so nurture racial and ethnic heritage, a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to “Joy”), or you can give online by visiting hmpc.org or scanning the QR code to the left.

Upcoming at Hudson



Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary - Rev. Marguerite Sirrine will be preaching "Happy Birthday, Jesus" service project in Children's Sunday School



Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services - 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Candlelight "Lessons & Carols" services. Only the 5:00pm service will have nursery available. Only the 5:00pm service will be live-streamed.



Sunday, December 28 - First Sunday of Christmas

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary - Rev. Jimmy Hulsey will be preaching



Sunday, January 4 - Epiphany Sunday

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary



Sunday, January 25th - Inquirers' Class - Following worship

For those interested in learning more about membership at Hudson.



Final Day to Order Poinsettias!



The Chancel Guild invites you to honor or remember a special person with a donation of \$15 towards poinsettias. Names will be listed in the December 21st and Christmas Eve worship bulletins. Return an information form (located at Sanctuary entrances, or on the flower calendar board outside of room #103) with your check to the office, or place it in the offering plate by December 14th. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check, and please specify if your donation is in honor or memory of anyone. You may take your poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service.



You can also order and pay online by scanning the QR code to the left.

Our Mission Statement

To Know, Love and Serve God in Jesus Christ

Our Vision

*We seek to welcome with the love of Christ, trust in the grace of Christ,
and grow with the help of Christ.*

Our Core Values

Worship, Generosity, Service, Nurture, Education & Gratitude

Session

Glenn Schindo, Clerk

Marguerite Serrine, Moderator

Class of 2026

Ken Krause
Caroline Smart
Dan Vig
John Williams

Class of 2027

Harry Bowles
Steve Guy
Don Haydon
Grace Hutchinson

Class of 2028

Barry Cobb
Jay Cummins
John James
Elizabeth Peeler

Deacons

Class of 2026

Winter Fox
Judie Greenawalt
Jill Hovis
Linda Meeks, Moderator
Mary Schindo

Class of 2027

Jeffrey Coonse
Gil Graybill
Caroline Rohs
Lisa Williams
Fred Woodward

Class of 2028

Jenn Autry
Nancy Eyre
Joanna Hulsey
Hope Parangi
Iva Stowe

HMPC Staff

Marguerite Serrine.....	Transitional Pastor & Head of Staff
Aleta Ash	Minister of Visitation
Hunter Cox.....	Organist
Cary Dickerson.....	Director of Children's Ministries
Erica Hairston.....	Business Manager
Joyce Hawkins	Assistant Preschool Director
Lesley Ash Jacobsen.....	Communications Specialist
Barbara Loehr-Fox.....	Director of Music Ministries
Hope Parangi	Church Hostess
Rich Richards.....	Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Music
Dorothy Roche	Preschool Director
Hannah Woodcock.....	Administrative Coordinator



Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)

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O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re-newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.



Away in a Manger

114

Capo 5: (C) F (Am) Dm (C) F (Dm) Gm

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(F) B \flat (G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (F) B \flat (G) C

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(C) F (Dm) Gm

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (G) C (C) F


the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;
 stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
 MUSIC: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895


CRADLE SONG
 11.11.11.11
 (alternate tune: MUELLER, 115)

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

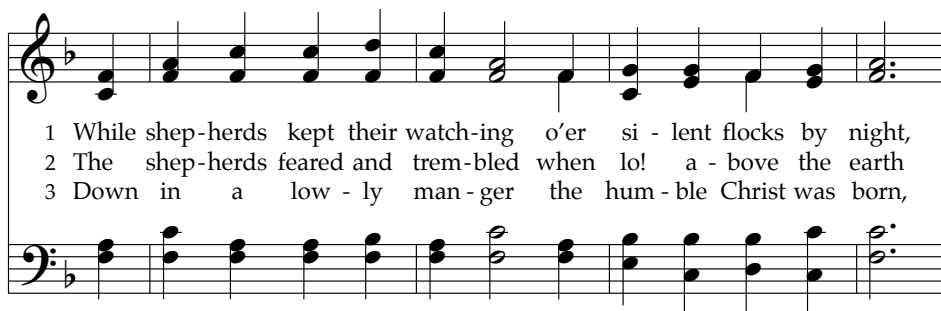
Refrain 



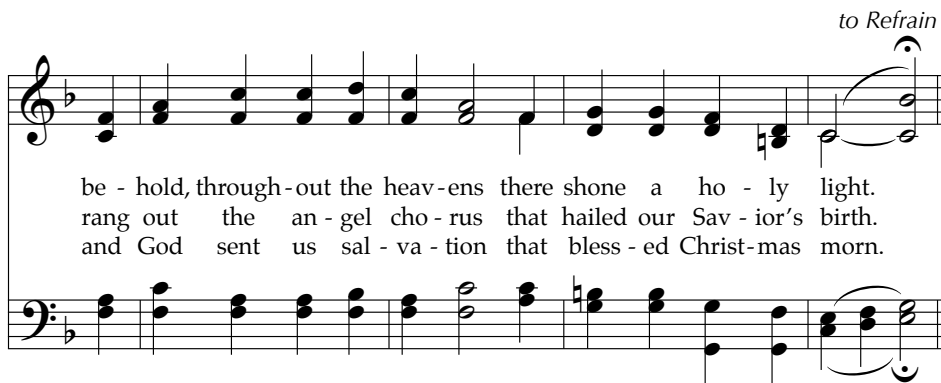
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.