Receiving,
Living,
and
Sharing
the Grace given to us

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
Sunday Worship
December 29, 2024 | 9:30 A.M.

1st Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GATHERING & GREETING

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP
There is good news of great joy for all!
Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.
Let us worship God.

♦ OPENING HYMN #145 What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES

♦ CONFESSION & PARDON
Christ Jesus came to save us, not because of our works, but according to the mercy of God through the water of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as a 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 the 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. Hear our prayers…

Silent Confession

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen.

♦ RESPONSE #113 Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

♦ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST
May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Psalm 16
Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

♦ **Everyone is invited to rise as able**

SCRIPTURE LESSON | Luke 2:21-38 | New Testament, page 55

CHILDREN'S SERMON | There's A Star in the East | #135 FOLLOW

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

SERMON | A Light of Hope

RESPONDING

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE #110 | Love Has Come | BRING A TORCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your grace. **Hear our prayers.**

OFFERING

Loose coins supports the Hunger Fund

♦ DOXOLOGY | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | #606 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

♦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION & 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.

SENDING

♦ SENDING HYMN #136 | Go, Tell It on the Mountain | GO TELL IT

♦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

♦ POSTLUDE

Please join us downstairs in the Jones Room for Fellowship!

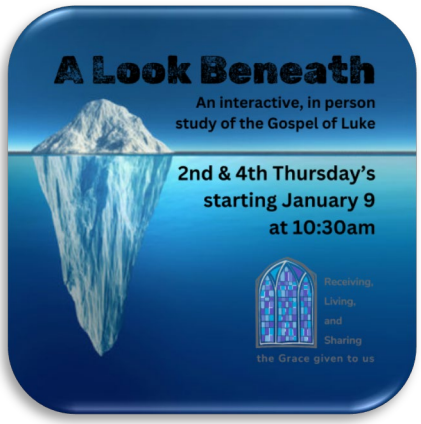
Receiving, Living, and Sharing
the Grace given to us

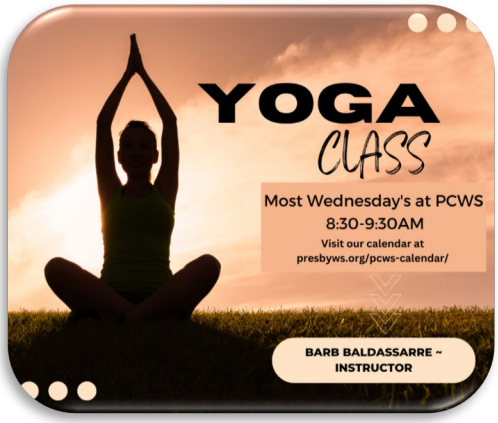
You are most welcome here.

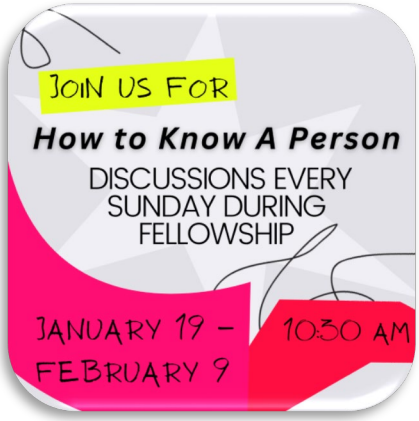
We invite you to share in our faith journey as we walk and grow together.

We are committed to encouraging one another along the way as we seek to experience, express, and extend God's unconditional love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS







THANK YOU *to all for serving this morning:*
Pastor Dan Robertson / Stephanie Coates – Director of Music / Amber Clark – Director of Children & Family Ministry
Amy Malone – Liturgist / Pam Stephan – Pianist/Organist / Herb Smyers – Usher / Laurie Merrifield - Fellowship Host
Laura Cordell & Bambi Tesmond - Deacons of the Day / Paul Banovic - Sound Operator / Kevin McDermott - Video Operator

Assisted listening devices are available for worship; please ask an usher for assistance.

The nursery is available during worship and fellowship staffed by Ms. Shaquirra & Ms. Siobhan!

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-713281 and CCLI (license numbers 1117008 and 20337417). Selected liturgy from the *Book of Common Worship,* 2018.

This service is being streamed live and recorded for publication. Please sit in the balcony or the back pews if you wish to be out of camera view.

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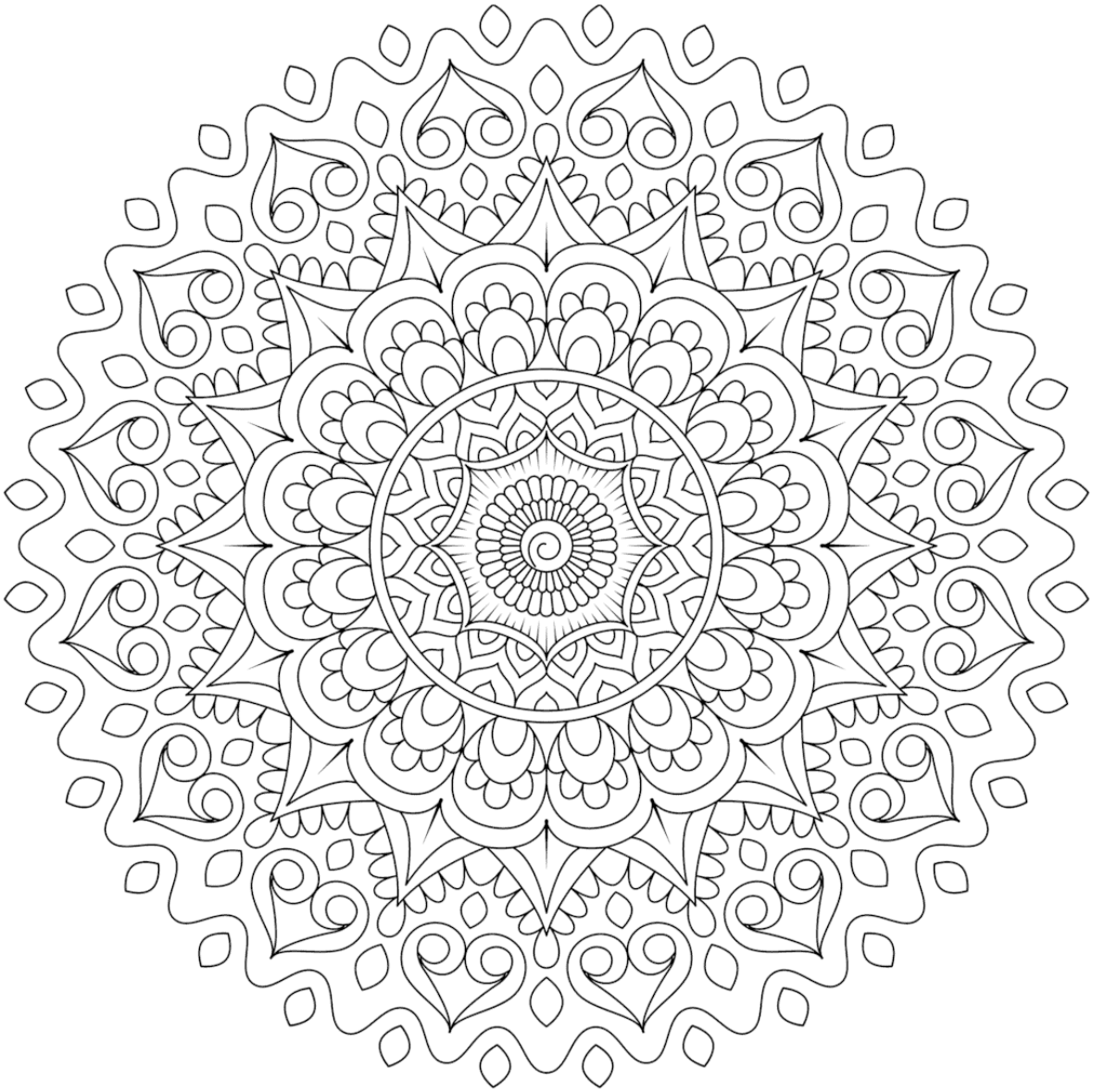


Notes:

145 What Child Is This

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old,* 1871

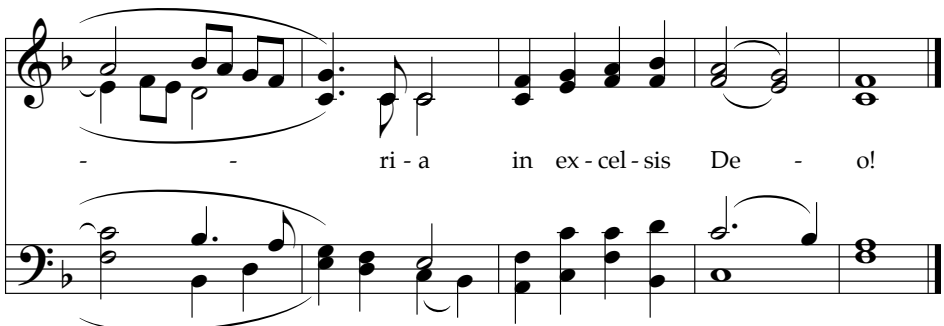
GREENSLEEVES
8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.
(admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA
7.7.7.7 with refrain


- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

There's a Star in the East 135

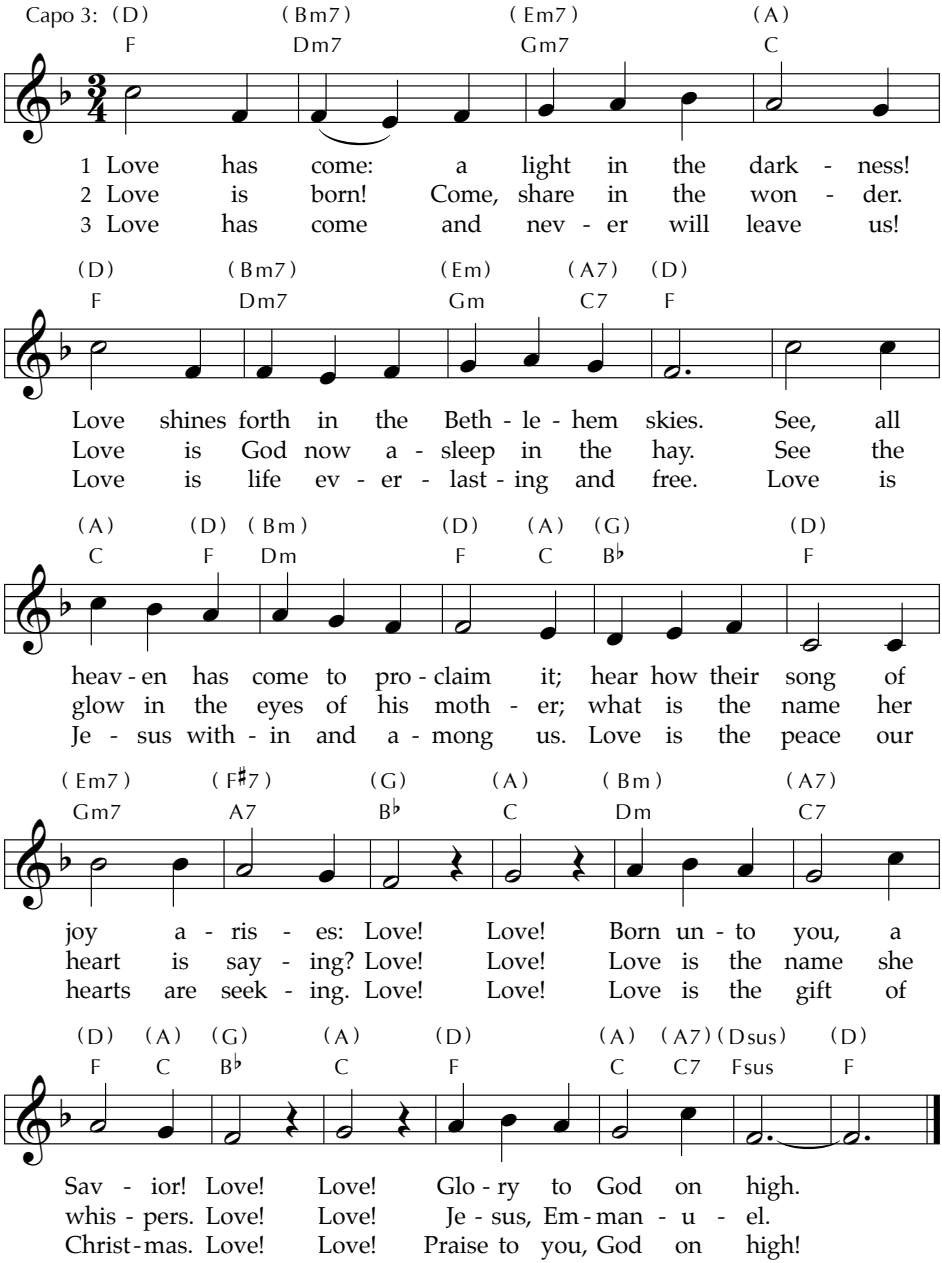
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

FOLLOW
Irregular

Love Has Come 110



Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
9.9.10.9.9.8

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain