

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Rome - A Place of Longing

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Judy Pine

Welcome

Prelude The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came arr. David Cherwien

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

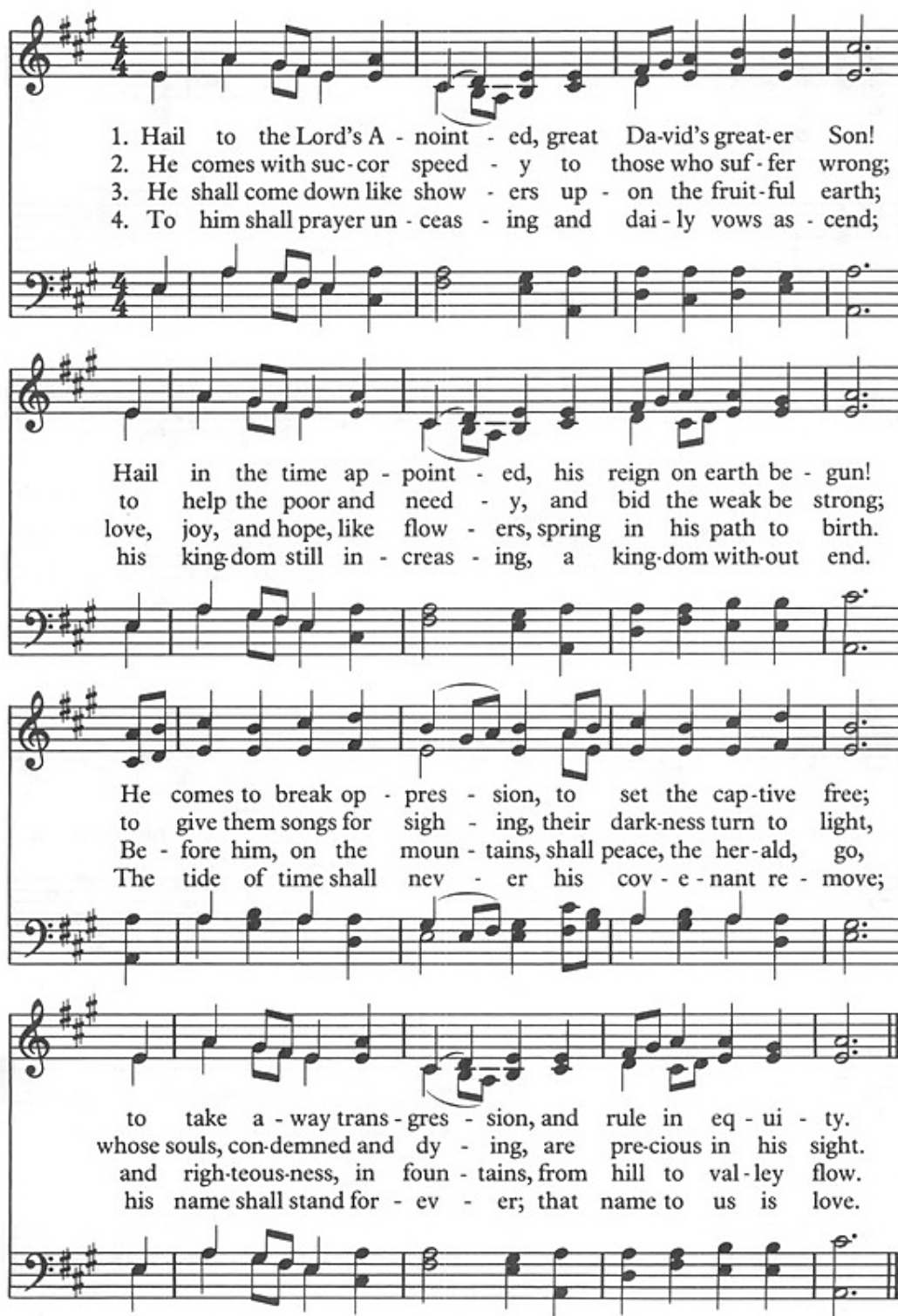
People: **We come, ready to begin our journey to Bethlehem.**

Leader: Like the Christmas story, our journey begins in Rome, a place of longing.

People: **Rome was the location of Earthly power. An Earthly decree went out from a man with Earthly power. God used that moment to bring real, divine power to Earth in a small, powerless town.**

Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
 2. He comes with suc-cor speed - y to those who suf-fer wrong;
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king-dom still in - creas - ing, a king-dom with-out end.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap-tive free;
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her-ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
 and righ-teous-ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

Opening Prayer

Oh God, from the beginning you have called your people to a journey of faith. This Advent, be our guide on this journey through scripture, through our speaking and listening and through our fellowship. May we journey closer to Christ this Advent as we celebrate his first coming, and await his second. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Chorus

All Hail King Jesus

All Hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel,
King of kings, Lord of Lords, Bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing Your praises,
And I'll reign with You throughout eternity.

Senior Choir

A Tiny Child

Don Besig

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Rome - A Place of Longing

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Ricercare on "Ave Maria Klare"

J. C. F. Fischer

Offertory Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 6](#) of this document.

Hymn

Send Your Word

1. Send your Word, O Lord, like the rain, fall - ing down up -
 2. Send your Word, O Lord, like the wind, blow - ing down up -
 3. Send your Word, O Lord, like the dew, com - ing gent - ly up -

on the earth. Send your Word. We seek your end - less grace,
 on the earth. Send your Word. We seek your won - drous power,
 on the hills. Send your Word. We seek your end - less love.

with souls that hun - ger and thirst, sor - row and ag - o - nize.
 pure - ness that re - jects all sins, though they per - sist and cling.
 For life that suf - fers in strife with ad - ver - si - ties and hurts,

We would all be lost in dark with-out your guid-ing light.
 Bring us to com-plete vic-tory; set us all free in-deed.
 send your heal-ing power of love; we long for your new world.

Benediction

Postlude

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

Camille Saint-Saens

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - - -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one 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!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

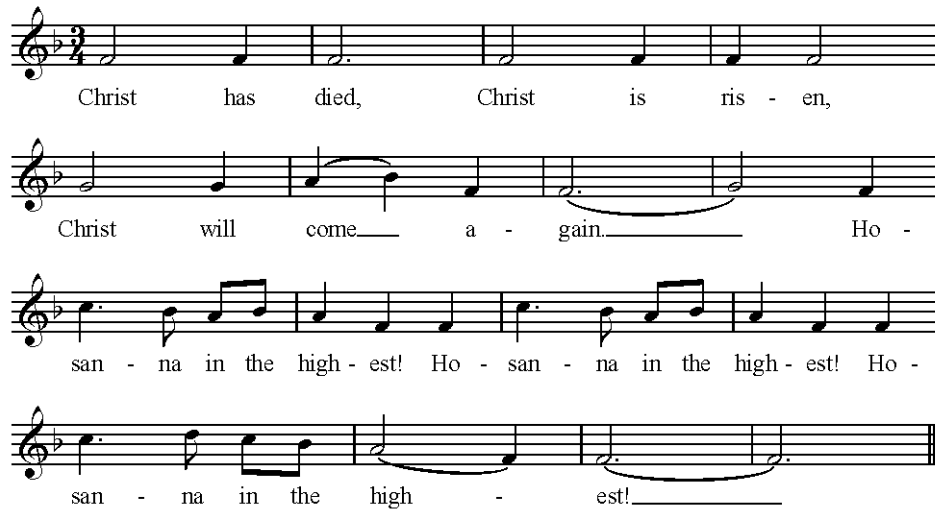
Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co. Used by permission.

Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co. Used by permission.
Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup