

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

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



What Child Is This?

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Welcome

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!

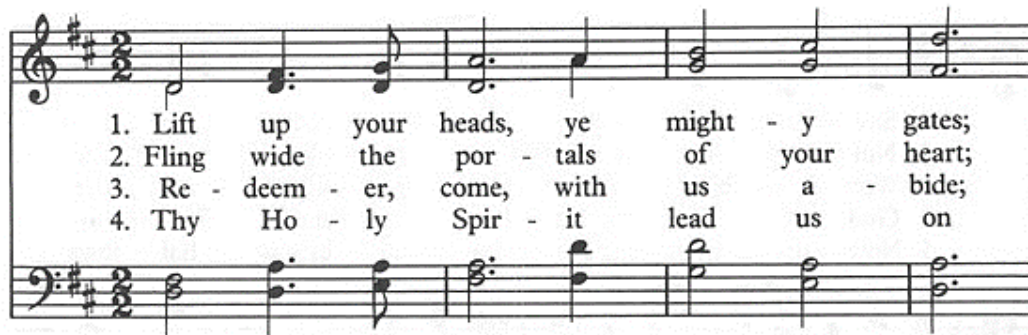
People: **We come, ready to hear the sacred music of this year's Cantata!**

Leader: Music is such an important part of the Advent celebration. These sacred songs remind us of the day when God became flesh.

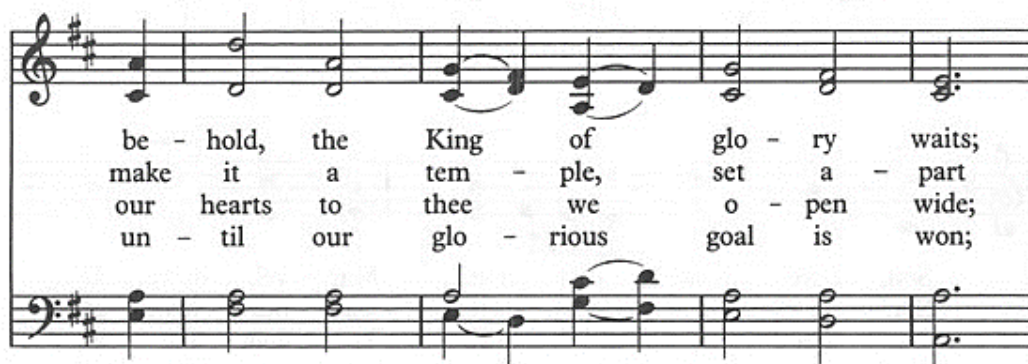
People: **During the third Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle of joy. We are ready to hear these joyous songs, and then spread joy to all the world!**

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads

(verses 1 and 3)


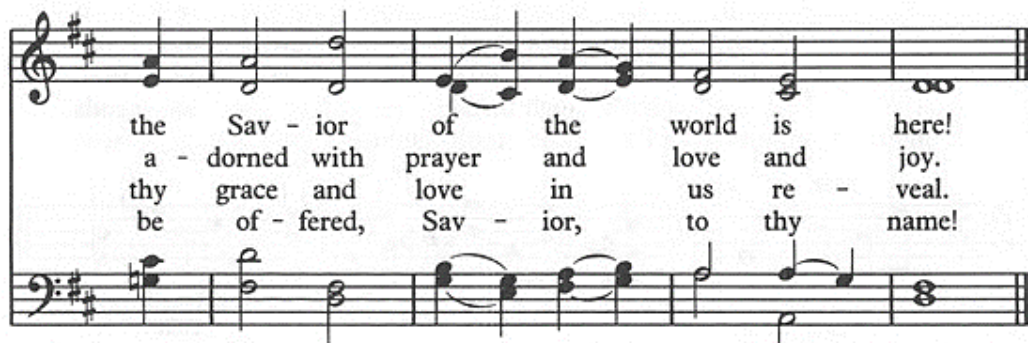
1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on



be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;



the King of kings is draw - ing near;
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame



the Sav - ior of the world is here!
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.
 be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

Opening Prayer

God of Advent, thank you for the gift of music! Thank you for the angels who sang “Glory to God in the Highest Heaven.” Thank you for Mary, who sang “My Soul Glorifies the Lord, and My Spirit Rejoices in God my Savior.” Thank you for our choir members who will sing this year’s Cantata. We pray that all of these songs will bring honor and glory to you! Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candles

Jacob Hackett and Barry Hackett

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Offertory on “Ave Marie of Arcadelt”

Edward G. Mead

Offertory Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

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

What Child Is This?

by Joel Raney

Prologue – The Christmas Story

Sing Gloria, Sing!

Advent – Prophecy and Preparation

Somebody Build a Manger

The Question – What Child is This?

What Child Is This?

Bethlehem – A Night of Wonder

Calypso Carol

The Christmas Truce – A Silent Night

A Celtic Silent Night

Congregation – *please join us in singing the first verse of “Silent Night” at the beginning of this anthem.*

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
‘round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Celebration – The Many Colors of Christmas

Can You Hear the Christmas Bells

Let Your Song Continue Through Me

Soloists: Jim Goodrich and Kileen McNeill

Congregation – *please join us in singing the 4th verse:*

Let Your song continue through me, Lord
Let Your song continue through me,
Fill my hours, fill my days
With a symphony of praise,
Let Your song continue through me.

Sing Gloria, Sing! (reprise)

Congregation – *please join the choir when they sing the 1st verse of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.”*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
LADIES: Joyful all ye nations rise,
MEN: Join the triumph of the skies;

With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Benediction

Postlude

Hark the Herald Angels Sing /
Angels from the Realms of Glory

arr. Whitworth

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21

10 AM - Great Hall

Monday, December 22

Blue Christmas Service

7 PM – Sanctuary

Christmas Eve, December 24

All are Candlelight Services

5 PM – Great Hall

7 PM – Sanctuary

11 PM - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 28

10 AM –Sanctuary

Director & Accompanist: Priscilla Cunningham
Narrator: Reverend Dave

Violin: Susan Elsayed
Percussion: Adrian Padayhag

Our Cantata Choir

1st Soprano

Carole Lyons
Kileen McNeill

Patti Dee McNeill

2nd Soprano

Linda Babcock
Lynn Caterson

Jean Killion
Sue Reitmeyer

Alto

Bette Alsobrook
Susan Brownhill
Naamah Leary

Carol McMahon
Diane Miller
Tonya Neuweiler

Freida Riblet
Sharon Wilson
Jessica Yorke

Tenor

Jim Caterson
Dave Cobb
Jim Goodrich

Jim Keeping
Ernie Roberts

Bass

Jim Daly
Ray Glanville

Danny Mannel
Zach Mannel



Special Thanks to ...

- ❁ our Cantata Choir, for leading us in worship this morning and for all of the time and effort they invested in this year's Cantata.
 - ❁ the soloists, for all of their extra hard work.
 - ❁ our narrator, Reverend Dave, for guiding us through the story of Christmas.
 - ❁ all those who put in time and effort "behind the scenes."
 - ❁ and especially to our Choir Director and Organist, Priscilla Cunningham, for expressing her dedication to our Lord through music.
Thank you, Priscilla, for serving God through our congregation.
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