



# **First Mennonite Church of Halstead**

December 14, 2025

*Welcome to worship on this third  
Sunday of Advent. We are glad  
you are here to join in the  
preparation for our Savior's birth.*

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## **Gathering Music – Joyful Noise**

*We Three Kings  
The First Noel  
African Noel  
Carol of the Bells*

## **Welcome and Announcements - Gregg Dick**


## **Centering Music – Joyful Noise**

*Silent Night*

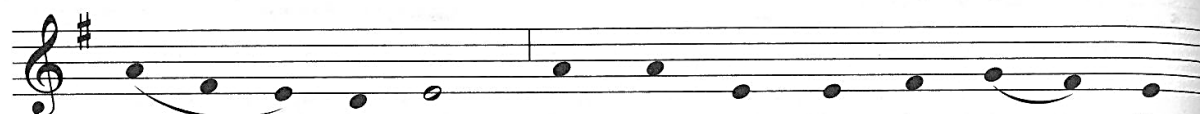
## **Call to Worship – Betsy Davis & Erica Schlender**

*Third Sunday of Advent Reading*


**\*Worship Through Singing – O Come, O Come, Immanuel –**  
VT #210



1 O come, O come, Im - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O come, thou God of law, in cloud and maj - es -  
3 O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
— 4 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our  
6 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one




Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
ty and awe. Thy pre - cepts, taught on Si - nai's  
tyr - an - ny. From depths of hell thy peo - ple  
— ad - vent here. Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads to  
far and nigh. To us the path of knowl - edge  
heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels

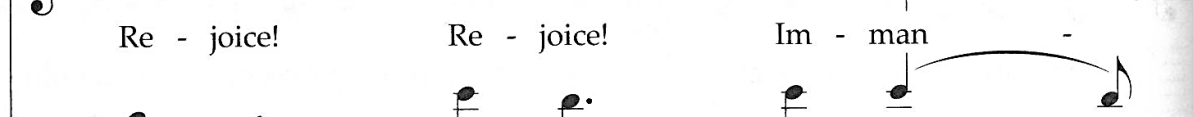


here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
height, call us to lives both just and right.  
save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
— night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
thee and close the path to mis - er - y.  
show, and cause us in thy ways to go.  
cease, and fill the world with heav - en's peace.

Refrain



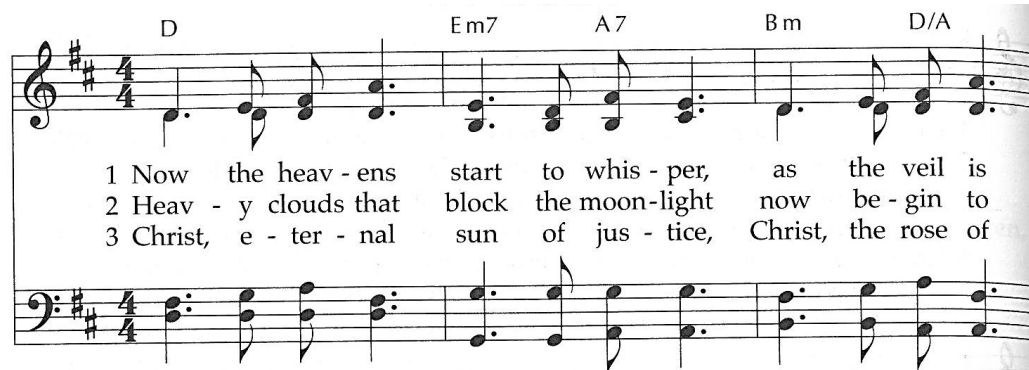
Re - joice! Re - joice! Im - man -



u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

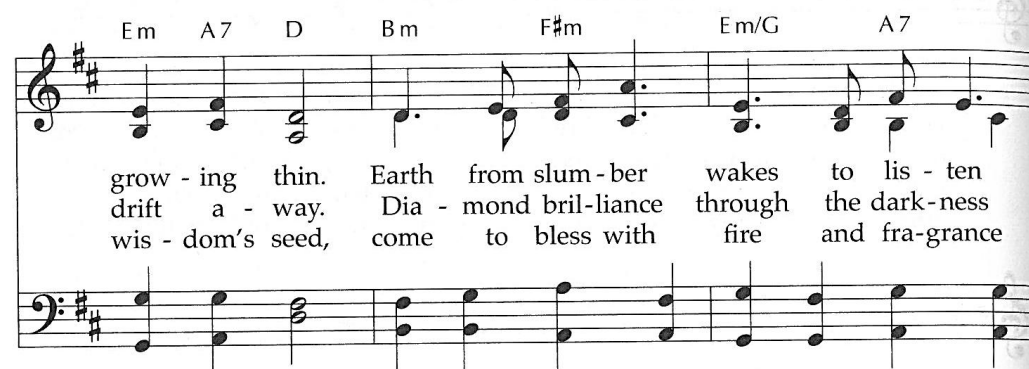
**\*Worship Through Singing – Now the Heavens Start to Whisper - VT #237**

D Em7 A7 Bm D/A



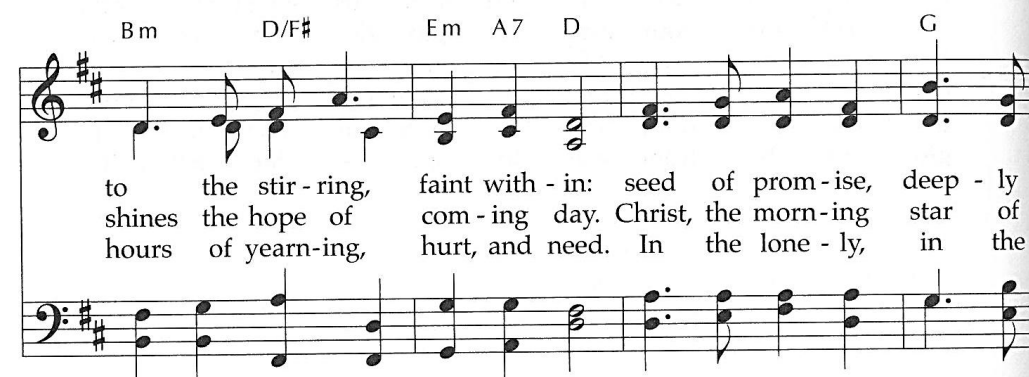
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

Em A7 D Bm F#m Em/G A7



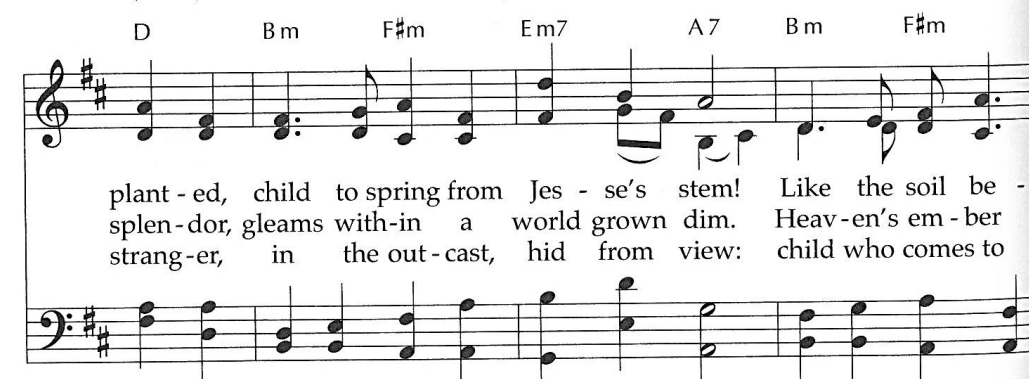
grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten  
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness  
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra-grance

Bm D/F# Em A7 D G



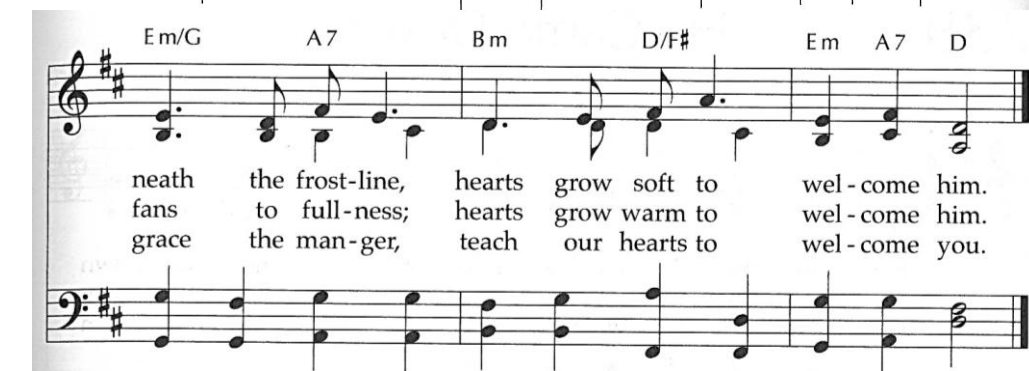
to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly  
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of  
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

D Bm F#m Em7 A7 Bm F#m



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -  
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber  
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

Em/G A7 Bm D/F# Em A7 D



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

**Offering & Offertory – Mutual Aid**

*What Child Is This?* - arr. Varner/Rasley

Kent Dick

**Children's Time – Melanie Haspels**

# Worship Through Singing – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – VT

#247

Descant, verse 3

3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,

new - born King! Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
 last - ing Lord, late in time be - hold him come,  
 right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,

ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry

God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled." Joy - ful all ye na - tions,  
 off - spring of the vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head  
 ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry

by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us

C F C7 F C Bb

rise, join the triumph of the skies. With th'an-gel-ic  
 see, hail th'in-car-nate de-i-ty; pleased with us in  
 by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us

from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

D7 Gm C7 F C F

host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
 flesh to dwell, Je-sus, our Im-man-u-el!  
 from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

Bb D Gm C7 F C7 F

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

# Worship Through Singing – Joy to the World – VT #240

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive its  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their songs em-  
 3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions

king; let ev-'ry heart pre-pare him room, and  
 ploy while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, re-  
 ground. He comes to make his bless-ings flow far and  
 prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness, and

heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture  
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his

and heav'n and na-ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.  
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

heav'n and na-ture sing,



## **Congregational Prayer - Pastor Steve**

**Scripture** - Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 1497), Luke 2:1-20 (p. 1590-91) - Johnathan Haspels, Kalyn Ortman, Jaren Smoker, Eli Wilcox

**Children's/Youth Christmas Program** – Preschool–8<sup>th</sup> graders  
*No Small Parts*

### **\*Closing Prayer**

**\*Sending Song** – *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)* – Lyrics Projected

### **\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** – Kent Dick  
*He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child* - Keith Christopher

\*Please stand if you are able

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## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

Dec. 14	10:30 a.m.	Children's/Youth Christmas Program
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Dec. 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting
Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting
Dec. 17	6:00 p.m.	Adult Bells practice
Dec. 18	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Team meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Care Ministry meeting
Dec. 21	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you all for joining us at our annual Waffle Breakfast** and for your wonderful generosity. We cleared \$1,140 to be used for assisting people in our community with utility bills this winter!

**The Care Ministry will meet this week on Thursday, Dec. 18,** at 1:00 p.m. in Stauffer Hall.

**There are two Christmas caroling opportunities** this year. Next Sunday, Dec. 21, there will be caroling in Burrton, rural Halstead and Newton areas. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the church to carpool together. Then on December 24, there will be caroling around Halstead following the Christmas Eve service. The approximate start time is 8:00 p.m. at the church.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIME CHANGE!** The Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:30 p.m. this year. This is a change from the previously posted time. Please change your calendars accordingly!

**Bethel College Updates:** Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays. There is currently a recently restored 17th-century Bible from the Jake T. Friesen family on display through the end of December. The museum is closed Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day and open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve; Regular hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. weekends. The current special exhibit is "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War." Permanent exhibits are "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." The museum store is also open during museum hours.

**Camp Mennoscah Announcements:** In the last week, numerous individuals have offered congregation-specific matching opportunities of \$5,000 on behalf of Camp Mennoscah. If each of our partner churches had just one household willing to provide this amount - and their match was fulfilled within their church - fundraising for the retreat center would be finished! To offer a match for YOUR congregation - or to give toward an existing match - text "MATCH" to 620-755-2583. Camp Mennoscah is looking for a volunteer to work with the camp website. This would include regularly updating information and potentially a complete overhaul

of the website itself. The details of the work would depend on the skills of the volunteer and time they have available. Please contact [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) or call 620-297-3290 to start the conversation.

## **PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Western District Conference: Pray for chaplains and pastors in WDC who accompany others and provide care and support during the Christmas season, in the midst of joy and celebration and also in the face of pain and suffering.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God that Caleb Schrock-Hurst, who serves jointly with Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, has successfully finished his cancer treatments and is cancer free. Now, he and his wife, Stephanie, are moving forward with their plans to respond to an invitation to go to Mennonite Christian Hospital in Taiwan. Pray for physical and spiritual health as they resume preparations that were put on hold for the past year.

## **SUNDAY INFORMATION**

**NURSERY TODAY** No nursery due to Children's Christmas Program  
**PIANIST/ORGANIST** Kent Dick

### **OFFERING LAST SUNDAY**

Building Maintenance	\$200.00
Church Budget	3,055.00
MCC Christmas Tree	200.00
MCUSA	75.00
Music	200.00
Mutual Aid	100.00
Western District Conference	952.00

**ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY** 104

**OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY** Church Budget

**NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY** Marilyn Mueller, Raquel Wilcox, Kalyn Ortman

## **JOYFUL NOISE PARTICIPANTS**

Flute: Megan Ortman, Josie Whorton  
Clarinet: Kalyn Ortman, Allison Smoker  
Alto Sax: Jaren Smoker, Eli Wilcox  
Violin: Dakotah Cannon  
Trumpet: Casey Jacob, Steve Wilcox  
Trombone: Adler Davis, Johnathan Haspels, Adam Johnson  
French Horn: David Haspels  
Percussion: Emmit Jacob

## **NO SMALL PARTS CAST LIST**

**First Child (Lead Angel):** Luke Haspels  
**Second Child (Lead Shepherd):** Adler Davis  
**Third Child (Mary):** Mette Davis  
**Fourth Child (Second Angel):** Ewan Jacob  
**Fifth Child (Third Angel):** Jaxon Smoker  
**Joseph:** Emmit Jacob  
**Director:** Josie Whorton  
**"Real" Joseph:** David Haspels  
**Brother:** Isaiah Haspels  
**Costumer:** Megan Ortman  
**Stage Manager:** Max Whorton  
**Pastor:** Adam Johnson  
**Narrator:** Emily Buchholz  
**Second Shepherd:** Isaiah Haspels  
**Third Shepherd:** Jamison Smoker  
**Angel Choir:** Wade Buchholz, Lakyn Ortman, Addi Smoker, Jase Whorton  
**Sheep:** Bennett Mueller, Elijah Mueller, Sawyer Mueller, Kyla Whorton

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Wade Buchholz, Bennett Mueller, Elijah Mueller, Sawyer Mueller, Lakyn Ortman, Addi Smoker, Jamison Smoker, Jase Whorton, Kyla Whorton

*Cover photo by Ewan Jacob.*