

Grace United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, January 3, 2021
Worship & Communion



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Worship & Communion**

We Gather

Prelude

Jonas Dawson

Preparing of our Hearts

Call to Worship

L: Zion, adorn the bridal chamber,

P: Welcome Christ the King of glory

L: He comes to earth and appears in the temple.

P: Welcome Christ the King of glory.

L: Praise to the Lord Christ Jesus, giver of life.

All: Welcome Christ the King of glory.

Opening Hymn

Angels From the Realms of Glory

NCH#126

Opening Prayer

We Listen

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Special Music

Jonas Dawson

Gospel

John 1:1-18

Children's Message

Sermon

The Party of Life

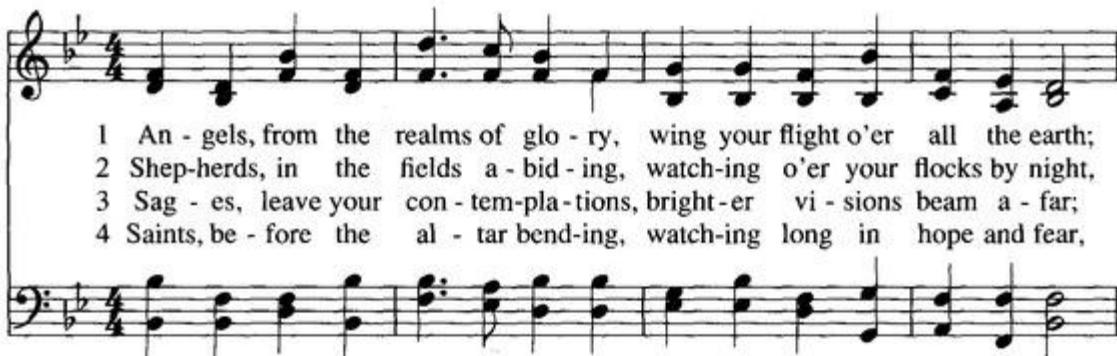
Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

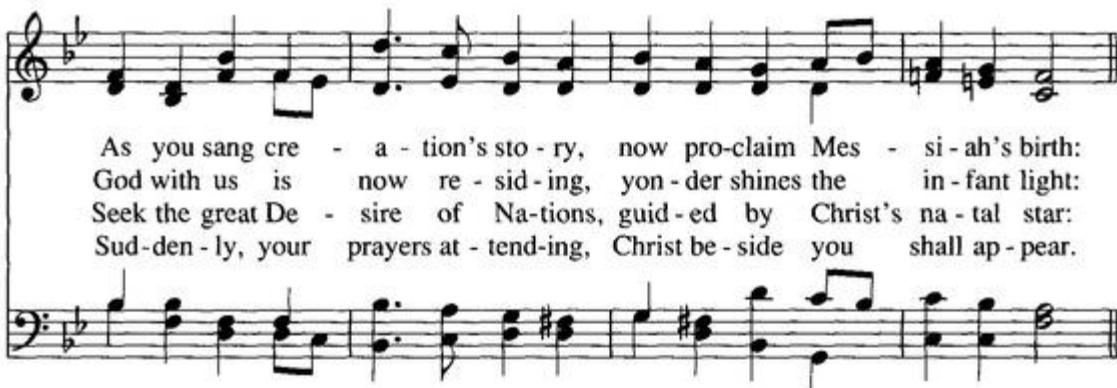
126

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11

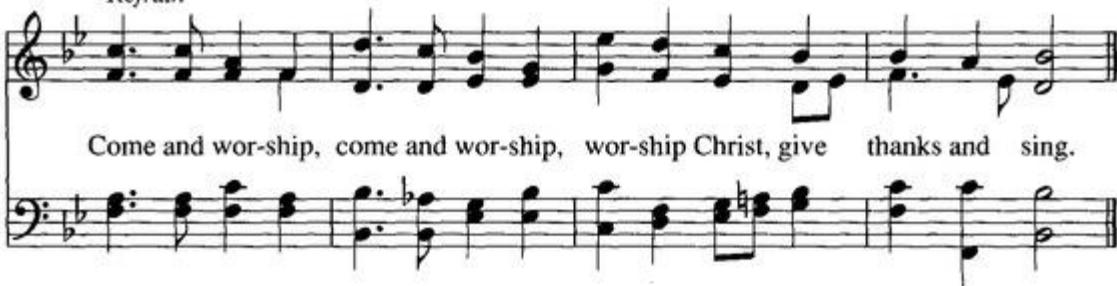


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend - ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper *Sheffield Iris*, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867

We Respond

Pastoral Prayers

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Leader: ...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: ...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:

ALL: Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Leader: ...Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of us all, In the gift of bread and cup we celebrate your presence in our church and in our lives. As your presence unites us in the gift of this holy meal, so we know that in your love we are united wherever we are. Keep true in us that same spirit that has united the Church throughout all generations and bring us soon into physical communion, through that same spirit, which is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

We are Sent

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

NCH #131

Dismissal

Postlude

Jonas Dawson

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## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Luke 2:8-14

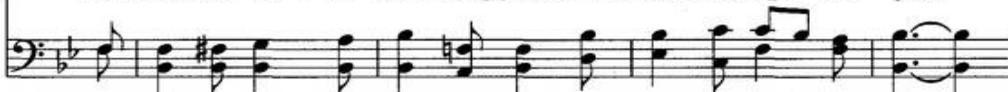
Edmund H. Sears, 1849; alt.



1 It came up-on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, by proph-et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,  
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



*Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister who served a number of congregations in the Boston area, wrote this Christmas hymn emphasizing the social implications of the Gospel for his congregation at Wayland, Massachusetts.*

Tune: CAROL C.M.D.  
 Richard S. Willis, 1850



*Grace United Church of Christ*

**Advent**

**Mission Project**

# *Socks* *& Coats* **DRIVE**



**Please donate:**

- \* **New or gently used men's and women's coats**
- \* **New socks (unisex, white or black)**



Collection box will be outside on Sunday mornings,  
and M-F during daytime hours at the west-side door (left side of church).

Questions? Email [tonyhemler0@gmail.com](mailto:tonyhemler0@gmail.com) or [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)

## Living Psalms Book

Psalms in the form of words and art, reborn in the specific contexts of our world, privileging the voices of historically marginalized communities and those acting in solidarity with them.

### Living Psalm 148: Christmas 1 B



Lift up God.

Lift up God.

Go ahead, and Lift up God.

Lift up God from nebulas and from the cosmos

Lift up God, You Angels and Cosmic Beings

Lift up God, Brother Sun and Sister Moon,

Lift up God, All you stellar siblings,

Lift up God, from the expanse of Space,

Lift up God.

Lift up God.

Lift up God, the Creator.

The word of the Lord will never pass away.

Lift up God.

Lift up God, Dirt, Soil, Sand, and Clay

Lift up God, creatures from the deep,

Lift up God, Wild Thunder, Wind and rain,

Lift up God, Mountains and hills, Cedars, and Fig trees

Lift up God, Wild animals, and domesticated

Lift up God, little creatures and great and every winged one.

Lift up God, Dictators, Tyrants, Presidents, Queens, and Rulers of the Nation

Lift up God, young children and aging people

Lift up God, for God sustains all things.

How incredible is God? More than anything.

God has given strength to the people,

and even those who were treated not as people, for they are near God's heart.

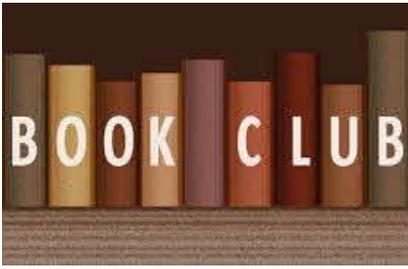
**Living Psalm 148 for Christmas 1 B** was written by Bec Cranford.

**Living Psalms Book** is created by **UCC Witness & Worship Artists' Group**, a Network of UCC connected artists, activists and ministers bridging the worship and liturgy of the local church with witness and action in the community. Editor, Maren Tirabassi.

**Logo** is detail from **Living Psalm 80** by Sophia Beardemphl, Redwoods, CA. Recovering from significant bullying, Sophia, age nine, read Psalm 80 and thought of brokenness that needs mending. She drew this broken and mended bowl.

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Also, go to <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>



**Grace UCC  
(Virtual) Book Club**

**Wednesdays @ 7PM**

*every Wednesday at 7pm*

*(skipping Dec 23 and resuming Dec 30)*

*Join us if you'd like to socialize, stretch your mind,  
or just leave the daily grind of life behind for a bit.*

*MESSAGE AS OF 12/17/2020 from Missy Moxley*

*We are finished up the book, *The Girls of Atomic City*, on December 30. At the next meeting, In addition to finishing discussion on the current book, *The Girls of Atomic City*, we will be deciding upon our next book selection.*

*Send an email to Missy Moxley at [nehoneybee@gmail](mailto:nehoneybee@gmail.com) to submit book suggestions or even what genres of books would be most interesting to you. Even if you have a book in your possession that you have been meaning to read but just need a push to start, that would be a great book to nominate! We are an informal group who enjoy sharing Covid-safe socialization and weaving that into our weekly book discussions.*

*All are welcome!! New and different people and viewpoints make for better discussion!!*

# Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship

Presented By [VISIT FREDERICK](#)



This year's annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship in Downtown Frederick will not take place in the same way it typically would. However, Visit Frederick is excited to share that a special encore presentation of the tour's anniversary special will be available on the Visit Frederick page beginning on December 14, 2020!

Virtual Event will launch December 14 at 9am, and can be viewed here: <https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/historic-houses-of-worship/>

This special tour celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season. This is a free virtual presentation and is a great opportunity to peek inside some of its most beautiful buildings.

*The Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship is made possible through the generous support of:*

*The Plamondon Companies, Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc., Bella Trattoria, Pistarro's, Ayse Meze Lounge, Brewer's Alley, Isabella's Taverna & Tapas bar, PNC Bank, and Everedy Square & Shab Row.*

Visit Frederick is working diligently to design the webpage that will be hosting the links to your wonderful videos.

We have also created a Facebook Event that can be seen and shared, this can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/728530584458489/> . The Facebook event will run December 14-28.

This event marks our 34<sup>th</sup> annual tour!



## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
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Jessica Townsley, Youth Minister

Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

[music@grucc.com](mailto:music@grucc.com)

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Taylor Whidden, Jennie Huntoon, Donald Toms, James Taylor

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Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant

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Mat Lutman, Caretaker

[trainhouse13@gmail.com](mailto:trainhouse13@gmail.com)

Sarah Petermann, Church Admin

[admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM — Virtual

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Scripture Reader: ONLINE

Children's Message: N/A

Children's Church: N/A

Altar Guild: N/A

*If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host fellowship time after worship, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

