



The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Gathering Music

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

GBC Worship Band

KELVINGROVE
Words by John L. Bell and Graham Maule
Scottish Melody arr. John L. Bell

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

GABRIEL’S MESSAGE
Traditional Basque Carol

“My Soul Cried Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE
COUNTY DOWN
Words and Music by Rory Cooney

“One Tough Mother”

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2019

Prelude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella / Gesu Bambino”
Cynthia Griesedieck

arr. Liz Story

Welcome

Christian McIvor

Call to Worship

One: Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

All: Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

One: Mary said, “How can this be?”

All: We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God’s invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

† Opening Carol #281

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES
Words by William C. Dix
Traditional English Melody

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

Children's Sermon

April Alston

† Centering Song #250

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(Stanza 1)

ST. LOUIS
Words by Phillips Brooks
Music by Lewis H. Redner

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Pastoral Prayer

April Alston

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

Offertory Anthem

“Glory Shone Around”
GBC Choir

Words by Nahum Tate
Music from *Kentucky Harmony*
arr. Mary McDonald

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind,
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.”

Refrain:

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,
Gloria, gloria!
Gloria, sing gloria. Gloria, sing gloria,
Gloria, gloria!

“To you, in David’s town this day is born of David’s line,
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be a sign:
The heavenly Child you there shall find to human view displayed,
All warmly wrapped in swaddling clothes, and in a manger laid.”

Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo. (4x)

(Refrain)

Gloria! Gloria!

†Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL
Words by Thomas Ken
15th Century French Melody

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

†Prayer of Dedication

Steve Little

Scripture

Luke 1:26-39

Carl Dawson

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward

Bo Prosser

†Carol #261

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG
Text: Anonymous and John Thomas McFarland
Music by William J. Kirkpatrick

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

†Benediction

Bo Prosser

†Sending Song

“What Do You Fear?”
(Excerpt - see insert for notated lead sheet)

Words and Music
by Christian McIvor ©2025

We hesitate at times when we encounter the unknown;
We tremble at the thought of meeting hardship all alone.
But God is always with us— our true identity;
With joy, we’re stepping forward into who we’re made to be.

In this uncertain world, we’re asked each day, “What do you fear?”
The answers move us closer to our God, who’s always near.
With courage, trust, and action, we’ll live into our call;
Through darkness, we’ll cry, “Here I am!” to share the light with all.

Postlude

“Improvisation on 'Joy to the World'”
Pam Weis

arr. Robert J. Powell

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