



“Dances for Joy ” by Hanna Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021

### SEEKING SANCTUARY (LOVE)

*Mighty God, make us worthy  
of the challenge of the gospel.  
Prune away all that is fruitless  
and bur away all that is false  
until nothing is left but the good news  
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

We are seeking—

**deeper faith,  
a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—

**joy that overflows,  
the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

We are seeking—

**the freedom to be,  
the courage to love,  
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,

**We are found.**

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

**God is here. We are found. Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Solange Bobga and Donna Vint Wright

\*SONG OF PRAISE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal, No. 121

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us pray together now....

**God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.**

**God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

(Time of silent reflection)

Rest in this promise:

If we get lost,

**we will be found.**

If we mess up,

**we are forgiven.**

If we withhold love,

**God is lavish in loving us.**

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

Gloria (refrain only)

Hymnal, No. 113

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Michael Yeager

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 470

Psalms 80:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 831

Luke 1:39-55

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Seeking Sanctuary

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Hymnal, No. 100

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that God has entrusted the church  
with the message of reconciliation  
in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called  
to be the salt of the earth  
and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed  
because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness  
both by word and by deed  
to the new heaven and the new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.**

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

\*DOXOLOGY

Doxology (Verse 4)

Hymnal, No. 143

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SENDING SONG

Love Has Come

Hymnal, No. 110

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*POSTLUDE

Soon and Very Soon

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

**Lectionary Readings** for December 26: Isaiah 52:7-10 and Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14.

We are truly grateful for you joining us today, in person or via live streaming. This is new for us all, and we thank you for your patience with this new way. We will be adapting and changing as we work together to worship with devotion and safety protocols. If you have comments or suggestions, please let the pastor or a worship committee member know.

The Food & Shelter item of the month for **December is Peanut butter** Please place your donations in the box by the church information table

**Hearing-assistance** devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

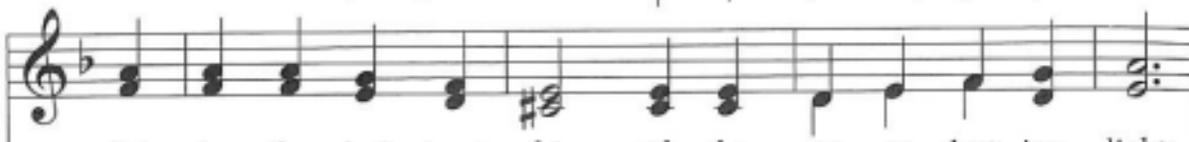
# 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



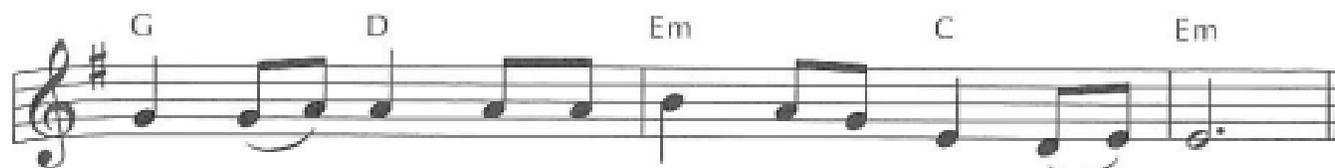
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

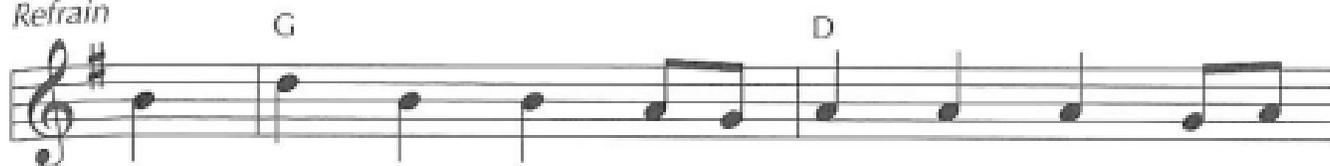


weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

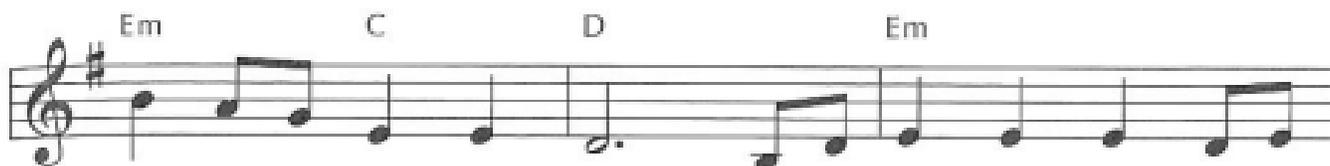


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

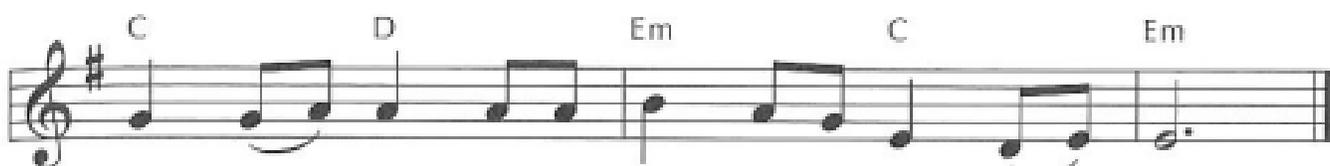
*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D)  
F

(Bm7)  
Dm7

(Em7)  
Gm7

(A)  
C



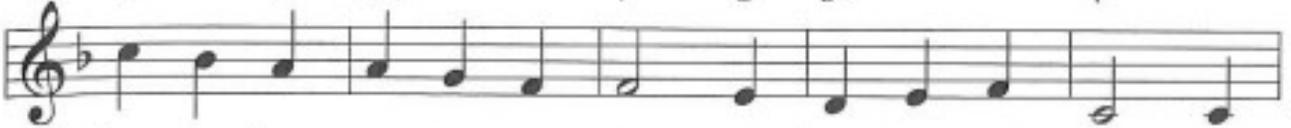
1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
F Dm7 Gm C7 F



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
C F Dm F C B<sup>b</sup> F



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
Gm7 A7 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm C7



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C C7 F<sup>sus</sup> F



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!