

Welcome to Worship and Announcements

Prelude (See note on the prelude on page 13.)

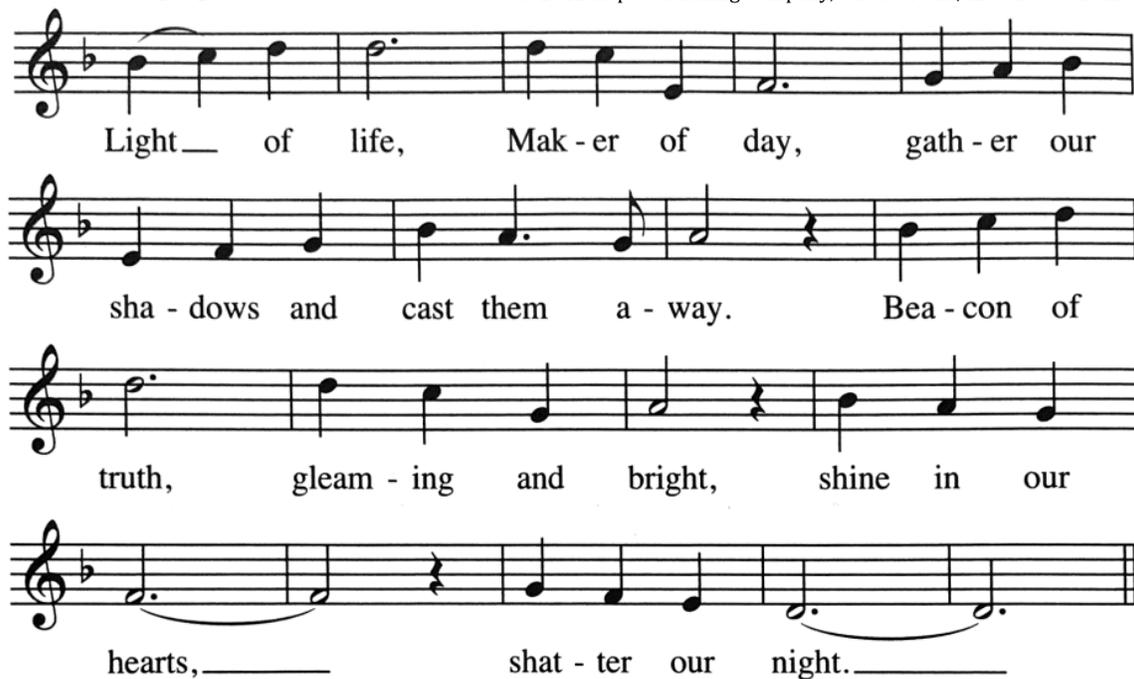
***Lighting of the Advent Wreath - "Light of Hope"** arr. by Joel Raney

Responsive Reading for Fourth Sunday - The Gift of Joy

- L In a world where we often seek personal happiness, Advent beckons us to a deeper expression of our faith in Christ.
- C For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**
- L Advent beckons us to remember God's unconditional love, even when we stumble.
- C For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**
- L Advent beckons us to remember God's invitation to the human heart to be still in the face of strife.
- C For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**
- L Advent beckons us to remember we always have hope, even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.
- C For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Congregation:

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Light of life, Mak-er of day, gath-er our
sha-dows and cast them a-way. Bea-con of
truth, gleam-ing and bright, shine in our
hearts, shat-ter our night.

*Please stand as you are able.

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

Pastor: Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Congregation: Amen.

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Loving and forgiving God,

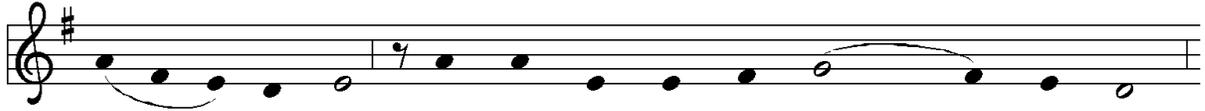
C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



***Gathering Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257 (verses 5-8)**



Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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***Greeting:**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day:**

All Let us pray: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Kids Word: Pastor Jerry O'Neal

Our first reading is from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm "Canticle of the Turning" ELW 723



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 pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, 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 - 'ry 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 - 'ry
 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.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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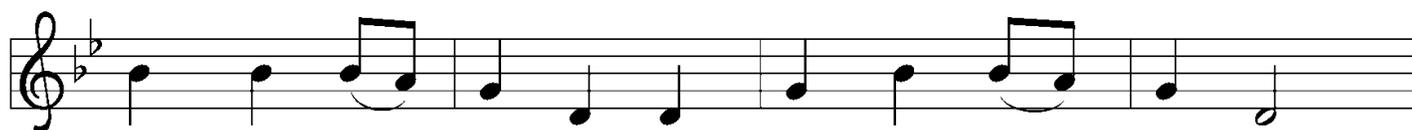
Our second reading is from Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L Word of God. Word of life. C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW 247



O - so - sǎ o - so - sǎ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǎ.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

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***Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter.
 C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by

*Please stand as you are able.

his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: – Pastor Jerry O’Neal

***Hymn of the Day:** “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” ELW 265



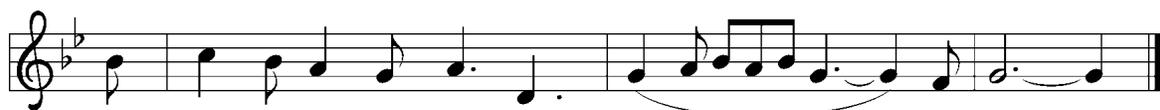
1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol

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*Please stand as you are able.

***Apostles' Creed:**

**P&C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers:** (Congregation's response in bold type.)

L For our prayers today, I will conclude each petition with "Hear us, O God," and your response is, "Your mercy is great."

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Heal those who have COVID-19 Coronavirus and protect the frontline workers who are putting their health at risk for caring for those who are in the hospital. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence. and to those we now name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

*Please stand as you are able.

Magnificent God, we give thanks to you for the vaccines and those who have developed them and we pray that the vaccines will bring an end to this pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Sharing the Peace:**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering:

If you would like to give electronically, you may

1. Download the ELCA Giving App from Google Store or Apple Play, or
2. Go to our website www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com and click on the green "Give" button.
3. Using your bank's online BillPay features.

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity and our ministries!

Offering Music: "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" arr. by Paul Manz

***Offering Prayer:**

L Let us pray: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C **Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer:**

L Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. (Lord's Prayer)

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

***Sending Call and Response:**

L God's work!
C **Our hands!**
L God's love!
C **Our hearts!**
L God's story!
C **Our voices!**

***Benediction:**

P "Barocha" - Michael Card
C **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World" ELW 267**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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*Please stand as you are able.

***Dismissal:**

L Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements for Sunday, December 20, 2020:

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of December 20th:

Birthdays:

December 23 – Pr. Jerry O’Neal

December 25 – Holly Montano

December 26 – Paul Adamson

December 26 – Karen Koriath

Anniversaries:

December 23 – Dan and Carolyn Beard

December 24 – Rick and Kimberly Futrell

This week’s Prayers: Please keep the following people in your prayers.

Denise Amschler

Karen Wenger’s friend, Cheryl

Rosemary Martin’s brother-in-law, Leroy John Martin, and her nephew, Jay.

For postal workers and delivery drivers whose lives are endangered by Covid contacts and a heavier workload.

Those who are infected with the COVID-19 Coronavirus and the frontline workers who are caring for them.

Wednesdays Evenings during Advent:

Pr. Jerry will be on Facebook Live on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00pm on December 2, December 9, December 16 and December 23. Each week during Advent he will lead a Holden Evening Prayer Service. Here is the link below for Holy Trinity’s Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HTLCMuncie/>

If you would like to purchase a Holden Evening Prayer booklet in PDF format, they can be found at GIA Publications using the link below for \$1.40:

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/holden-evening-prayer-assembly-edition-print-g9170a>

2021 Offering Envelopes:

Your 2021 Offering Envelopes may be picked up at the church in the vestibule by the front doors. Since the vestibule is unlocked you may pick up your envelopes at your convenience. If you would like offering envelopes and you can’t find a set with your name on them, please contact Jenni in the office at 765-282-0619.

Online Longest Night Service on Monday, December 21 at 7:00pm:

As with a lot of the services this year, the Longest Night Service that High Street Methodist Church has done for many years on December 21, at 7:00pm, will be online. The links below will go live at 7:00pm, Monday night. All are welcome to watch this service but especially those who are grieving the loss of a loved one during the holiday season. Pastor Jerry and Becke Bly, as well as others from the community are a part of this service.

Here are the links:

Both will premiere on December 21st at 7pm

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/jUIVpQIGcUI>

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HighStreetUMChurch/> (will automatically play @ 7pm)

Christmas Eve Worship Services: Virtual and Outdoor, In-Person:

This Christmas Eve we will offer a virtual and an outdoor, in-person worship services.

Virtual Option:

Beginning on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm you will be able to watch, at home, Holy Trinity's pre-recorded worship service on Facebook, YouTube, or on our website. (See the above article, "Virtual Worship Services," for the links.)

Outdoors, In-Person Option:

And for those who want to brave the cold, at 8:00pm at Holy Trinity, you may join Pr. Jerry outside around the cross for a brief, 20-minute, worship service by candlelight. Masks and social distancing will be mandatory. Bring an umbrella, if it is raining, a chair and dress warmly.



Please Help Us Reach Our Goal of receiving 100 Intent Forms for 2021:

The intent form can be accessed online using the QR code above (next to the Generosity Makes A Difference logo) or you can use this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6qnR13AcR8lDzzC-rWeg-Kp3U_jMM8Eavy63zOjoTKAPSqw/viewform

Notes on Prelude:

Medley: "How Far is it to Bethlehem?" and "Baloo Lammy"

How far is it to Bethlehem?

Not very far.

Shall we find the stable room

Lit by a star?

Can we see the little child;

Is he within?

If we lift the wooden latch,

May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,

Ox, ass, or sheep?

May we peep like them and see

Jesus asleep?

Frances Chesterton (1875-1938)

This day to you is born a Child,

Of Mary meek, the Virgin mild;

That blessed Bairn so loving and kind,

Shall now rejoice both heart and mind.

Baloo, Lammy.

And now shall Mary's little Boy

Forever be our Hope and Joy;

Eternal be his reign on earth,

Rejoice then, all people, for this holy birth.

Baloo, Lammy.

Larry Shackley

Traditional English and Scottish Carols

*Please stand as you are able.