

Light Has Come

Christmas with the Ainsworth Choir

Chiming of the Hour

Organ Voluntary

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

Daniel McIntosh

Welcome

Rev. Varnell

Offertory

Daniel McIntosh

*Make your offering to God in the offering plate or
online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give.*

Anthem

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Arr. Dan Forrest

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!
Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!
Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
- Edward Caswall

Anthem

Seek Him

Bradley Harris

Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion.
Seek him who turns deep darkness into morning and darkens the day into night;
Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth. Seek him.
Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion. Seek him who turns deep darkness into morning.
The Lord is his name. Seek him.
- Amos 5:8

Anthem

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God,

The Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy truth,
Hope of all the nations
Light of all the world!

He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord comes to you.
- Isaiah 40, adapted by Carolyn Jennings

Anthem

O Nata Lux

Morten Lauridsen

Sung in Latin, English translation:

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be
clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Arr. David Willcocks

Please join to sing this familiar carol as directed:

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise.
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings:
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth.
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Duet

Laudamus Te, from *Gloria in D*
Antonio Vivaldi
Camilla Packroff and Katie Trotter, Sopranos

Sung in Latin, English translation:

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you.

- from Te Deum Laudamus, Latin Hymn

Anthem

Blessed Are All They that Fear Him, from *Elijah*
Felix Mendelssohn

Blessed are all they that fear him.
They ever walk in the way of peace.
Through darkness brightly shines light to the upright.
He is gracious, compassionate.

- Psalm 128:1; Psalm 112:1,4

Anthem

Light of a Clear Blue Morning
Dolly Parton, Arr. Craig Hella Johnson
Amber Valentine, Soloist

It's been a long dark night
And I've been waitin' for the
morning
It's been a long, hard fight
But I see a brand-new day a-dawning

I've been looking for the sunshine
'Cause I ain't seen it in so long
Everything's gonna work out fine
Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be
okay

I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand-new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay

Anthem

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Trinidad Carol, Arr. André Thomas

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

The angels sang when the Baby was born,
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh, yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!
Wise men came from afar,
They came following a star.
They saw where the babe was born
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

Anthem

Jesus Christ, the Morning Star

Bradley Harris

When deep, deep darkness soaks the sky,
the pilgrim longs to shut his eye,
But lands it on a small, pale light
whose twinkling faintly pricks the night.
This glow, though slight when glimpsed afar
is Jesus Christ, the Morning Star.

The light that grows with stretching rays
is ever jealous for our gaze;
Though traveling stars may break our stare,
the light will not consent to share.
These glimmers of the morning are
the light of Christ, the Morning Star.

And when dark clouds of lies and sin,
disease and death like fog creep in,
When every hopeful gleam is gone,
by faith, the pilgrim gazes on.
Behind the clouds of darkness are
the glories of the Morning Star.

And when at last the day shall dawn,
the Morning Star becomes the Sun.
Before this light both quick and dead,
the hurt, the wounded bow their heads.
Then dazzling beams of brightness are
the reign of Christ, our Morning Star.
- Betsy Childs

Anthem

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!
- Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. David Willcocks

Please join to sing this familiar carol as directed:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, Begotten, not created,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Anthem

All Is Well
Michael W. Smith

All is well, all is well,
Angels and men rejoice.
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light.
Sing Ale, sing Alleluia!

All is well, all is well,
Let there be peace on earth.
Christ has come, go and tell
That He is in the manger.
Sing Ale, sing Alleluia!

All is well, all is well,
Lift up your voice and sing!
Born is now Emmanuel!
Born is our Lord and Savior!
Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia,
All is well!

***Benediction**

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Angels from the Realms of Glory
arr. John Innes

Daniel McIntosh

The Ainsworth Choir
Terre Johnson, Director of Music
Daniel McIntosh, Organist

Soprano

Lida Hill
Sarah Neaves
Camilla Packroff
Amber Valentine
Lisa Shepard
Katie Trotter
Lynneth Whitten

Alto

Cam Bishop
Miriam Langley
Karin Payne
Sierra Sanders
Beth Tripp
Kathy Welch

Tenor

Chris Abbott
Luke Baker
Chace Crowell
Lyman Hinson
Matthew Roberts

Bass

Quinten Clifford
Greg Elliott
Sam Lamback
Thomas Nation
Lore Thomas

Orchestra

Violin – Max Martinez, Ben Cork
Viola – Amelia Passmore
Cello – Faye Chu
Double Bass – Shay Calderon
Flute – Jaedyn Charleston
Oboe – Nestor Jaenz
Clarinet – Dani Curry, Justin Fullem
Bassoon – Anna Gressick
French Horn – Jossey Lloyd
Percussion – Skyler Stargel, Jonah Davis
Piano, Organ – Daniel McIntosh

News of the Church

Children's Nativity | December 22 | 11:00 am

Calling all kids! Join us during worship for this fun annual tradition - the congregation will sing carols as the children present the nativity story. Parents, this is a fun and interactive opportunity for your kids to help share the story of Christmas! Contact Elisa Reece with questions.

The Longest Night Prayer Stations | December 20 | 10 am – 1 pm | Prayer Chapel

On Friday, the church will be open from 10 am to 1 pm for prayer in our small prayer chapel (next to the sanctuary). If you find yourself struggling this season, we invite you to come and simply be with these feelings and with God. We will have prayer activities if you need direction, liturgies printed out if you need help naming your emotions, and of course, you are welcome to sit in silence as you welcome the Light that shines in our darkness.

Christmas Eve at Mulberry

The ABCs of Christmas | 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall

Join us for this family-friendly service in the Fellowship Hall! This program is designed with children in mind, and everyone is invited to participate in this interactive service that invites us all to be a part of the Christmas story.

Evening Candlelight Service | 5:00 pm | Sanctuary

A joyous occasion featuring communion and singing by candlelight. Mark the highlight of the Advent season by joining together in worship! Music of the season begins at 4:30 pm.

Keep up with us online!

Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

To sign up, visit bit.ly/mulnews.

A Bicentennial Moment

*In anticipation of Mulberry's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in 2026,
the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history:*

On February 18, 1944 the Property Committee submitted the following report to the Board of Stewards: "Thieves have come into our Sunday School room and stolen three wall fans. One at a time, and on another visit, two more. The committee had the remainder of the wall fans taken down and locked up where we hope the thieves can't find them and make another visit. Last Saturday night, thieves again visited us and this time took one of the ornamental mirrors off the wall in the parlor. This time we found the way they went out. The window was partially opened in the kitchenette next to the parlor and there were tracks and broken shrubbery under the window that showed they went out of the building this way."

On May 12, 1944 the Property Committee reported the following to the Board of Stewards:

"In our last report, we stated that someone had stolen some wall fans and a mirror from our church school building. The city detectives have run this down and caught the thief and recovered the four electric fans and the mirror from the parlor, also a juice extractor from our kitchen and a clock that was stolen from the office. This was good work on the part of the city detectives, and we recommend that the Secretary of the Board write the Chief of Detectives our thanks for recovering our property."