



\*Prayer of the Day

**Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways – in angel appearances and in resurrection from the dead – show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray. Amen.**

\*Response

Prepare the Way O Zion

Praise Band

**Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.**

**O blest is Christ who came  
in God's most holy name.**

A Presentation in Word & Music

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Will we know him when he comes?  
Chancel Choir

The Star Carol  
Mary Morse

Luke 2:1-19

**2** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room

**8** Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!  
**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, **19** and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Mary, did you know?  
Praise Band

It was a starry night  
Chancel Choir

Birthday of the King  
Eric Arvidson

One Solitary Life

Do you hear what I hear?  
Chancel Choir

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer **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 us our  
debts, As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

Sending Song: Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\*Blessing

Postlude