

Hymns – Sunday, December 13, 2020

Hail to God's Own Anointed-VU 30

Hail to God's own anointed, great  
David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, God's  
reign on earth begun!  
Christ comes to break oppression, to  
set the captive free, to take away  
transgression, and rule in equity.

Christ comes with justice surely to  
those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy, and bid  
the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing, their  
darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

Christ shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth, and love,  
joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his  
path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall  
peace the herald go, and  
righteousness in fountains from hill  
to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and  
daily vows ascend, his kingdom still  
increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his  
covenant remove.  
His name shall stand for ever: that  
name to us is Love.

*Words: James Montgomery 1821, alt.  
Music: Johann Crüger 1640; adapt. W. H. Monk 1861  
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Joy Shall Come – VU 23

Joy shall come even to the  
wilderness, and the parched land  
shall then know great gladness;  
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts  
blossom, deserts like a garden  
blossom.

For living springs shall give cool  
water, in the desert streams shall  
flow; for living springs shall give  
cool water, in the desert streams  
shall flow.

*Words and Music: Israeli traditional Public Domain*

Joyful, Joyful –VU 232

Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before  
you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us  
with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround  
you, earth and heaven reflect your  
rays, stars and angels sing around  
you, centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!

**Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

*Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt.*

*Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges 1864; desc. Hal Hopson 1979.*

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### **Let it Go! – Tune of “Let It Snow”**

**Oh we miss our times of singing  
With voices our church was ringing  
And now we've no place to go  
But let it go, let it go, let it go.**

**Our church has not been stoppin'  
Though Covid has been a hoppin'  
When sometimes we're feelin' low  
Let it go, let it go, let it go.**

**Now our worship still fills our heart  
As we sing and we pray in our home  
But we simply can't be apart  
In our faith, we are never alone.**

**Well, our lives have been upended  
Who can count the things suspended  
But with faith and love a-flow  
Let it glow, let it glow, let it glow.**

*Music: Jule Styne 1945*

*Words: Carol Monaghan December 2020*

### **Communion Prayer – Sung to the tune of “Though I May Speak” –VU 372**

**Now Mary sings her birthing song  
Till every voice can sing along  
And voices weak will rise up strong  
Her choir is one where all belong**

**For deeper love we share the bread  
We won't be full till all are fed  
Till every soul has home and bed  
The rest of us can't move ahead**

**For deeper love we share the wine  
We cannot taste the love divine  
Till every soul has walked the line  
And you've had yours like I've had mine**

**We follow where the Christ has led  
To table that for all is spread  
And no one's sitting at the head  
But deeper love in wine and bread**

*Music: trad. English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson 1972 Used with permission - OneLicense.net #A-710960*

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## **Scripture Readings Luke 1; 1-4, 26-56**

**Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.**

**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then 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.**

**In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'**

**And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’**

**And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.**