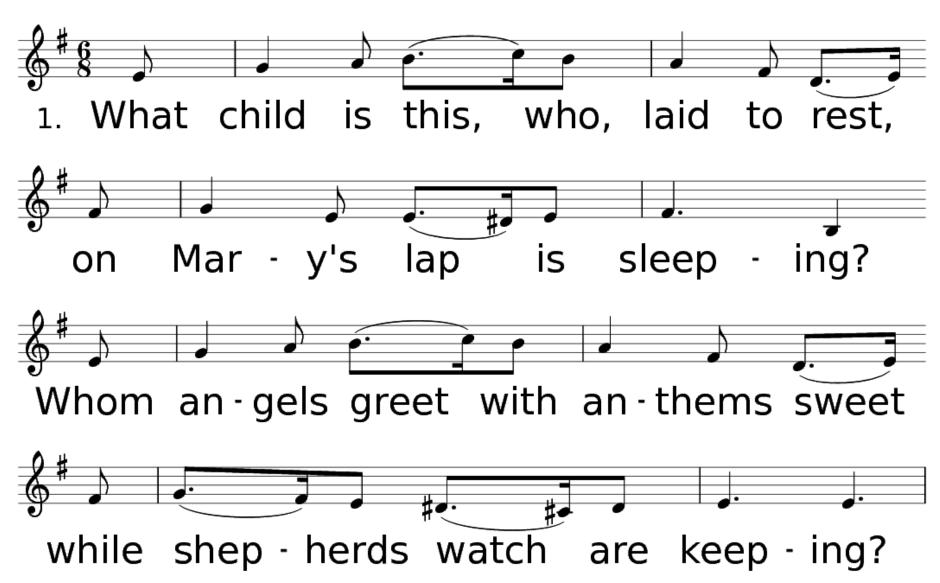
# Welcome to Kirkwood!

# Sharing the Peace of Christ

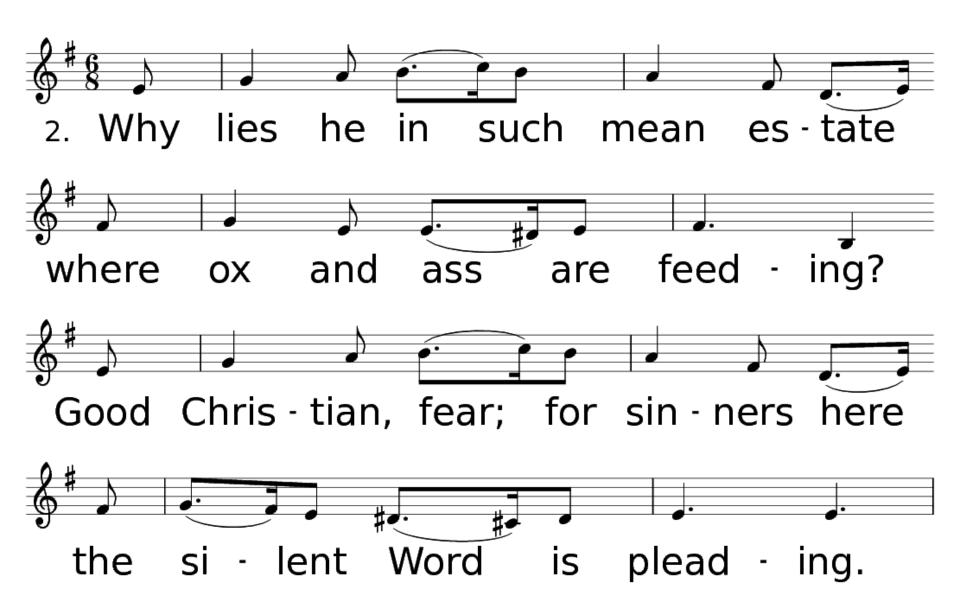
#### Glory to God #145

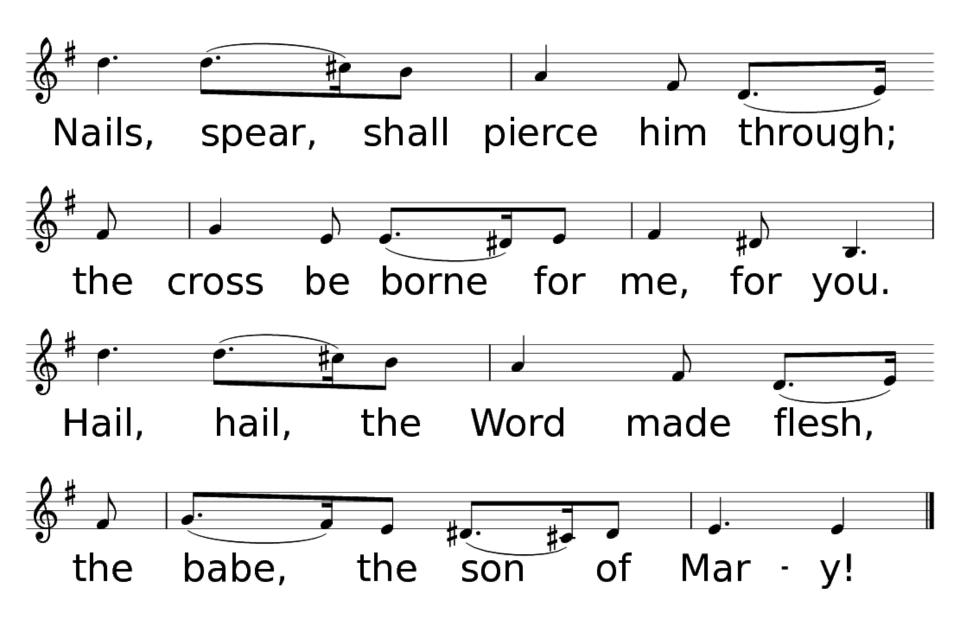
# **Opening Hymn**

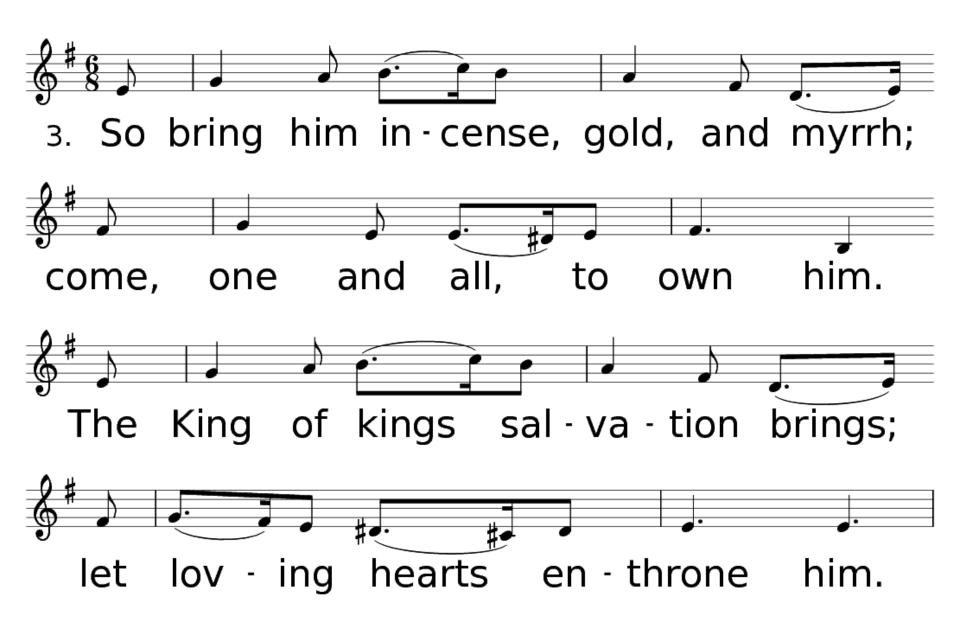
#### "What Child Is This"

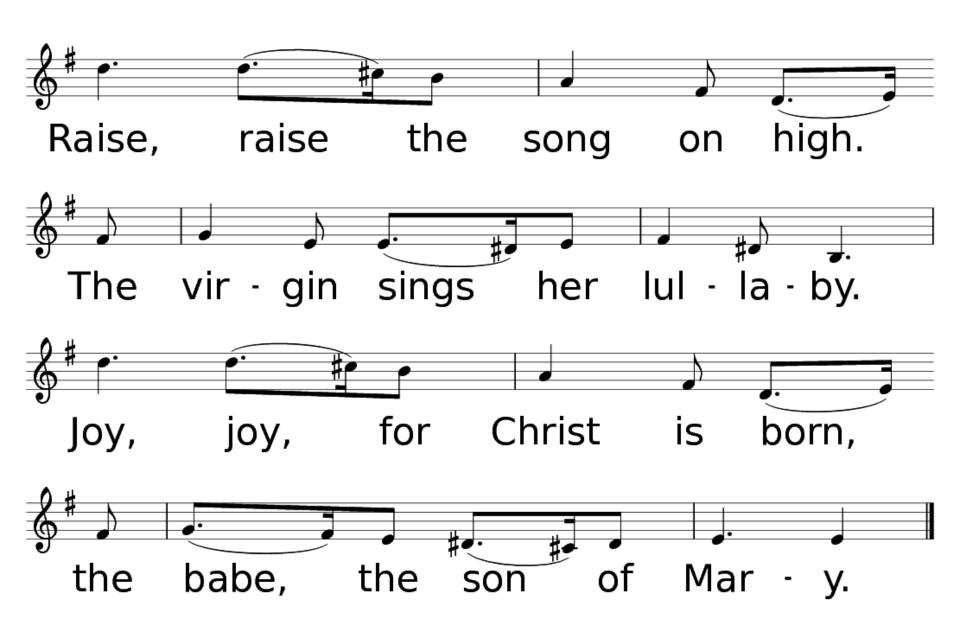












# Call To Worship

based on Psalms 124 & 46

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: We see the signs!

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: We will be ready!

Leader: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Hope"

Reader: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

We light this candle in hope.

[Light the first purple candle.]

People: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!

## **Gathering Prayer**

#### **Call to Confession**

## **Prayer of Confession**

People: Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence and our destructive and dehumanizing ways.

We deserve your judgment and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News!

God is confirming your heartfelt belief

People: so that we will stand faultless
with all those who appear with Jesus
before our Maker.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are

forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

#### **A Time for Children**

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### **New Testament Reading**

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

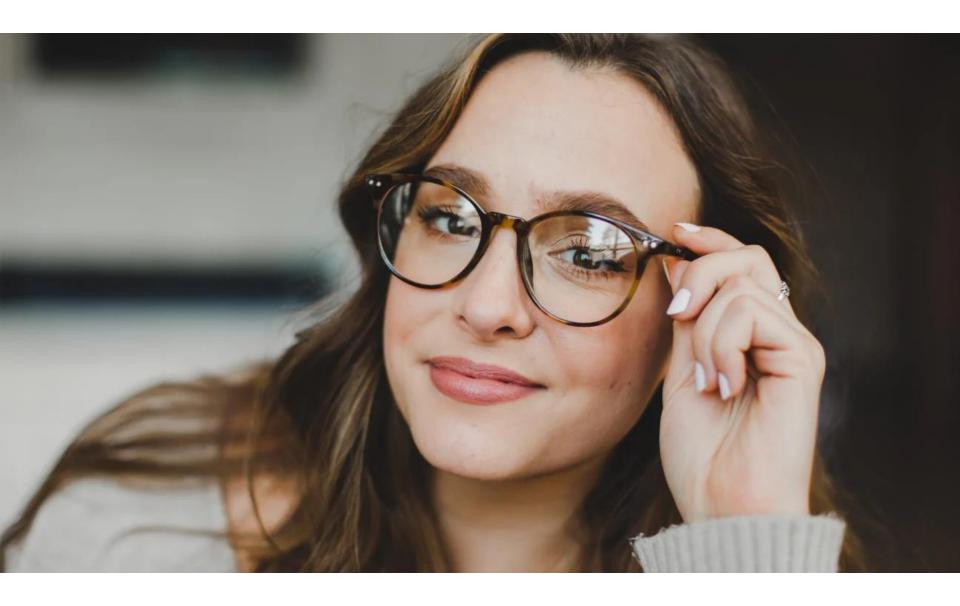
"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

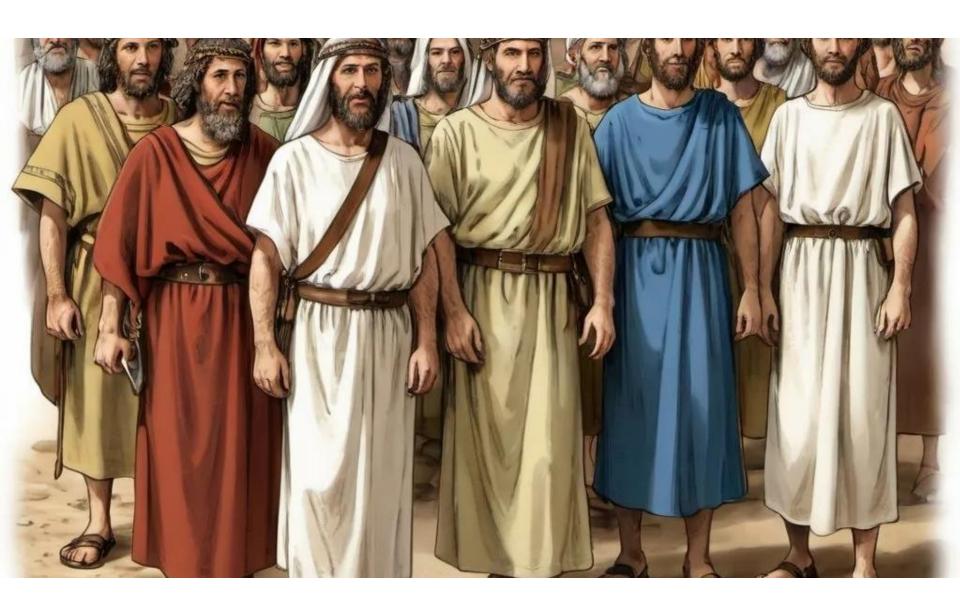
People: Thanks be to God.

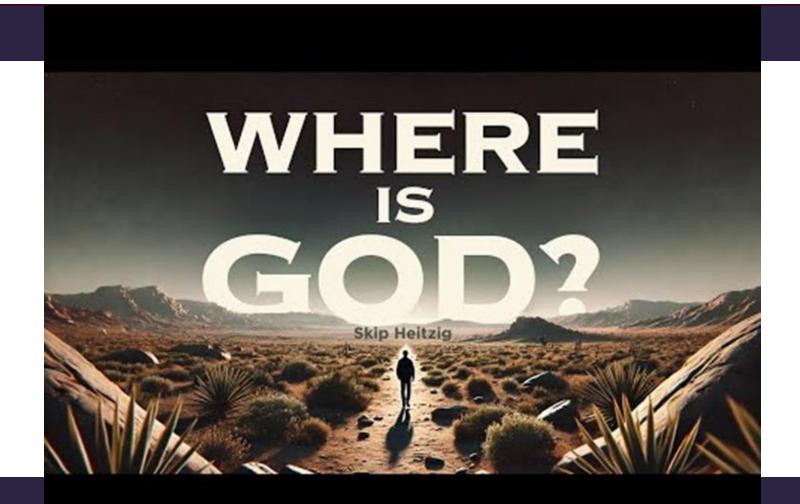
#### Looking for Comfort















#### Middle Hymn

"Sinking Deep"

## Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Supper

# Giving Thanks to God with Our Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory Song** 

### Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; **Praise Father, Son** and Holy Ghost. Amen. (repeat Amen 6 times)

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

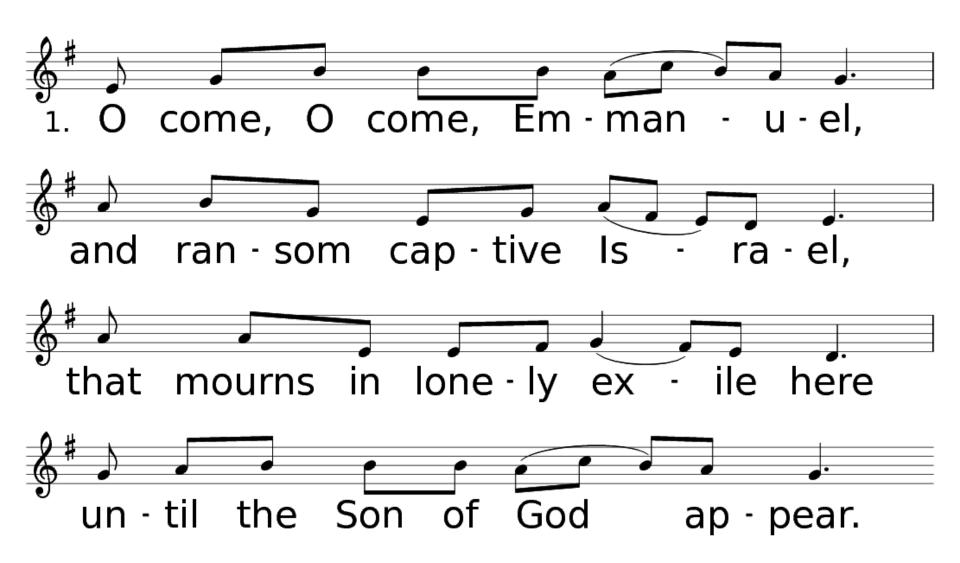
People: Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry.

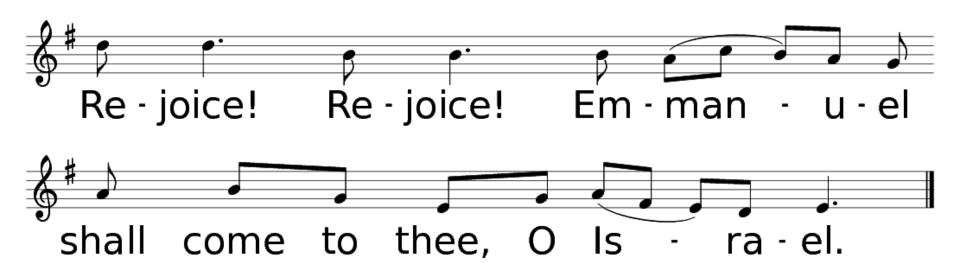
May these gifts be used to heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, and heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

#### Glory to God #88

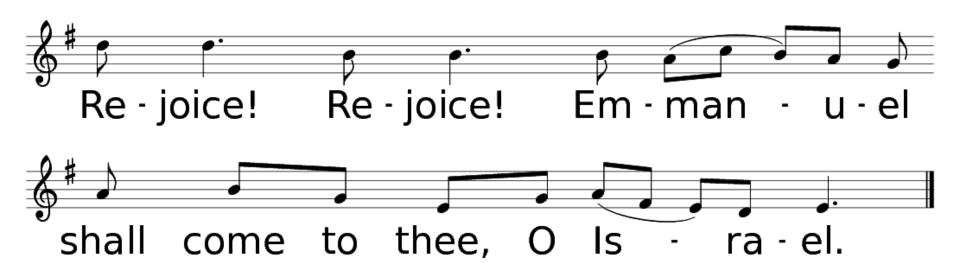
#### **Closing Hymn**

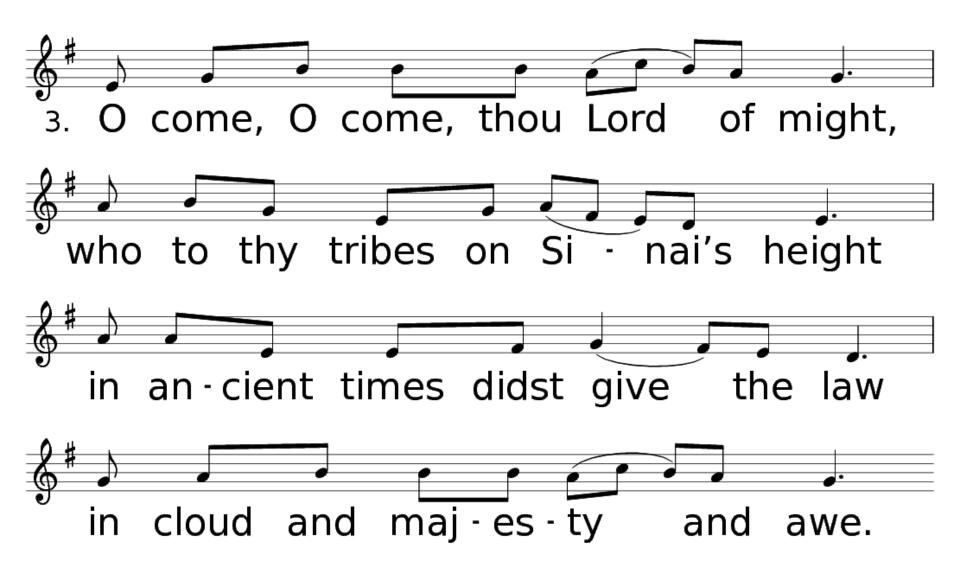
## "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

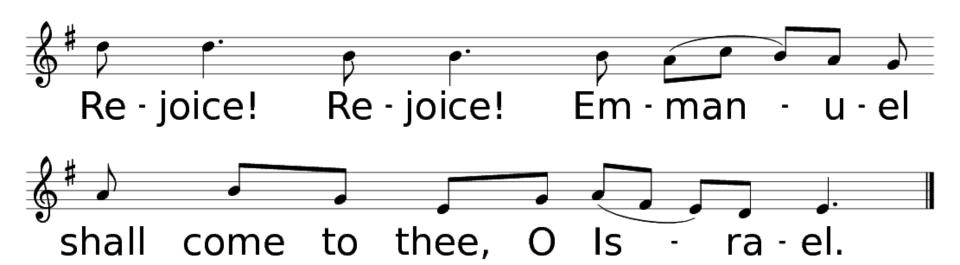


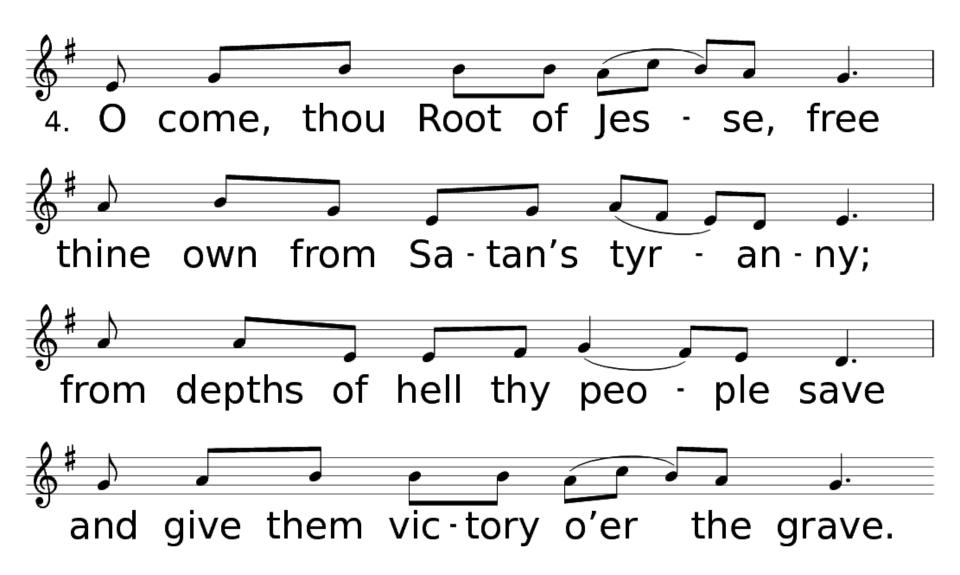


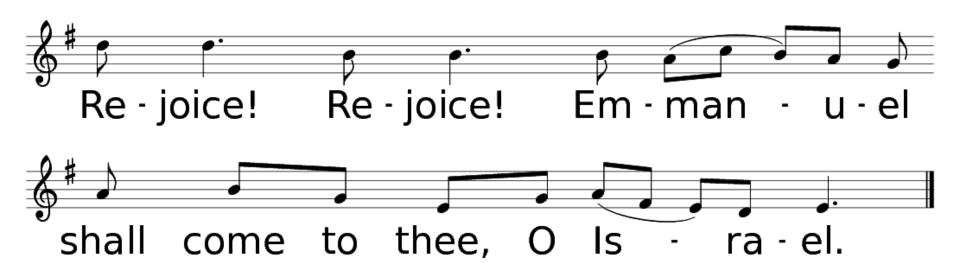


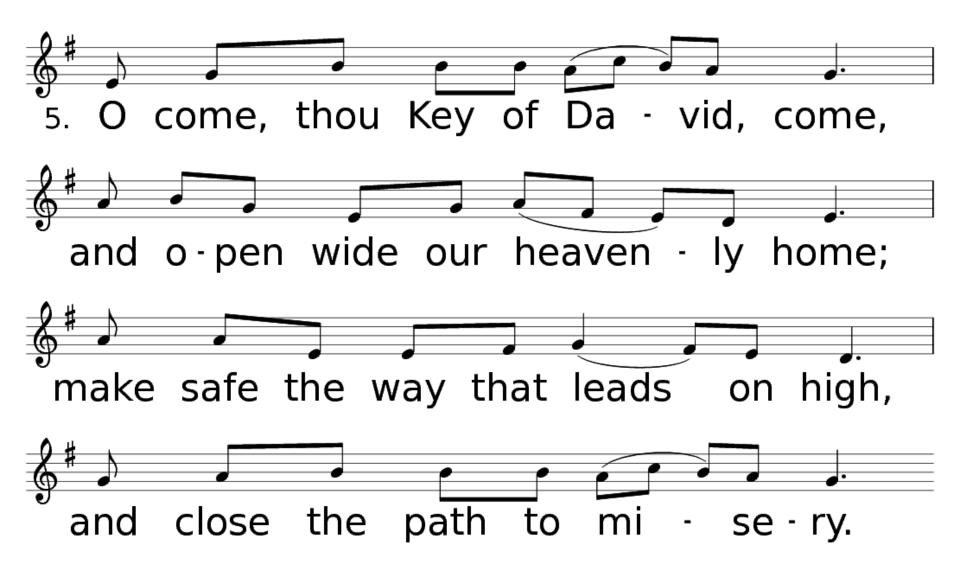


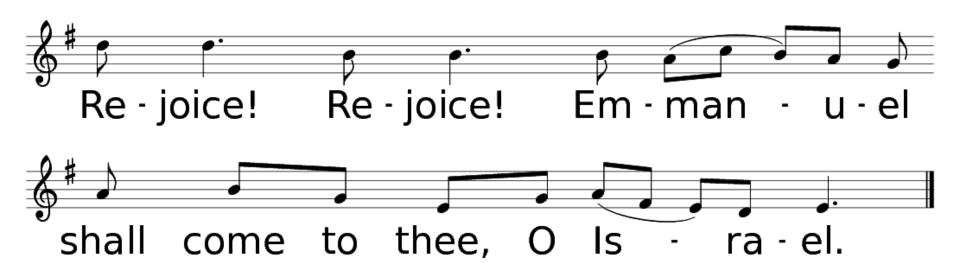




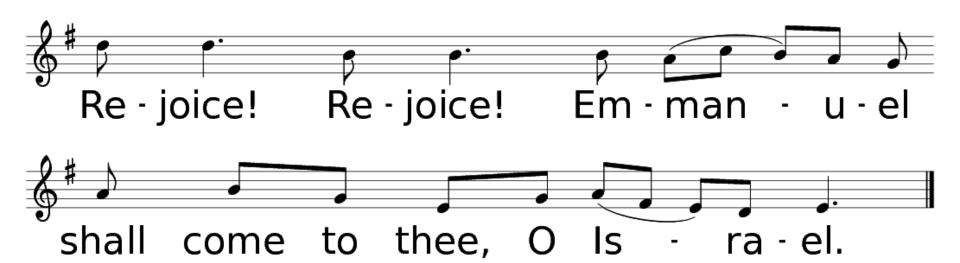




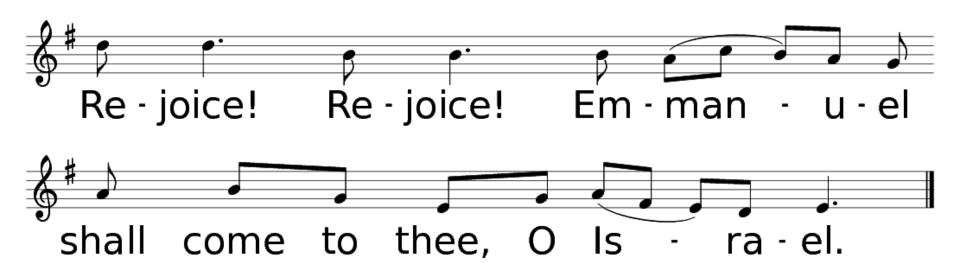












#### **Charge and Blessing**