

# Celebrating Christmas – Rejoice

January 3, 2021  
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

## The Second Sunday after Christmas

Opening Voluntary     *I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In*     setting by Robert Powell

Samuel Garr, clarinet; Carolyn Garr, piano

*The virgin Mary and Christ were there ...  
And all the bells on earth shall ring ...  
Then let us all rejoice amain ...  
... on Christmas Day in the morning!*

- traditional English carol

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

*Come, hear the Christmas news:*

***Jesus Christ is born!***

*Come, sing the Christmas story:*

***Jesus Christ is born!***

*Come, worship the Christ Child:*

***Jesus Christ is born!***

Carol

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

***The first Nowell the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***For all to see there was a star shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.***

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***And by the light of that same star the wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.***

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

***Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood humankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

- Traditional English carol

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture – Jeremiah 31:7-14

Paul Sims

Carol

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.  
All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.  
For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

- Edmund H. Sears

A Reading from the Gospels – John 1:10-18

Alex Lockridge

Carol

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger:  
Such a Babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.  
Angels sang about his birth; wise-men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him:  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.  
Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger:  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!*

- Joseph Simpson Cook

Sermon

"Celebrating Christmas - Rejoice"

Alex Lockridge

Response

*Rejoice and Be Merry*

by Robert Powell

Samuel Garr, clarinet; Carolyn Garr, piano

Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

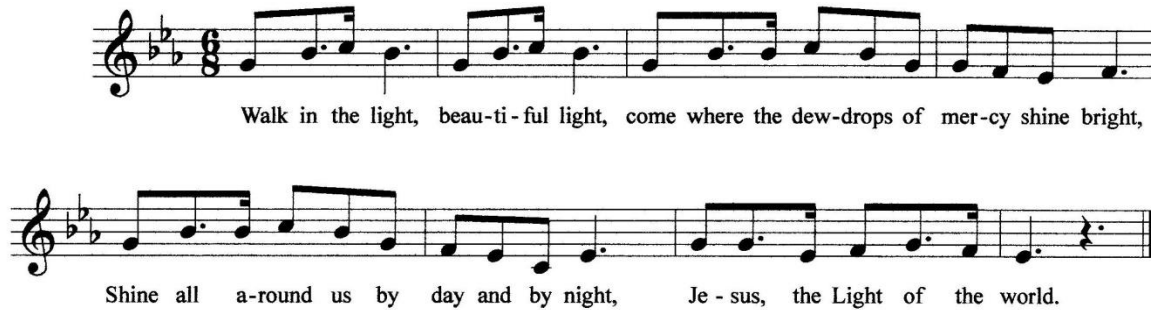
## The Lord's Prayer

*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 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. Amen.*

## Gospel Song

### *Jesus, the Light of the World*

setting by André Thomas



Walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright,  
Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, **Jesus, the Light of the world:***

*“Glory to the newborn King.” **Jesus, the Light of the world. REFRAIN***

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace, **Jesus, the Light of the world:***

*Hail, the Sun of righteousness, **Jesus, the Light of the world. REFRAIN***

- Charles Wesley; George D. Elderkin

## Benediction

Alex Lockridge

*The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us,  
so let Christ's light shine in the darkest corners of your life,  
and let Christ's love shine in the darkest corners of our world.  
Alleluia! God is with us! **Alleluia! Amen.***