



Preparation for Worship

*Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you*

- Mary Louise Bringle, Hymn 94

Voluntary

Magnificat primi toni

Hieronymus Praetorius
(1560-1629)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

✦ Hymn 105 ([see page 12](#))

People, Look East

BESANÇON

✦ Prayer of Confession

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?
Who are we?
We are broken and bearing heavy burdens.
We are lonely and lying.
We are prideful and breaking promises.
We are unaware and unloving.
We are sinful and sorry.
That's who we are, Lord God.
We are people who need you to come to us.

Come, we pray, come to us.
Redeem us. Redirect us.
Restore us. Recover the good in us.
Make room in our hearts to receive the one
who draws nearer still, our Lord Jesus Christ.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✦ Response

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
 Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD
 8.8

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the Good News. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response

Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; translated by Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapted by Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company
 MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2– 7

O.T. pg. 638

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Ecce Novum

Ola Gjeilo
(b. 1978)

<i>Ecce novum gaudium</i>	Behold! A new joy!
<i>ecce novum mirum</i>	Behold! A new wonder!
<i>Virgo parit filium</i>	A Virgin bears a son,
<i>quae non novit virum</i>	though she knew not a man,
<i>sed ut pyrus pyrum</i>	as the pear-tree bears the pear,
<i>gleba fert papyrus</i>	and the flourishing papyrus brings
<i>florens lilium</i>	the lily from the soil.
<i>ecce quod natura</i>	See how nature
<i>mutat sua iura</i>	changes her laws!
<i>virgo parit pura</i>	A pure virgin bears
<i>Dei filium</i>	the son of God!

— *Piæ Cantiones* (1582)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

N.T. pg. 1

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Getting Christmas Right

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✠ Hymn 102 ([see page 13](#))*Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

✠ Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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 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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

A Maiden Most Gentle

LOURDES HYMN • arr. Andrew Carter
 (b. 1939)

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing
 Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child
 Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
 The Lord of creation and Saviour of all
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare
 And marveled in awe at the babe in her care
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray
 Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless Amen
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

— words by St. Bede the Venerable (c. 672–735)
 translated by Andrew Carter

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of mystery and might,
 we praise and worship you,
 for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
 to enter our world as a child of humble birth.

**We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
 born of your servant, Mary
 In his face we behold your glory,
 for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.
 By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving,
 that we may give as we have received,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 348 [\(see page 14\)](#)

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

✦ Charge and Blessing

Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary

Postlude on HELMSLEY

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending | Hymn 348

Christopher Tamling
 (b. 1964)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

John W. Wurster | Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Elizabeth Bratton

Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Randall Swanson, director of music & organist | Matthew Dion, guest organist

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Isaiah 7:10-16 — *The young woman will bear a child and name him Immanuel.*
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 — *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.*
- Romans 1:1-7 — *Paul greets the saints in Rome; Jesus is the promised Son of God.*
- Matthew 1:18-25 — *Mary is with child; an angel visits Joseph; Jesus is "God with us."*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Music Notes

Organ Music

Discovered one-hundred years ago this year in Sweden, Hieronymus Praetorius' eight Magnificat settings represent the pinnacle of keyboard writing of early 17th century Germany. A member of the well-respected Praetorius family, Hieronymus was born in Hamburg and spent most of his professional life working in that city. He served in numerous organist posts including in Erfurt and later in Hamburg where he would eventually become principal organist of the Jacobikirche, succeeding his father Jacob. Praetorius' eight settings on the Magnificat are each based on eight different chant modes. These pieces represent no strict cantus firmus treatment of the modes, rather Praetorius includes numerous elaborations especially in the treble and bass verses of the settings. The *Magnificat primi toni* — this morning's **opening voluntary** — was composed in 1611.

Today's **closing voluntary** is a brief but brilliant toccata on the hymn "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" by organist James Vivian, who is Director of Music at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle in England. Published in 2014, Vivian's *Postlude on HELMSLEY* features sparkling passages for the hands over the tune's stately melody, heard first in the pedal and then in the top voice of the musical texture, giving way to some very exciting harmonic surprises toward the end. With these effects the piece is highly evocative of our closing hymn's powerful text.

Choral Music

This morning's **first anthem** is by Ola Gjeilo, one of the most frequently performed new composers in the

choral world. An accomplished pianist, improvisations over his own published choral pieces have become a trademark of his collaborations. Although Norwegian by birth, it is perhaps Gjeilo's adopted country of America that has influenced the composer's distinctive sound world the most, evolving a style that is often described as cinematic and evocative, with a lush, harmonious sound. Gjeilo moved to the United States in 2001 to begin his composition studies at the Juilliard School in New York City, where he spent many subsequent years as a freelance composer. *Ecce novum* was written in NYC in 2014 for four-part choir and piano with optional string quartet. Gjeilo's setting of the Latin text reflects the gentle wonder of the story of Christmas, featuring lyrical voice leading, extended phrases and a flowing texture. The piano accompaniment gives a spinning repetition that provides movement and a modern ambient feel. Taken as a whole, the setting lends a whole new level of meaning to its text, which comes from the *Piæ Cantiones* ["pious songs"] collection of anonymous late medieval Latin songs first published in 1582.

Andrew Carter's *A Maiden Most Gentle* — today's **offertory anthem** — was composed in 1978 using the composer's own paraphrase of an eighth-century text by the English St. Bede the Venerable. Carter sets his words to a traditional French melody, adding a sparkling organ accompaniment to alternate verses, and perfectly catching the mood of the Advent and Christmas season.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Matthew Dirst and family upon the death of his mother, Loretta Dirst on December 11.

The family of Nancy Dring upon her death on December 11. Memorial service at a later date.

St. Philippians and their families – Barbara Runge; Beverly Hudson; Susan Huffman; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Sondra Sullivan; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Renee Wright; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Betsy Johnson – mother of Pat Lindsay; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Jann Everhart – sister-in-law of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Warren Cash – brother of Kay Cash; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Donna Harris – sister of Joyce Fugit; Alma Fonseca – mother of Angelina Fonseca; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Mac Wilson – father of Butch Wilson; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Alan Rowe – father of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Carol Gilliland - friend of Orlean Anderson; Jackie Childers – friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Sharla Hotchkiss, Delores Wheeler, and Kevin Andress – friends of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email:

deacons@saintphilip.net

ADVENT AT ST. PHILIP

Everyone is invited to attend **midweek Advent service** which concludes on **Dec. 21**. The service begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Lunch is available in the Gathering Area at 11:30. The service of scripture and song is grounded in the Advent themes of hope and expectation. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. Prepare the way of the Lord!

THURSDAYS IN ADVENT – LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM

Dec. 22 at 9:00-9:20 a.m. – *What is Lectio Divina?* The ancient desert fathers and mothers believed that scripture was like a love letter written to us by God. Thus, the meditative, guided scriptural reflection known as *Lectio Divina* ("divine reading") assumes that God speaks to us intimately, God is already praying in us, and we'll experience a profound encounter with the heart of God, rather than an intellectual study of scripture. Keatan King will guide the group through the final cycles of Lectio (read, reflect, respond, rest) Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. for twenty minutes for the season of Advent. To prepare, you are encouraged to choose a comfortable place to sit wherever you are (at home, work, in the car) and all participants will have video off and sound off during the Zoom.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services

5:30 p.m. – A Whimsical Telling of the Birth of Jesus

8:00 p.m. – Communion Service with the St. Philip Choir

DECEMBER 25

11:00 a.m. – Christmas Day worship with the St. Philip Choir

JANUARY 1, 2023

11:00 a.m. – Worship for the First Sunday of Christmas and the First Communion of 2023

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES AT 9:45 A.M.

GODLY PLAY (Age 3-Kindergarten) – Room 104 – Omi Ford, Joyce Fox and Ruthie Waldrop

ELEMENTARY (Grades 1-5) – Room 105 – Linda Bevill and Jon Martin

YOUTH (Grades 6-12) – Room 206 – Melissa and Guy Aldrich

SPa (St. Philip Adults) – Room 200 – rotating leadership – We are using the adult resources from the new Follow Me curriculum to guide our informal weekly discussion about biblical practices such as hospitality, forgiveness and honoring sabbath. All adults of any age are welcomed to participate. There is no need to prepare or purchase materials for class, so come as you are able!

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Church and Society regularly features speakers and presentations on a variety of contemporary and historical matters of faith and practice. This class meets from **9:40 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** with presentations in person and some by Zoom, projected in the classroom. Church & Society will not meet Christmas Day, **Dec. 25. Jan. 1** – "My Adventures in Serving as a Hands of Hope House Parent" - Casa de Esperanza de los Niños strives to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect for at-risk infants, children and their families by providing comprehensive residential and family support programs that transform people and communities. St. Philipian and University of Virginia student, Lily Frautschi, describes her year of service as a full-time Hands of Hope Parent. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – We have resumed our study of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in 1-2 Kings with the story of Elijah's confrontation with Ahab and Jezebel in Dr. Robert Alter's Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.**

to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster has returned. The morning class, meeting at 9:30 a.m., is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. The afternoon class, meeting at 3:30 p.m., is Zoom only. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is Jan. 12 we will discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY – All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate; to be directed to a group leader please email welcomes@saintphilip.net. All circles meet in the Dining Room in the Administration Building.

Monday Morning Saints

Second Monday of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Circle

Third Sunday of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle

First Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday **in person in the office conference room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m.** Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to join them.

Please check with study leaders through the Christmas season to confirm, some classes may be on break.

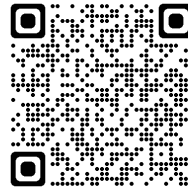
Merry Christmas

Thank you to those who have contributed poinsettias this Christmas to adorn our chancel.

The list is continued on the next page

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor:</i>
Bob & Lee Ardell	Ministries of Becky & Mark Downs
Bob & Bebe Burns	To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our family
Meg & Richard Johnson	To the glory of God and in gratitude for our families
Suzanne & David Kerr	Randall Swanson & the St. Philip Choir
Walter & Margaret King	In gratitude for our wonderful church staff
Nina & Casey Lambright	Nancy Johnson
Jane Larkin	Jim, Penny, and Amelia Larkin
Jane Malczewskyj	Our family in Ukraine
Bonnie Moore	Our children & grandson - Clint, Audra, Alex, Zach, Sarah, & Sebastian
Cathy Patterson	St. Philip Mission Committee
Hallie & David Spence	Mary Linda Williams
Lance & Hope Wilmarth	Jeb, Isabelle, Arden, Gertrude, Clara & Elliot
Jennifer Wilson	My beloved father - Bill Wilson

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we remember:</i>
Orlean Anderson	Ruth & Orlean McCallum
Orlean Anderson	Kenneth L. Anderson Jr.
Bob & Lee Ardell	Julie Ardell
Linda Bevill	My parents - James and Laura Alcorn
Deb Burks & John Wurster	Darnell Burks, father
Jane Cooper	My mother - Lillian, my sister - Kathy and my husband - Dan
Liz Crowell	John William Scott
Janet & Carl Eskridge	Rita & John Hannah
Susan & Robert Estill	Our parents - Mary Louise & Junius Estill
Susan & Robert Estill	Carrie & Koehler Young
John & Judye Hartman	Christine Van Osdall
Jo Helland	John & Rita Hannah
Jo Helland	Ellen Red
Nancy Higgs	My mother, father, & brother
Craig & Judy Hill	Loretta Dirst
Craig & Judy Hill	Horace & Louise Hill
Dick & Sue Howard	Our parents - James & Lunetta Howard and Jesse & Patti Lebel
Amanda Kirtley, Jared and Pamela Ewing	Pamela Kirtley
Jane Larkin	My husband - Lee Larkin
Susan Leonard	James Henry Leonard V
Susan Leonard	Stanley & Beedie Heaos
Susan Leonard	James Henry Leonard Jr.
Susan Leonard	Doris Leonard
Jan Meyer	Don & Valerie Meyer
Barbara Runge	Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Gene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Bill & Martha Runge
Rhonda Sands	My parents - Mary Ann & Tom Sands
Rhonda Sands	My brother - Rod Sands
Jenilee Simmons	Douglass L. Simmons
Sally Slick	My husband - Bill Slick
Sally Slick	My brother - Grady Short
Hallie & David Spence	Paxton Williams
Aileen Todd	Harry Todd
Sandra & Wayne Truxillo	Sandra's brother - Emil Runge
Al & Ruthie Waldrop	Allister & Florence Waldrop
Al & Ruthie Waldrop	Kenan & Nancy Rand
Linda Weinmann	Don Weinmann
Lance & Hope Wilmarth	Lance, Jen Stoutz, John & Rita Hannah
Jennifer Wilson	My beloved mother - Helen Wilson
Ruena Wood	My beloved husband - the Rev. Dr. Stuart Wood



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.net.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,
we seek to be an inclusive,
grace-filled community,
engaging the world with open minds,
willing hands and generous hearts.

WE LONG
for deeper faith,
vibrant hope
and boundless love
for everyone, every day, everywhere.

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A Hearing Loop is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your "T switch" to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY'S HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Pledges, if you have not yet made a pledge for 2023, but would like to do so, we encourage you to pledge before the end of the year when the Session finalizes the budget. They can be put in the offering plate, or mailed to the Church Office.

From the bookkeeper:
 any and all monies that you want to be designated in the 2022 calendar year must be delivered
 to the Church Office by December 30, 2022.

All checks mailed must be postmarked by December 31, 2022.

All checks and monies received on Sunday, January 1 will be posted to 2023.

Thank you.

Hymn 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

Hymn 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594
 English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
 7.7.7.7

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Hymn 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

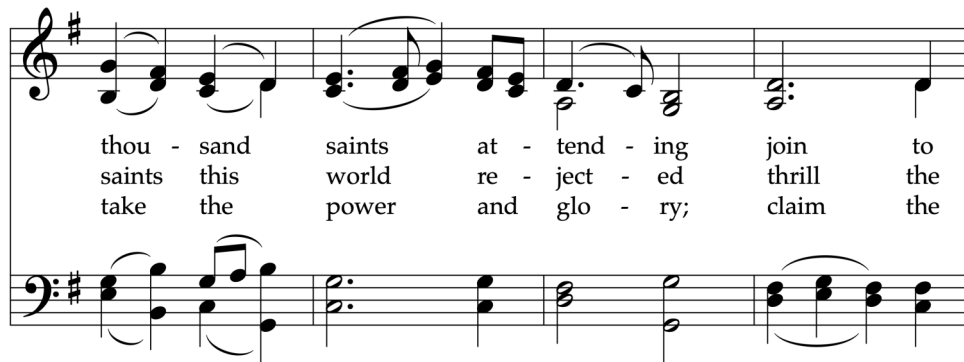
HELMSLEY



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand,
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near; all the
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,



thou - sand saints at - tend - ing join to
 saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the
 take the power and glo - ry; claim the

sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
 trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
 king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord
 lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune, notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that Charles Wesley regarded as related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Stanzas 1, 3, Charles Wesley, 1758, alt.; stanza 2, John Cennick, 1752, alt.
 MUSIC: Thomas Olivers, 1763; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HELMSLEY
 8.7.8.7.4.4.4.7

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