

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Fantasia on *Greensleeves*

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

Concerns of the Congregation

The Lighting of the Joy Candle

Rick and Patricia Kimbrel

All: We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.

Prelude

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Introduction and Fugue on the *Sussex Carol*

Andrew Hackett

Ringling of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Hymn #103

O Come All Ye Faithful

*Invocation

Mary's Song

Led by Madeline Jentsch and Clara Reeves

*Prayer of Confession

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

All: Mighty and powerful God, your word says, "Rejoice always." But we would rather sulk about the things that don't go right. Your word says, "Pray without ceasing." But we go for days without even thinking about you. Your word says, "Give thanks in all circumstances." But our thankfulness is fleeting, because we think we deserve blessings. Your word says, "Hold fast to what is good," while we hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting. Forgive us our sin with the blood of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

One: The prophets of old have declared, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God. For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robes of righteousness. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. This is the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Gloria Patri #575**

Glory Be to the Father

***Anthem**

My Soul Does Magnify the Lord

Victor C. Johnson

Covenant Choir

My soul does magnify the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
For he has been mindful of me, and I will ever be his humble servant.
My soul does magnify the Lord.

I am humbled that the Lord would choose me to be the father of his Son.
I am just a man, help me understand how I fit into this sov'reign plan.

And we will praise the Holy One and sing of wondrous things he's done.
He is holy, he is holy.

My soul does magnify the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
For he is our strength and our song, and we will ever sing of his amazing love!

And we will praise the Holy One and sing of wondrous things he's done.
He is holy, he is holy.

My soul does magnify the Lord.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Offertory

We Three Kings

Hopkins

Director: Becky Bell

Arr. Patricia Cota

Covenant Bell Ringers: Matt Bell, Paul Kramer, Tracy Kramer, Evelina Konaniah

***Doxology #572**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*At this time children are invited to leave for
Children's Church and Junior Church.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** sing 2 times

Rejoice in the Lord, Always

Re - joi - ce in the Lord al - ways, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce! Re -
joi - ce in the Lord al - ways, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, a -
gain I say, re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Rejoice in the Lord, Always". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line. The third system ends with a double bar line.

Scripture Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18; Luke 1:46-49

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

Pew Bible pg. 837, 724 Large Print Bible pg. 1841, 1589

One: This is God's Word for God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Expect! Joy!

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

Hymn #109

Once in David's Royal City

***Benediction**

Postlude

Grand Choeur

Alexandre Guilmant

Hayden Glasgow, Organ Scholar

*Those who are able, please stand

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Kramer Family birthdays: in honor of Jeff Kramer and his uncle, Randy, and in memory of Nancy Haymaker, mother, grandmother and sister.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 103

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem... Luke 2:15

Latin hymn
Attr. to John F. Wade, 1751
Trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irreg. Ref.
John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of God, and Light of Light be - got - ten,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo, He ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord. A - men.

Once in Royal David's City 109

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior . . . Luke 2:11

IRBY 878777

Cecil F. Alexander. 1848

Henry J. Gauntlett. 1849

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly cat - tle
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and Lord of
3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us He
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Thro' His own re - deem - ing

shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a
all, And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, And His
grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, Tears and
love; For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our

man - ger for His bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall: With the poor, and mean, and
smiles like us He knew: And He feel - eth for our
Lord in heav'n a - bove, And He leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
low - ly Lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, And He shar - eth in our glad - ness.
on To the place where He is gone.

HIS BIRTH