

Christmas Eve Worship



THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 24, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

*O Come, All Ye
Faithful*

ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, Rejoice, on them has the light shined. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 9:2

WORDS AT THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C By day and night he shines for all to see.

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P Jesus is the light of the world.

C Jesus is the light of our lives.

P Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GREETING

P The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

C And also with you.

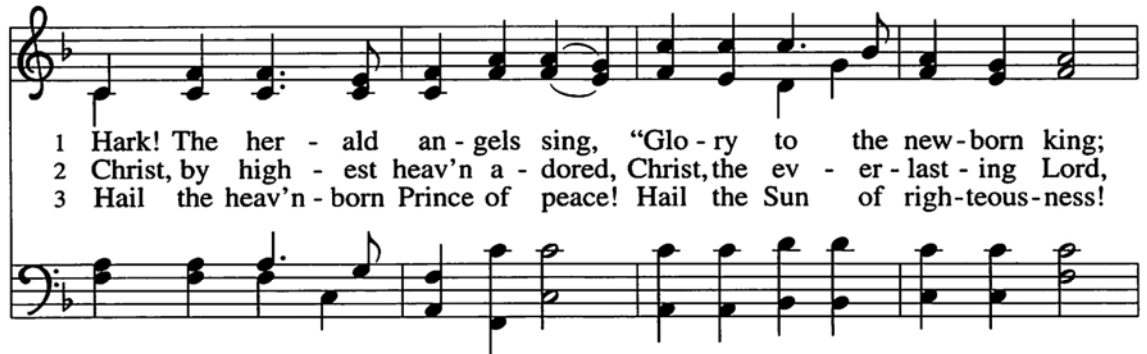


HYMN OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

VERSES 1 & 3



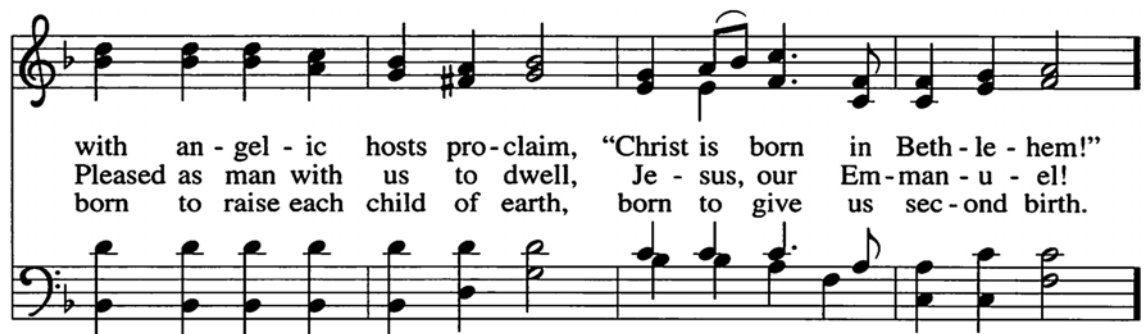
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

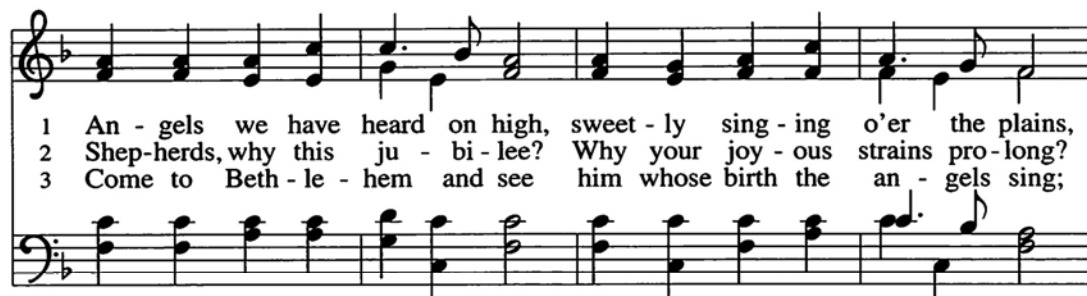
Originally, this poem was written to celebrate either the birth or the coronation of a new Davidic king. After the fall of Jerusalem, this poem came to be viewed as an expression of the hope that eventually God would raise up a new ruler who would possess the qualities described in the text.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

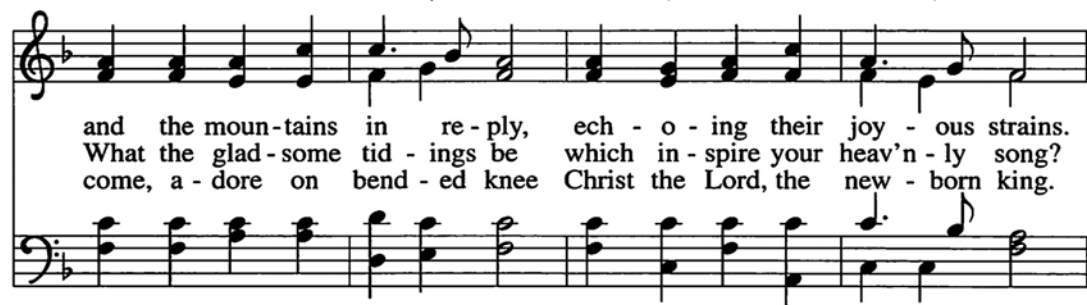
L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL
ACCLAMATION
*Angels We Have
Heard on High*
ELW 289
VERSES 1 & 3



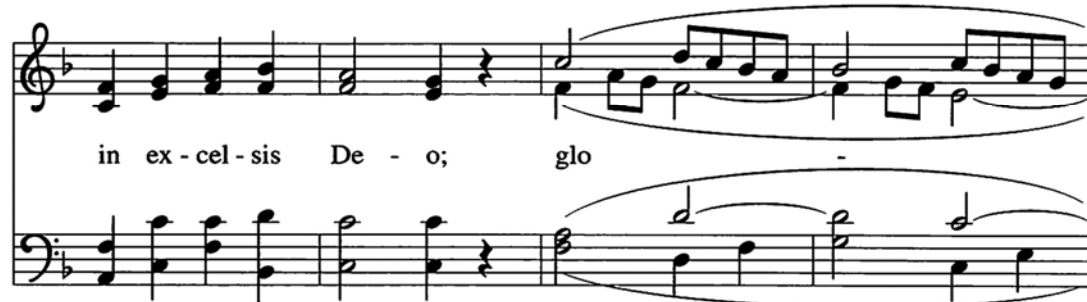
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. ²This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. ⁹The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. ¹⁰The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

SERMON

PASTOR ANDREW PATTY



HYMN OF THE DAY
O Little Town of Bethlehem
ELW HYMN 279



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

NICENE CREED

- C** 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 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.

THE PRAYERS

- A** Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
- A brief silence.*
- A** The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let us proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A** Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near in the beauty of night, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A** The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A** Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Heal the sick or hurting, especially Lucille Brill, Don Longren, Eleanor Jewell, and Duane Pomeroy. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A** Love sings through the sound of a baby's cry. Bless all parents. Comfort those who long for children. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P** The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**

P God of mercy, come to us with grace as we lift all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, O God of glo - ry,
po - wer and might. Heav - en and earth are full, are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

C Come among us.

P Bless this meal.

C May your Word take flesh in us.

P Awaken your people.

C Fill us with your light.

P Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Go Tell It on the
Mountain*
ELW HYMN 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain



COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

A The light shines in the darkness.

C **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

A The Word became flesh and lived among us.

C **And we beheld Christ's glory.**

A To us a child is born, to us a Son is given

C **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P Let us pray.

O God of life and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life by the light of your Son. As we follow his light, awaken us to the needs of others. Help us share your light here and now. Bring all the world at the last into the fullness of your light. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

C **Amen.**

READING: JOHN 1:1-19

The prologue to the gospel of John describes Jesus as the creative word of God made flesh, God's true presence among us, the one whose very existence reveals God as "full of grace and truth."

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be ⁴through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; ⁵the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶A man named John was sent from God. ⁷He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him.

¹¹He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, ¹³who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, ¹⁷because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

HYMN
*Silent Night,
 Holy Night*
 ELW 281

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

PARTING COLLECT

P Almighty God, who has brought this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Grant that we may know each and every day what it meant for our Lord to come and be with us, and may we all join in spreading his light throughout the world. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, may we be sent out in glory everlasting.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Hosanna will be played as part of the postlude. Here are the words if you'd like to sing along.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna, Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord...

Hosanna, Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord...

Sing Hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna!

Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Sing Hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna!

Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister..... Pr Andrew Patty

Musicians Erik Berggren

..... Loretta Hoerman

..... Laurie Jackson

..... Roger Stoner