



God with Us

DECEMBER 25, 2024  
+ JULOTTA +

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PRELUDE

*När juldagsmorgon glimmar*  
(When Christmas Morn Is Breaking)  
arr. Brian Ward  
Sam Parnin, Organ

WORDS OF WELCOME

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

\* HYMN 181

When Christmas Morn Is Breaking

*We will sing verses 1, 2, and 3 in English, and then repeat verse 1 in Swedish:*

*När juldagsmorgon glimmar, jag vill till stallet gå,  
där Gud i nattens timmar re'n vilar uppå strå,  
där Gud i nattens timmar re'n vilar uppå strå.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Titus 3:4-7

God Jul! May the irrepressible joy of the birth of Christ Jesus be with you all!

**And also with you!**

Today we are reminded that the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared and saved us.

**Not because we are especially righteous or worthy, but because our God is merciful.**

God's Spirit is poured out on us richly through the birth of Christ,

**that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Amen and amen.**

\* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sins*)

SPECIAL MUSIC

*En stjärna lyser så klar*  
(A Star Shines So Bright)

Tore Aas

Maria Ward, Soprano

Ann-Marie Olson Frisk, Alto

*Nu i den heliga timman,  
ser vi mot himlens höjd.  
Och vi hör klockorna klinga,  
känner vart hjärtas fröjd.*

Now in the holy hour  
we look toward heaven on high  
and we hear the bells ringing,  
feel each heart's joy.

*Refräng: Änglarna ger oss hopp och tro,  
sjunger om fred på vår jord.  
Den som Gud aldrig övergav;  
en stjärna lyser så klar.*

*Refrain:* The angels give us hope and faith,  
singing of peace for our world.  
The one whom God never abandoned;  
a star shines so bright.

*Kärleken världen behöver,  
vet vi att barnet bär.  
Vår långa vandring är över;  
stjärnan har stannat här.*

*Refräng*

*Himmelen ligger och slumrar  
på jordens gula halm.  
Vi känner fröjd och förundran,  
för vi har kommit fram.*

*Här kan vi drömma om den fred,  
som vi skall äga en gång.  
Barnet som fötts tar himlen med,  
och jorden fylls utav sång.*

*Refräng*

The love the world needs,  
we know that the child will bring.  
Our long journey is over;  
the star has stopped here.

*Refrain*

Heaven lays and slumbers  
on the earth's yellow straw.  
We feel the joy and wonder  
now that we have arrived.

Here we can dream of that peace,  
which we shall one day see.  
The child who was born brings heaven with him,  
and the earth is filled with song.

*Refrain*

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading  
Psalter

Sofie Piotrowski, Reader  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97

\* HYMN 187

Our Day of Joy Is Here Again

*We will sing verses 1-4 in English, and then repeat verse 1 in Swedish:*

*Nu glädjens timme inne är och manar oss till sång.  
Vi stämmer upp den lovsång här som änglar sjöng en gång:  
Ära vare Gud i höjd, frid på jorden, frid och fröjd,  
över oss Guds välbehag på denna glädjens dag!*

\* READING OF THE GOSPEL

Don Olson, Reader  
Luke 2:1-20

*Read first in Swedish and then in English.*

\* HYMN 495

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Libby Piotrowski

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Lyssna, Lyssna*  
Julotta Ensemble, Brian Ward, Director

*Lyssna, lyssna, hör du änglasången.*

*Lyssna, lyssna, "Ära vare Gud!"*

*Lyssna, lyssna, hör du änglasången.*

*"Ära, ära, ära vare Gud!"*

*Ära vare Gud uti höjden, frid på jorden, frid på jorden.*

*Ära vare Gud uti höjden, till människor ett godt behag.*

*Ära vare Gud uti höjden, frid på jorden, frid på jorden.*

*Ära vare Gud uti höjden!*

*Frid uppå jord (frid uppå jord).*

*Människor ett godt behag, ett godt behag!"*

Listen, listen, hear the angels singing.

Listen, listen, "Glory be to God!"

Listen, listen, hear the angels singing.

"Glory, glory, glory be to God!"

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and on earth peace.

Glory be to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Glory, glory in the highest, peace on earth, peace on earth,

Glory be to God in the highest!

Peace on the earth (peace on the earth).

Peace on earth, goodwill to all, goodwill to all!"

## CHRISTMAS MORNING PRAYER

### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Jul, jul, strålande jul!*

(Christmas, Christmas, Brilliant Christmas)

Gustaf Nordqvist

In the Bleak Midwinter

\* Responsive Hymn 151, verse 4

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* HYMN 166

Joy Bells Are Ringing

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Hosianna, Davids son*

arr. Brian Ward

*\* Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

# When Christmas Morn Is Breaking

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1 When Christ-mas morn is break-ing, the man-ger I would seek,  
2 How kind, O lov-ing Sav-ior, to come from heav'n a-bove!  
3 We need you, bless-ed Je-sus, our dear-est friend you are!

where God, his throne for-sak-ing, is rest-ing low and meek;  
From sin and e-vil save us, and keep us in your love;  
For-bid that we by sin-ning should grieve your lov-ing heart.

where God, his throne for-sak-ing, is rest-ing low and meek.  
from sin and e-vil save us, and keep us in your love.  
For-bid that we by sin-ning should grieve your lov-ing heart.

WORDS: Attrib. Abel Burckhardt, nineteenth century, tr. sts. 2, 3, Claude William Foss, 1855-1935  
MUSIC: German melody, 1819; arr. Elizabeth Ehrenborg-Posse, 1818-1880

7.6.7.6.  
CHRISTMAS DAWN

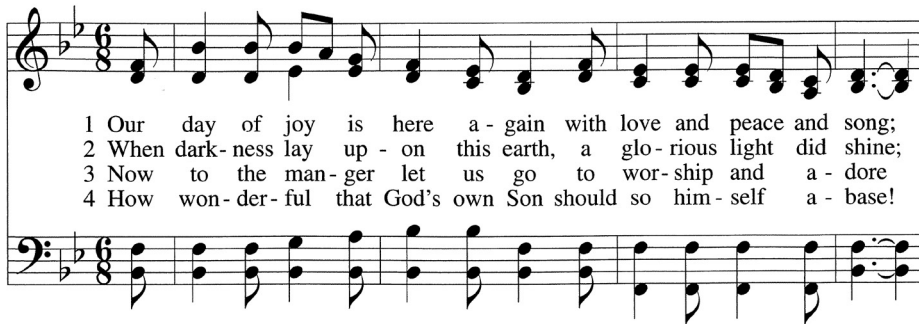
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

887

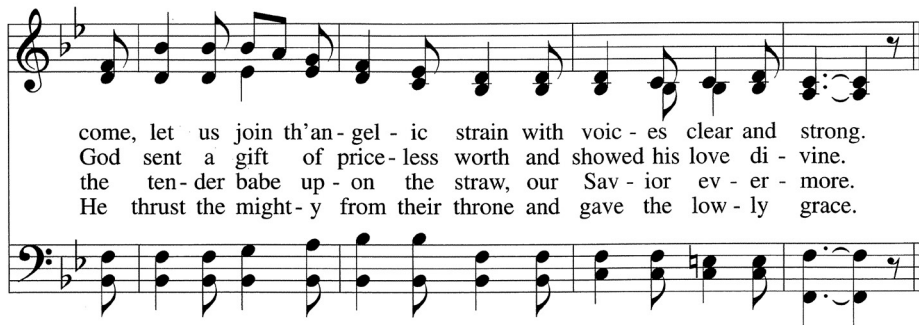
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Traditional*

## Our Day of Joy Is Here Again



1 Our day of joy is here a - gain with love and peace and song;  
 2 When dark - ness lay up - on this earth, a glo - rious light did shine;  
 3 Now to the man - ger let us go to wor - ship and a - dore  
 4 How won - der - ful that God's own Son should so him - self a - base!



come, let us join th'an - gel - ic strain with voic - es clear and strong.  
 God sent a gift of price - less worth and showed his love di - vine.  
 the ten - der babe up - on the straw, our Sav - ior ev - er - more.  
 He thrust the might - y from their throne and gave the low - ly grace.

*Refrain*



Glo - ry to our God, we sing, glo - ry to our Lord and King;



peace, good will with all a - bide this ho - ly Christ - mas - tide.

## My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

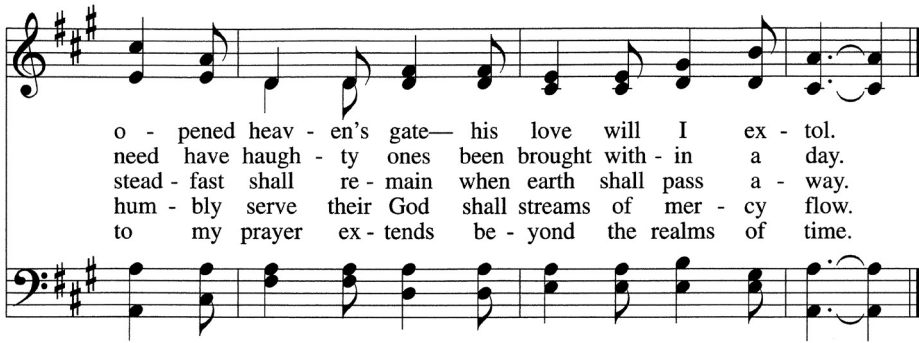
1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord, with joy his  
 2 The pow - er of God's right - eous arm a - maz - ing  
 3 God's mer - cy is in - deed so great its length can -  
 4 God's wis - dom can - not be dis - cerned by car - nal  
 5 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord, with joy his

praise I sing; for God my Sav - ior un - to me  
 things has wrought; earth's might - y ones he has sub - dued,  
 not be spanned; for those who trust his prom - is - es  
 hu - man - kind; but those who tru - ly love the Lord  
 praise I sing; for God my Sav - ior un - to me

has done a won - drous thing: this child of dust he  
 like dust they've come to naught: the proud of spir - it  
 God's help is near at hand: the cov - e - nant that  
 his sac - red plan will find: the ones whose hearts are  
 has done a won - drous thing: this child of dust he

rich - ly blessed, his mer - cy fills my soul; for me he  
 he has sent with emp - ty souls a - way; to depths of  
 he has made, as in our par - ents' day, for ev - er  
 filled with pride will God, the Lord, bring low; to those who  
 set a - part for bless - ed - ness sub - lime; his an - swer

JOY IN CHRIST



o - pened heav - en's gate— his love will I ex - tol.  
need have haugh - ty ones been brought with - in a day.  
stead - fast shall re - main when earth shall pass a - way.  
hum - bly serve their God shall streams of mer - cy flow.  
to my prayer ex - tends be - yond the realms of time.

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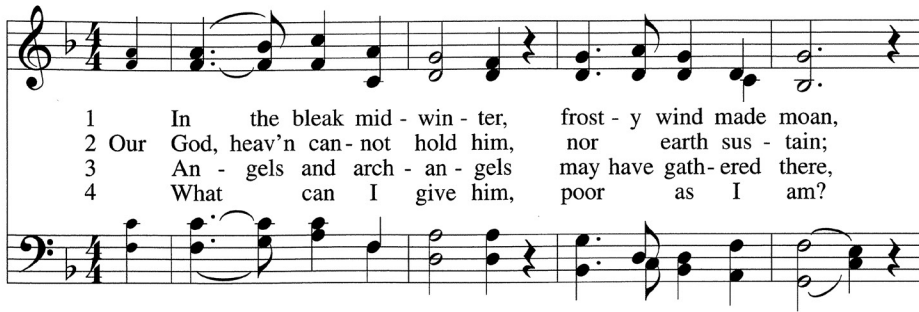
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## In the Bleak Midwinter

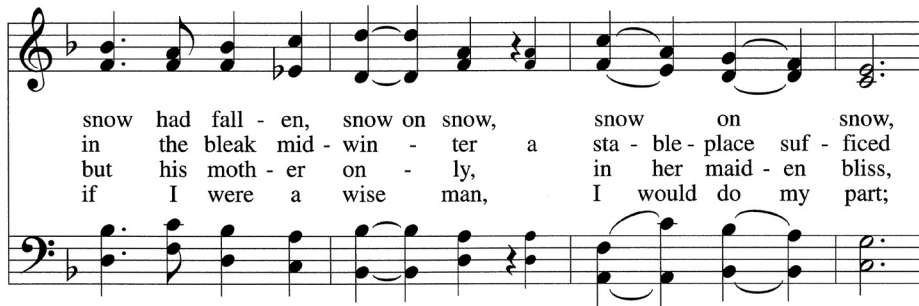
151



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God, heav'n can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

# Joy Bells Are Ringing

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The second system also has a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The lyrics are printed between the staves.

1 Joy bells are ring - ing, Christ - mas is bring - ing ti - dings of Je - sus'  
2 Light is as - cend - ing, night - time is end - ing, sun - shine from God ap -  
3 Oh, what a trea - sure God in his plea - sure lov - ing - ly gives to -  
4 Come to the man - ger, kin - dred and stran - ger, hail now the new - born  
5 Ban - ish all sad - ness, fill me with glad - ness, Je - sus, whom I a -

birth. Can - dles are gleam - ing, glad - ness is stream - ing out o - ver all the earth.  
pears. Hope of the a - ges, fore - told by sag - es, comes to dis - pel all fears.  
day! Grace to the low - ly, peace pure and ho - ly, an - gels to all con - vey.  
King! In ad - o - ra - tion, with ju - bi - la - tion, peo - ples and na - tions sing!  
dore! All else may per - ish, thee will I cher - ish now and for - ev - er - more!

WORDS: Nils Frykman, 1842-1911, tr. E. Gustav Johnson, 1893-1974,  
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MUSIC: Wilhelm Theodor Soderberg, 1845-1922

5.5.6.D.  
JULEN ÅR INNE

## WHAT IS JULOTTA?

Julotta is a Swedish service that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. The service is held every December 25. Traditionally, the service should begin around 6 am and end before, or at the time of, dawn. In many instances, the church is lit only by candlelight as parishioners arrive, and the sanctuary then fills with sunlight as the service progresses. The earliest recorded occurrence of Julotta in the United States was in the Strombeck Lutheran Church in Minnesota in 1883.



*Julotta*, Jenny Nyström (1854-1946)

