

[Something I have learned.]

[Something I will share.]

JOY TO THE WORLD

WATTS/MASON

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And Heaven and nature sing,
 And Heaven and nature sing,
 And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Lyrics by Isaac Watts (1719) Music by Lowell Mason (1839) (Public Domain)

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

KING JOHN/WADE

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him,
 Born the King of angels.

**O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
 O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

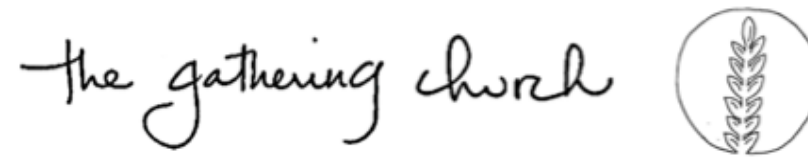
**O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,**

REFRAIN

Lyrics by John Francis Wade (1751) and by King John IV of Portugal (Public Domain)

UPCOMING WWW.ALLGATHER.ORG/CALENDAR	GIVING WWW.ALLGATHER.ORG/GIVING
<p>Gethsemane Garden Christian Centre's founder visits the Gathering Church: Welcome Naphtaly Mattah from Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria (Kenya) on the morning of 12/16 as he shares some of his experiences. GGCC has been a missions partner with the Gathering Church for the past several years.</p> <p>Free Outdoor Christmas Concert in Chapel Hill: Join Jeff and Co. on December 15 at 6pm at the corner of Franklin & Colombia in Downtown Chapel Hill (UBC Courtyard). This is a great event for the whole family.</p>	<p>Hanging of the Greens: Stay after church on Sunday 12/23 to help decorate for our Christmas Eve service. We'll order in some food and "hang the greens" together.</p> <p>Christmas Eve: Invite your friends and family to our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service at Creekside Elementary School on 12/24 at 5:30pm. Children are welcomed but there will be no childcare provided.</p> <p>Advent Devotional and Materials: Available for free download at www.allgather.org/advent/.</p>
	<p>YTD GIVING (12/02) \$239,798</p> <p>2012 BUDGET GOAL \$300,000</p>
	<p>WAYS TO WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING:</p> <p>(1) In the black box on the back table on Sundays. (2) Online through Paypal. (3) By automating a draft through your bank. (4) By mailing a check to PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516.</p>

Fill out a visitor's card to be included in church communications. To have an announcement included email: happenings@allgather.org. Keep up with the Gathering Church on Twitter ([@allgather](https://twitter.com/allgather)) or www.facebook.com/allgather. Check out Music from the Gathering Church: music.allgather.org (to stream or buy) or blog.allgather.org.



The Second Sunday of Advent

“The people that in darkness walked
 Have seen a wondrous light,
 A light that beamed afar,
 The bright and morning star,
 And those that dwelt in death's dark vale
 Have felt their joy increase,
 Their constant theme shall be,
 'All hail the Prince of Peace.'”

- Grant C. Tullar (1900)

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see

Written by Charles Wesley (Lyrics) 1739 and Felix Mendelssohn (Music) 1840 (Public Domain)

WESLEY/MENDELSSOHN

Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

WELCOME

Welcome to the Gathering Church. We are a church that is growing in doing three things well: being present to God in worship, being connected to each other in community, and being engaged in the world by serving and sharing God's love. Thank you for gathering this morning to worship the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The main symbolism portrayed by the wreath is the growing intensity of light as the candle lighting includes an additional candle each worship day and as anticipation builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

For the past several weeks, the children of our congregation have been learning and practicing songs and readings. This morning, they will present the fruits of their labors and tell the joyous story of Jesus' Nativity. This program has been adapted from *The Living Crèche* (written and arranged by Anna Laura Page and JeanAnne Shafferman).

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

REDNER/BROOKS

Sung by the Children's Choir

Music by Lewis Redner (1868) Lyrics by Philips Brooks (1867) (Public Domain)

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

DIX

Solo by Morgan Taylor

Lyrics by William C. Dix (1865). Music: *Greensleeves*, 16th Century English melody (Public Domain)

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

TRADITIONAL

The holly and the ivy,
When they were both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

**O the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.**

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

Traditional English Carol (1868) (Public Domain).

SILENT NIGHT

MOHR/XAVIER

Duet by Olivia Rossman & Kayleigh Warman

Lyrics "Stille Nacht" by Joseph Mohr (1816) and Music by Franz Xavier (1818) (Public Domain)

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

TRADITIONAL

Sung by the Children's Choir

Traditional 12th Century English Carol. Melody from *Orientis Partibus* (Public Domain)

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

TRADITIONAL

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
REFRAIN

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
REFRAIN

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
REFRAIN

Lyrics French Traditional, Translated James Chadwick (1862) and Music by Edwin Barnes (Public Domain)

THE FIRST NOEL

TRADITIONAL

Sung by the Children's Choir

Traditional English Christmas Carol "The First Nowell" (Public Domain)

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

HOPKINS

Sung by the Children's Choir
Solos by Scout Silvanic, Reagan Mastney, & Sam Taylor

Words & Music by John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

TRADITIONAL

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.**

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Music – African American Traditional Lyrics by John Work, Jr (1907)