



# Shalom Mennonite Congregation

December 20, 2020 | Shalom-at-Home #41  
NL315 Advent 4 | Advent Promises: Love

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*Carrie Dengler Wenger, Worship Leader*

*Melody Mast, Music Leader*

*Kirsten Beachy, Children's Time*

*Brian Bolton, Speaker*

*Carrie Yoder, Zoom Host*

## **GATHERING**

### **Prelude Caroling**

<i>O little town of Bethlehem</i>	HWB 191
<i>Silent night, holy night</i>	HWB 193
<i>The first Noel</i>	HWB 199
<i>What child is this</i>	HWB 215

### **Centering Bell**

<b>Gathering Song</b>	<i>Come thou long expected Jesus</i>	HWB 178
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### **Welcome**

### **Lighting the Candle of Love**

*Today we light a candle for Love.*

Love is a woman speaking truth to power even when men are muzzled.

Love lives a reality that is yet to exist.

Love believes.

*We can stand on its banks, look at it, or talk about it; but the only way to know it is to immerse ourselves in this river: Love.*

**This Advent we step into the fierceness of Divine Love, believing that all things will be made new.**

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Hope is a candle</i>	STS 15
	<i>Sing we a song of high revolt</i>	STS 13

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture** Luke 1:26-56

**Children's Time**

**Sermon**

## **RESPONDING**

**Hymn** *Let it be*

**Prayers of the People**  
**Offering**

*Minor Chord*

**SENDING**

**Introductions & Announcements**  
**Benediction**

**BreakOut Groups – an optional opportunity to talk for a few minutes with others gathered on the following prompts.**

- 1) Tell us your name(s) and where you are
- 2) What has been one good thing and one challenging thing about this experience in the past week?
- 3) Closing thought, prayers or pass the peace.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Voices Together: New Hymnal**

We are eagerly waiting to receive our new Mennonite Hymnals in the mail, and plan to make them available to you to begin using at home when they arrive. In the meantime, you can purchase a four volume set of recordings or even get a digital copy of the hymnal available now for iPads. More at [voicestogetherhymnal.org](http://voicestogetherhymnal.org).

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**Spotswood Elementary School is starting a fundraiser to send material aid to Central America.**

Many of their students have aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, grandparents, cousins and even parents in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Many of these family members are suffering the loss of everything they had due to the unprecedented disaster caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. The situation of their families and friends is at the forefront of our students and families minds and lives. An impromptu disaster relief committee was formed to start raising funds virtually and these funds will be used to buy all the materials needed for our in person students to put together Disaster

Relief Kits in January. Please add your grain of sand, click on this link [t.ly/BNuL](https://t.ly/BNuL) to help our school teach Harrisonburg's children about the power and importance of empathy!

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### **A Call for Land**

We are Stefan and Anna Showalter Hess and we are members of Community Mennonite Church. We are in the process of launching a sustainable farm. We are committed to building our local food system while also giving back to the earth through restorative agricultural practices. Our farm, Friendly Neighbor Gardens, is currently operating on rented land in town. You can learn more about what we do by visiting [www.friendlyneighborgardens.weebly.com](http://www.friendlyneighborgardens.weebly.com). We are looking for land to farm. One of the primary obstacles for young farmers like us is affordable, long term access to land. We know that many in our broader church community share our vision for sustainable agriculture and also may have an interest in farmland conservation. If you know of any land that is ready to be transitioned to the next generation of caretakers, we would love to hear from you! We are interested in buying land (10-40 acres) on which we can live and work. Please let us know if you know of any possibilities! We hope to hear from you!

Stefan and Anna

717-224-1191

[friendlyneighborgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendlyneighborgardens@gmail.com)

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### **Curriculum Kits**

Paper curriculum kits for age 2 to grade 5 are being distributed monthly to any families who request them. They follow the narrative lectionary scriptures used in worship. If your family would like to receive them and haven't requested yet, please fill out the [Curriculum Kit Request Form](#) by January 20 to receive February's kit. Contact [Carrie Wenger](#) with questions.

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### **Upcoming Birthdays:**

Daryl Peifer – December 24

Ross Erb – December 26

## Budget Report | December 13, 2020

ACTUAL		BUDGETED	
Weekly Offering	\$4,985	Weekly Offering	\$3,648.58
December	\$11,475.56	Avg. Monthly	\$15,810.52
YTD	\$165,111.47	YTD	\$182,429.07

*Regular offering, as well as donations to other funds can all be made online at <https://shalommc.breezechms.com/give/online> as well as mailed into EMU, Campus Box 8, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802*

*Visitors: Welcome to Shalom-at-Home! If you would like to be on our mailing list or be contacted by someone on pastoral team, please send your name and email to [office@shalommc.org](mailto:office@shalommc.org).*

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Shalom Mennonite Congregation is a welcoming and inclusive community rooted in Jesus' radical call to love, justice, and peace.

We seek to grow our welcome and inclusion as we deepen our spirituality, build meaningful relationships, work for peace and social justice, and cultivate diverse community connections.

Visit our website at [shalommc.org/vision](http://shalommc.org/vision) to find out more about who we are, what we do, and what we strive for. You can also read there about our commitment statements regarding inclusion of people who identify as LGBTQIA+, and our policy and practices around maintaining an environment that protects children from abuse.

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**Address** EMU, Campus Box 8, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

**Office** 1086A Smith Ave

**Phone** 432-1659

**Staff:** Brian Bolton, Pastor; Carrie Yoder, Communications Specialist, Nursery & Safe Congregation Policy Administrator; Jooyeon Kim, Bookkeeper.

**Administrative Council & Congregational Chair:** Anne Martin

Please contact any member of the Safe Congregation Team if you have questions or concerns regarding inappropriate sexual conduct, violence, intimidation, or physical abuse by child-care workers, teachers, or others in the congregation: Kate Clark, 810-1067; Ross Erb, 435-0350; Anne Martin, 432-1086; Brian Bolton, 830-8381.

# 191 O little town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS 86. 86. 76. 86

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, 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 the heav'n's.  
 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.

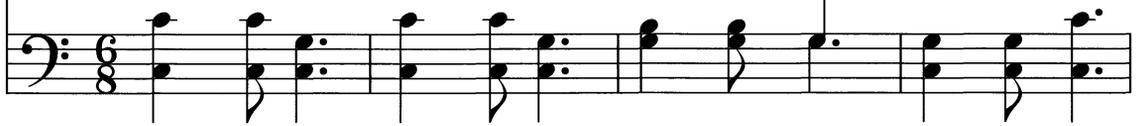
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

# Silent night, holy night

STILLE NACHT Irregular



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, Love's pure light,  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light.



'round you vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing, "Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra - diant, beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 With the an - gels let us sing "Al - le - lu - ia" to our King,



sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 "Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."



1 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.  
 "Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh',  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh'!"

3 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
 Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
 Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
 da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':  
 Christ, in deiner Geburt.  
 Christ, in deiner Geburt.

2 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
 Hirten erst kundgemacht.  
 Durch der Engel Halleluja  
 tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
 Christ, der Retter ist da,  
 Christ, der Retter ist da!

4 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht,  
 die der Welt Heil gebracht;  
 aus des Himmels goldenen Höhn,  
 uns der Gnade Fülle laßt sehn:  
 Jesum in Menschengestalt,  
 Jesum in Menschengestalt.

# 199 The first Noel, the angel did say

THE FIRST NOEL Irregular with refrain

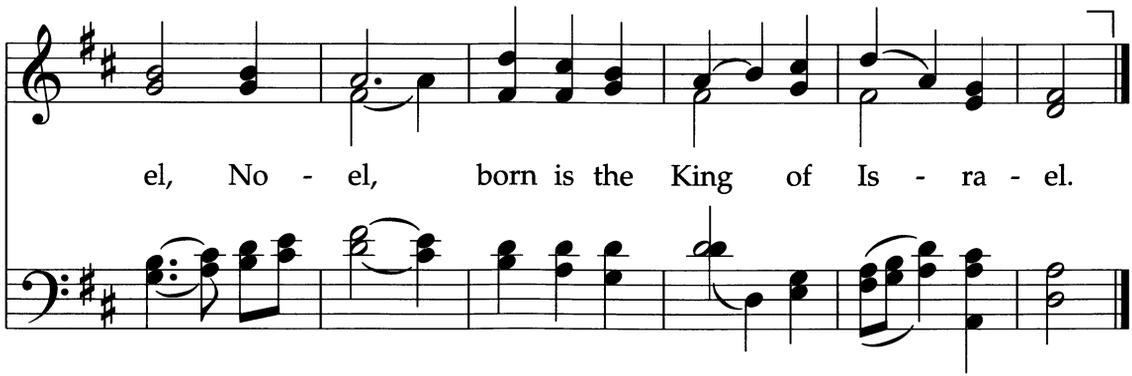
1 The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that same star three  
 4 This star drew nigh to the North - west, o'er  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

1 cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay - in fields where  
 2 in the East, be - yond them far, and to the  
 3 wise men came from coun - try far. To seek for a  
 4 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, and there it  
 5 rev - 'rent - ly up - on the knee, and of - fered

1 they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 2 earth it gave great light, and so it con -  
 3 king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 4 did both stop and stay, right o - ver the  
 5 there in his pres - ence, their gold and

1 night that was so deep.  
 2 tin - ued both day and night.  
 3 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 4 place where Je - sus lay.  
 5 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

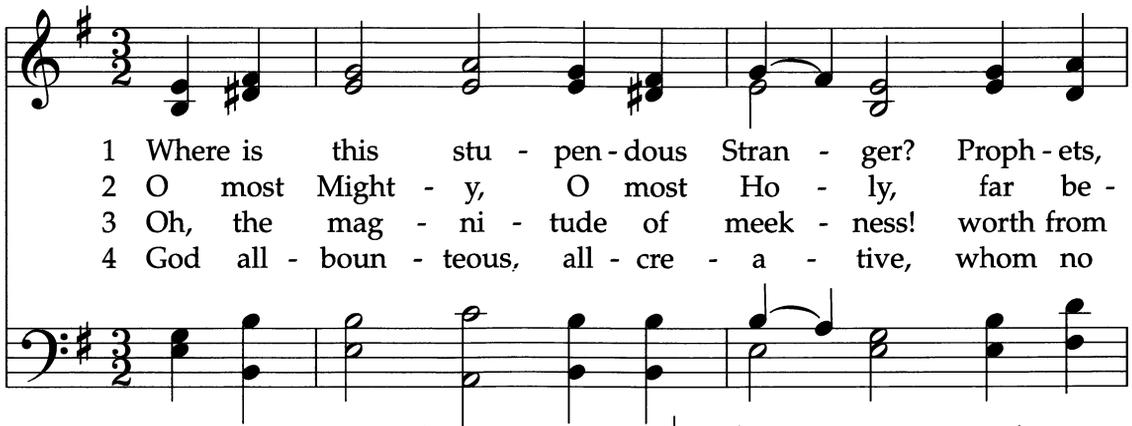
Refrain



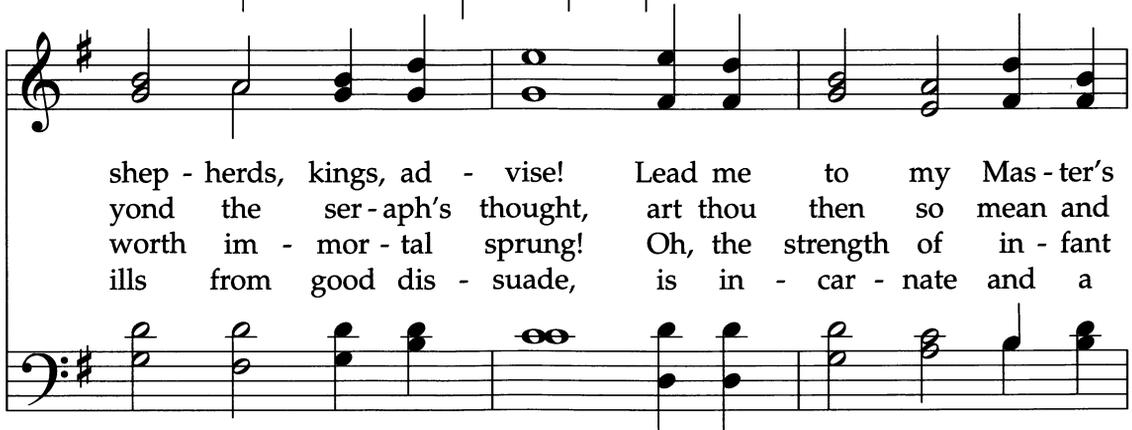
el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## Where is this stupendous Stranger? 200

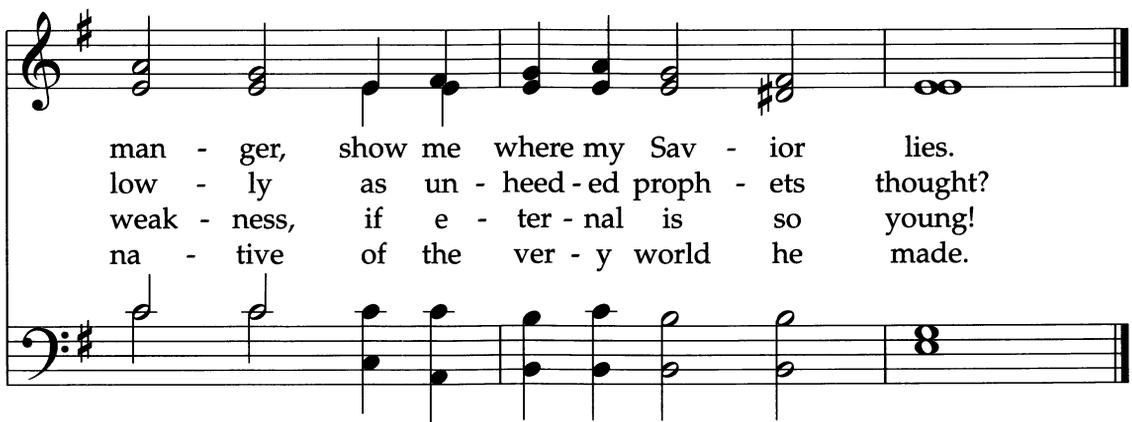
McRAE 87. 87



1 Where is this stu - pen - dous Stran - ger? Proph - ets,  
 2 O most Might - y, O most Ho - ly, far be -  
 3 Oh, the mag - ni - tude of meek - ness! worth from  
 4 God all - boun - teous, all - cre - a - tive, whom no



shep - herds, kings, ad - vise! Lead me to my Mas - ter's  
 yond the ser - aph's thought, art thou then so mean and  
 worth im - mor - tal sprung! Oh, the strength of in - fant  
 ills from good dis - suade, is in - car - nate and a



man - ger, show me where my Sav - ior lies.  
 low - ly as un - heed - ed proph - ets thought?  
 weak - ness, if e - ter - nal is so young!  
 na - tive of the ver - y world he made.

Text: Christopher Smart, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs ...*, 1765, alt.

Music: Joan A. Fyock, 1989

Copyright ©1989 Joan A. Fyock

# What Child is this

GREENSLEEVES 87. 87. 68. 67

Em G D Em

1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

Am B Em G D

lap is sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems  
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners  
 king, to own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion

Em B Em sus<sup>4</sup> Em Bm G

sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 here the si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the

D Em Am/C B

Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.  
 pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 song on high; the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Bm G D Em B Em sus<sup>4</sup> Em

Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
Hail, hail the Word-made-flesh, the babe, the son of Ma-ry!  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,

## Christ, whose glory fills the skies 216

LUX PRIMA 77. 77. 77

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un-ac-com-pan - ied by thee.  
3 Vis - it, then, this soul of mine. Pierce the gloom of sin and grief.

Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night.  
Joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer-cy's beams I see.  
Fill me, Ra-dian - cy di - vine. Scat-ter all my un - be - lief.

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap-pear.  
Till they in-ward light im-part, glad my eyes and warm my heart.  
More and more thy - self dis-play, shin-ing to the per - fect day.

# 178 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL 87. 87D

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus! born to set thy  
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free, from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, dear de -  
 Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone. By thine

Text: Charles Wesley, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*, 1744

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, ca. 1830, *Cyfaill y Cantorion*, 1844; arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906, adapted 1951, *BBC Hymn Book*

Arrangement copyright © Oxford University Press, London

sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Blessed be the Lord 179

L: *Blessed be the Lord, the God*

1 God has raised up for us a might	-	of Israel,
2 a Savior who would free us from		y Savior
3 God swore to Abraham, our ancestor, to grant us that, free		our foes,
4 As for you, little child, you shall		from fear,
5 to make known to the people their		be called
6 God will give light to those		sal - vation
7 Glory be to God and to		in darkness,
		the Son

*who has visited the people and re - deemed them. (to Stanza 1)*

1 in the house of	David, the Lord's	servant,	as was promised by the
2 from the hands of	all who	hate us.	So God's love for our
3 and saved from the	hands of our	foes,	we might serve in
4 a prophet of	God, the Most	High.	You shall go a -
5 through the for -	giveness of their	sins,	the loving-kindness of the
6 those who dwell in the	shadow of	death,	and guide us into the
7 and to the	Holy	Spirit,	as it was in the beginning, is

1 lips of	holy ones,	those who were the	prophets from of old -
2 parents is ful - filled	and the holy	covenant re -	membered.
3 holiness and justice	all the days of our	life in the holy	Presence.
4 head of the anointed One	to prepare a	way be -	fore him,
5 heart of our God	who visits us like the	dawn from on	high.
6 way of peace,	guide us into the	way of	peace.
7 now, and ever shall be,	world without	end. A -	men.

Text: Luke 1:68-79; tr. Ladies of the Grail

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Music: Abbey Notre Dame du Tamié

Music copyright ©1980 Trappist Abbey of Tamié

# 15

## Hope is a candle

GALLOWAY TAM 11 10. 11 8



- 1 Hope is a can - dle, once lit by the proph - ets,
- 2 Peace is a can - dle to show us a path - way,
- 3 Love is a can - dle whose light makes a cir - cle,
- 4 Joy is a can - dle of mys - t'ry and laugh - ter,
- 5 Christ is the light that the proph - ets a - wait - ed,



- 1 nev - er con - sumed, though it burns through the years;
- 2 threat - ened by gusts from our rage and our greed.
- 3 where ev - 'ry face is the face of a friend.
- 4 mys - t'ry of light that is born in the dark;
- 5 Christ is the li - on, the lamb, and the child.



- 1 dim in the day - light of pow - er and priv - i-lege—
- 2 Friend, feel no en - vy for those in the shad - ows—
- 3 Wid - en the cir - cle by shar - ing and giv - ing—
- 4 laugh - ter at hear - ing the voice of an an - gel,
- 5 Christ is the love and the mys - t'ry and laugh - ter—



- 1 when they are gone, hope will shine on.
- 2 vio - lence and force their dead - end course.
- 3 God's ho - ly dare: love ev - ery - where.
- 4 ev - er so near, cast - ing out fear.
- 5 can - dles, make way! Christ is the day.

## Sing we a song of high revolt 13

DEO GRACIAS LM



1 Sing we a song of high re - volt; make great the  
 2 Sing we of God who deep - ly cares and still with  
 3 By God the poor are lift - ed up; God sat - is -  
 4 God calls us to re - volt and trust, to work for



Lord, God's name ex - ult! Sing we the words of  
 us our bur - den shares. God, who with strength the  
 fies with bread and cup the hun - gry folk of  
 what is right and just, to catch the vi - sion



Ma - ry's song of God at war with hu - man wrong.  
 proud dis - owns, brings down the might - y from their thrones.  
 man - y lands; the rich are left with emp - ty hands.  
 Ma - ry caught, to sing and live Mag - ni - fi - cat.

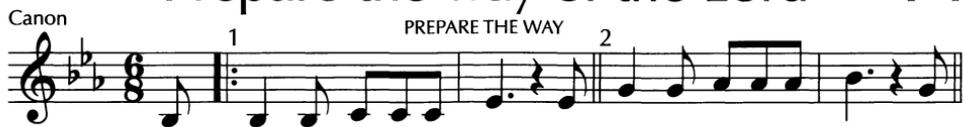
For accompaniment ideas, see number 236 in *Hymnal Accompaniment Handbook*.

Text: Fred Kaan; verse 4 adapted by Carmen Horst

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Music: English melody, 15th c.

## Prepare the way of the Lord 14



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and



all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Taizé Community, Luke 3:4,6, 1984

Music: Jacques Berthier

Text and Music copyright © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (France). Used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc.

## **LET IT BE**

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

And in my hour of darkness, She is standing right in front of me

Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the broken hearted people, Living in the world agree

There will be an answer, let it be

But though they may be parted, There is still a chance that they will see

There will be an answer, let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

There will be an answer, let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the night is cloudy, there is still a light that shines on me

Shine on till tomorrow, let it be

I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

## LOVE IS A MINOR CHORD

Love is a minor chord  
Like the mystery of an open door  
Its a change you're never ready for  
Love is a minor chord  
When it weaves the song you sing  
Into a melody that's always been  
It's gonna cost you everything  
A gift you can't afford  
'Cause love is a minor chord

Love is a candle flame  
A gentle flicker in the window pane  
Holds you in a dance that you can't explain  
Love is a candle flame  
It only has to catch your eye  
Touch a heart uncovered, tinder-dry  
To turn a spark into a raging fire  
That no one can contain  
'Cause love is a candle flame

Love is the morning sun  
A sweet reminder that the past is done  
Another chance, another race to run  
Love is the morning sun  
And with it comes a choice we make  
To be more giving in the give and take  
To lay your life down for another's sake  
Is not a risk without reward  
'Cause love from a candle flame  
To the morning sun  
Is a minor chord.  
Is a minor chord.