

## The Second Sunday of Advent

### New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



And being found  
IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN,  
He humbled Himself  
AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO DEATH,  
even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:8  
SIMPLIFIED KJV

1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041

[www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org) † 215-679-2041

*"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."*

December 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. In Person Worship - Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary

## **Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church!**

*The late J. B. Phillips has a beautiful dialogue, "The Angels' Point of View." In an imaginary conversation a very young angel was being shown the splendors and glories of the universe by a senior and experienced angel.*

*The little angel was beginning to be tired and a little bored. He had been shown whirling galaxies and blazing suns, infinite distances in the deathly cold of interstellar space, and to his mind there seemed to be an awful lot of it all. Finally, he was shown the galaxy of which our planetary system is but a small part. As the two of them drew near to the star which we call our sun and to its circling planets, the senior angel pointed to a small and rather insignificant sphere turning very slowly on its axis. It looked as dull as a dirty tennis ball to the little angel whose mind was filled with the size and glory of what he had seen.*

*"I want you to watch that one particularly," said the senior angel, pointing with his finger.*

*"Well, it looks very small and rather dirty to me," said the little angel.*

*"What's special about that one?"*

*"That," replied his senior solemnly, "is the Visited Planet."*

*"'Visited'?" said the little one. "You don't mean visited by—"*

*"Indeed, I do. That ball, which I have no doubt looks to you small and insignificant and not perhaps overclean, has been visited by our young Prince of Glory."*

*And at these words he bowed his head reverently.<sup>1</sup>*

*From there, Phillip leads the junior angel through a series of revelations about Christ's incarnation that leaves him stunned and incredulous. Oh, to have fresh eyes and a tender heart as we revisit these astonishing truths – to live our lives in a spiritual springtime of wonder – to be perpetually knocked out by the realities of Christ.*

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<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes, *Philippians: The Fellowship of the Gospel*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007), 85.

**We Praise and Confess**  
*The \* invites you to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

**Every Valley** – trans. Janet Linker

Chiming of the Trinity

\*Call to Worship

---based on Isaiah 40:3, NRSV

*A voice cries:*

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

*As we worship today,*

*let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst,  
in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.*

*Come, let us worship God.*

\*Advent Carol: No. 102

**Savior of the Nations, Come** – Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

\*Apostolic Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

May the love of God the Father, and the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

**Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Liturgist: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and

silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**People:** **In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

**Pastor:** We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

**Sung:** ***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.***

Prayer of Confession  
Let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God,  
you who shaped out of nothing all that is,  
forgive us for returning empty-handed.  
You who called forth light,  
forgive our preference for the dark!  
You who sent John to be a voice crying,  
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!  
Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence*

Silent Confession

Song of Request: No. 695

***Change My Heart, O God***

Declaration of Pardon

based on Zephaniah 3:14-18, NRSV

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

\*Advent Carol: No. 93

***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*** - Truro

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

## ***We Hear and Respond***

From the Prophets

Malachi 3:1-4

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a

refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.<sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.<sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.<sup>2</sup>

From a Letter of the Apostle Paul Philippians 2:5-11  
<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.<sup>3</sup>

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*Gospel Acclamation: No. 96

***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*** – Winchester New

\*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

St. Luke 21:25-36

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**Glory to Christ our Savior.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and

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<sup>2</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

<sup>3</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Php 2:5–11.

Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" 4

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr Williams – "PD"

## ***The Humility of Christmas***

\*Affirmation of Faith

***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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<sup>4</sup> *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Lk 3:1–6.

Morning Prayer

Our Savior's Prayer [using **debts** and **debtors**]

Welcome and Announcement

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

**Greensleeves** – arr. John Behnke

\*Offertory Response: No. 710

**We Lift Our Voices** - Offering

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Christmas Carol: No. 144

**In the Bleak Midwinter** - Cranham

Following the Light of Christ into the World

**We go. . .  
To share the light, faith and love of Jesus  
with all people!**

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

**Joy to the World** – Don Hustad

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## DECEMBER 8, 2024

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers  
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist  
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support  
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation  
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education  
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist  
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary  
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: [office@newgoshucc.org](mailto:office@newgoshucc.org)  
Visit us online at [www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org)

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**WELCOME VISITORS** ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship!

**WiFi PASSWORD:** Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Please read Luke 2:10-11.

**UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS** are located on a table in the vestibule at the Fellowship Hall side entrance and at the elevator entrance on the lower level. There is no charge for the booklets.

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pickup. They are located on the upper level near the elevator. Envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL ENTRYWAY:** Please note that bulletins, newsletters, and other brochures are now displayed on a wall holder to the right of the entrance door.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Holiday break will be November 28<sup>th</sup> thru January 9<sup>th</sup>. Bible Study will resume on January 16, 2025.

**COOKIES GALORE:** The Senior High Youth Group is back in business and once again holding their beloved tradition of providing you with all your Christmas cookie needs! They'll have the cookies, the containers, and the scale. You bring your sweet tooth and support of our youth. The sale will be held **TODAY** in Fellowship Hall during these times: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL** will be held on Sundays, December 15 and December 22 at 9:15 a.m. in the Choir Room with Peter Hemperly directing for the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Join us!

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

In memory of the birthday anniversary of our daughter,  
**Sherry (Schmoyer) Stein**  
by Gene & Sue Schmoyer

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME:** Our congregation will again be collecting gift items for the children at Bethany. There are two ways to help during the holidays: purchase items on the youth Wish List (Wish List is displayed on the bulletin board in the Social Room and in the Sanctuary vestibule area on the upper level), or financial gifts may also be made to support youth needs and activities at [www.bethanyhome.org](http://www.bethanyhome.org). Please note that all gifts should be new and unwrapped. Please place gifts in the designated bin on the stage in Fellowship Hall by December 9. Thank you in advance for your support!

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** There will be a short ceremony on Saturday, December 14 at noon. It will take place outside at the Main Entrance of the church. Following the ceremony will be the laying of the wreaths. Refreshments will be provided in the Social Room both before and after the ceremony. All are welcome!

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** with **Carols, Bread, and Candles** will be at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mr. Rudy Lucente, Associate Grand Court Organist of the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, will preside at the organ with Christmas prelude music beginning at 2:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Special music is now being planned for each service.

**BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS** are available on January 19 (half-\$15) and March 30 (half \$15 or full \$30). Please call the church office if you are interested in sponsoring.

**2024 YEARBOOK:** The deadline for all New Goshenhoppen Yearbook reports for the year 2024 has been set for **MONDAY, January 13, 2025**. Committee chairpersons, youth leaders, Women's Fellowship, and Pastoral and Christian Education Staff are kindly requested to submit reports to the Church Office by this date. Please mark your calendars so that this date is honored. Thank you for your cooperation.

**ALTAR FLOWER INCREASE:** Starting January 1, 2025, altar flowers will increase to \$45.00 for full sponsorship and \$22.50 for a half sponsorship. Any additional pieces for in front of the pulpit or under the cross will start at \$40.00 and up.

**ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS** may pick up their arrangements immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. ***Flower arrangements that are not picked up on Sunday will be available in the Church Office until Wednesday, after which time they will be discarded.***

**BULLETINS** are presented in memory of loved ones by the Atno family.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented in memory of loved ones by David & Delores Schuler; and in loving memory of mothers, Carmella Ventre and Linda Campano Smith by Joe & Jen Ventre.

**THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT** are presented in honor of Sarah George's "Gotcha Day" by Sandy and Emma George.

**THE FLOWERS BEHIND THE PULPIT** are presented in memory of father, Leon S. Pennepacker by Cindy & Leon Pennepacker.

**ATTENDANCE: 12/1/24** – 8:00 a.m. 60; 10:30 a.m. 59; Livestream (You Tube) 67. Sunday School 50.

Above is the "Live" Concurrent Household Number - *(Note: "number of households" is less than "number of people". If on average each household has two people watching, then our numbers are 2x the number of households that tuned in.)*

**OPERATING INCOME 12/1/24:** Current & Benevolences \$3,748; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$291. General Fund appeal to date \$16,730. Monthly EFT income \$5,060. Brass Buckets \$1,885.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** 73 giving units have responded. There is \$84,130 pledged. The amount received since 2023 is \$81,081 (including Capital Campaign memorial gifts.)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:**

Year to Date Income	\$648,331.10
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$74,178.16</u>
	\$574,152.94
Year to Date Expenses	\$631,033.79
Special Projects BIM Income	\$163,306.53
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$275,394.15
Meadows Payback Income Year to Date	\$695.00

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:00 a.m.	Cookies Galore (FH)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Ch. Ed. Bldg.)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)
	11:30 a.m.	Cookies Galore (FH)
	2:00 p.m.	Private Event (FH)
Mon.	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (BF)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (PF)
	12:30 p.m.	Goschenhoppem Meadows Task Force (Confirmation Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pack Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Thurs.	12:00 noon	Pastor Elaine's Community of Practice
	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming
Fri.	6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Apostles' Room, Heidelberg Room, 4 <sup>th</sup> grade classroom)
Sat.	12:00 noon	Wreaths Across America
	3:00 p.m.	Valley Choral Concert (St. Mark's Lutheran, Pennsburg)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Senior Choir rehearsal (Music Room)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Ch. Ed. Bldg.)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)
	3:00 p.m.	Valley Choral Concert (Trinity Lutheran, Perkasio)

**Thank you to our Service Participants**

8:00 a.m.

Narthex – Melissa Jamison  
 Roberts' Church Office – Terry Vincent  
 Elevator – Katie Stankunas  
 Upper Narthex – Amy Hangey  
 Liturgist/Acolyte – Will Howe

10:30 a.m.

Narthex – Peter Hemperly  
 Roberts' Church Office – Cindy Roma  
 Elevator – Denise Fox  
 Upper Narthex – Steve Lentz  
 Liturgist/Acolyte – Sue Jacobs

**POINSETTIA ORDERS AND MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

How lovely the chancel and apse look when adorned with red poinsettia plants announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior. Orders are now being taken at a cost of \$11.00 per plant. Kindly, only one plant per order form. Also, the money for each poinsettia order needs to accompany the order form. You may give the order forms/money to the Church Office (215-679-2041). **The deadline for ordering poinsettia plants is MONDAY, December 9, 2024.** Anyone making memorial contributions to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin needs to do so by **MONDAY, December 9, 2024, also.** Please indicate on your check or on a piece of paper if you wish for your memorial contribution to be printed in the CHRISTMAS EVE BULLETIN.

In lieu of poinsettia plants, donations may be made toward supporting Open Link and Helping Hands, two local mission projects. Thank you for your support of these outreach endeavors and also for the beautification of New Goshenhoppen Church at this special time of the year.

**NOTE:** Poinsettia plants may be removed after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service OR picked up on Christmas Day (between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Enter through the Main entrance--nearest the elevators--and pick up poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary).

*PLEASE, ONLY ONE PLANT PER ORDER FORM*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Plant ( )

Mission Project ( )

Check One:

( ) In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

( ) In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

# Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;  
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;  
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006  
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594  
 English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
 7.7.7.7

## Change My Heart, O God 695

Cámbiame, Señor 항상진실케

Refrain / Estribillo / 후렴

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.  
 Cám - bia - me, Se - ñor, con tu gran po - der.  
 항 상 진 실 케 내 맘 바 꾸 사

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.  
 Haz - me co - mo tú, tu yo quie - ro ser.  
 주 님 의 모 습 닻 게 하 소 서

You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay.  
 Tú el al - fa - re - ro, yo el ba - rro soy.  
 주 는 토 기 장 이 나 는 진 흙

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
 Só - lo a tu i - ma - gen, quie - ro siem - pre ser.  
 날 빛 으 소 서 기 도 하 오 니

The central image of the potter and the clay in this text comes from Isaiah 64:8 (and there is a similar reference in Jeremiah 18:1-6), while the petition for a changed heart is similar to Psalm 51:10. Such readiness to do God's will is a significant feature of the spiritual life.

TEXT: English and Spanish, Eddie Espinosa, 1982;  
 Korean trans., The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001

MUSIC: Eddie Espinosa, 1982

Text and Music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (admin. in North America Music Services)

CHANGE MY HEART  
 Irregular

## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.



# 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW LM  
 (alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

# We Lift Our Voices

## We Are an Offering

710

F C F C  
 We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our

F C Dm7 F  
 lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our

C F C  
 voice - es; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our

F C Dm7 F G7  
 lives; they are yours: we are an offering.

Em7 Asus A Dm7 F G Esus E Am  
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

F C B<sup>b</sup> Dm F  
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our

C F C F C  
 voice - es; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:

Dm7 C  
 we are an offering; we are an offering.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

## In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven 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;  
 heaven 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-winter, long a-go.  
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.  
 ‡ wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.  
 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM  
 Irregular