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Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10 The messenger proclaims, "Your God reigns." Let us rejoice and sing because of God's love shown to us.
 Psalm 98 Sing a new song because God is victorious. Praise God with instruments because God will judge with righteousness and equity.
 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) God has spoken to us through Christ, who is far superior to even the angels of God.
 John 1:1-14 The Word was God, light, and life. The Word became flesh and lived among us.

Call to Worship

Light dawns; day breaks; God comes.
 God is alive in our midst!
May we, like the shepherds, follow the good news.
 Light dawns; day breaks; God comes.
 The angels herald God's presence.
May we, like the angels, announce the good news.
 Light dawns; day breaks; God comes.
 God's surprises awaken.
May we, like Mary, treasure God's Spirit within us.
 Light dawns; day breaks; God comes.
 Creation blooms with joy.
May we, like Jesus, shine with God's love for all to see.

Hymns for the Day

	PH	EH	ELW	UMH	NCH	VU	STF	SNC	TFBF	HFTG
Hymns of Praise										
O Come All Ye Faithful	41	83	283	234	135	60				
On This Day Earth Shall Ring	46	92		248						
Angels We Have Heard on High	23	96	289	238	125	38				
Old Testament										
Of the Father's Love Begotten	309	82	295	184	118	61				
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	31, 32	87	270	240	144	48				
O Christ the Word Incarnate	327	632	514	598	315	499				
Epistle										
When Long Before Time			861			248				
Angels, from the Realms of Glory	22	93	275	220	126	36				
Creator of the Stars of Night	4	60	245	692						
Gospel										
Word of God, When All Was Silent										82
Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming	48	81	272	216	127	8				
O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High	83	448, 449	322	267	209	348				
Word of God, Come Down to Earth		633	510	182						
Communion										
Now the Silence		333	460	619		475				
Now to Your Table Spread	515									
Sending										
Go, Tell it On the Mountain	29	99	290	251	154	43			52	
From East to West, From Shore to Shore		77								
It Came upon the Midnight Clear	38	89, 90	282	218	131	44				

(For Important Hymns from Other Sources, refer to the Christmas Dawn listing on page 72.)

Prayer of Confession

Living God, you have come to dwell among us, full of grace and truth.
We gather to hear beloved words of Scripture and sing sacred songs.
Yet we come weary, and even relieved that this day has finally come, and our responsibilities for preparation are over.
We have spent precious energy and time doing the things expected of us, while pushing you to the bottom of our lists, hoping you will understand.
Our promise to witness to your coming has slipped away, yet again.
God, have mercy on us and speak to us through your Son.
Join our hearts with all creation, with the angels and all the saints of heaven.
Speak your Word—even Jesus Christ, that we may welcome him and live for him.

Psalm Settings

Psalm 98 Metrical
 "New Songs of Celebration Render" PH 218
 "Sing New Songs to God Almighty" PCW 113
 "Sing to the Lord New Songs" NMP 161
Responsorial
 "All the Ends of the Earth" PP1 66
 "All the Ends of the Earth" PS1 33
 "Praise the Lord" P 94

Contemporary Songs

"Sing to the Lord" (Psalm 98) Timothy Valentine GIA, G-4815
 "God Is Love" David Haas *Gather Comprehensive*

Global Songs

"This Is the Day of Joy and Peace" (Thailand) STB 303
 "Christmas Is Here" (Nepal) STB 304
 "He Came Down" (Cameroon) AAHH 200
 "Two African Carols (God Comes Tomorrow)" (Iona)

Anthems for Larger Choirs

"How Beautiful Upon the Mountains" John Stainer, CPDL (www.cpd.org), SATB
 "Hodie Christus Natus Est" J. P. Sweelinck, HWG GCMR01855, SSATB
 "Christmas Day" Gustav Holst, NOV A6435, SATB
 "Sing to the Lord a New Song" Clifford Taylor, WBM, SATB

Anthems for Smaller/Youth Choirs

"Be a Gift to a World in Need" Pote, Hope (C 5435), 2-part, keyboard
 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" Cool, Aug (978-0-8006-7514-1), 2-part mixed, keyboard
 "He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised" Near, MSM, SAB, keyboard

Anthems for Children's Choirs

"Carol Our Christmas" Arr. John Ferguson, opt. 2-part, CGA 925
 "Christmas Greeting" Martin How, BH OCTB6081
 "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" Arr. David Cherwien, opt. descant & handbells, CPH 98-3208

Handbell Music

"A Joyful Christmas Medley" Arr. Dan R. Edwards, Flammer, HP5468, 3 or 5 oct., L2
 "Caroling Medley" Arr. Sharon Elery Rogers, Jeffers, JH S9224, 2-3 oct., L1
 "On Christmas Day in the Morn" Arr. Fred Gramann, using "Away in a Manger," "The First Noel," "The Holly and the Ivy," Agape, #1594, 3-5 oct., L3

Organ Music

"Variations on Es ist ein' Ros" Alice Jordan, HWG: St. Cecilia (M)
 "Fantasia on Adeste Fideles" Bruce Neswick, PP (M+)
 "Go Tell it on the Mountain" J. Wayne Kerr, 3 for Epiphany, CPH, (E)
 "Carol Rhapsody" Richard Purvis, *The Organ Music of Richard Purvis*, HTFS (M-D)