

# *Welcome to First Lutheran Church*

---

On the first Sunday of Christmas, we have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols grew out of the ashes of the First World War. In 1918, a 34-year-old former army chaplain named Eric Milner-White was appointed Dean of King's College. Nothing could prepare him for the atrocities he witnessed on the Western Front when he volunteered for service in 1914. He came home believing that the church was failing the troops. How could he communicate a message of God's love to those who had been brutalized and traumatized by war?

Milner-White devised A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as a means of outreach to those who felt alienated by the church or religion as a whole. Instead of a complicated mass, the carols service was simpler, alternating between choral anthems, congregational hymns, and readings. The resulting service had more drama and color, was more accessible and meaningful, and acknowledged the suffering of those impacted by the Great War. This gesture was particularly important to the town of Cambridge, which had lost 211 men from King's College alone during the war.

Milner-White based the service on an order created in 1880 by Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro, for use in the wooden shed that served as the temporary worship space while Truro Cathedral was being built. Benson's intention was partly to keep his parishioners from reveling too much in the "wrong" kind of Christmas spirit down at the pub. But it was also a way to bring together his congregation at a time of uncertainty while they awaited the construction of their cathedral.

---

## **PRELUDE**

IRBY

Robert A. Hobby

Once in Royal David's City

## DIALOGUE

- L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.  
C: **By day and night he shines for all to see.**  
L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty  
C: **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**  
L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,  
C: **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**  
L: Jesus is the light of the world.  
C: **Jesus is the light of our lives.**  
L: Sing to God a new song!  
C: **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

## GATHERING SONG

Once in Royal David's City



Solo 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
Choir 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
ALL 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
ALL 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

## ***GREETING***

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## ***OPENING PRAYER***

L: Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,  
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—  
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.  
Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.  
Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.  
Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world  
and in our hearts.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## ***LESSONS AND CAROLS***

### ***FIRST READING***

### ***GENESIS 1:1-5, 14-18***

A reading from Genesis, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the

stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,  
<sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from  
the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## CAROL



Cantor	1. I	won - der	as I	wan - der,	out	un - der	the	sky,	how
Women	2. When	Ma - ry	birthed	Je - sus,	all	in a	cow's	stall,	came
Men	3. If	Je - sus	had	want - ed	for	an - y	wee	thing,	a
ALL	4. I	won - der	as I	wan - der,	out	un - der	the	sky,	how



Je - sus	the	Sav - ior	did	come	for	to	die	for
wise	men	and	farm - ers	and	shep - herds	and	all,	and
star	in	the	sky	or	a	bird	on	the
Je - sus	the	Sav - ior	did	come	for	to	die	for



poor	ord' - n'ry	peo - ple	like	you	and	like	I.	I
high	from	the	heav - ens	a	star's	light	did	fall;
all	of	God's	an - gels	in	heav'n	for	to	sing,
poor	ord' - n'ry	peo - ple	like	you	and	like	I.	I



won - der	as	I	wan - der,	out	un - der	the	sky.
prom - ise	of	the	a - ges	it	then	did	re - call.
sure - ly	could	have	had	it,	'cause	he	was
won - der	as	I	wan - der,	out	un - der	the	sky.

A reading from Micah the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# CAROL

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
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 his heav'n.  
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.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Luke.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# CAROL

## Cold December Flies Away



Cantor: 1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
Choir: 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
ALL: 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



A reading from Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **CAROL**

### Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh what a won-der-ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly meek and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: African American traditional; arr. Rollo A. Dilworth, b. 1970

Arr. © 2007 Hal Leonard Corporation

WONDERFUL CHILD  
PM

## FIFTH READING

## LUKE 2:8-20

A reading from Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

# CAROL

## On Christmas Night



ALL 1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
Women 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
Men 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
ALL 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

A reading from the Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

# CAROL

GREENSLEEVES

Lani Smith

## What Child Is This?

Rachel Hopple, piano; Curtis L. King, organ

## What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

A reading from John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

# CAROL

# Of the Father's Love Begotten



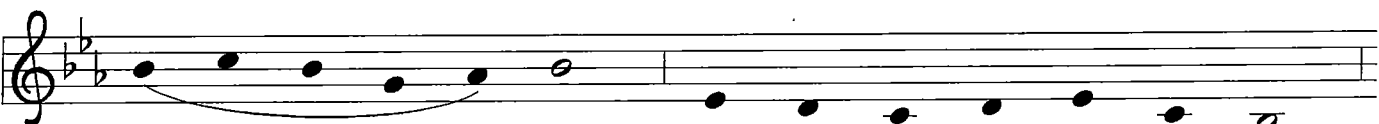
Cantor 1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 Women 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 Choir 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 Men 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 ALL 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

## ***RESPONSIVE PRAYER***

**L:** It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**C:** **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

**L:** In his light, draw all to the manger

**C:** **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

**L:** In his light, draw all to the manger

**C:** **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

**L:** In his light, draw all to the manger

**C:** **to sing for joy with the angels.**

**L:** In the brightness of his life

**C:** **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

**L:** It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**C:** **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

## ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## ***BLESSING***

**L:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

## SENDING SONG

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1	Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice	with heart and soul and voice;
2	Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice	with heart and soul and voice;
3	Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice	with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to	what we say:	Je - sus Christ	is born to - day;
now ye hear of	end - less bliss:	Je - sus Christ	was born for this!
now ye need not	fear the grave;	Je - sus Christ	was born to save!



ox and ass	be - fore him bow, and	he is in	the man - ger now.
He has o - pened	heav - en's door, and	we are blest	for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one	and calls you all to	gain the ev - er - last - ing	hall.



Christ is born	to - day!	Christ is born	to - day!
Christ was born	for this!	Christ was born	for this!
Christ was born	to save!	Christ was born	to save!

## ***DISMISSAL***

L: Go in peace.

L: The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***POSTLUDE***

*ANTIOCH*

*Carolyn Hamlin*

*Joy to the World*

Vicki Ohl, piano; Curtis L. King, organ

## *This Week's Calendar*

<b>Sunday</b>	Dec 29	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	Dec 30	5:15 pm	Bells of Praise
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dec. 31		New Year's Eve
<b>Wed.</b>	Jan. 1		New Year's Day
<b>Next Sunday</b>	Jan 5	10:00 am	Worship

**In recognition of the Holidays  
The Office will be Closed  
December 31st & January 1st**

**Normal Business Hours 11 am to 4 pm**

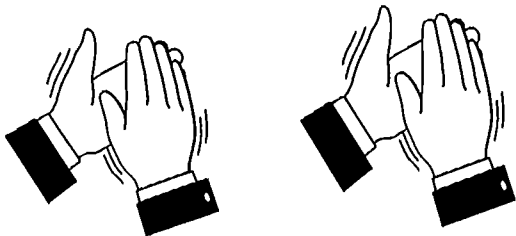
Altar Flowers were given In Loving Memory of

*Greg Mellott*

by Ron & Sandy Mellott & Sisters



*Thank!*  
*you!*



*Thank you  
to  
Curtis King  
&  
Everyone who helped  
Decorate for Christmas!*

## *Special Worship Assistants*

### **Readers:**

Father Aaron Gerlach

Rev. Karsten Snitker

Rev. Katie Treadway

### **Piano:**

Rachel Hopple

Dr. Vicki Ohl

### **Choir members:**

All Congregations

### **Organ:**

Curtis L. King

## *Our Worship Leaders*

Altar Guild: Bonnie & Mike Oberlander

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera: Tim Ross

Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross

Acolyte: Zachary Ross

Director of Music: Curtis L. King



thank you

## *Emergency Contacts*

### December

Pastor Doug DeVos  
First Christian

(419) 271-6770

(419) 939-3503 wife (Linda)

E-mail: [ddevos@buckeye-express.com](mailto:ddevos@buckeye-express.com)

Pastor Robin Kapostasy  
Hope Lutheran—Fostoria

## *Our Mission Statement*

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,  
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”