St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 5, 2021
The Second Sunday of Advent

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2222 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507

(907) 563-3341 *www.GodsView.org*

@stmarysak

WELCOME!

We are glad that you are here today. We hope that you feel right at home here--whether you are new to St. Mary's, new to Zoom, or a regular to both. Relax; you are among friends. Lift your heart and voice to the God who loves you.

However you found us, and by whatever means you are here, we are delighted to share this Way with you. If you'd like more information about St. Mary's, or would like a call from our clergy, please let us know—either in person, or by visiting *www.godsview.org/connect/.*

A SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST[i]

By Zoom at https://godsview.zoom.us/j/94031891877
Meeting ID: 940 3189 1877; Telephone call-in: (301) 715-8592
Accompanying Coloring Pages may be found at www.godsview.org/online-worship/

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

Preacher: The Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron

Presider: The Rev. Michael Burke

Reader: Kris Green

The Voice of the People: Michael Wilson & Matteo Banggiacan

Prayers: Hannah Moderow

Musicians: The Praise Singers

Media Specialist: George Hyde

Sound and Media: Seth Eggleston

In keeping with St. Mary's commitment to safety in the context of the realities of the current pandemic, persons leading worship onsite are symptom-free, masked, and safely distanced.

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

If life was a home, then we would pray—
may love be the foundation.
May God be the cornerstone.
May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.
And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.
We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.
Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.
Let us worship Holy God. [ii]

GATHERING MUSIC Praise Singers

Selections from the service music as announced, and *What Are the Signs*[iii] (below).

Verse 1 What are the signs of the morning,
God who created the light?
Speak through the gloom that enfolds us,
When breaks the dawn on our sight?
When comes the end of our night?

Verse 2 These be the tokens of promise,
One is a bright star above,
One a poor child in a manger,
Symbols of faith and of love,
Hope comes with faith and with love.

WELCOME The Rev. Michael Burke

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING[iv]

A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather together around the candle of peace.
B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—
A: peace that rests between us and our grief,
B: peace around our anxiety,
A: peace between us and our self-criticism,
B: peace amidst our relationships,
A: peace at the core of our being,
B: peace hovering through and in our world.
A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.
B: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.
A: Let it be so. Amen.
Light candle.

OPENING HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*[v] Hymnal #66

All sing

Verse 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Verse 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Verse 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

OPENING SENTENCES *EOW* I p. 50

Priest Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT *EOW*, p. 52

Presider God be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CANTICLE 16 *Setting by K. Wilhelmi*

ANTIPHON

In the ten– der mer-cy of our God the dawn from on hi-gh shall bre-eak up-on us.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

ANTIPHON

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

ANTIPHON

FIRST READING Philippians 1:3-11

Reader A Reading from Phillippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL HYMN *Zechariah's Lullaby*[vi] A. Strickland/W. Kirkpatrick

All sing

Verse 1 When old Zechariah held his baby son
He blessed him and dreamed of what he would become
As baby John rocked in the temple that morn
This song Zechariah sang for his newborn

Verse 2 "And you child will be called a prophet of Christ
To bring hope to hearts and to shadows the light
For God has sent visions of what you will do
A dream to proclaim and a world to renew"

Verse 3 We lay a foundation for what is to be
Not knowing yet praying for what we can't see
We trust in God's imagination to build
From blueprints and hope for a dream yet fulfilled

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:57-80

Gospel Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and

all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

SERMON *Home's Foundation* The Reverend Dawn Allen-Herron

TRANSITIONAL MUSIC *On Jordan's Bank*[xvii] Hymnal #76

Verse 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Verse 2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

Verse 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

NICENE CREED ***BCP*, p. 358**

All say together.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Zechariah gave one of the greatest gifts he could give to his son.
He gave him a foundation of love—words of purpose, pride, love, and belonging.

So, in turn, remembering that joyful day, we try to make a similar impact by giving what we can.
And we pray that the gifts we give now—our time, our money, our talents—will be infused by the Spirit
to make a more purposeful world of love and belonging that we can be proud of.

So let us give now. Let this be the foundation—the very start—of a better world.

Offerings toward the work and ministry of St. Mary's may be made
by texting **StMarysAK** *to* **73256**, *or at* godsview.org.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Celebrant continues

Celebrant *God be with you.*
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant *Lift up your hearts.*
People ***We lift them up to the Lord.***
Celebrant *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

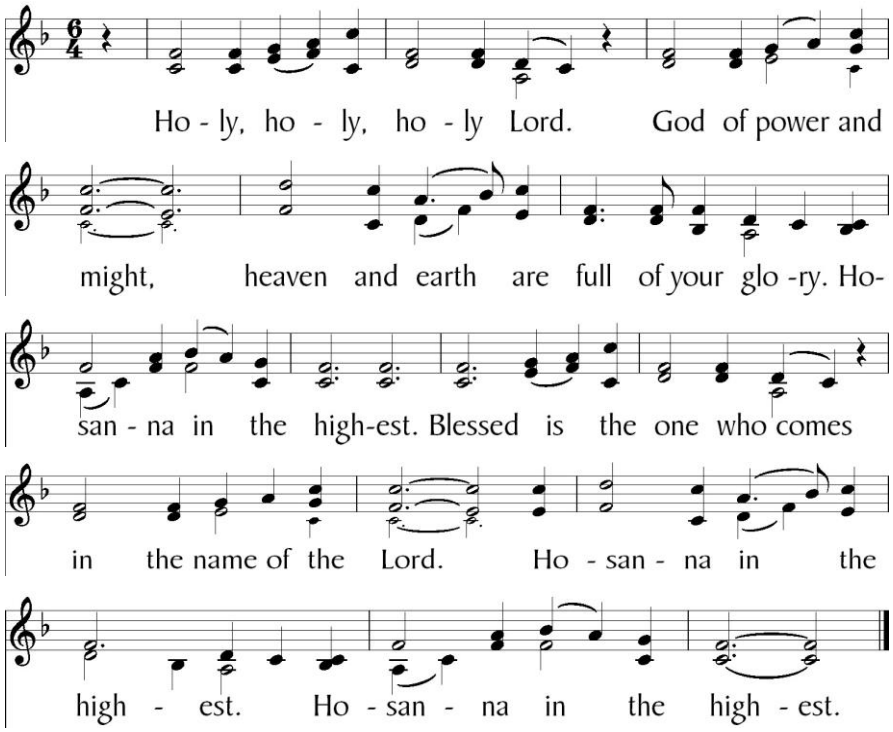
It is holy, and right, and our joyful duty to give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning, you dreamed of a world that would be good—
of mountains, valleys, and oceans;
of the changing of seasons;
of laughter and the magic of music;
of a creation united with you in love.

You dreamed of this world, O God,
and you made it to be our home.

And when we, who bear your image in this world,
turn away from you, and wander far from home,
you do not turn from us.

Rather, in love, you hold fast to us—
working, shaping, and suffering to make a way home for us.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, singing,



Ever-present God, your prophets remind us of your way,
and of our eternal home in you.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus to make his home with us.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

This same Jesus, when at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,
"This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me." 🕯🕯🕯

After supper he took the cup and gave it to them saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 🕯🕯🕯

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

By your Spirit, make this bread and this wine to be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
Grant that all who share this communion may become one body and one spirit, to the praise of your name.

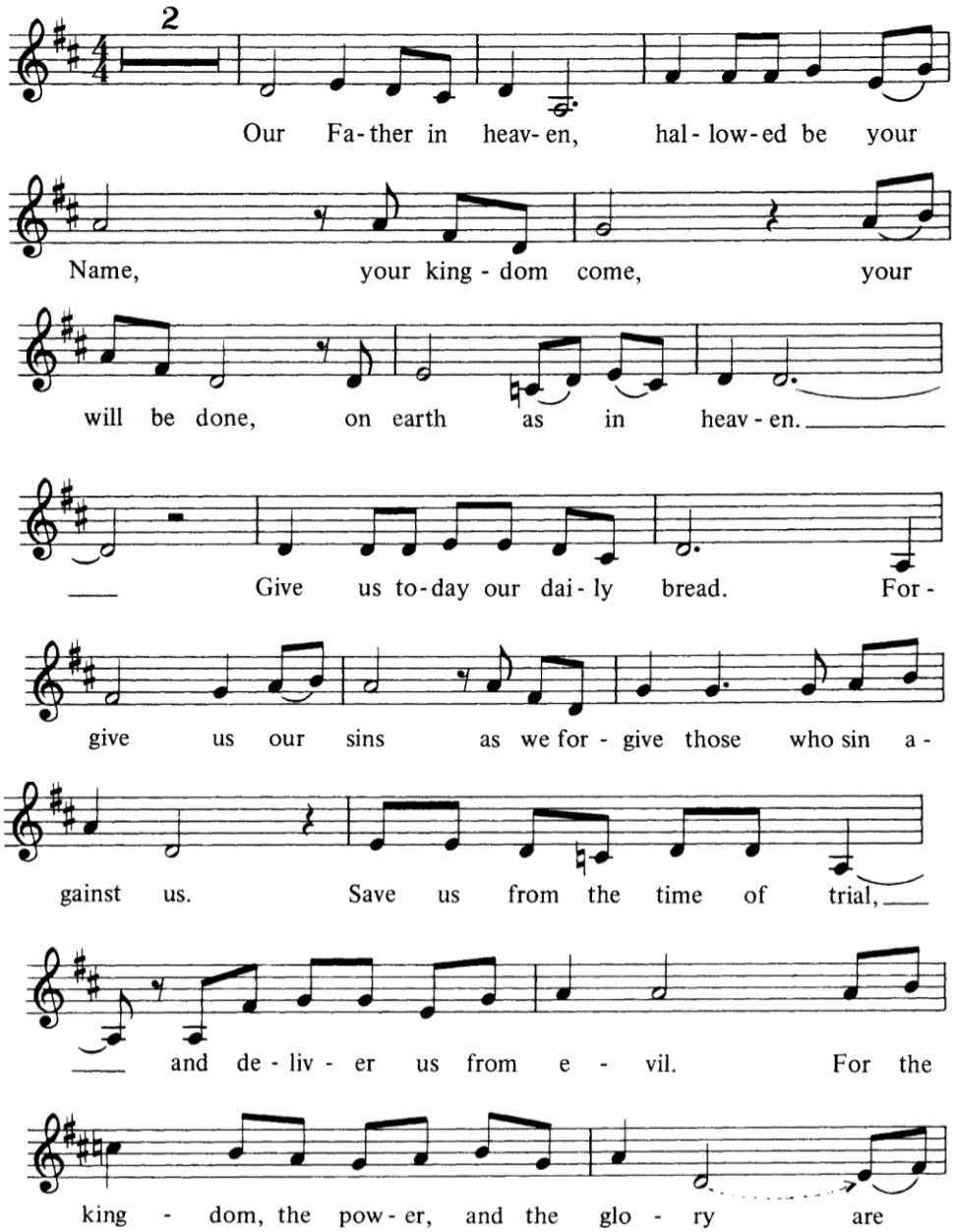
We remember your one holy Church as the gathering of your children,
the witness to your love,
and the realization of your dream for all creation.
We remember all those who minister in the Church,
and those who minister in every place by sharing the joy and peace of knowing you.
We remember especially all those who risk their safety for the common good.

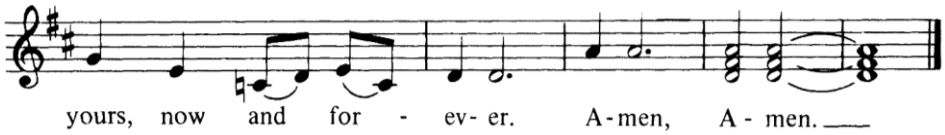
We remember and pray for…. *[Here the prayer concerns of the people are voiced.]*
We remember all those have died in the mystery of your presence,
all those who have gone before us, who are now at home with you.

By your Spirit, enliven us that we too may dream of the home you created —
of the lion lying down with the lamb,
of justice rolling like a mighty river,
of swords beaten into plowshares,
of prisoners set free.
May we remember this home, and then,
empowered with your Spirit,
grant us strength and courage for the work of homemaking for all of creation.

These things we pray through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. ***AMEN.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray, singing:





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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Bread of Life, be light in our darkness.
Christ be our Light in the world.
Cup of Salvation, be strength for our journey.
Christ be our Hope in this world.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Those gathered by Zoom are invited to change to Gallery View and to greet each other.

PEACE HYMN *Some Children See Him*[viii] W. Hutson/A. Burt

Verse 1 Some children see Him lily white,
The Baby Jesus born that night
Some children see Him lily white,
With tresses soft and fair.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
the Lord of heav'n to earth come down;
Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
With dark and heavy hair.

Verse 2 The children in each dif'rent place
Will see the Baby Jesus' face
Like theirs, but bright with heav'nly grace,
And filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing,
And with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the infant King,
For love was born that night!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION ***BCP* p 365**

The People are invited to join in the prayer.
Let us pray.
Celebrant and People
Eternal and Life-Giving God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

A priest offers a blessing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL *BCP*, p. 366

A priest says Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!***

CLOSING HYMN *Come, O Come, O Chosen One*[ix] W.H. Miller

Verse 1 Around the shepherds' fires as nights grew dark and cold,
Tales of the Messiah were whispered and retold.
About the early prophet who comes to mark the way,
To reach and teach the people to worship and to pray.

CHORUS Come, oh come, oh Chosen One.
Come now, we cry!
As birdsong fills the eastern hills
And fire lights the sky.
(repeat chorus)

Verse 2 The songs of ancient prophets on torn and scattered scrolls
Tell of a young Messiah who'll save our tattered souls.
To march in glory rising as prophecies unfold:
The Prince of Peace now with us, the Son of Man so bold.

CHORUS

Verse 3 As lamps kept trimmed and burning, as ready as can be.
Our hearts are filled with yearning to meet, dear Lord, with thee.
If patience is a virtue, or plain necessity,
We wait as days keep turning. We wait, dear Lord, for thee.

CHORUS

Those using Zoom are invited to join breakout rooms for conversation and fellowship.

Laying the Foundation

Second Sunday of Advent

Berakah by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 1:57-80
Paper lace with graphite and watercolor

In this image, Zechariah holds his baby boy. He speaks a blessing, a berakah.[1] For his neighbors, he answers the question, "What then will this child become?" (v. 66). The intimate love of a father with his newborn son is captured in this pose. Patterns of water pour over John's little shirt. Zechariah sees what his son will become and begins to speak his future into being from the start. As dawn breaks over Zechariah's shoulder, his prophecy foretells God coming into the world—of light dawning in weary spaces.

Zechariah relents. God has made Her statement. He could not speak until he de-centered himself from the story. He gives the name that Elizabeth has been called to give. Zechariah's willingness to hear the call is the action in this moment. Traditionally, he would give his first born son his own name. His neighbors are shocked by the name he chooses to give, by the prophecy, by his being able to speak again. By removing his own personal and family legacy from the picture, he is truly able to give way to the greater narrative that God is calling him to participate in.

This is an incredible moment of humility. As I created this image, I asked God's help in identifying where I can step out of the way to forward Her vision for this weary world. She knows. Her work is greater than my legacy.

—Hannah Garrity

[1] The Jewish prayer of blessing expressing gratitude and praise to God

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

December 5-11, 2021
Visit https://www.godsview.org/newsletter-signup/
to sign up for our newsletter

Sunday, December 5
10 am Sunday Worship
Meeting ID: 940 3189 1877
1 pm **Bazaar Group Cookie Exchange**
St. Mary's Parking Lot

Monday, December 6
6 pm Cosmic Spirituality and Justice
Meeting ID: 862 6159 1234
7 pm Outreach Team Meeting
Meeting ID: 812 8937 2500

Tuesday, December 7
12 pm Noonday Prayer
Meeting ID: 844 447 67936
6 pm Education for Ministry
Meeting ID: 932 8616 0622

Wednesday, December 8
6:15 pm **Choir Practice**
St. Mary's Sanctuary

Thursday, December 9
7 pm Bible Workbench
Meeting ID: 821 8564 8348

Friday, December 10
12 pm Noonday Prayer
Meeting ID: 844 447 67936

Saturday, December 11
11 am-1 pm Bazaar Workshop
Meeting ID 825 1329 8069

Scan this code to give to St. Mary's

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[viii] Words: Wihla Hutson; music: Alfred Burt, © 1954/1957 Hollis Music, Inc.
[ix] Words © 2009 Wade Hampton Miller; music *Isle of Wight* (verses) & *Blow Away the Morning Dew* (chorus); trad. English