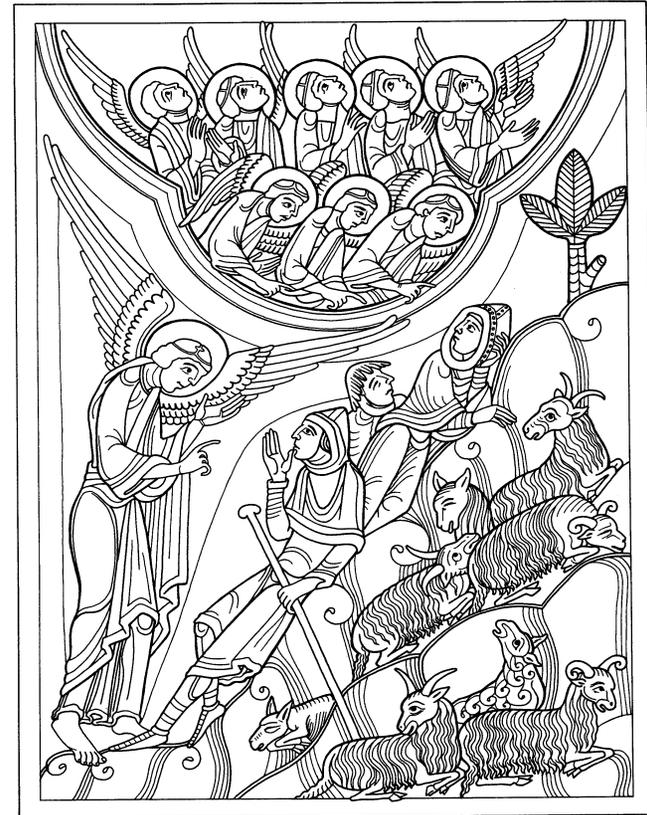


# Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber (words); John B. Dykes (music)



...the things that have now been  
announced to you by those who  
preached the Good News to you  
by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—  
things into which angels long to look.  
—1 Peter 1:12—

## Credits

Cover Art: *The Annunciation to the Shepherds*. St. Albans Psalter, Hildesheim. Early 12th century.

Old Orchard Church  
June 30, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

## Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Ministering Angels

Of the eternal and incarnate Son  
The Father says,

**“Let all the angels of God worship him.”**

For he has inherited a Name higher than theirs;  
By the exercise of his love,  
Shown in the bitterness of his suffering,  
Christ has been exalted above every angelic spirit  
in the universe.

Now they serve him, now they submit to him,  
Rendering their help as bodiless spirits  
Sent from the unseen world to serve God’s elect children  
in the seen world.

Thanks be to God, Lord of all creatures!

Thanks be to Christ,  
Who bore up our human nature  
To the Central Heights of glory in the world invisible,  
Past even angels,  
That we might share the divine nature forever.  
Alleluia!



### Scripture Readings

**Old Testament Lesson:** Daniel 6:10-23

**New Testament Lesson:** Matthew 13:24-30; 36-42; 18:10-14

### Special Sharing Time

The Kingdom of God Around the World:

Reports from Eastern Europe—and an Opportunity at Home

★Richard Winter reports on the European Leadership Forum in Poland;

★Rob Futo, Old Orchard-supported PMI missionary, reports on his and Tünde’s work in Budapest, Hungary;

★Deacon Ben Dodd and Pastor Mark Robertson report on Old Orchard’s around-the-corner trip to tornado-stricken Oklahoma City on July 31-August 4 to minister mercy and relief in Christ’s name

## Angels Among Us

The presence of angels in our world is an oft-neglected reality in Christian circles today. We do not deny their presence, as certainly they are common in the Bible (34 of the 66 books in the Bible mention angels), but we do sometimes trivialize their existence. Angels in popular culture tend to be reflected as a Precious Moments, child-like fairy creature that might leave a mint on your pillow. True angels stop the mouths of lions (Daniel 6), and they bring about that graceful, terrible awe (Luke 1:29), that brings about not worship of them (Rev. 22:8-9), but of the one true God. Angels are a further reminder of the continuity of this world and the next. The Lord is king of earth and Heaven, and his angels minister to his people, in service of the king. They are not wimps ready to offer a pat on the back or a “thumbs up,” but servants of the mighty Lord, equipped with boldness, power, and compassion that can make even the hardest of hearts weep.

We will find ourselves at times in despair, about the world and about our own lives. But we should remember that there are angels among us, and though we may be unaware (Heb. 13:2), they are protectors, comforters, and warriors. Martin Luther wrote, “that the entire world is not a mass of flames, that all towns and villages are not lying in a heap of ruins, we owe to the working and doing of good angels.” Bad news reaches our doorsteps in newspapers, televisions, and phone calls, but the world is not chaos. Goodness will reign as it does at the end of good stories, because this world, like the fantasy worlds that we read about, are under care of a good king, with good sentries who serve the people. Each of us has had the sense that this world is not our home, but like finding a memento in your luggage at camp from a parent that reminds you of that place, we too should find solace in knowing that the comfort of angels in this world is a foretaste set to explode into uncontrollable delight in the Lord when we reach our eternal rest.

—Mark Robertson

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose. And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.