

Christmas Eve
Service of Word & Sacrament
December 24, 2023 at 7 PM

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

PRELUDE

GREETING

Pastor: He came as a baby in a manger.
Congregation: O come, let us adore him.
Pastor: He came in a lowly stable.
Congregation: O come, let us adore him.
Pastor: Shepherds brought their worship.
Congregation: O come, let us adore him.
Pastor: Angels sang his praise.
Congregation: O come, let us adore him.
Pastor: Magi brought their gifts.
Congregation: O come, let us adore him.
Pastor: What shall we do?
Congregation: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
All people: Amen.

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Bulletin, Page 6

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Liturgist: Tonight, we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Four weeks ago, we lit the first one, then each week, added another. Each candle has a special meaning: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Let us now light the final candle and remember, Jesus, the Christ-Child, who is the Light of the World. (Pause for lighting for Christ Candle)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: *O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,” and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us— touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this – your salvation story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.*

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING
CAROL

An Angel Appears to Mary
O Holy Night

Luke 1:26-38
Bulletin, Page 7

**SECOND LESSON
CAROL**

*An Angel Appears to Joseph
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**Matthew 1:18-23
Bulletin, Page 8**

**THIRD LESSON
CAROL**

*Birth of Christ
Away in a Manger*

**Luke 2:1-7
Bulletin, Page 9**

**FOURTH LESSON
CAROL**

*Shepherds
Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Luke 2:8-15
Bulletin, Page 10**

**FIFTH LESSON
ANTHEM**

*Mary Pondered in her Heart
Holy is the Newborn King*

**Luke 2:16-20
Chancel Choir**

**SIXTH LESSON
CAROL**

*Wise Ones
We Three Kings*

**Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11
Bulletin, Page 11**

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Just as the Magi worshipped by bringing gifts to the Christ child, we too, worship by giving of our money, talents, and time. Let us dedicate all we give with a song and prayer. (A white offering box is located outside the sanctuary by the exit door)

CAROL

What Child is This?

Bulletin, Page 12

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All people: Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with these monetary gifts. We know that everything in this world is a gift from you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion of these gifts to you. We pray that these gifts may help this church to change people's lives and to spread your message of salvation. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Away in A Manger/Stars are Shining Bright

JAM Choir

(J.A.M.) Jesus And Me is a Wednesday evening COMMUNITY children/youth ministry.

Please see Page 5 of your bulletin for details and registration information.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING

Pastor:

Come to the Lord's Table:
All who have deep faith,
And all who would like to have more,
All who have been to this holy meal often,
And all who have never or have not been for a long time,
All who follow Jesus,
And all who feel as if they've wandered from his Way.
Come! It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us confess what it is we believe -
We believe in Jesus Christ,
and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

**Congregation: I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a little town;
and whose spirit still brings peace to persons all over the world,
in towns both large and small.**

Pastor: We believe in the One for whom the crowded inn had no room,
and confess that hearts today,
still want to shut Christ out.

**Congregation: I believe in the One who the rulers of the earth ignored
and the proud could never understand,
whose life was among common people,
whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.**

Pastor: We believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

**Congregation: I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms,
who looked at persons and helped them see others,
different from themselves, as God saw them –
as God's beloved children.**

Pastor: We confess an ever-lasting need of God:

**Congregation: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,
the need of new life for empty souls,
the need of love for hearts grown cold.**

Pastor: We believe in God,

**Congregation: the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Alpha and the Omega, my beginning and end.**

Pastor: We believe in Jesus,

**Congregation: the Son of the living God,
born in Bethlehem this night,
for me and for the world.**

Pastor: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**Congregation: the promised Advocate and spiritual Presence of Christ,
who reminds me of how much God loves me when I forget.**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Indeed, O God, we believe in the One born in Bethlehem this night - and
we give you thanks for all the gifts that you give have given us through
him. We praise you for his birth, for how he lived his life as a servant,
commanding all who would be his disciples to love God and love their
others, even as they loved themselves. We give humble praise for how, in
obedience and love Christ gave himself over to death, even death on a cross,
for our sakes – and in doing so, opened to all people the gates of heaven
and the way to eternal life. O God, we spread this table before you as Jesus
commanded us to do, on the night he was betrayed. We remember how he
took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying,

Congregation: "Take and eat. This is my body, broken for you."
Pastor: We remember how when the meal was done, Jesus took the cup of blessing, and after giving thanks, offered it to his disciples saying,
Congregation: "Take and drink. This is my blood, the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you do this, remember me."

BLESSING

Pastor: Bless, O God, this bread and fruit of the vine. Send your Spirit upon these ordinary elements and make them holy. Send your Spirit upon us and grant us courage to recommit ourselves to growing in faith, being active in a church community, and living in a way that reveals Christ's love to all we meet, through our words and actions. We ask through Christ our Lord, and pray the prayer he taught us...

All people: *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; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.*

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

The Lord's Table is open to ALL people.

Wine red. Grape juice clear.

Receive the bread and eat.

Take the cup and drink. Dispose of the cup in the wastebasket.

Come to communion by way of the center aisle

Return to your seat by way of the side aisles.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND PRAYER

All people: *Almighty God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the one true Light of the World, Jesus Christ, the Holy Child of Bethlehem. In Word and Sacrament, we have seen him and know that your promises are true. Send us forth from this faith community to live in hope and peace, joy and love, until we gather again. This we ask in the name of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.*

HOMILY

Break-In

Rev. Laura C. Baker

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As the sanctuary lights grow dim, Pastor Baker will light her candle as a signal to slowly begin lighting your candles.

CAROL

Silent Night

Bulletin, Page 13

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES

Please leave your candle in the pew. They will be used by worshippers at the 11:15 service.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: On this holy night, let us go forth to be “silent” no more. Let us go forth to proclaim the good news that Jesus, the Savior of the world is born. Let us proclaim it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere!

HYMN

Go Tell it On the Mountain

Bulletin, Page 14

(Intro by the J.A.M. Choir using Boomwackers)

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

(Intro by the J.A.M. Choir using table bells)

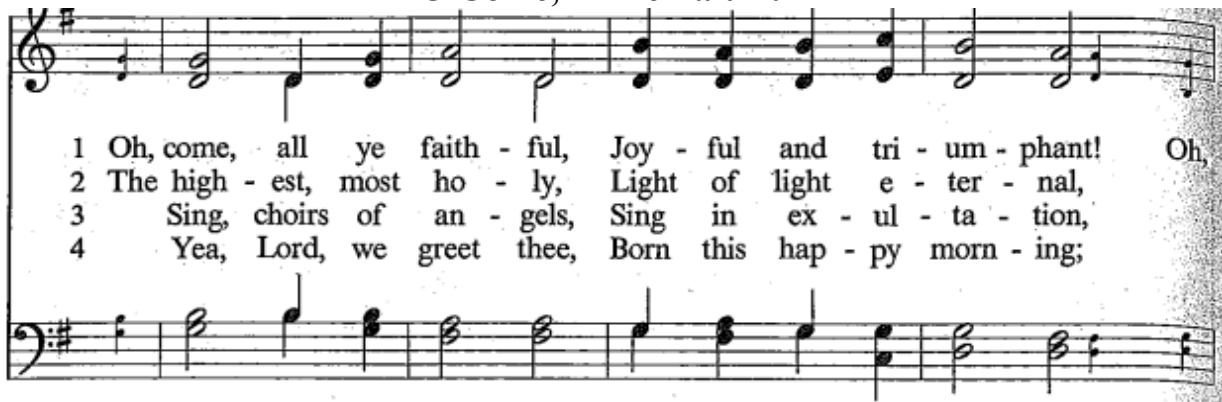
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE WORLD

You are invited to return later this evening, for a worship service that begins at 11:15 PM. It is a very warm and sacred service lasting only about 30 minutes. It is a candlelight service too, with scripture reading, carol singing, and Holy Communion. Families with children (even if in their pajamas, prepared for sleeping, and Santa’s arrival) are especially welcome to attend!

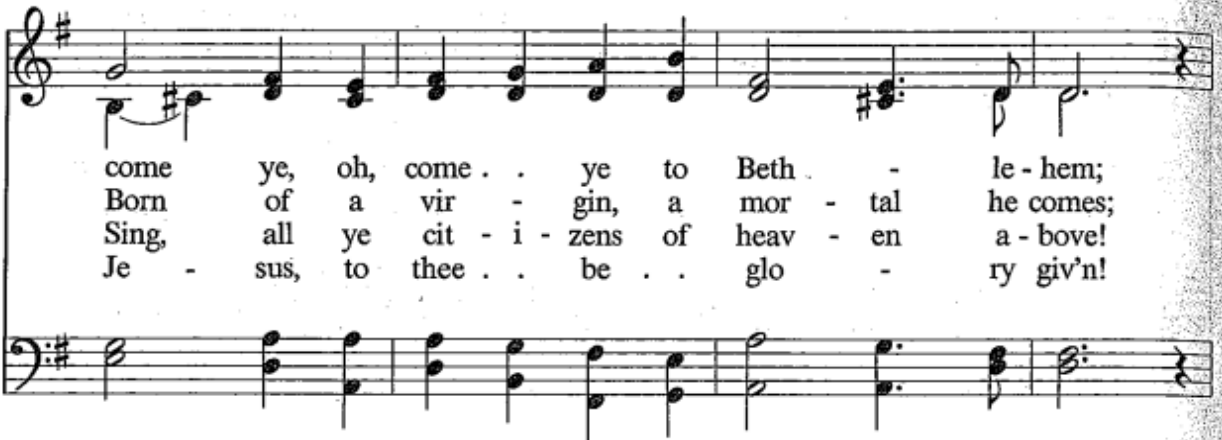
JAM (Jesus and Me)

Mark your calendars! The Spring 2024 session of JAM (Jesus and Me) will begin on Wednesday February 28 and end on Wednesday May 15. JAM is open to those 4 years of age and up. The weekly program begins at 5:30 pm and ends at 7:30 pm. . The program consists of Family Time (dinner), Recreation, Bible Study and Worship Arts.

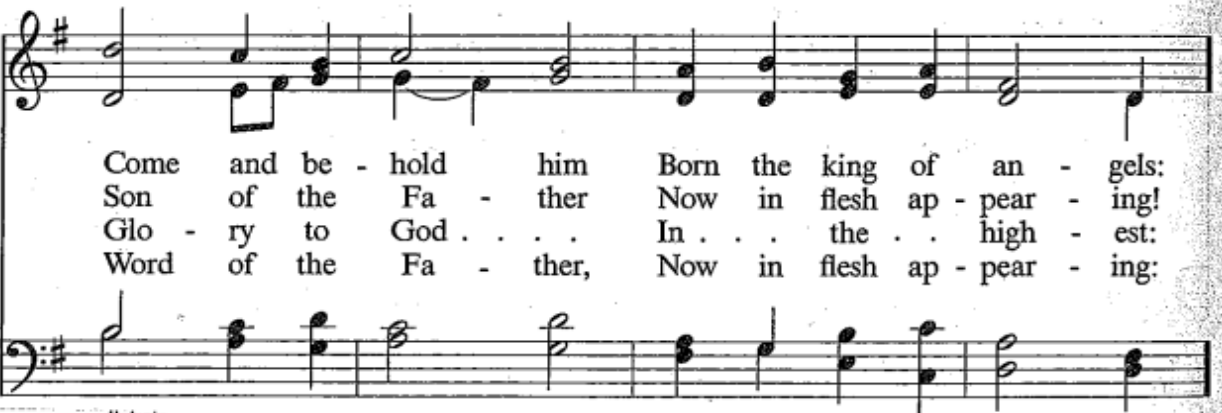
O Come, All Ye Faithful



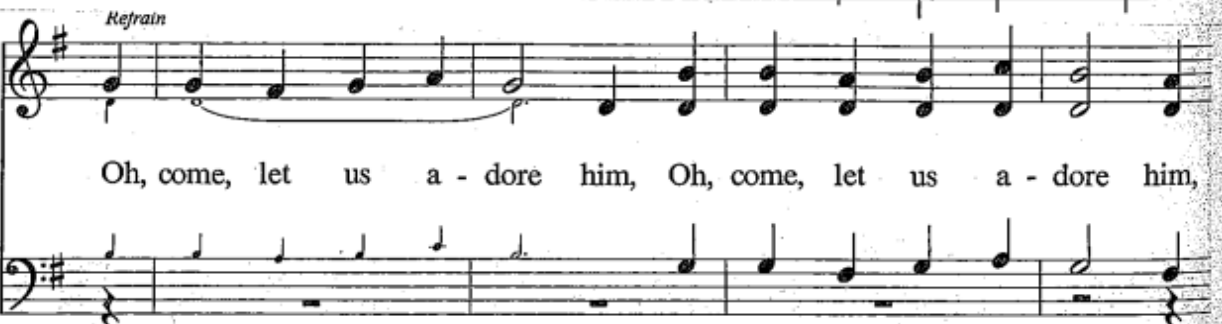
1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, Light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



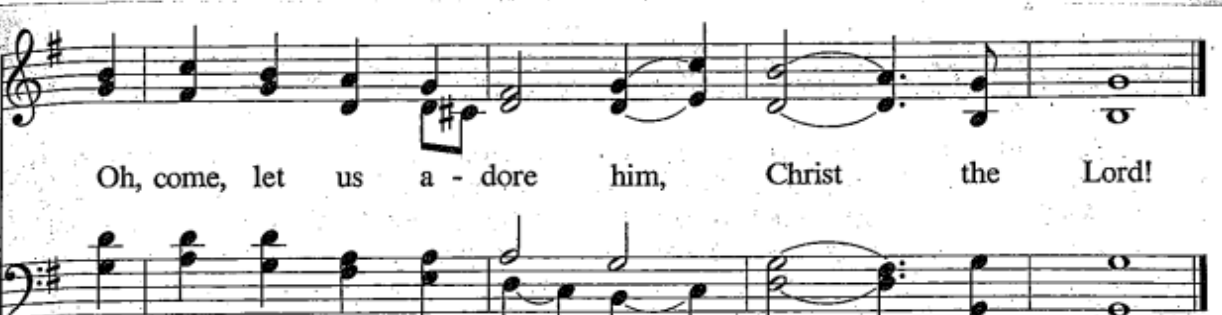
come ye, oh, come . . ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee . . be . . glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . In . . the . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



Refrain
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suf - fered long,
3. All ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has - t'ning on, By proph - et bards fore - told,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 Be - neath the an - gel strain have rolled Two thou - sand years of wrong;
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;

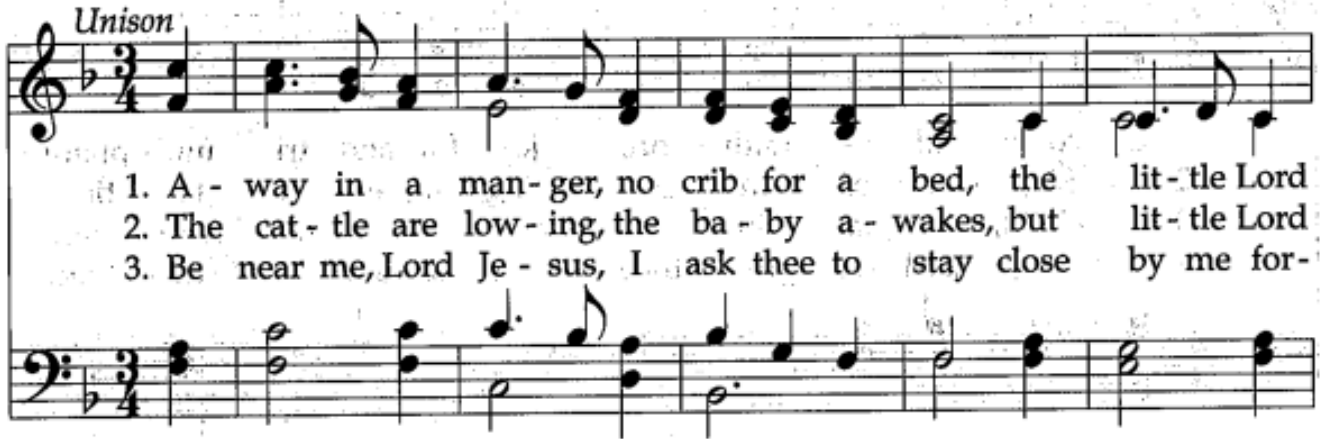
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King."
 And man, at war with man, hears not The love song which they bring:
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the an - gels sing!
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing!
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

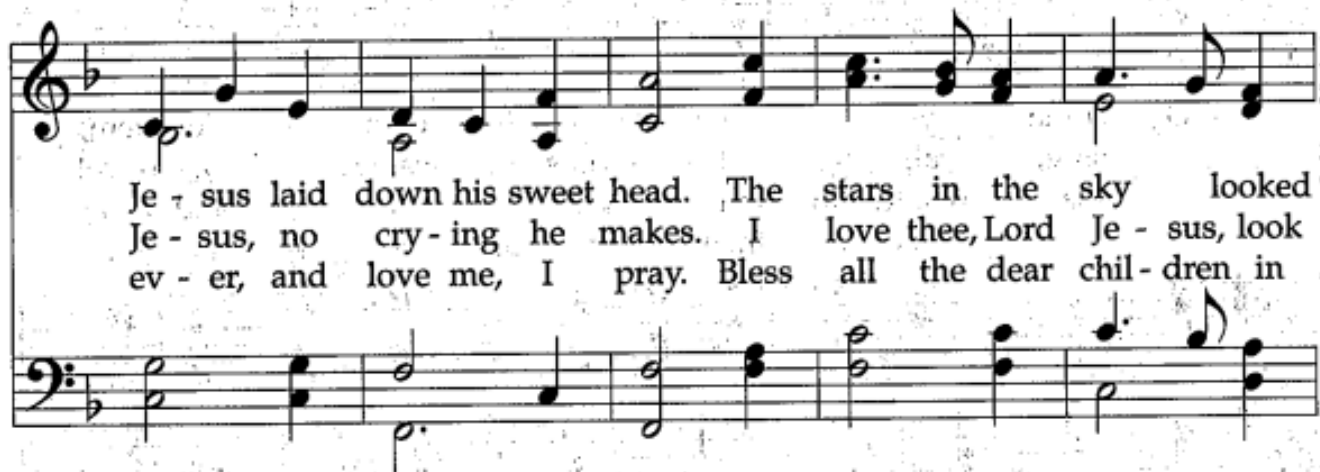
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Away in a Manger

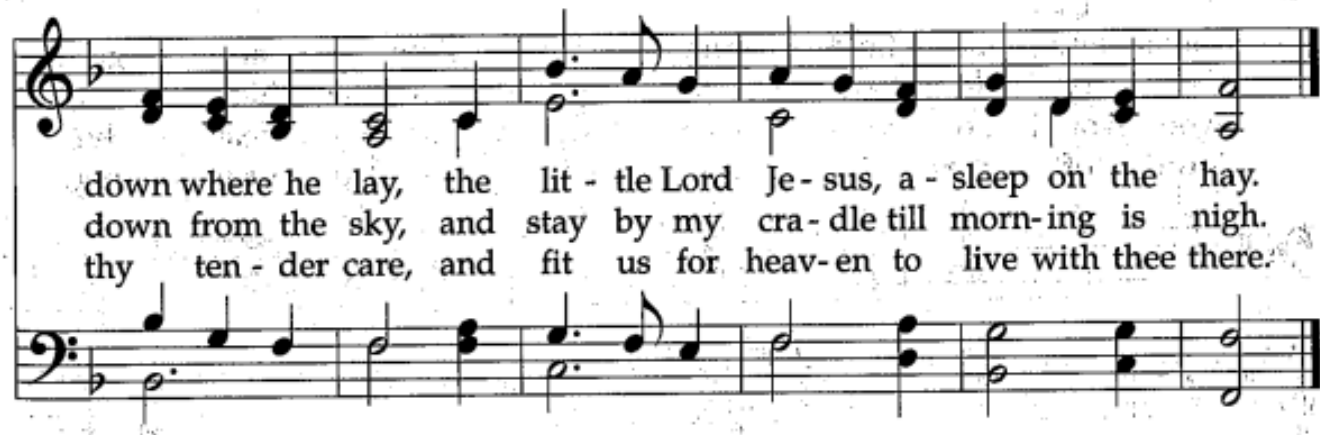
Unison



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit-tle Lord
2. The cat-tle are low-ing, the ba-by a-wakes, but lit-tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for-



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
Je - sus, no cry-ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil-dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, and stay by my cra-dle till morn-ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav-en to live with thee there.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord, late in time be Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right eous-ness! Light and life to

5
mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, —
hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb: veiled in flesh the Go - dhead see; —
all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by, —

10
join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an ge - lic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in
hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, — pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Im
born that we no more may die, — born to raise us from the earth, born to — give us

15
Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new-born King."
ma - nu - el,
se cond birth.

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.


We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far.
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him a - gain.
Fran - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume breathes an life of gath - er - ing gloom:
Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and God and sac - ri - fice;

Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing all men rais - ing, wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sounds thru the earth and skies.



O — star of won - der, star of night. Star with roy - al beau - ty bright.

West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to Thy per - fect light.


What Child is This?




1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry'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, rich and poor, to own him,




Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Christ-ian, 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.



Refrain



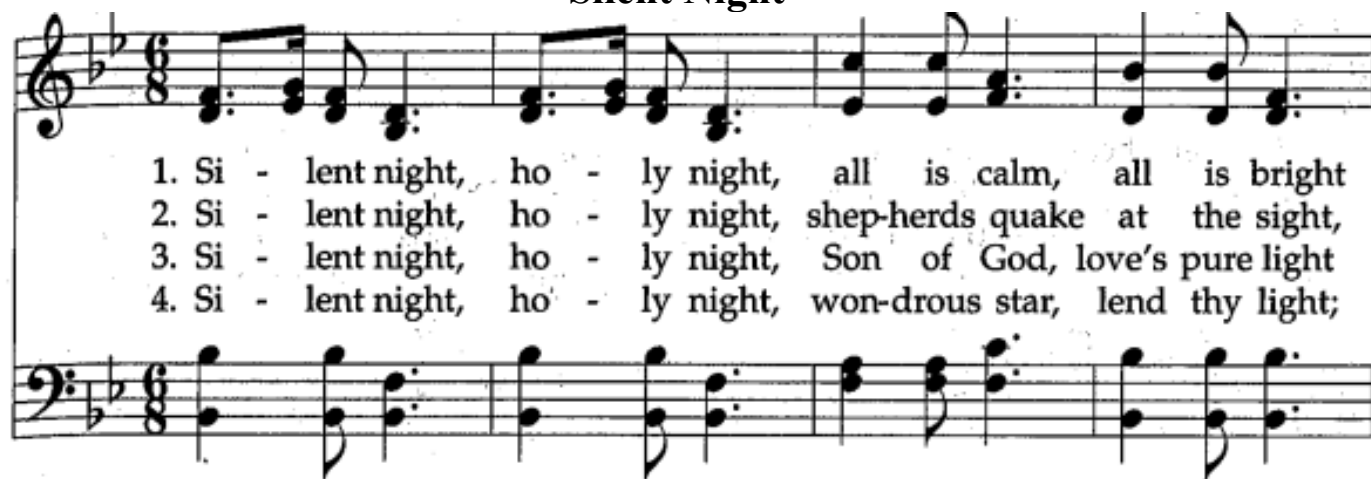
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:



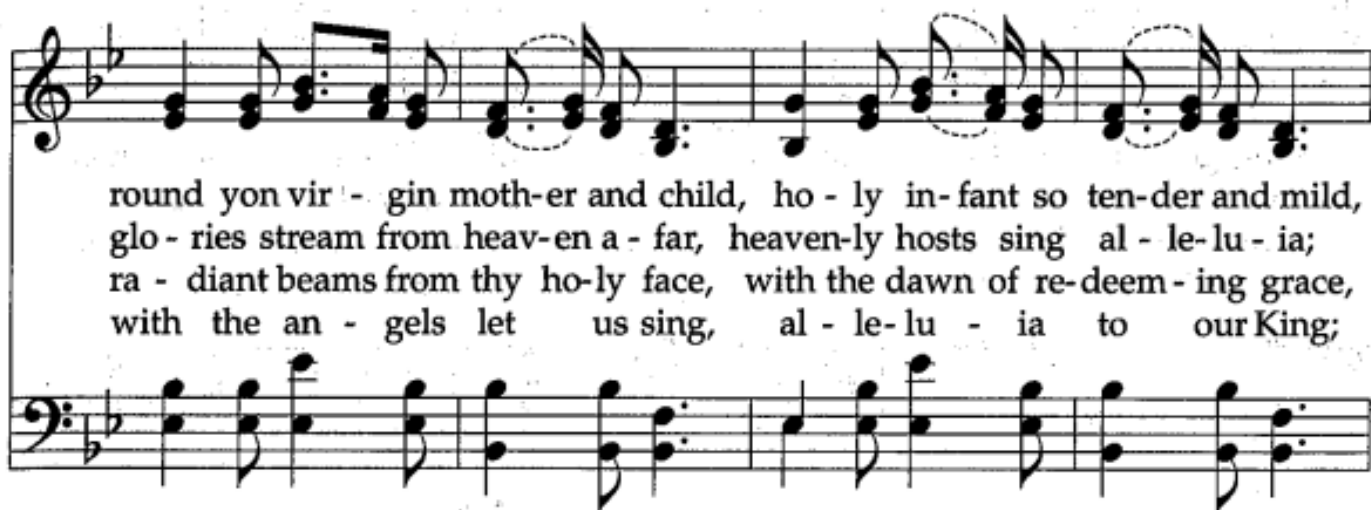
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.



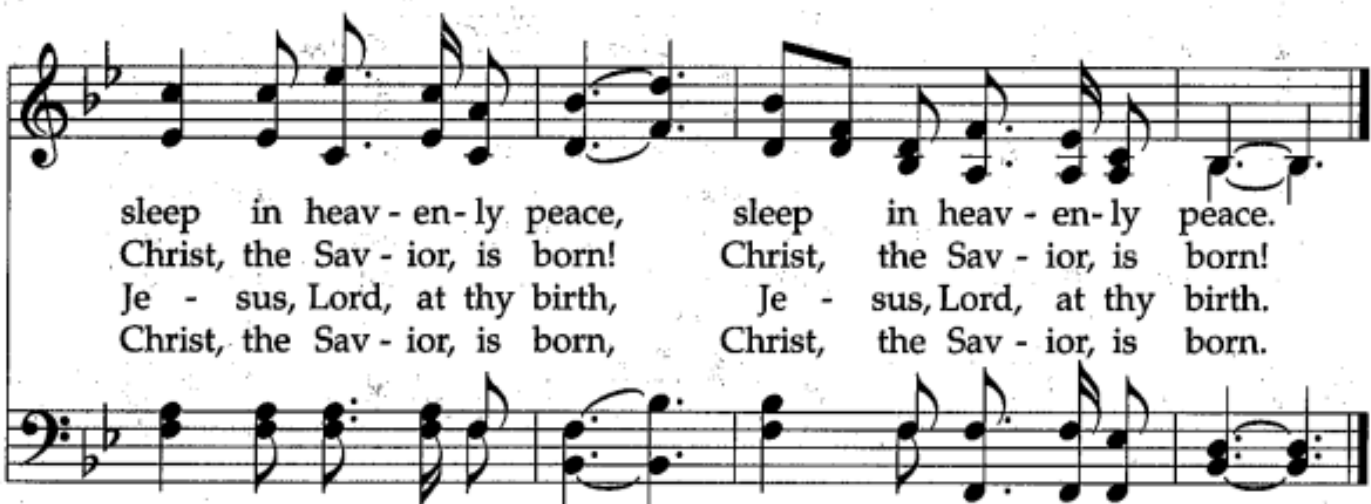
Silent Night



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;



round yon vir - gin moth-er and child, ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le-lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem-ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, al - le-lu - ia to our King;



sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born, Christ, the Sav - ior, is born.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

Go! Tell it on the Mountain



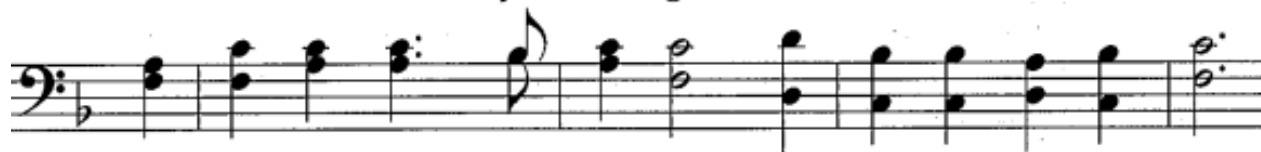
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,
3. Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

