

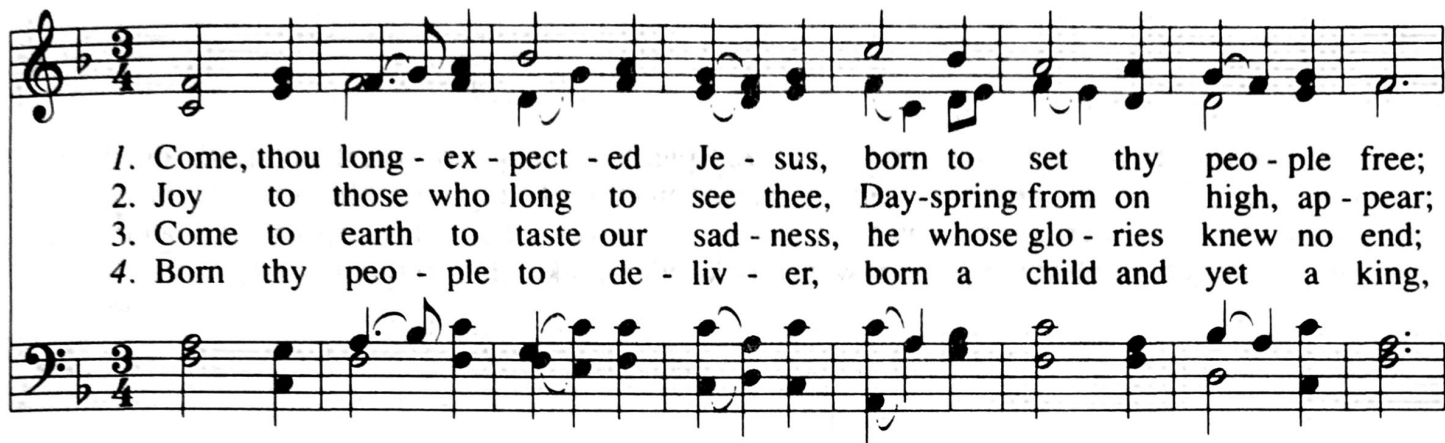


CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DECEMBER 24

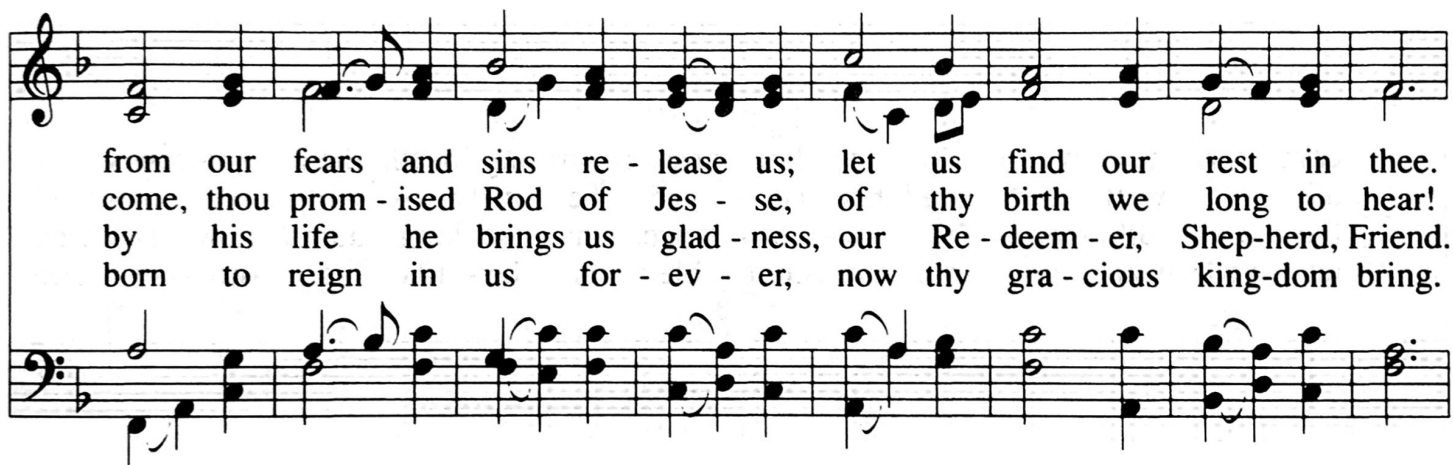
Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11

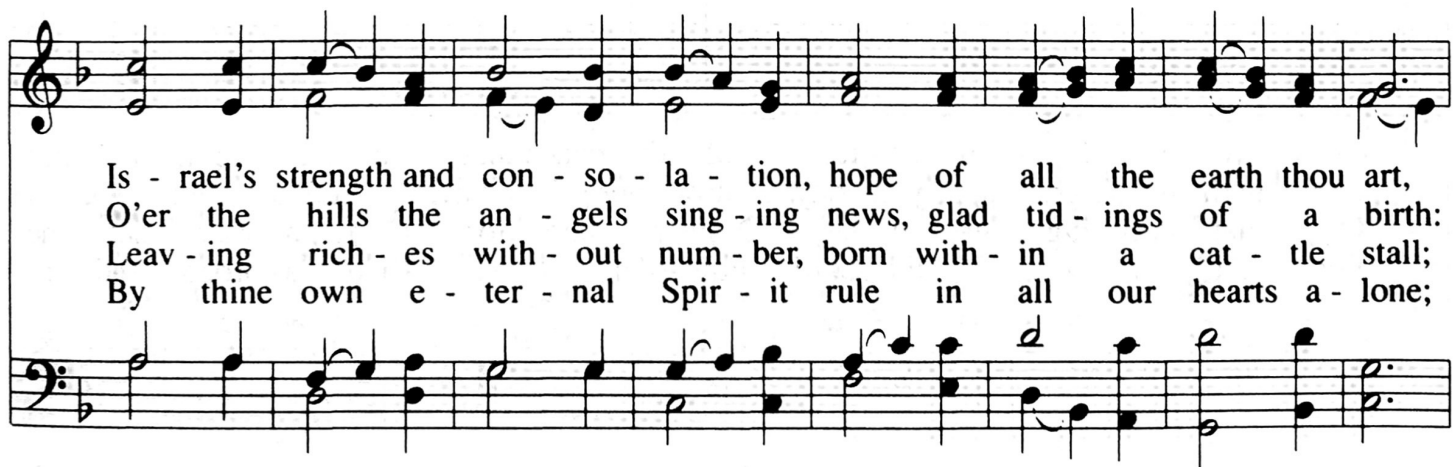
Preparation Hymn: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

THE FIRST READING | GENESIS 3:1-15

THE PROMISED SON WILL BRUISE SATAN'S HEAD

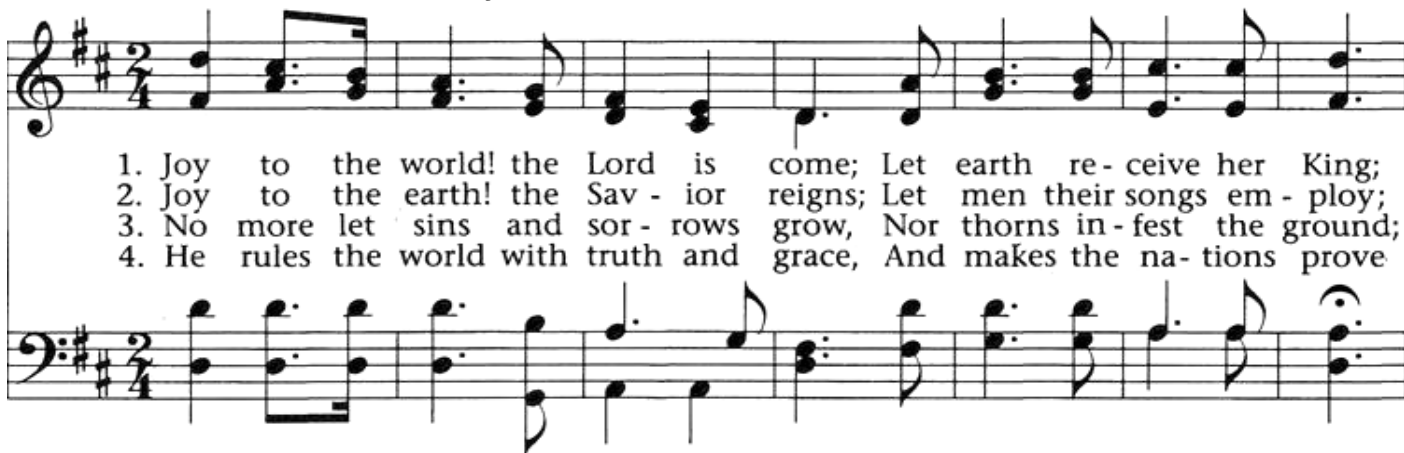
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

JOY TO THE WORLD



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy;
 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, Nor thorns in-fest the ground;
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove



Let ev-'ry heart pre-pare Him room,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 He comes to make of His bless-ings flow
 The glo-ries of His righ-teous-ness,



And heav'n and na-ture sing, And heav'n and na-ture
 Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won-ders of His love, And won-ders of His

1. And heav'n and na-ture sing, And



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.
 joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won-ders, won-ders of His love.
 heav'n and na-ture sing,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748);

Music: George Frederick Handel (1685-1759), arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), Public Domain

THE PROMISED SON WILL REIGN ON DAVID'S THRONE

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.


In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."



And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy – the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



WHAT CHILD IS THIS



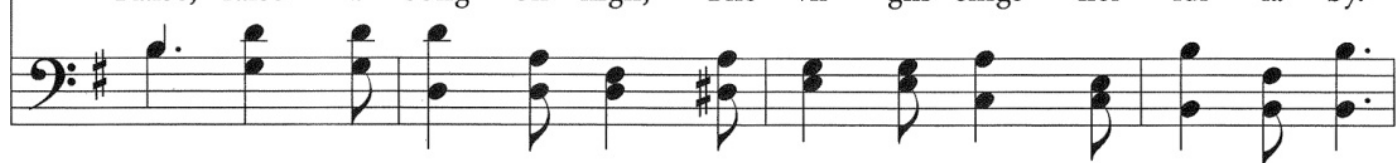
1. What Child is this, who laid to rest On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own Him;

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 a 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!



Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898);

Music: Trad. English Melody, 16th c.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901), Public Domain

THE THIRD READING | ISAIAH 7:14, MATTHEW 1:18-23

THE PROMISED SON IS IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And
 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And
 heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin Hymn; tr. v. 1, 2, John Mason Neale (1818-1866), tr. v. 3, 4 Henry Sloane Coffin (1877-1954)
 Music: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890), Public Domain

THE FOURTH READING | MICAH 5:2-5, LUKE 2:1-7

THE PROMISED SON IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
Whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up
Until the time when she who is in labor has given birth;
Then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
In the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

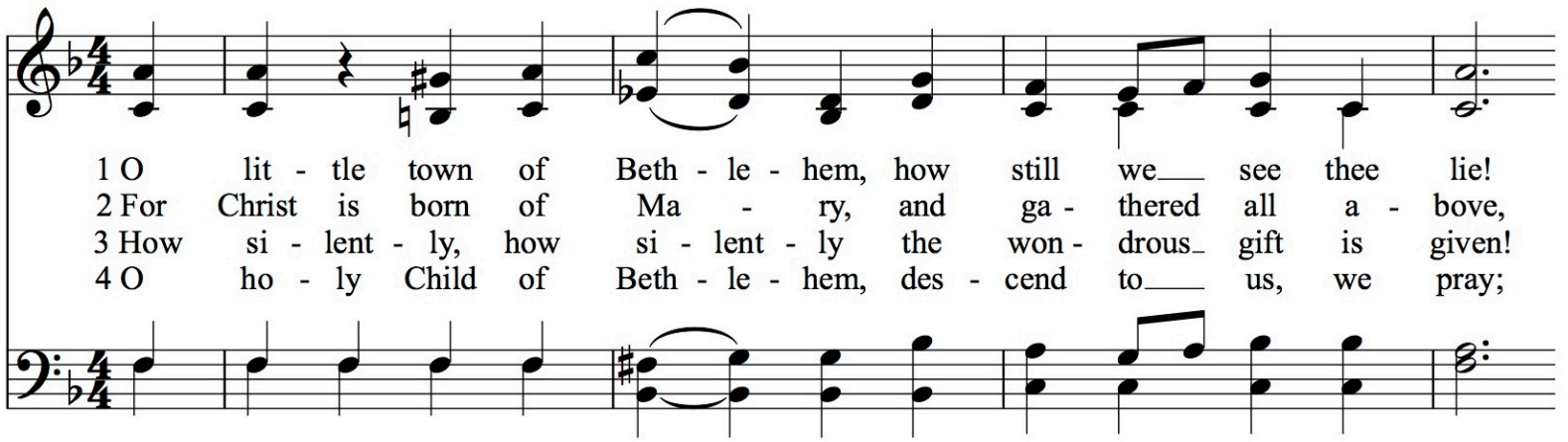
And they shall dwell secure,
For now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

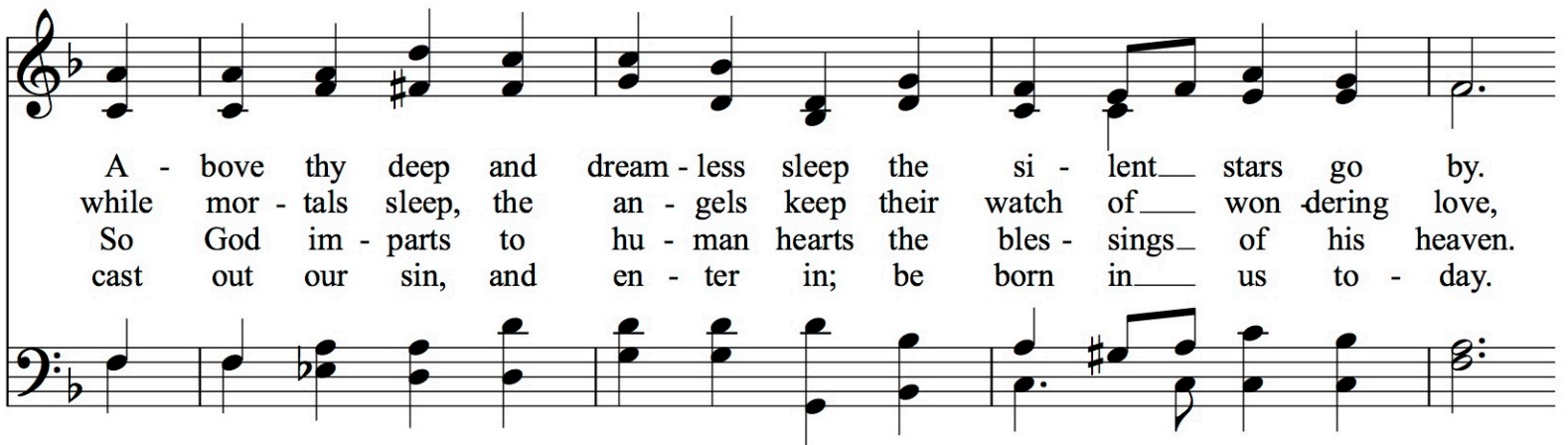
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

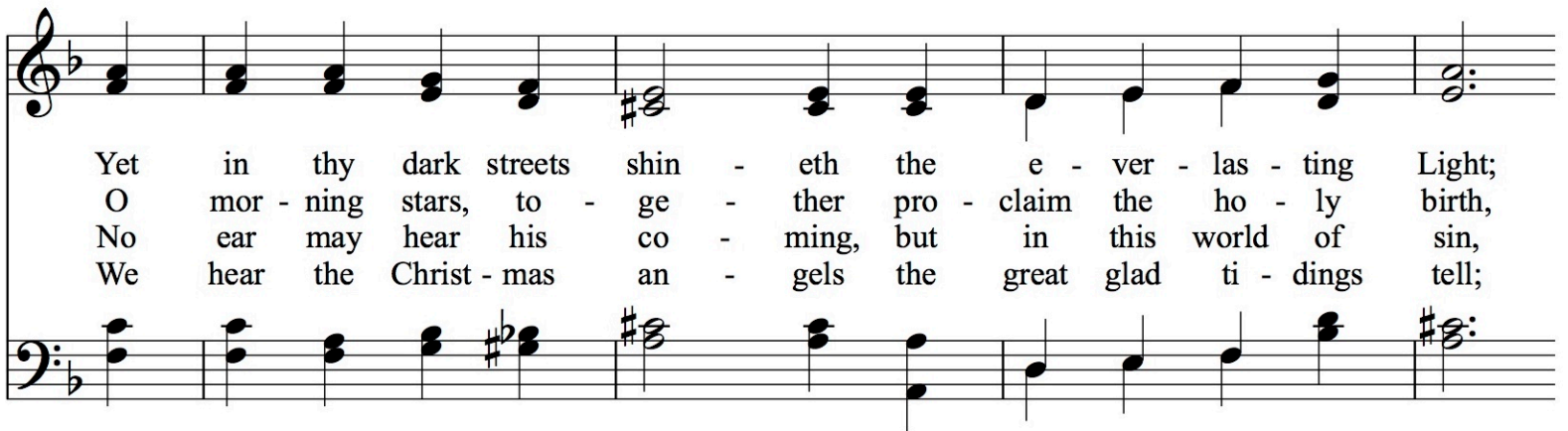
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and ga - thered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend 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 - dering love,
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bles - sings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the e - ver - las - ting Light;
 O mor - ning stars, to - ge - ther pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his co - ming, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prai - ses sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - ma - nu - el.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893); Music: Lewis Redner, 1831-1908, Public Domain

THE FIFTH READING | LUKE 2:8-20

THE PROMISED SON IS THE CELEBRATED SAVIOR

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"


When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



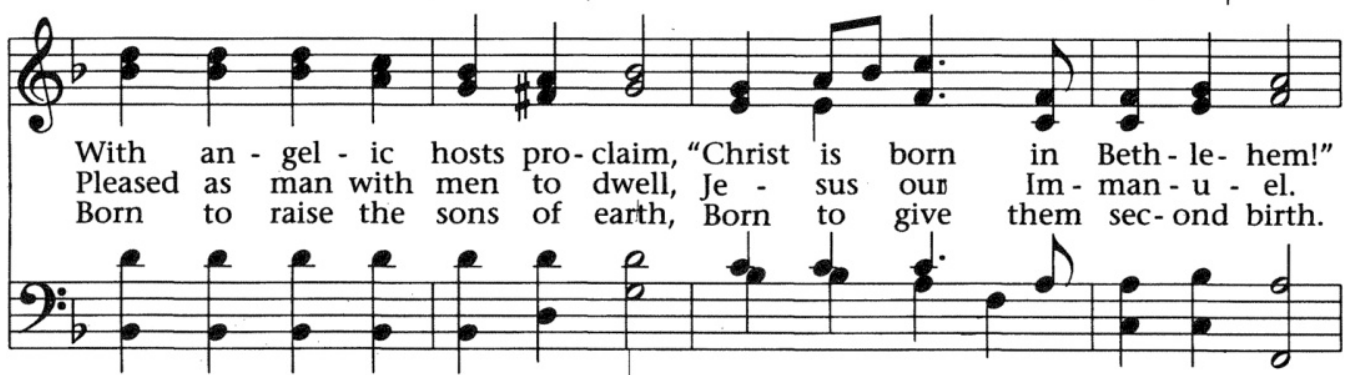
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord:
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



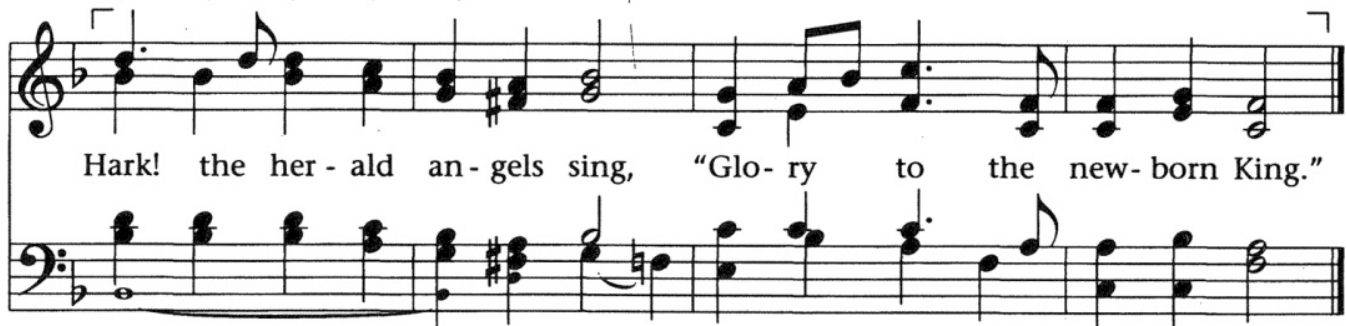
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild; God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled."
Late in time, be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus our Im - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. George Whitefield (1714-1770)

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); arr. William H. Cummings (1831-1915), Public Domain

MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

SILENT NIGHT

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Dark - ness flies, all is light; Shep - herds
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Won - drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
 hear the an - gels sing, "Al - le - lu - ia! hail the King!
 beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 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 (1792-1848); tr. st. 1,3, John Freeman Young (1820-1885); tr. st. 2,4, Anonymous
 Music: Franz Gruber (1787-1863), Public Domain*

BENEDICTION | DAVID FULLERTON

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

*After the benediction, please spend the next few moments silently reflecting
on our time together this evening.*

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

WHO IS JESUS? | Our greatest prayer for you is that you would come to know Jesus. Though we have all rebelled against God, He sent Jesus, His only Son, into our broken world. Through Jesus's obedient life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, sinners can be forgiven and reconciled to God through turning from our sins and trusting in Him.

If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, who was born to bring redemption for all who believe in Him, here are some suggestions:

READ | The Bible is God's message of salvation to us. If you do not own a Bible, you are welcome to take one of the copies provided in the pews as our gift to you. The book of John is a good place to begin. It explains who Jesus is, provides an account of his life, death and resurrection, and what it means to believe in him. Pray that God would give you understanding as you study.

CONNECT | Speak with one of the members of FBC. We would be happy to talk with you more about Jesus.

ATTEND | Continue attending the regular services of our church, in which we endeavor to explain the good news of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection for the forgiveness of all who trust in him. As you attend, speak to others about any questions you might have. Service times are listed below.

Sunday School Classes - 9:30am
Sunday Morning Service - 10:45am
Wednesday Night Zoom Prayer - 6:30pm

David Fullerton – Pastor

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Learn more about us and hear FBC sermons
on our website - www.franconiabaptist.org

