

Advent Lutheran Church



O Little Town of Bethlehem ©Michael Torevell

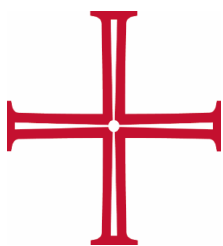
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome to worship at Advent!

Ways to engage throughout the service online:



Space: So much of our living currently happens in one space. Consider designating worship time through the practice of lighting a candle, dimming the rest of the lights in the apartment, placing a cross (it can be homemade) or a Bible on the table – something that is sacred to you that designates we are gathering for sacred worship.

Community: There is a comments section, use it to say hi to one another and check in. Post pictures of you or your household preparing for or engaging in worship. Church is God's people gathered. So make yourself known and check in with each other in turn.



Music: Sing so loudly your neighbors sing along!

Prayers of the People: During the Prayers of the People, type your prayers into the comments section. And commit to holding the prayer request of at least one other person throughout the week.



Offering: Our ministry continues. Throughout this time, we continue to feed people. We continue to worship together. We continue to provide care for the whole community. Please consider continuing your financial contribution through online giving www.adventnyc.org/give or text to give at 917-994-8568 and follow the instructions.

Communion: At Advent, when we gather, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Holy Communion is a cosmic event. There is a collapsing of time and space so that in that singular moment when you receive the body and the blood, you do so with every person who ever was, is and will be, in every time and place.

During the consecration of the elements, you are invited to lift up bread and wine/juice in your home, and to commune when the words are spoken. Scripture tells us nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the promise.

All the People of God speak the text in Bold (that's you!)

Worship leaders speak the text in regular type. | *Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.*

MUSICAL PRELUDE*Pastorales de Noël (1943)*

André Jolivet

I. L'Étoile: Simple et sans lenteur

***PROCLAIMING GOD'S ARRIVAL**

¡Oh, mi Belén!

Trad. Spanish, arr. Conrad Susa

The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem invited the roughly 180,000 mostly Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land to focus on the spiritual meaning of Christmas and called them to pray for "the relief of the victims of this war and for those in dire need," as the period was filled with "sadness and pain." In solidarity, you will notice that the altar is more simplified than previous years...no tree, no poinsettias. But at the center is the nativity scene – and the light that refuses to be extinguished.

Spanish: ¡oh, mi Belén!

Llegó tu hora bien amada,

¡oh, mi Belén!

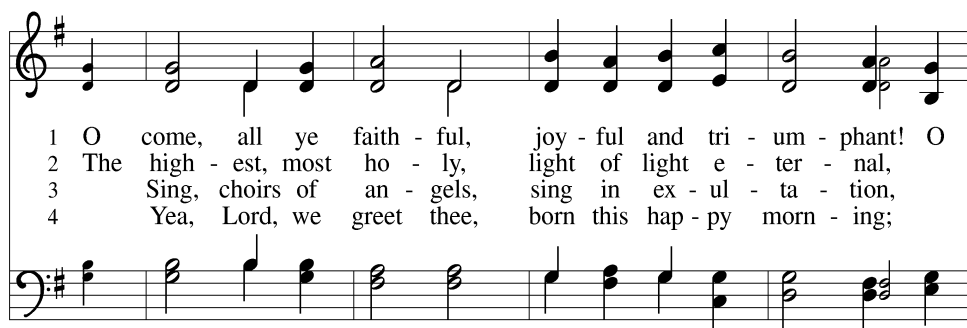
La luz que irradias sin cesar,
es como un faro que nos guía
en nuestra ruta, noche y día.

English: Oh, my Bethlehem!

Your hour has come, beloved,

oh, my Bethlehem!

The light that shines without ceasing,
is like a beacon that guides us
on our way, night and day.

GATHERING HYMNO Come All Ye Faithful*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
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, O 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

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

***GREETING** ...communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

How does a weary world hold onto hope,
Practice peace, spread joy, or know love?
How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light into
our bleakest night?
We do all these things with God's help.
For today, a child is born in Bethlehem.

Tonight, Christ draws near.
Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

Tonight, we are not alone.
God is near. Love has drawn close.
Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Sing We Now of Christmas
Trad. French, arr. Carol Barnett / Fred Prentice
Lyrics: 15th Century French, Anonymous

1. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.
Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. (x2)
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

2. Angels from on high say, "Shepherds come and see.
He is born in Bethlehem, a blessed lamb for thee."
Sing we noel for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

3. Shepherds found the child lying in a manger stall.
Joseph standing by and mother Mary mild.
So now sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

4. Magi oriental journeyed from afar.
They did come to greet Him 'neath the shining star.
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we are humbled in your presence and loved into wholeness by your grace. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

SCRIPTURE READING: *Titus 2:11-14*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONWhat Child is This*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

***GOSPEL I:** *Luke 2:1-7*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMNAway in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky look down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

***GOSPEL II:** *Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

***HYMN**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.'
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With Angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king!"**

GOSPEL III: *Luke 2:15-20

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***HYMN**

Lo How A Rose e'er Bloomin

**Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.**

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

What Child Is This

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

SERMON

Pastor Danielle Miller

WELCOMING OUR HOPE

It is an ancient Christian tradition on Good Friday to come forward and lay our burdens at the foot of the cross. In that same tradition, you are invited to come forward as you feel moved and, like the Shepherds and Wiseman of old, worship and place your hopes in the manger. When you come forward, take a moment to pray, to give thanks, to reflect on the gift of God-with-us.

***REFLECTION**

*Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp
1. Pastorale*

Claude Debussy

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray with hope...



*Dona nobis pacem means, give us peace

OFFERING



The gifts you give today are used for God's ministry here at Advent and around the world. You are invited to give via the offering plate or online at www.adventnyc.org/give. If you already give online or through your bank, please acknowledge and celebrate that offering by placing a yellow giving card, found in your pew, in the offering plate. Let us give thanks to God!

If you have not yet given your Giving Intention Card, please consider doing so today. Physical cards are located at the entryway of the church or visit www.adventnyc.org/giving2024

OFFERING

Today we celebrate the greatest gift ever given to creation – Jesus Christ our savior. How can we respond with anything less than our whole selves to such a gift?

* MUSICAL OFFERING

Underneath a Star

Stephen Paulus

Far, far in the night, underneath a star, there was a birth taking place.
All through the night came three wise men
Trav'ling afar on to Bethlehem
Hoping there to celebrate the newborn infant King of Israel.
Far, far in the night, underneath a star, Jesus was born.

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

*PREFACE

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY HOLY

Intro (first time only) All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Bles - sed is the one who came,

God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes

all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo - - -
in the bread and in the wine.

- - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - -

- ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We are one people who pray in many tongues. We invite you to pray in the language you are most comfortable using when speaking to God (Spanish, German, Chinese, English, Arabic, etc). Like on the day of Pentecost, may our prayers rise like incense, diverse and yet united.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, with one faith but many languages, let us pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Jesus is the host of this table and all are welcome.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at God's table.

Come as you are. These gifts are for you.

DISTRIBUTION OFFERING

'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime (Huron Carol)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear



- 1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
- 2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
- 3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
- 4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,

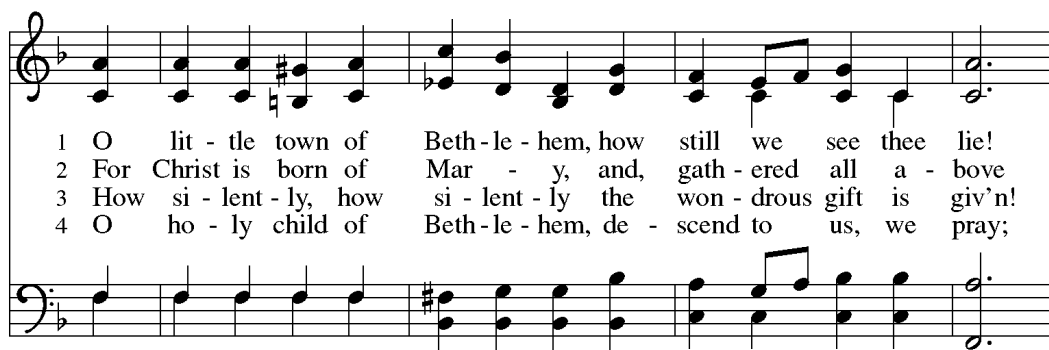


fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.

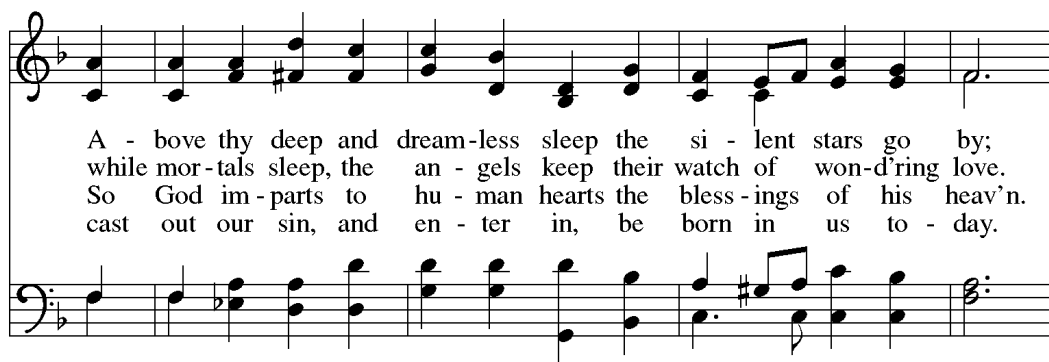


Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

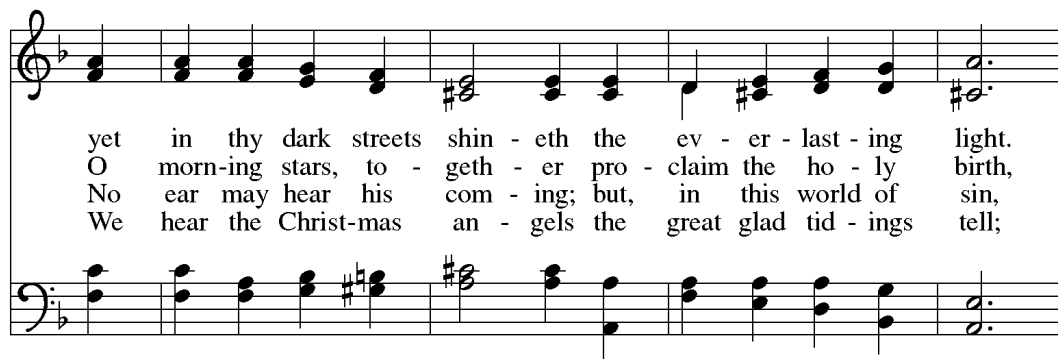
* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"



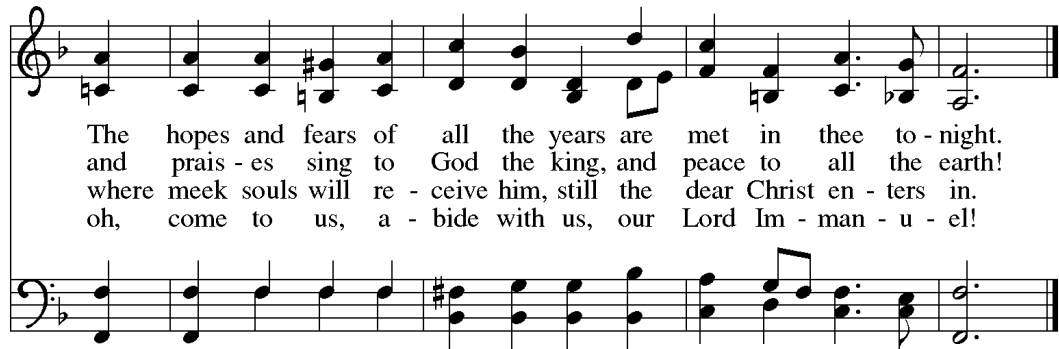
- 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
- 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
- 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
- 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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.

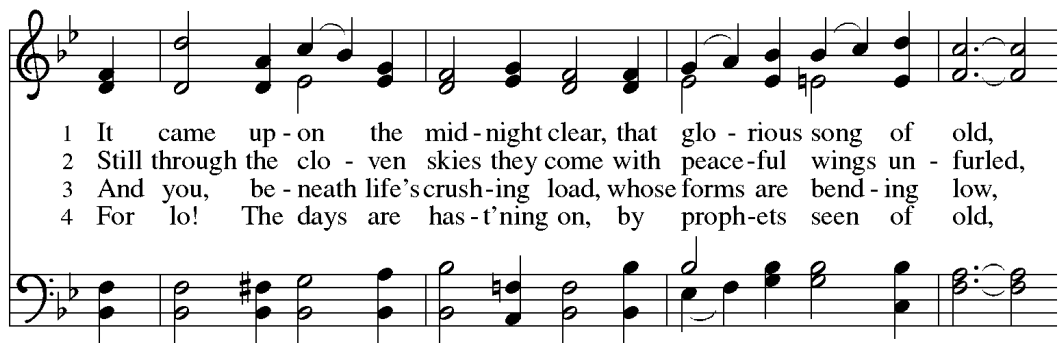


yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

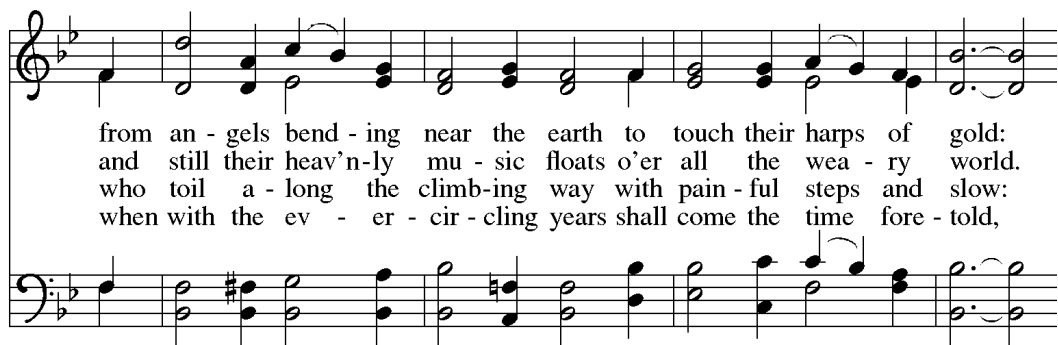


The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

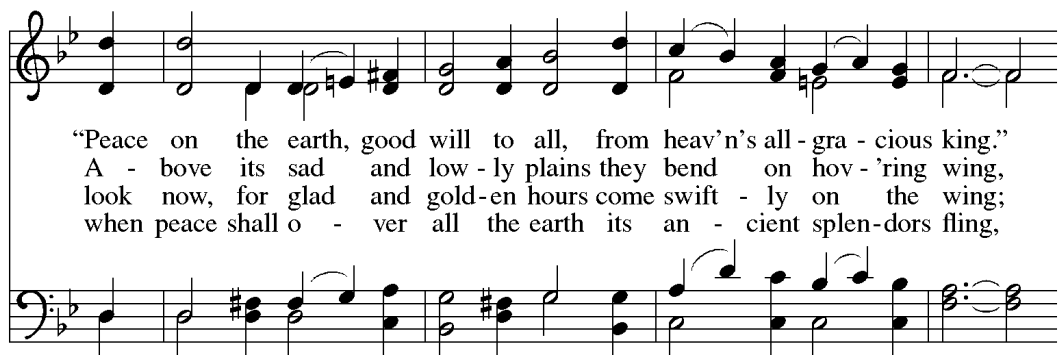
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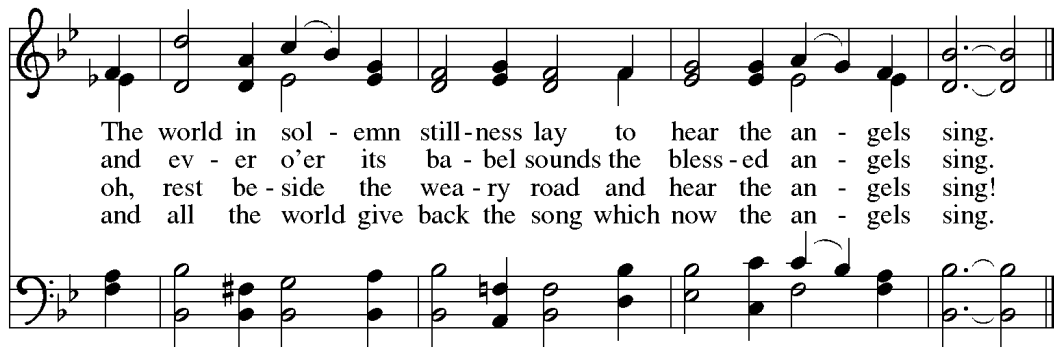
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 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,



***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: *John 1:1-14

CANDLE LIGHTING

During the candle lighting, the ushers light their candles from the Christ Candle, and then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The light is then passed, neighbor to neighbor, to represent the light of Christ being strengthened and shared through the world. Please keep your lighted candle upright when giving light to another.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Trad. American, Bob Chilcott

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.
 All the weary folk on earth sleep in silence at their birth.
 Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.
 Have you heard about our Jesus? Have you heard about his fate?
 How his mother went to the stable on that Christmas eve so late?
 Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, Stars were glowing, glowing, glowing.
 Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.



Seeing Shepherds © Daniel Bonnell

* HYMN OF LIGHT

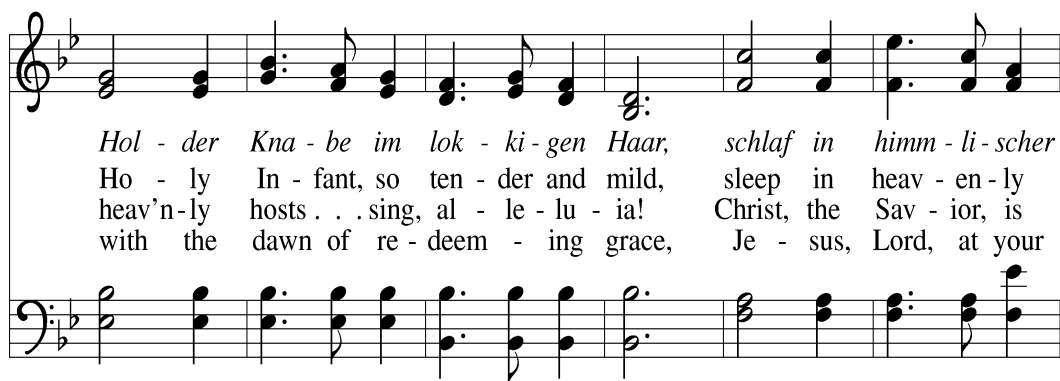
Silent Night, Holy Night



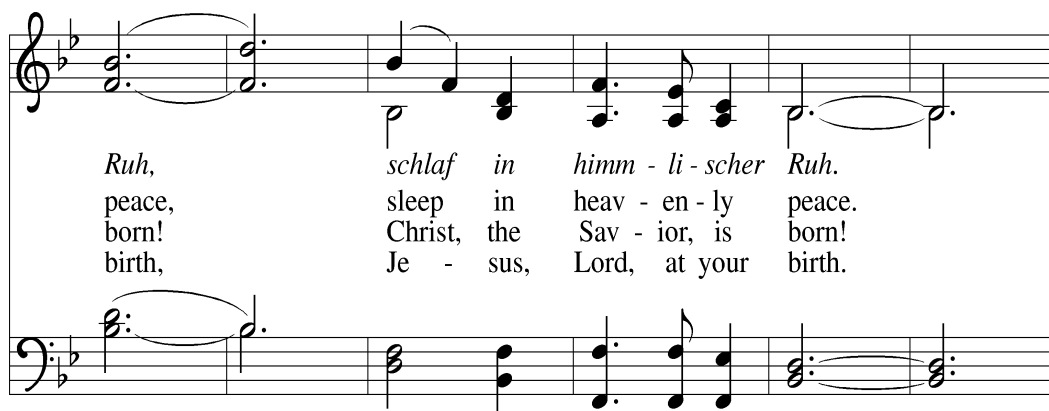
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*** PROCLAIMING GOD'S ARRIVAL***The Ordinary So Extraordinary*

Madeleine L'Engle

He came, quietly impossible,
Out of a young girl's womb,
A love as amazingly marvelous
As his bursting from the tomb.

This child was fully human,
This child was wholly God.
The hands of All Love fashioned him
Of mortal flesh and bone and blood,

The ordinary so extraordinary
The stars shook in the sky
As the Lord of all the universe
Was born to live, to love, to die.

He came, quietly impossible:
Nothing will ever be the same:
Jesus, the Light of every heart—
The God we know by Name.

SENDING HYMNJoy to the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

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,

***SENDING**

Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Pièce en Forme d'Aria et Bergerie

R. Hahn arr. M. Riehl

Worship Participants

the people of God! (That's You!)

presider | Pastor Danielle Miller

assisting | Vicar Hayley Moe, Ricki Ravitts

proclaiming the lessons

music minister | Jeremy Chan

choral director | Aaron Wunsch

piano & organ | Jeremy Chan

soloist | Hans Kreifall

flute | Stefanie Proulex

viola | Chern Hwei Fung

harp | Violetta Norrie

bass & viola de gamba | Scot Zoid

tech team | Maya Nieberger, Dawn Trautman

hospitality team | Jude Miller-Bumol, Gabriel Wunsch

altar guild | Lynne Henderson, Christopher Fitchett, & Lauri Gulgulski

