



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

3pm

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We gently settle into sacred time and space

Ring of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Trad French Carol

Acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Choral Anthem

“Advent Alleluia”

Jay Althouse

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

Advent Candle Lighting

In this season of Advent, we gather around a wreath...
We light the candle of HOPE...
We light the candle of PEACE...
We light the candle of JOY...
We light the candle of LOVE... Let us pray:

Emmanuel, we celebrate your Advent in Jesus. And we light an Advent of new hope in this time and place. Amen.

Sung Response

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

traditional carol, chorus by Maren Tirabassi

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God’s children dwell.**

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Prayer of Confession & Longing *(responsive)*

God of love incarnate, the birth of the Christ child reminds us that all our wanderings come home to you. Our griefs and delights find a place in the stable where you transform scarcity and fear into abundance and companionship.

Your light shines in our lives; your peace embraces our struggle; your life opens us to new awareness of ourselves and our neighbors. We confess that we sometimes fail to stay open and aware. In Jesus’ humble birth we discover your everlasting grace. We welcome you and offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

Musical Interlude

...to accompany our quiet prayers

Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

One: The peace of Christ be with you! All: And also with you!

***Passing the Peace**

...to those with us online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes

A Time With Children and Youth

Musical Interlude

...as our young people come forward

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

All: And also with you

Musical Interlude

...as young people return to families

Lessons and Carols

The First Reading

Carol (NCH #126)

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

vs. 1 & 4

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The Second Reading

Carol (NCH #133)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

vs. 1-2

Luke 2: 1-7

The Third Reading

Carol (NCH #132)

“Joy to the World”

vs. 1-2

Luke 2: 8-12

The Fourth Reading

Carol (NCH #125)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

vs. 1-2

Luke 2: 13-14

**The Fifth Reading
Carol (NCH #148)**

**“What Child is This?”
vs. 1 & 3**

Luke 2: 15–20

The Sixth Reading

John 1: 1–14

Lighting the Christ Candle

Carol (NCH #139)

**“The First Nowell”
vs. 1–2**

Responding To God’s Love

Message

Solo

“Ave Maria”

Giulio Caccini

A Prayer for Christmastide

Invitation to the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards represent gifts made electronically.*



Offertory

“Drummer Boy”

K. Davis

***Offertory Response**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

God of all, in Jesus you come to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with transcendent joy like the singing of angels. Fill us with wonder like the eyes of children. May our journey to the manger renew in us a commitment to serving you. In gratitude and hope, we dedicate gifts of money and effort to the work of your love. Amen.

***Preparing to Share the Christ Light**

***Benediction**

***Carol (NCH #134)** “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Please extinguish your candle as lights come up

***Postlude**

*Departing quietly, we place candles in baskets at exits
All are invited downstairs for light refreshments*

*We carry the Christ light in all times and spaces
Peace on Earth and good tidings to all!*

We thank our poinsettia donors...

Jill Greenhalgh and Rolf Dittmann

In gratitude for the Greenhalgh and Dittmann families.

Pastor Clare Gromoll

In gratitude for the loving people who are our church.

Paula and Walt Richey

In honor of Rev. Linda Tossey.

Sarah and Therese Thorson

In memory of Joselle Rosengren.

Fritz West

In memory of Cynthia Evans West and William and Jean West.

Mary Horak Binger

Kathleen Dennison

Andi Favilla

Sue Favilla



PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For our **Jewish siblings** in the wake of Temple Israel being defaced with swastikas last week in Minneapolis. For those experiencing fear in the face of hateful actions... For all to have open minds and loving hearts amidst human diversity.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother, **Allen**, as his prostate cancer returns.



Thanks for all 2025 Intended Gifts!

We invite any members and friends who anticipate offering financial support in 2025 to please turn in your form as well. This will help our leaders plan our upcoming ministry.

We look forward to the coming year! *Giving forms in Narthex.*



All are welcome
to join us
on Sunday mornings

Weekly Sunday Worship

Choir Rehearsal | 8:30 am

Worship | 9:30 am


Children's Activity & Youth Group (age 3 - gr 12) | 9:45-10:15 am

Fellowship | 10:30 am

Adult Faith Conversations | 11:00 am

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), SCUC Choir, Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (soloist), Cindy Parsons & Bob Dickie (greeters), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Sharri Kinkead & Mary Maren Bjork (liturgists), Gromoll Family, Sue Favilla, & Jane Hanson (refreshments), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla, Sharri Kinkead, Arly Fuhr, Mary Binger, & Kathleen Dennison (decorations)



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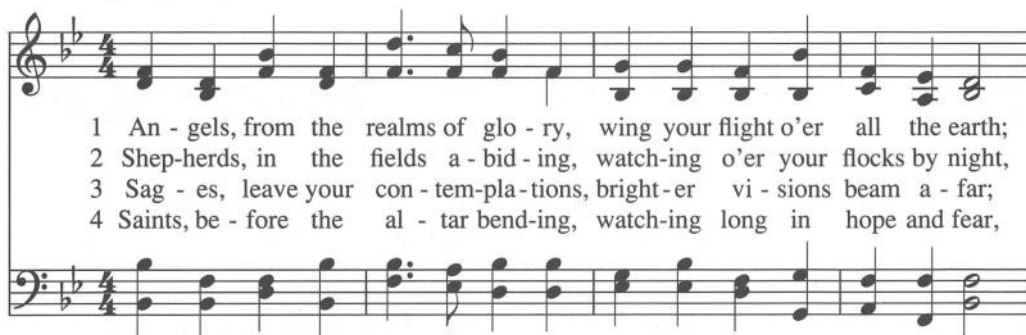
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Angels, from the Realms of Glory

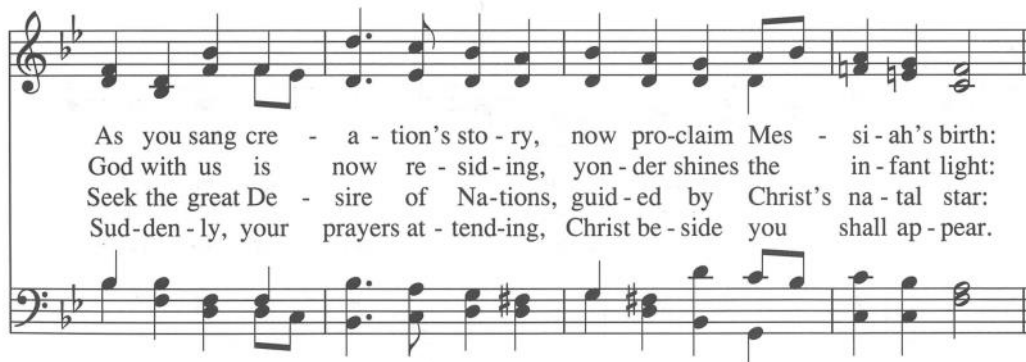
126

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11

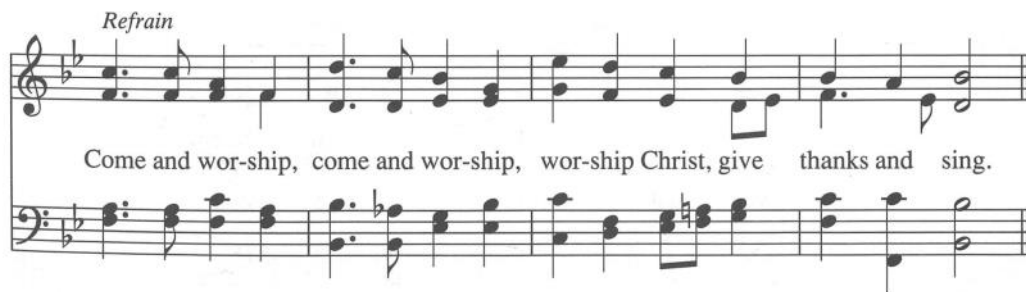


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in hope and fear,



As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of Na-tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend-ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper Sheffield Iris, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7**Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you 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 given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your 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 glo - rious love of heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No one dis - cerns God's 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 you to - night.
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.
 Lewis H. Redner, 1868
 Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN

Joy to the World!

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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."

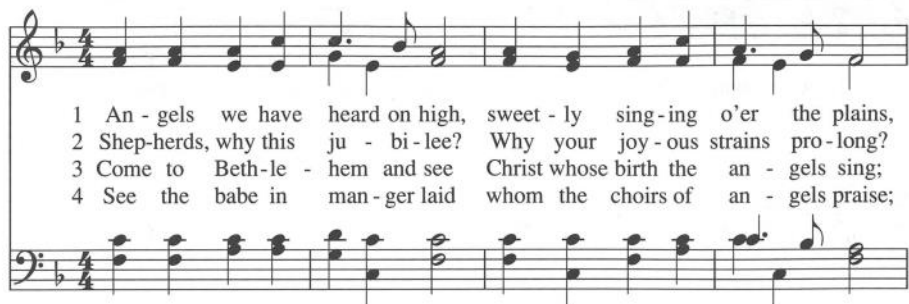
*Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased
 Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a
 hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.*

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.
 Lowell Mason, 1836

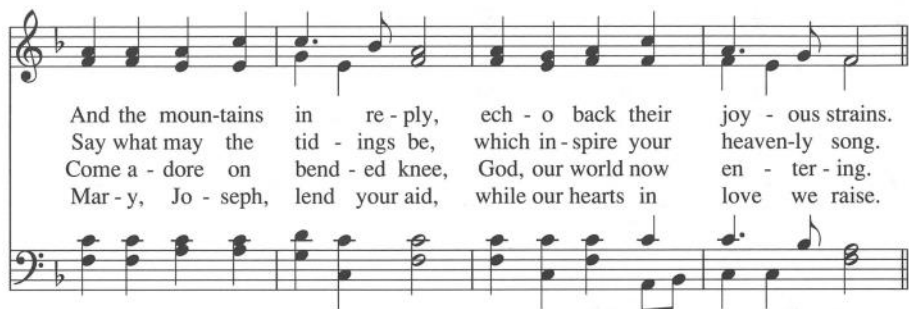
Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol
 Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.
 St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
 Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.
 Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



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

The earliest version of this anonymous French carol was first published in 1855. There have been numerous English translations since the 1860s, but the carol did not gain widespread ecumenical usage until the first half of the twentieth century.

Tune: GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 (LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES)
 French carol melody

What Child Is This

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*William C. Dix, 1865; alt.**Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man-ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.

This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-12

Traditional English carol; alt.

Descant

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,
 2 They looked a - bove and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star shone bright in the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,
 three sag - es came from coun - try far;
 o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,
 and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 To seek for a king was their in - tent,
 And there it did both stop and stay,
 They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,

on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

Refrain

Now - ell, now - ell, now - ell, now -

ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

Though perhaps of earlier origins, this anonymous English carol first appeared in print in the nineteenth century. "Nowell" stems from the Latin novellae (news) and is used as a joyous greeting to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL Irr. with refrain
 Traditional English melody
 Harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871
 Descant, Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937