

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*



December 24, 2020 4:00pm Worship Christmas Eve

**indicates that all are invited to stand, if comfortably able*

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| Welcome and Greetings | | Pastor Rick |
| Prelude | "Gesù Bambino" | Alisa Smith Pietro Yon |
| Lighting the Christ Candle | | Kaden Lucas |
| Call to Worship | | Pat Forward & Mark Duncan |

We gather together as one family of faith this evening;
Singing songs of praise and embracing the gifts of Jesus!
The gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY And LOVE are ours.
May they remain with us throughout the year!

We gather together to celebrate the birth of Jesus in our midst;
Not in the mists of time and space, but right here, right now!
In our presence, the Christ child is born again!
Come, let us worship God together!

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|--|---------------------------|
| Opening Hymn | Ed Rollins & Amy Crousore |
| "O Come, All Ye Faithful" verses 1,3,4 | |

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|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Opening Prayer | Kristy Odneal & Jessica Lucas |
|----------------|-------------------------------|

Glorious God, as we gather together here from many places, we celebrate the diversity of your Creation and rejoice in the expanse of your love for all people. We gather here this evening to celebrate your presence in our world in the life of the Christ child, born in the mists of time and born today in our hearts.

Help us, as we gather here this evening, to remember that the message of this child was one of extravagant welcome and steadfast love for all. Help us, as we gather here this evening, to remember that this child will preach a message of repentance, of reconciliation, of peace; even as he spoke prophetically and politically against the orthodoxy of the world. Help us, as we gather here this evening, to remember that the beauty of the Christmas manger is not without the shadow of the cross; and that the prophetic message of Jesus is our inheritance and mission.

The Sacrament of Communion

*All are invited to share in this joyous meal,
no matter who you are or where you are in cyberspace!*

Invitation

Communion Prayer/Christmas Prayer

Institution/Blessing/Fraction

Pastor Rick

Sharing the Meal

We will celebrate Cookie Communion this evening, as is our Christmas Eve tradition, remembering the Wisdom of the ministry this Christ Child will share with us. While Pastor Rick shares the elements of communion in the Sanctuary, you are invited to celebrate with cookies and milk, or cocoa, or other elements from your own home. We are joined together in this common bond, sharing Jesus' meal in this special Christmas way.

Contemplative Music

"O Holy Night"

Shelby Oberle

You are invited to pray silently during the contemplative music, lighting your candles and turning out the lights in your homes. After the communion prayer and Lord's Prayer, "Silent Night" will begin playing. You will all be "muted". As Kristin sings "Silent Night" you are invited to sing along in your own homes.

Communion Prayer

Sue Ann Schaefer

We give you thanks, Loving God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ; both in the mists of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless reality of Christ's loving ministry, remembered here this Christmas Eve in the bread and the cup. Send us into the world rejoicing, ready to share your gifts, renewed through your presence here. We celebrate our Savior's birth this evening as one family, praying the prayer he taught us:

The Lord's Prayer *(spoken by the Congregation, led by Pastor Rick)*

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; And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Meditation Hymn: "Silent Night"

Kristin Veteto

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

Thank you, God for the miracle of this evening. Help us to realize your love working inside each one of us as well; and share that love with all the world. We are renewed this Christmas Eve by your passion and presence; hear our joyful responses as we praise your name in words and deeds all year long. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

Benediction

Pastor Rick

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

Amy Crousore & Lucy Smith

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary this evening were given by:

Carol & Glenn Duermeier-

in memory of family and friends

Josh & Lena Muench-

in memory and honor of grandparents, great grandparents,
And Bhisham Tolani

Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff -

in memory of son, Wesley and daughter, Rachel

Wesley Koerkenmeier-

in memory of his father, Jerry Koerkenmeier

Lydia Koerkenmeier-

in memory of her father, Jerry Koerkenmeier

Ed & Judy Kaiser -

in memory of daughter, Karenda Jeanette Kaiser

Jeff Keis-

in memory of Seth Brandenburg & in honor of Sara Schweain

April Rothweiler-

in memory of Shari Schubert

Rev. Rick & Kim Oberle -

in memory of grandparents, Richard & Melba Oberle (parents)
& Christine Marie Oberle (sister)

Doug & Judi Privitt, Josh, Drew & Anna Privitt-

in memory of Rev. Robert & Aileen Dohm & Delores Privitt



O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phunt; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-

ye; O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come, and be-hold him,
 of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes; ver-y God, be-
 all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther,

Refrain

born the King of an-gels!
 got-ten; not cre-at-ed!
 glo-ry in the high-est! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

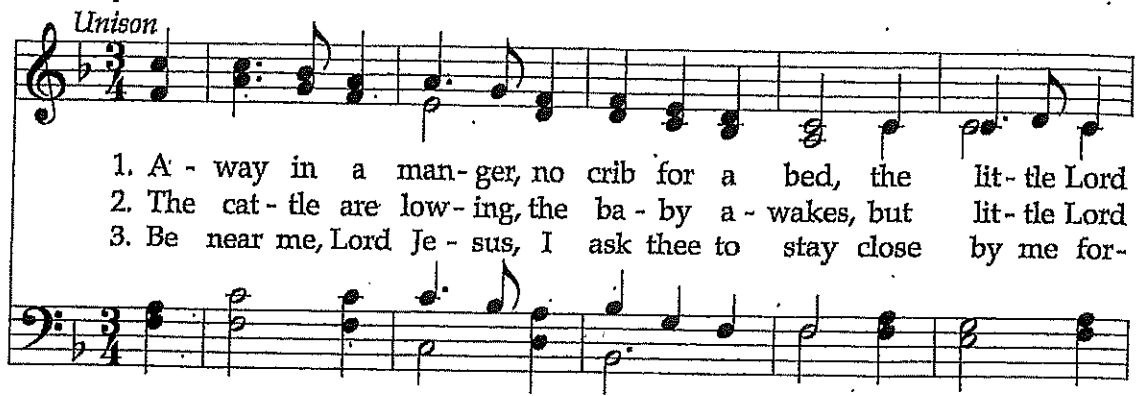
us, a-dore him; O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

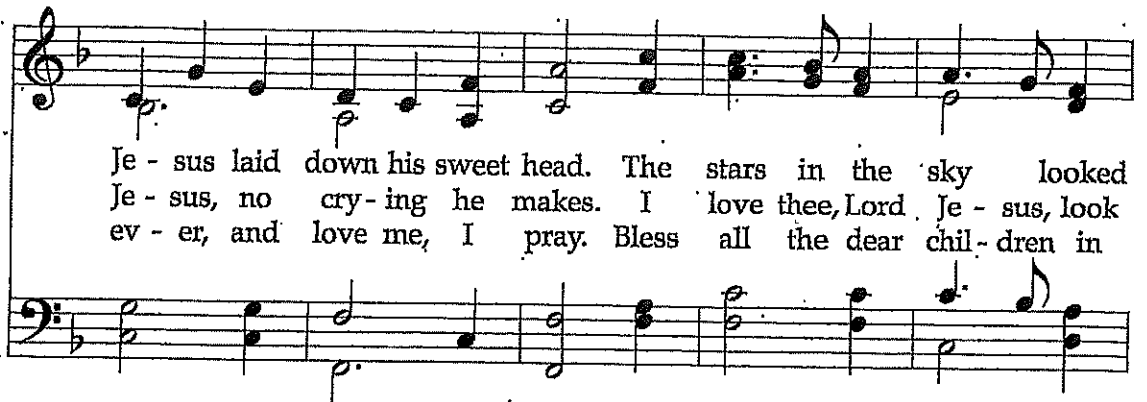
Away in a Manger

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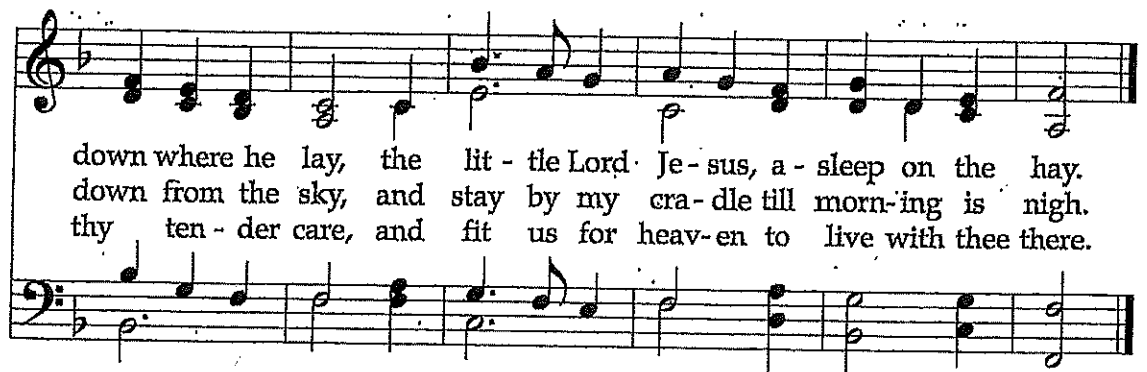
Unison



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.

WORDS: Anonymous (19th century)
MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978

AWAY IN A MANGER
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Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, used by permission
of Augsburg Fortress

Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous 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-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heav-en-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 heaven's all gra-cious King."
a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing 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,

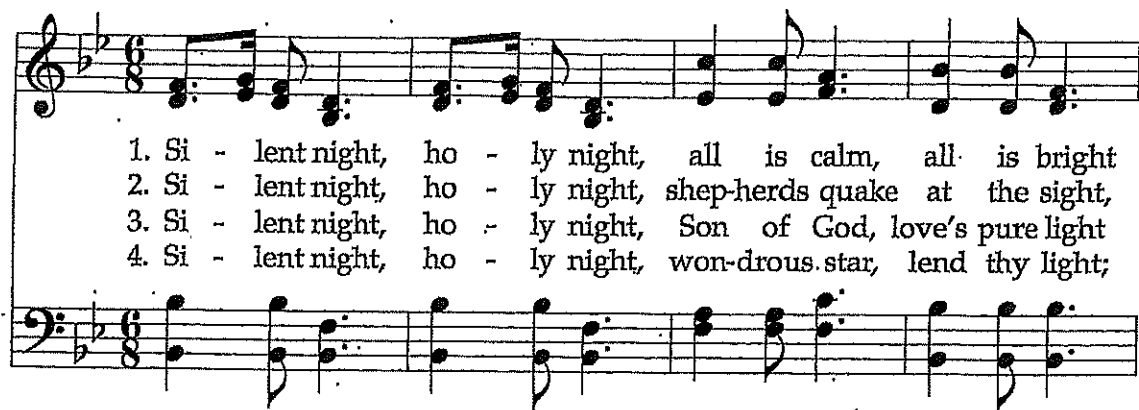


The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel soundsthe bless-ed an-gels sing.
O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

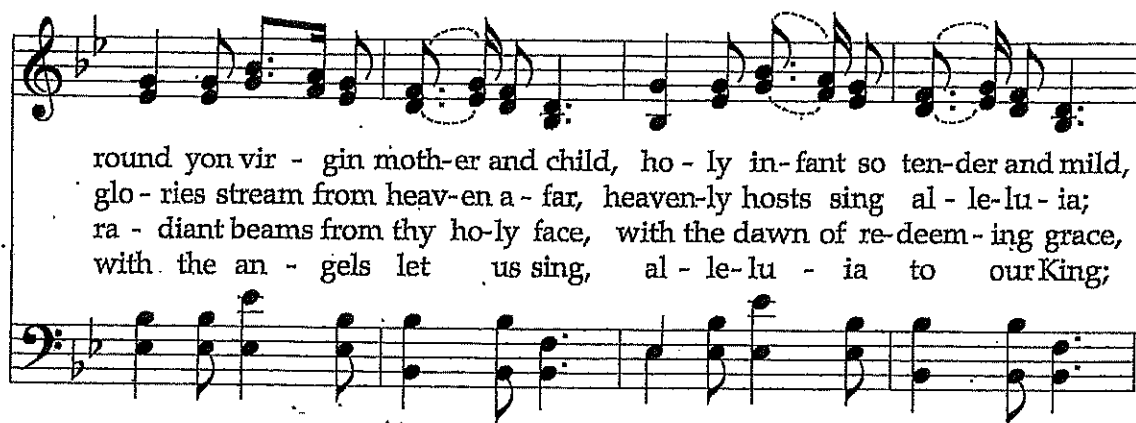


Silent Night, Holy Night

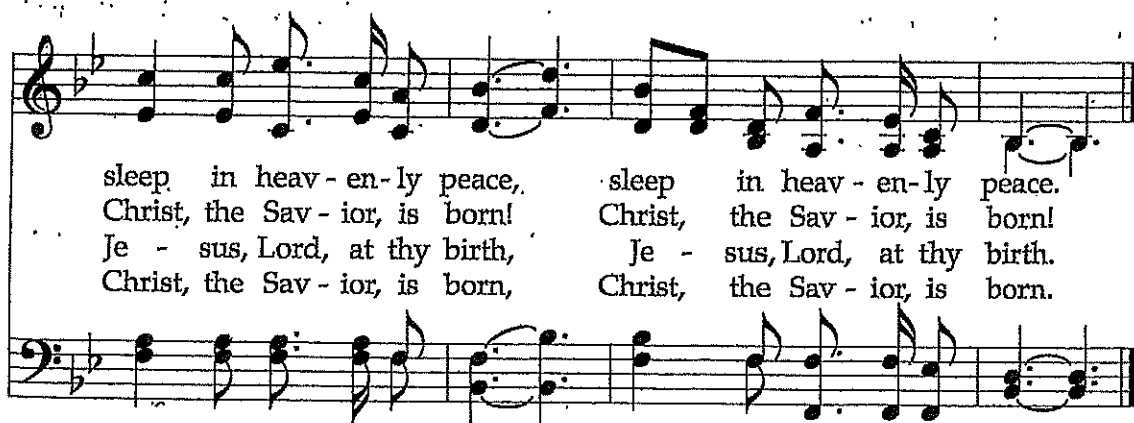
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1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend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



round you 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.

Columbia United Church of Christ

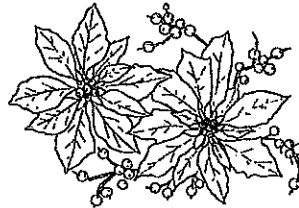
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CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

Shining Star

by Pastor Rick (Advent 2012)

*There's a star that shines more brightly
On the Christmas tree this year;
It serves as a reminder
Of kin no longer here.*

*It beckons us to wonder
And remember other days
When family was together
Not gone our separate ways*

*When loss not so present
We thought that it would last
The star that shines reminds us
Of Christmas seasons past.*

*But the star that brings us memories
And makes it hard to cope
Brings us a glorious present, too
The faithful glow of hope.*

*For that bright star reminds us
Of things we know are true
The Christ child came to bring us life
And teach us what to do*

*That we might come together both
In this world and another
Filling our lives with joy and love
And giving to each other*

*The memories of other years
Should strengthen us, not bind;
The star reminds us of great hope
For all of humankind.*

