

Columbia United Church Of Christ

December 31, 2023

"God's Glory"



CUCC

Columbia United Church of Christ

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.

**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**



December 31, 2023

10:30 Worship

"Christmas"

*"... Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!"
-Psalm 96:11*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"The Gift"

Steve Jannetti
Jim Brickman

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Proclamation

(Based on Luke 2)

Pastor Rick

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea to the city of David called Bethlehem. 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.

*Gathering Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

(insert)

*Call to Worship

Mahree Skala

Have you heard?

Something new has happened here on earth!

Yes, we have heard!

A child has been born, a Savior come to us!

People of God, these are not mere rumors.

For unto us, Christ the Savior is born once more!

This is good news of great joy!

Great joy for all people!

Let us go to see this Savior, with hearts open to worship!

Let us embrace the gift of Jesus in our lives once more!

The Angels sing great songs of Praise!

Let us rejoice and sing!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

(insert)

Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

God of eternal presence, you set before us the ways of life and death and order the seasons to your will. Generations have proclaimed their faith in you and glorified your name. In your due time, you came to us, Incarnate in the Christ Child. Remind us today that our understanding of time differs from yours and that you are as present with us today as you ever were. Teach us to open our hearts and embrace you fully, completely. In the name of the Christ Child, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God's incarnation in the Christ Child was not a one time event; rather, it is a continuing presence with us for all times and places. Through the wisdom of Jesus Christ, we are shown how to live. Through God's unconditional love, all receive the gift of New Life. Christ is born, even today! Alleluia!

*Response "Angels We Have Heard on High"

(insert)

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time & Lighting the Christ Candle

Pastor Rick

Response:

"Like a Child Jesus Comes"

(Sung as children return to their seats)

Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,

Like a child and a friend, Jesus comes!

Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul and mind,

Like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes!

Community Psalter

Psalm 96

Pastor Rick

(insert)

Anthem

"New Year's Carol"

Celebration Singers

Benjamin Britten

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Mahree Skala

pg. #833

*Meditation Hymn

"Silent Night"

(insert)

Sermon

"God's Glory brings JOY!"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(insert)

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD's Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address "Creator God" in our unison recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say "Our Father" instead of "Creator," "Trespasses" instead of "debts," or "Thy" instead of "Your" if you prefer.

Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering

*As we have been blessed, we give to be blessings in God's World.
To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041*

Offertory

"Christmas Medley"

Steve Jannetti
Mark Hayes

*Prayer of Dedication

Mahree Skala

God of devotion, today we gather here in this place shouting "Joy to the World" on the occasion of your birth. As we shout our joy and sing our praises, we give our gifts to your continued re-Creation in this world. Take these gifts, and let them be used to bring a Christmas miracle to all those in need. In the name of the Christ child, we dedicate our lives to you. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Joy to the World"

(insert)

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response

"Let There be Peace on Earth"

***Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, Children all are we!
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!
Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!***

*Postlude

"Bring a Torch"

Steve Jannetti
Jeannette Isabella

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2024 (and beyond)

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Advocate for policies that provide support for others
- Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church
- Formulate support & education classes for parents and children
- Improve staff training and professional development
- Ensure that our staff are paid just wages
- Discern and address the needs of our older members
- Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are

ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY

- Increase public awareness of our mission and location
- Increase our advertising/marketing efforts
- Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church
- Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity
- Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church
- Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church

DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY

- Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance
- Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income
- Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs
- Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events

SERVING GOD'S WORLD

- Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests
- Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience
- Develop partnerships with others to share our facility
- Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities
- Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice
- Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad

Columbia United Church of Christ

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LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

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Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala

Ushers: Phillip Neale

Greeters: Susan Dunham

Technology: Josh Muench & Brent Marcks

Hospitality: Mary Lorber

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber



Online giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Danielle Dreier, Aidan & Trevor Pierson

Ushers: Pat Forward & Llona Weiss

Greeters: Helen Schultz

Technology: Lorry Dreier

Hospitality: Lorry Dreier & Tricia Price

Council Stewards: Lorry Dreier & Tricia Price

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

ROOM AT THE INN

Room at the Inn is open and looking for volunteers! If you would like to sign up, or for more information, talk to Shelly Adams. Thank you for volunteering!

BRING MAGI GIFTS ON JANUARY 7

We will celebrate the gifts of the magi on January 7 by bringing gifts of our own! Bring hygiene items that morning (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.), and our Magi will process in with these gifts and lay them at the foot of the manger. All gifts will be shared with our mission partners.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAR PARTY 1/7/24

We will celebrate Epiphany with a Sunday School party on January 7! Make sure your kids are here on Epiphany for an all-star Sunday! We will talk about the gifts of the Magi and their journey to see the infant Jesus in the manger bed. Wear your favorite clothing with stars on it and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. on 1/7- Star Sunday!

BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR RICK– JANUARY/FEBRUARY

We will be studying the acclaimed book, “How to Fight Racism” by Jamar Tisby four Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in January/February, starting January 18. This book is about taking a stand for justice in our world today by confronting racial injustice. Copies will be available this week in the church office.

CHILI COOKOFF

Dust off your chili pot! The Men’s Fellowship will host our annual Chili Cookoff January 21, right after worship! Bring your entries in, and vie for that golden ladle! Everyone, plan on sticking around after worship that day to sample all the entries and find out who wins! There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space. Questions? Talk to Doug Privitt or Brent Marcks.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

Fastnacht is Tuesday, February 13, 2024 and the Men’s Fellowship Pancake Breakfast to benefit Habitat for Humanity is Saturday, February 24, 2024.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	12/31	NO Sunday School	
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	1/1/24	<i>Church Office Closed – Happy New Year!</i>	
Tue	1/2/24	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	1/3/24	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sun	1/7/24	<i>Epiphany/Sunday School Party</i>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Jim Elliott . . . health issues

Cheryl Cobb . . . health issues

Don Privitt... recovering from pneumonia

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

The People of Israel/Palestine

Health Issues:

Cliff Beckman, John Adams,

Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)

Terry & Mike Freeman (friends of the Remeikas)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith

The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves, Don Privitt

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Jeffrey Sanderson

CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:

Welcoming all God's Children;

Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;

Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;

Building a supportive church family;

Transforming both the congregation and community

through service and outreach



*If you try to fit God into your life, You will
never have time for God.*

*If you try to fit your life into God, You will
always have time for what matters.*

PSALM 96

Pastor Rick: Sing to God a New Song! Sing to God, all the earth!

Cherubim: Sing to God, Bless God's name! Sing praises of God's Salvation.

Seraphim: Declare God's Glory to all the nations; Tell all of God's glorious works.

Cherubim: For great is the LORD and worthy of our reverence and praise.

Seraphim: Honor and majesty are before God;

Strength and beauty are in God's Sanctuary.

Pastor Rick: Ascribe to God glory and strength. Ascribe to God the glory due Their name. Worship God in holy splendor, all the earth!

All: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it. Even the trees of the forest shall sing for joy before the LORD!

STAR SUNDAY

at CUCC

**Sunday
January
7th**

Happy Epiphany

**During
Sunday
School**



**Games, Activities, Snacks
celebrating Epiphany
*for youth of ALL ages***

O Come, All Ye Faithful

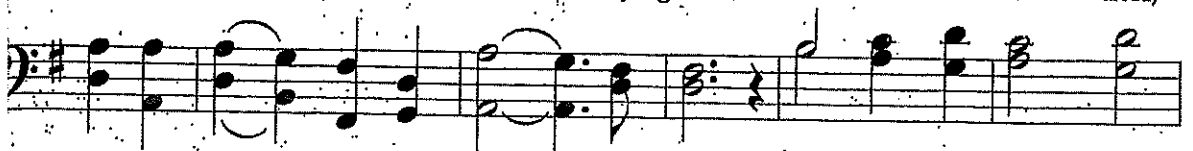
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- ① O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 ③ Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 ④ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - 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! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 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.

150

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Descant

3. All hail the Sun of

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

Righ - teous - ness! He is risen with heal - ing

new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners
 last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the
 Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing

in his wings. His glo - ry by,

rec - on - ciled! Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
 Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;
 in his wings, mild he lays his glo - ry by,

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856;
desc. Paul Liljestr ndMENDELSSOHN
77.77D w. refrain

no more may die;

join the tri-umph of the skies; with the an-gel - ic
hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty, pleased in flesh with
born that we no more may die, born to raise us

born to raise us from the earth to sec - ond birth.

host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing to the new-born King.

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

155

Angels We Have Heard on High

Descant

4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ, who comes in
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,
 o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some tid - ings be
 low - ly birth. Come a - dore on bend - ed knee
 an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Refrain

while our hearts in love we raise. Ah!

ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? Glo
 Je - sus, joy of heav'n and earth.
 while our hearts in love we raise.

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

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

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

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

Song of Simeon
(Nunc Dimittis)

156

RESPONSE

Now let us sing our Sav-ior's praise, and tell God's good-ness all our days.

R

Lord, now let your servant in peace;
 your word has been fulfilled:
 my own eyes have seen the salvation
 which you have prepared in the presence of all people,
 a light to reveal you to the nations
 and the glory of your people Israel. R

Silent Night, Holy Night

145



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;



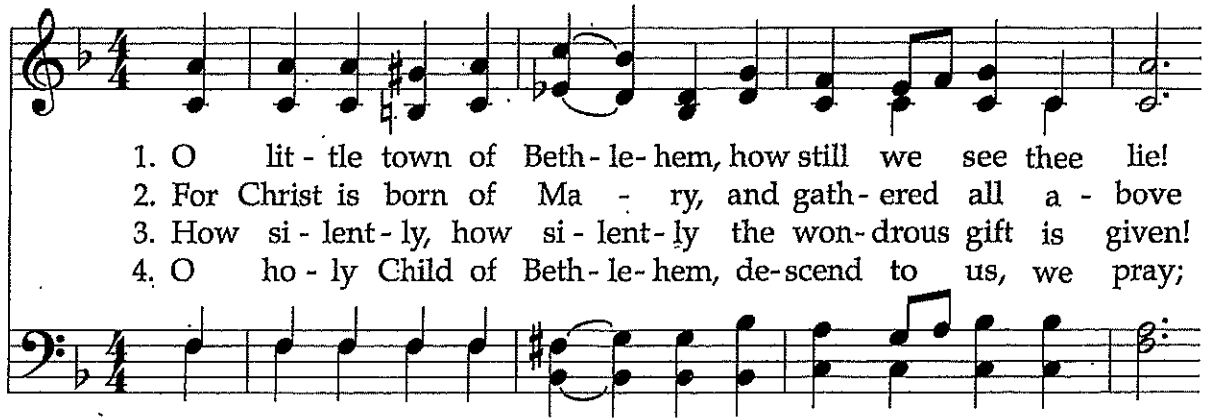
sleep in heav - en - ly peace,	sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,	Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born,	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born.



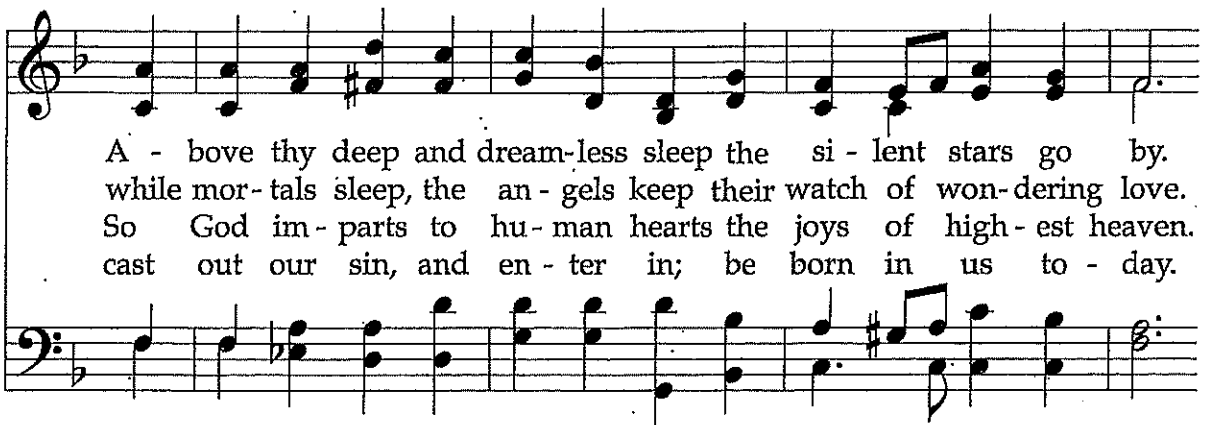
WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

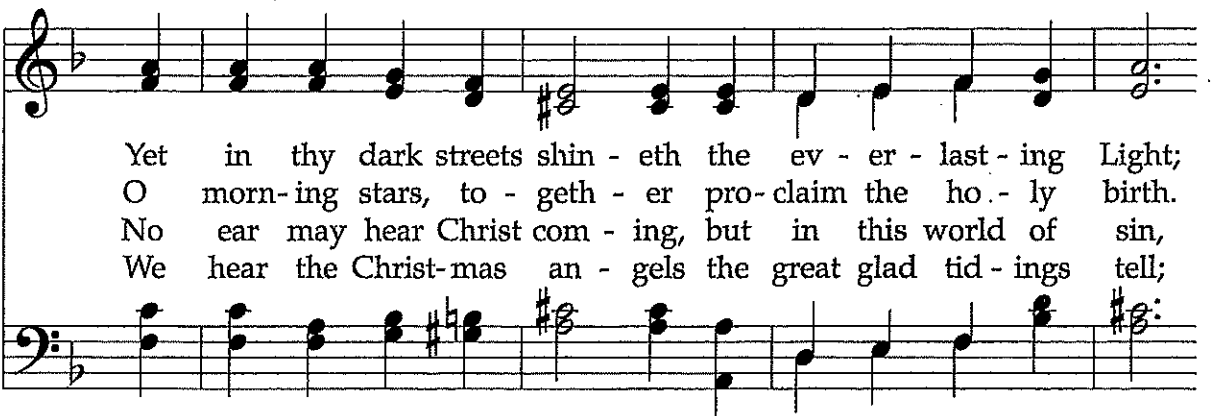
O Little Town of Bethlehem



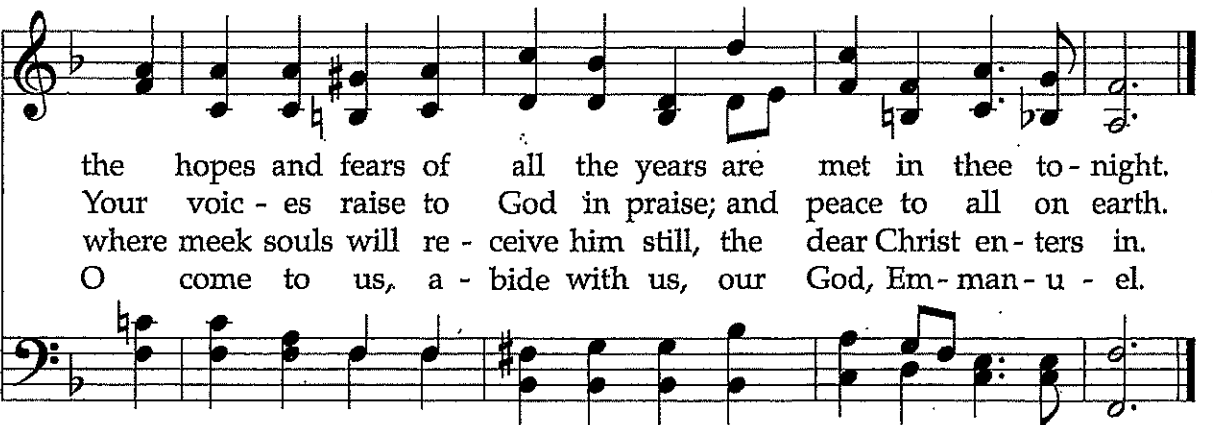
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove 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 joys of high - est heaven.
 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 Christ 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.
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; 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 God, Em - man - u - el.

Joy to the World

143



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - 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 his love, and won - ders of his



And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his 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 his love.



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