

Columbia United Church of Christ



DECEMBER 24, 2023

11:00 p.m.

3201 I-70 Drive NW
Columbia, MO 65202

email: office@columbiaucc.com

phone: (573) 445-7931



**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**



December 24, 2023

11:00 p.m. Worship

Christmas Eve

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

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Steve Jannetti
Mark Hayes

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

Llona Weiss

Come, all who are faithful and all who seek joy in your lives!

**It is the season to sing praises to God,
for the Christ Child is near!**

The gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE
Are ours this evening.

May they remain with us throughout the year!

We now share a promise that was fulfilled by God:
That our beloved Child is born and will call us
to new lives of love, joy, and faith in action!

**We gather in worship this evening, celebrating Christ!
We gather tonight, worshipping God!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
verses 1,3,4

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Llona Weiss

**Come, O long awaited Jesus! Come into our midst once more.
As we welcome you again on this Silent Night, we realize that
the distance of time and space need not separate us from the
reality of this evening, the evening that God broke into our
world and became flesh. We also realize that the baby born in
poverty in Bethlehem is called to point us toward children in
need all around us today, and that Bethlehem baby orients us
towards justice.**

**Help us to realize that this evening, though it stands apart from
the rest of the year, need not be isolated. The Wisdom you**

share with us today is not just for today. The gifts Jesus brings us are eternal, if we allow them to transform our hearts. Forgive us for the times we do not allow this transformation to happen. Teach us to plant your wisdom in our hearts, that it may bloom and multiply, and we can share it with the world, all year long. In the name of the Christ Child we pray. Amen.

*Praise Response “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace!*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

May God’s Peace be with you
And also with you!

God is revealed to us through the Gift of Christ

Waiting for Christ

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-21

Llona Weiss

Hymn:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1-3

(insert)

Receiving Christ

Children’s Time and Lighting the Christ Candle

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor Rick

Hymn:

“Away in a Manger”

(insert)

Celebrating Christ

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Llona Weiss

*Hymn:

“Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1-3

(insert)

Proclaiming Christ

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-20

Llona Weiss

Christmas Anthem

“Birthday of a King”

Casey Wood
Neidlinger

Homily

“The Joy of the Good News”

Pastor Rick

Responding to Christ

Mission Moment

“RIP Medical Debt Relief”

Shelly Adams

Offering our Gifts

This Christmas Eve, our offering (at 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. services) will go to eliminate medical debt through a specific campaign with RIP Medical Debt organized by a United Methodist Church in Sussex County, New Jersey. Our goal, in recognition of our 100th anniversary, is to raise \$1,000, which will eliminate \$100,000 of medical debt.

Offertory

“Still, Still, Still”

Steve Jannetti
Mark Hayes

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

God of Blessing and Service, as we give our gifts to you this evening, we contemplate the Joy that you offer us, and the Joy that you call us to exemplify in the world. Take the gifts that we offer this evening, and use them to eliminate medical debt in our communities, bringing Joy to those in need this holiday season. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

All who are present are invited to share in this joyous meal, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey!

Invitation & Communion Prayer

Institution & Blessing

Fraction

Sharing the Meal

You will be invited to come forward in groups of 10 or so and gather in a half-circle around the chancel steps. Pastor Rick will offer the communion elements and a special Christmas Blessing.

Communion Music

“Wexford Carol”

Steve Jannetti
Mark Hayes

*Communion Prayer

Pastor Rick

The lights will slowly dim as Pastor Rick offers the following Communion Prayer. You are invited to pray along in silence. By the time we join together in saying the unison Lord's Prayer, the Sanctuary lights will be out, and we will be reciting the Lord's Prayer together amid the lights of Christmas. They will remain out until after we sing “Silent Night.”

We give you thanks, O 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 very early Christmas Morning in the bread and the cup. This morning, we accept as our own your gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Send us into the world rejoicing, ready to share your gifts, renewed through your presence this night. We celebrate our Savior's birth this morning, Gracious God; and in Jesus' name we pray the prayer he taught us:

*The Lord's Prayer *(spoken in unison by the congregation)*
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.

*Lighting of the Candles "Silent Night"

*Meditation Hymn: "Silent Night" *(insert)*

As Steve begins playing "Silent Night," Pastor Rick will share the light of Christ with the folks sitting in the center aisle. You are invited to share that light with those sitting next to you, and those in the next section as well. Once everyone's candle is lit and the lights are fully extinguished, the choir will lead us in singing "Silent Night." You may extinguish your candle after the prayer of dedication.

*Prayer of Dedication Pastor Rick
It is now Christmas morning. Thank you, God, for the miracle of this morning. 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 today, this Christmas Day, by your prophetic words of justice. Hear our joyful responses as we share the miracle of this evening in words and deeds all year long. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Responding to Christ "Joy to the World" *(insert)*

*Postlude "Go! Tell It on the Mountain" Steve Jannetti
Mark Hayes



Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

Phone: 573-445-7931

Pastor's cell: 573.241.2027

Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle

rick@columbiaucc.com

Student Pastor: Shelly Adams

shellyraeadams@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant: MJ King

office@columbiaucc.com

Moderator: Kurt Heine

heinekurt@gmail.com

Music Coordinator: Casey Wood

caseyseanwood@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti

steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

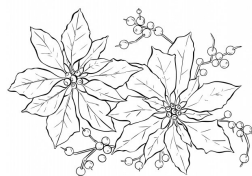
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg



Judy Kaiser

In Memory of Karenda Kaiser.

In Memory of Ed Kaiser.



Keith & Deborah Birkes

In Memory of Carolyn Birkes & Dr. Gene Long.

Mike & Sharon Rapp & Family

In Memory of Alfred & Marianna Wilmsmeyer and

Kenneth & Marian Rapp.

Jolene & Barry Kirchhoff

In Memory of our son Wes.

In Memory of our daughter Rachel.

In Memory of Barry's brother Tim.

In Memory of our brother-in-law Keith Hoffman.

Fred & Carolyn Malicoat

In Memory of our parents Guy & Alice Malicoat and

Raymond & Gladys Kessler.

In Honor of our children & grandchildren: Sarah, Emily,

Amy, Ella, Wesley, Lydia, Oliver, & Lewis.

Mary Lorber & Tom Solt

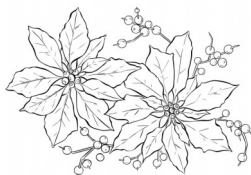
In Memory of Art Solt.

In Memory of Rowena Solt.

In Memory of Otto Hackmann.

In Memory of Deloris Lorber Hackmann.

In Memory of Steve Lorber.



Glenn & Carol Duermeyer

In Memory of Family and Friends.

Jim Buesing

In Memory of Cathy Buesing.

In Honor of Jimmy, Jessie, and Tracy.

Cliff & Sue Beckman

In Honor of our daughter Nancy Miller and family.

In Honor of our daughter Jen Siebert and family.

Steve & Valerie Jannetti

In Memory of Nana & Poppa.



Chuck & Audrey Lasley & Family

In Honor of Darren Lasley.

In Memory of our parents and grandparents.

Lloyd Mickelson

In Memory of my wife Kay Mickelson.

Shelly Adams

In Memory of my grandparents James & Juanita Riley.

In Memory of my grandparents Ray & Rene Eastman.

Josh & Lena Muench

In Memory of our grandparents and
great-grandparents.



Donna Marsh

In Memory of Larry Noxon.

Sue Ann Schaefer

In Memory of Jim Schaefer.

In Memory of Dorothy Schaefer.

In Honor of the Schaefer Family.

Helen Schultz

In Memory of family & friends.

Doug & Judi Privitt

In Memory of family & friends.

Rev. Rick and Kim Oberle

In Memory of Christine Oberle.

In Memory of Lester & Melba Mosberger.

In Memory of Richard & Melba Oberle.

In Memory of Al & Til Knobbe.

In Memory of Michael & Margaret Wittich.



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;

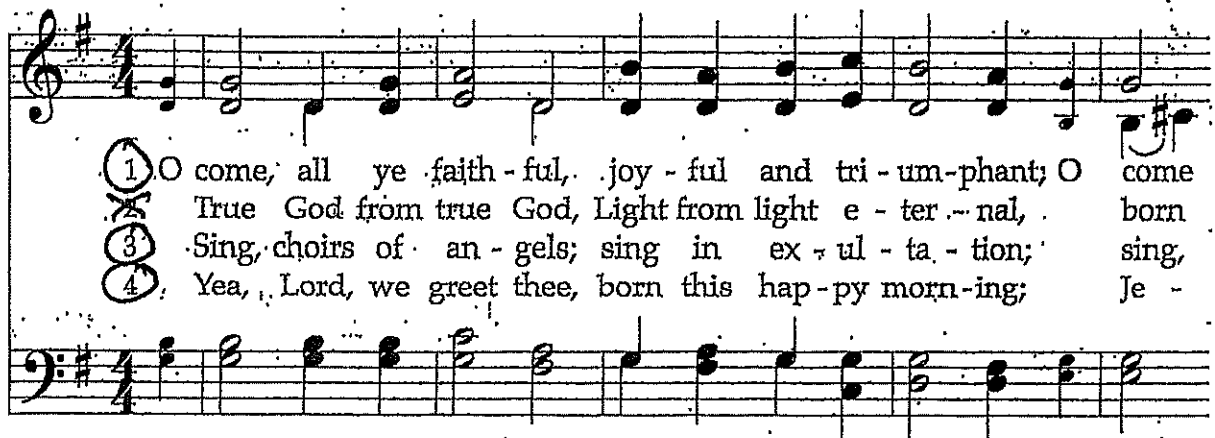
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;

You are welcome here!

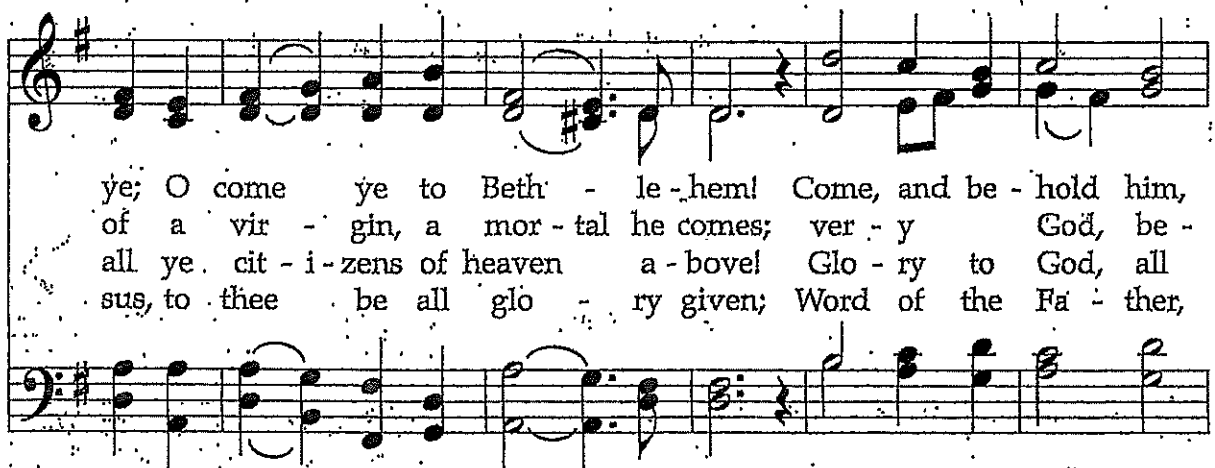
Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

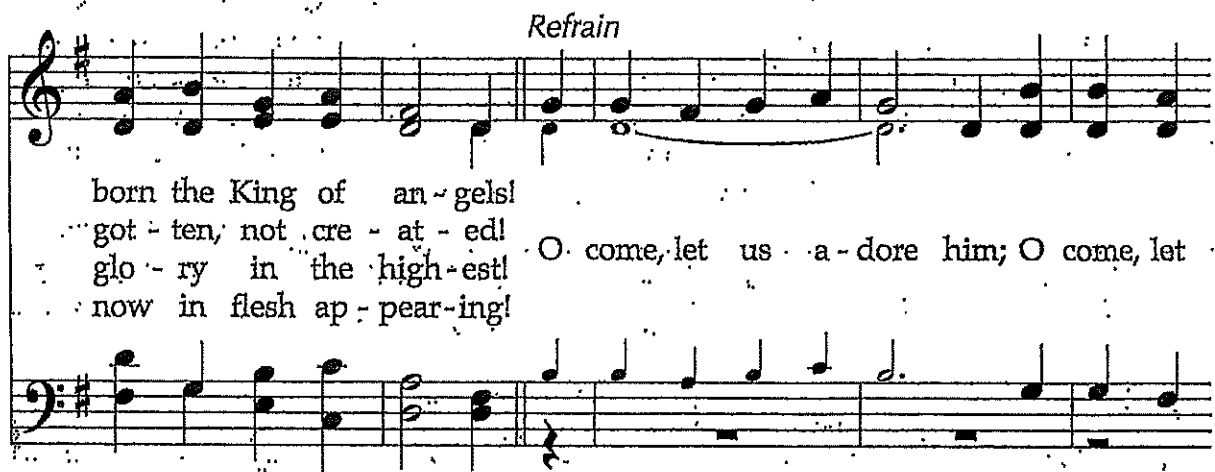


① O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phante; O come
 ② True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born
 ③ Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,
 ④ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-



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



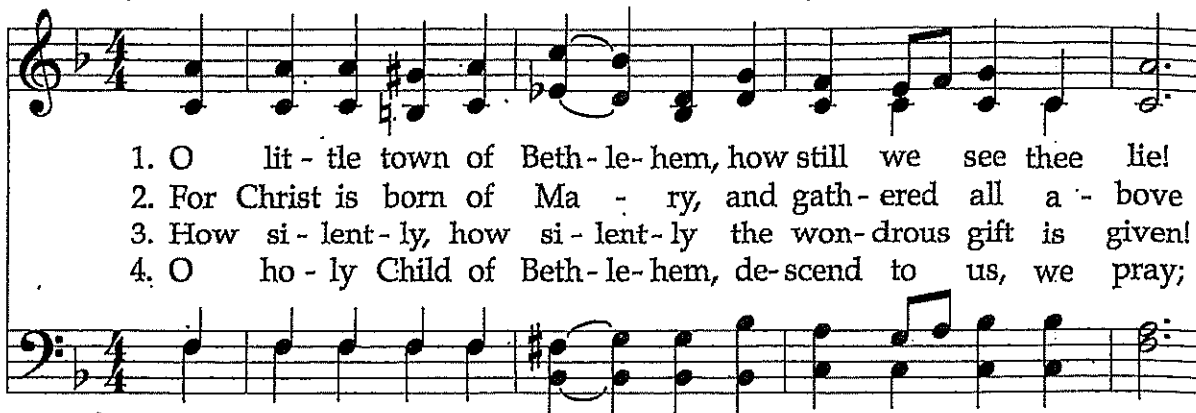
born the King of an-gels!
 got-ten, not cre-at-ed! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let
 glo-ry in the high-est!
 now in flesh ap-pear-ing!



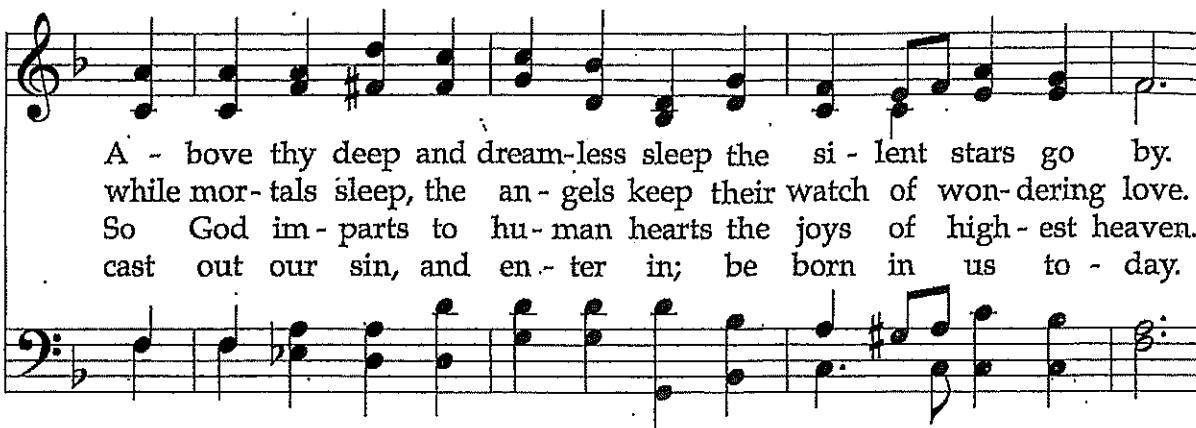
us, a-dore him; O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

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.

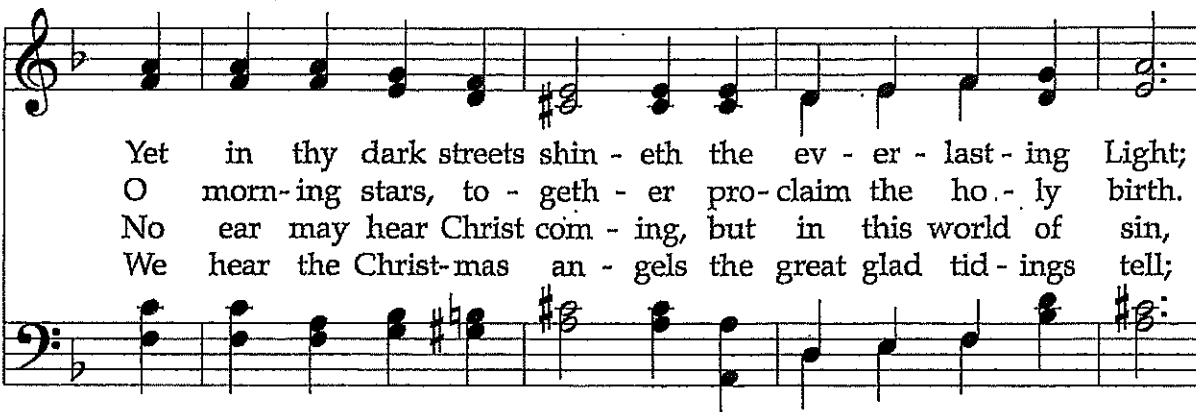
144 O Little Town of Bethlehem



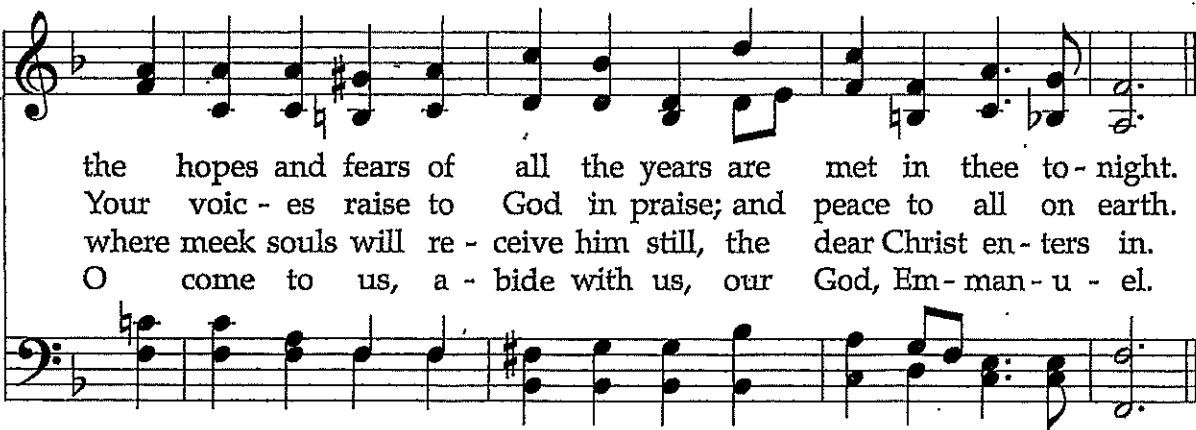
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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.

Away in a Manger

147

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
 11 11.11 11

Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, used by permission
 of Augsburg Fortress

Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG

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
 X 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.

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
 harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard B. Gerig, 1956

GLORIA
 77.77 w. refrain

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

GLORIA
7.77 w. refrain

What Child Is This

162



1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry'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, rich and poor, to own him,



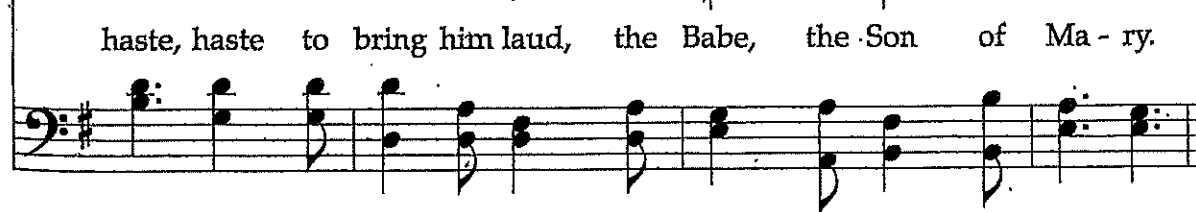
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Christ-ian, fear: for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:

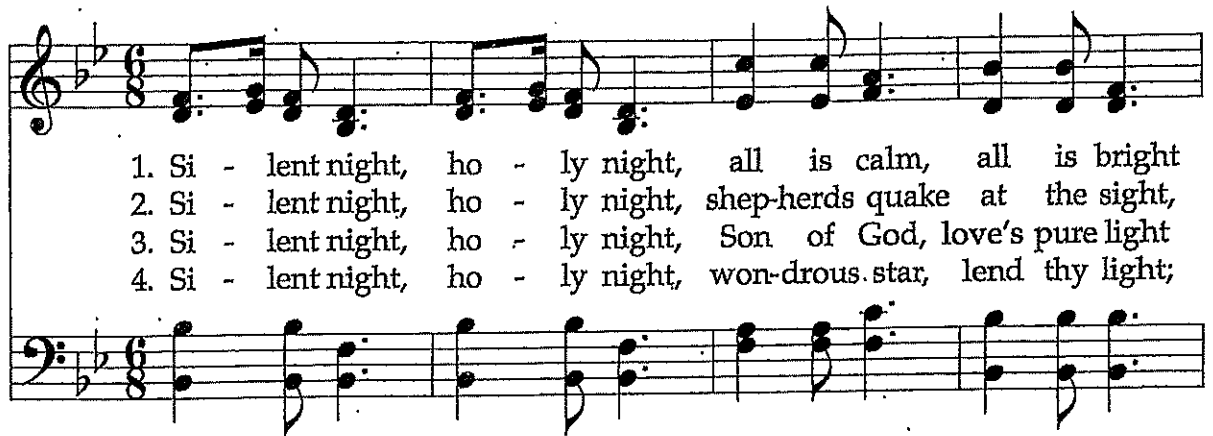


haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

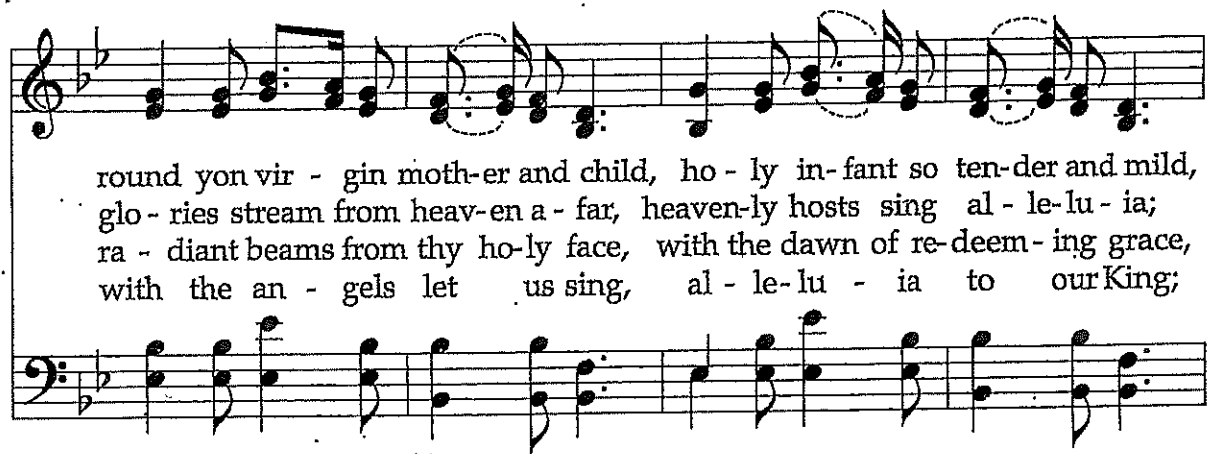


Silent Night, Holy Night

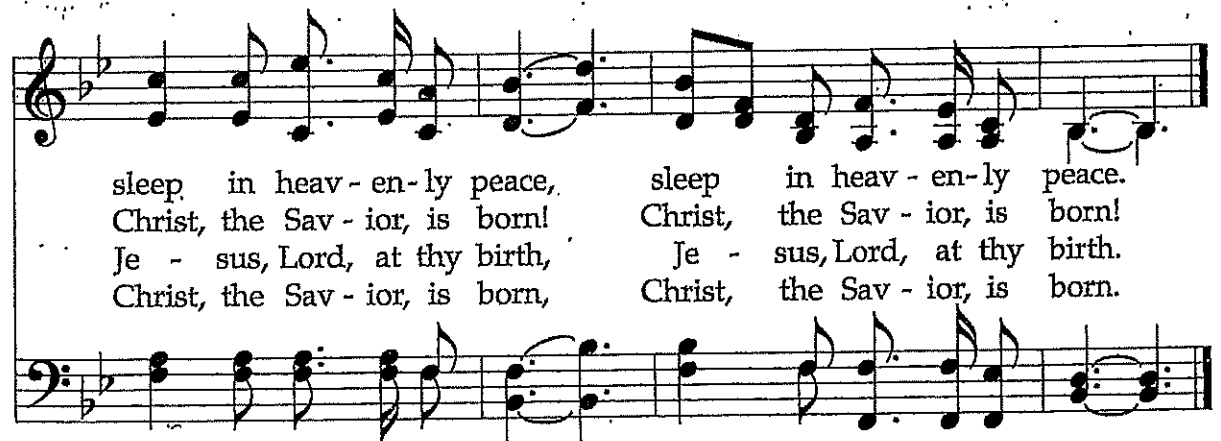
145



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.

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,