

Christ



*The gift of God is eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

ROMANS 6:23

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*



December 24, 2021

7:00pm Worship

Christmas Eve

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

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Star of Bethlehem"

Hazel Keithahn
Miklos Romas

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

Seth Smith

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

*Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" verses 1,3,4

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Seth Smith

God of Glory; your presence is lifted up here this evening as we gather together to celebrate your birth in our midst once more. We gather hearing lessons and singing carols and as we do, your presence breaks through in many ways. We admit that we do not quite understand all the implications of your Incarnation in the Christ child we adore; but we know that, in him, you are very present in the world. We remember that this child grew into maturity and walked with us, sharing our common lot and teaching us the ways of faith; and through his crucifixion and resurrection revealed your glory even more profoundly. Tonight, when all things are possible, we pray that we might take the essence of your presence into our hearts. As Christmas turns into the New Year and the lights of this evening fade, help us keep the Christmas miracle alive in our hearts 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	Seth Smith
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	Seth Smith
Hymn:	"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"	(insert)

Proclaiming Christ

Gospel Reading	Luke 2:15-20	Seth Smith
Christmas Anthem	"Mary Did You Know?" Harry Beckett & Shelby Oberle	
Homily	"God's Incarnation"	Pastor Rick
Hymn:	"What Child is This"	(insert)

Responding to Christ

Offering our Gifts "Long Time Ago in Bethlehem"

Lea Marienfeld, bells; Carissa Graves, claves; Ed Kaiser, djembe
Amy Crousore, keyboard; Brandon Brown, vocals

Our offering this evening will be donated to Mobility Worldwide, makers of the PET carts for those with mobility issues in developing countries around the world.

*Response

"Doxology"

Amy Crousore

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Praise God above, you heavenly host!

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen!

*Offertory Prayer

Pastor Rick

Creator God, we give these gifts this evening, holding the clients of Mobility Worldwide in our hearts. We give thanks for those who do the work here in Columbia to benefit your children around the world. We give thanks for the clients around the world who see your presence in the Mobility Carts they receive. Take these gifts tonight and let them be a blessing to all who benefit from these services and our partnership with them. 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

We will celebrate Altar Communion this evening, remembering the Wisdom of the ministry this Christ Child will share with us. You are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive the bread celebrating Christ's ministry from the communion steward; then move to the steward holding the cup of New Life and Resurrection. Take the elements back to your chair; if you choose to wait, we will partake together once all have received the elements. The center ring of cups contain grape juice; the outer rings contain wine.

Communion Music "O Holy Night"

Hope Keithahn

*Communion Prayer

Lena Muench

The lights will slowly dim as Lena offers the following Prayer of Thanksgiving. You are invited to pray along silently. By the time we join together in saying the Unison Lord's Prayer, the Sanctuary lights

will be extinguished and we will be reciting the Lord's Prayer together among only the lights of Christmas. The Sanctuary lights will remain off until after we sing "Silent Night." After the Lord's Prayer, Pastor Rick will begin passing the light of Christ to prepare for Congregational singing of "Silent Night."

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)*

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 Amy 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 extinguished, Brandon will lead us in singing "Silent Night." You may extinguish your candle after the prayer of dedication.

*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.

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

*Benediction

*Postlude "Fantasia on 'Gloria'"

Amy Crousore
Hughes

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

Admin. Assistant: April Rothweiler

office@columbiaucc.com

Moderator: Kristy Odneal

kristyodneal@gmail.com

Music Coordinator: Brandon Brown

brandon.michael.brown@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist: Amy Crousore

amycrousore@gmail.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary: Raj Tolani

finance.cucc@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg



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.

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary this evening were given by:

Doug, Judi, Josh & Drew Privitt –

in memory of Rev. Robert & Aileen Dohm, Delores Privitt,
Carla Helmreich, Andrew Helmreich & Heather Frisone

Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff –

in memory of son, Wesley and daughter, Rachel

Rev. Rick and Kim Oberle –

in memory of Christine Oberle, Lester and Melba Mosberger,
Richard and Melba Oberle, Al and Til Knobbe,
Michael and Margaret Wittich

Don Helmreich, Linda Simmons & Lauren Helmreich –

in memory of Andrew Helmreich, Carla Helmreich,
Herb & Wilma Lou Helmreich & James Graves

Judy & Ed Kaiser –

in memory of Karenda Jeanette Kaiser

**Mike & Sharon Rapp, Scott Rapp, Kelly & Gene Lavelly, Marcy &
Jeremy Kane**

in memory of Kenneth & Marian Rapp
and Alfred & Marianna Wilmsmeyer

Glenn and Carol Duermeyer –

in memory of family and friends

Helen Schultz –

in memory of Dorothy Kyger & Shirley Lawler

Chuck & Audrey Lasley, & family

in memory of parents and grandparents

Chuck & Audrey Lasley, & family

in honor of Darren Lasley

Jeff Kies –

in honor of Sarah & Eric Schweain family

Jeff Kies –

in memory of Seth Brandenburg

The Marienfeld Family –

in memory of our loved ones

Jim & Connie Loveless –

in memory of parents and grandparents



Melba Shaffer –

in memory of Hal Shaffer

Josh, Lena, Landon & Caleb Muench–

in memory of our grandparents, great-grandparents, & Bhisham Tolani

Phil & Aimee Dennis–

in memory of Sue Teckemeier & Phillip Dennis

Aimee Anderson–

in memory of Paul & June Gartner, Rev. Harold & Beatrice Ott

Susan Dunham –

in memory of Alex Dunham, Jean Dunham

Larry Noxon & Donna Marsh –

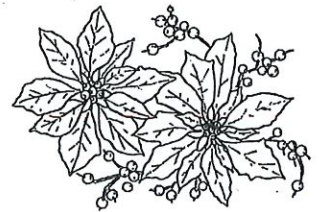
in memory of daughter, Mary Rinne

David Faust –

in memory of Norton & Lois Faust

Sue Ann Schaefer –

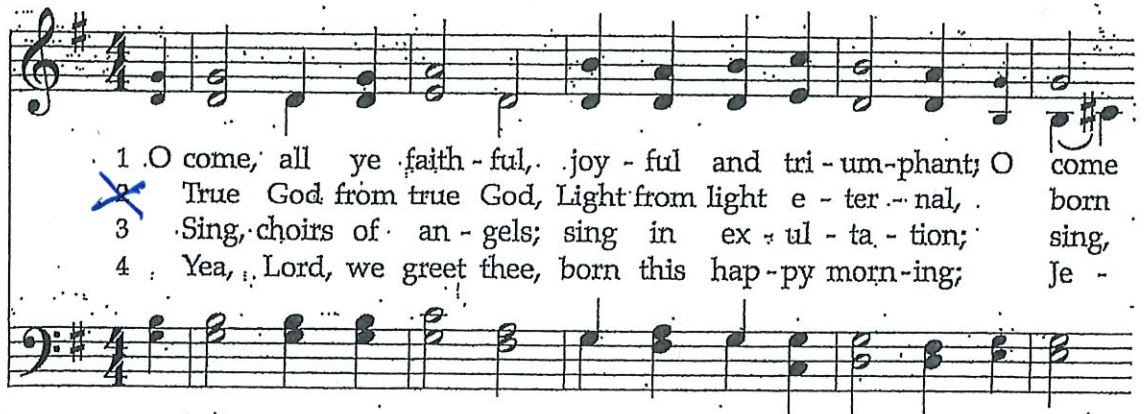
in memory of Jim & Dorothy Schaefer



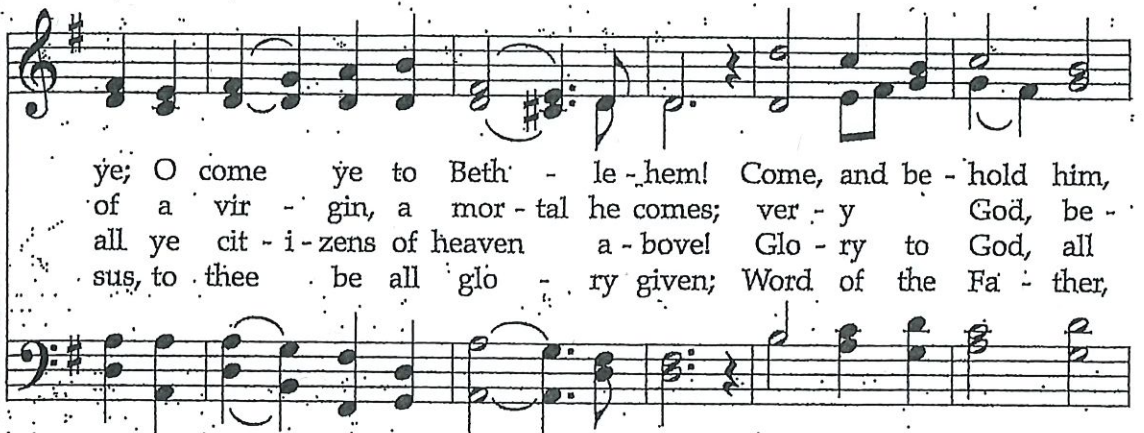
O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

1, 3, 4



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

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in his

won - der - ful face; and the things of earth will grow

strange - ly dim in the light of his glo - ry and grace.

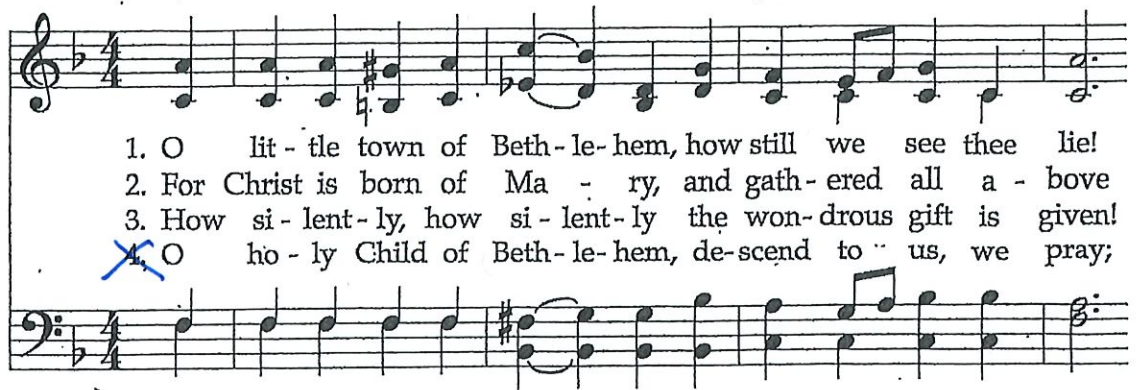
H. Lemmel, 1922

© 1922, Singpiration Music/ASCAP. All rights reserved. Used by permission of The Benson Co., Inc.

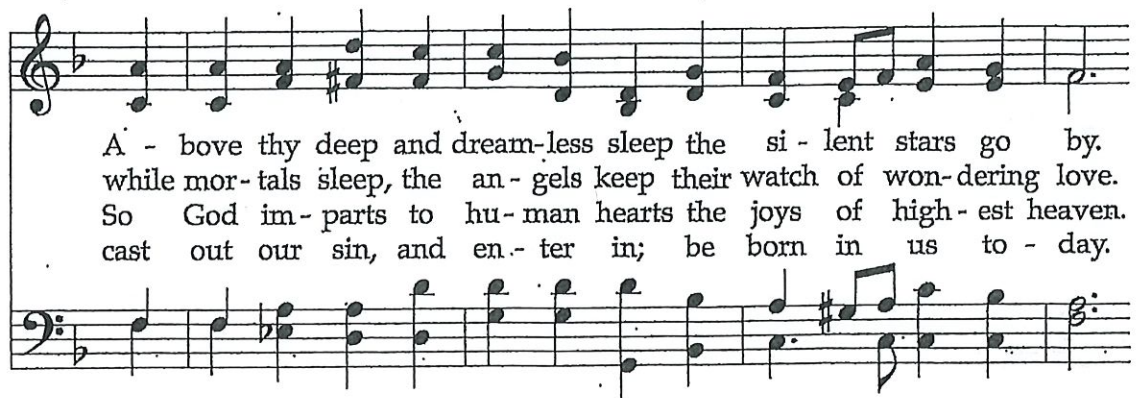
LEMME 9.8.9.8.ref.
Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

O Little Town of Bethlehem

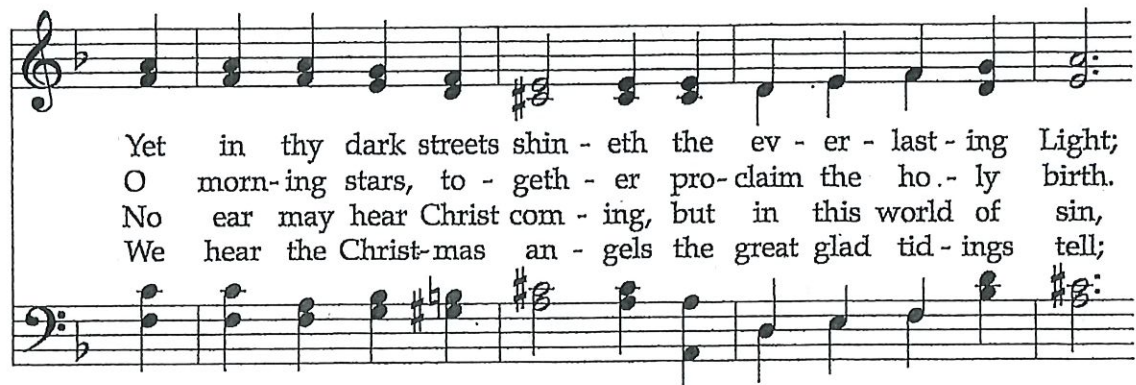
1-3



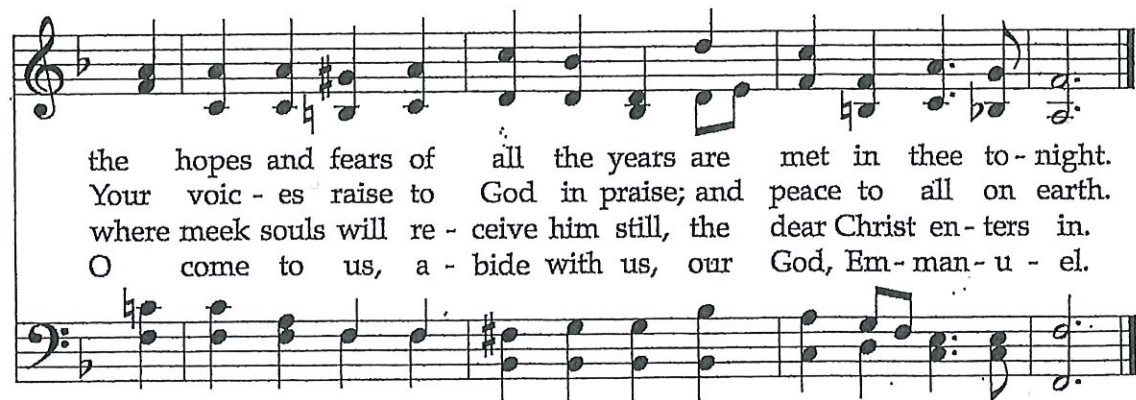
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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;

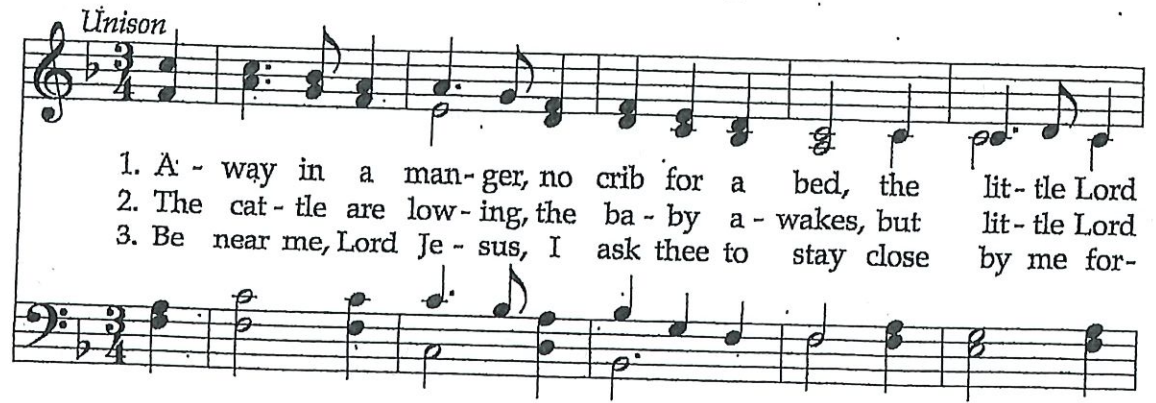


the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our God, Em - man - u - el.

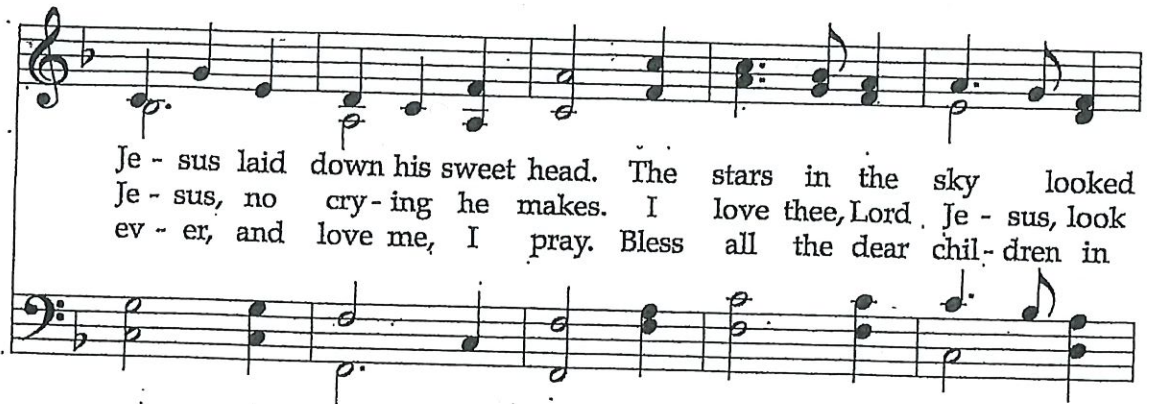
Away in a Manger

147

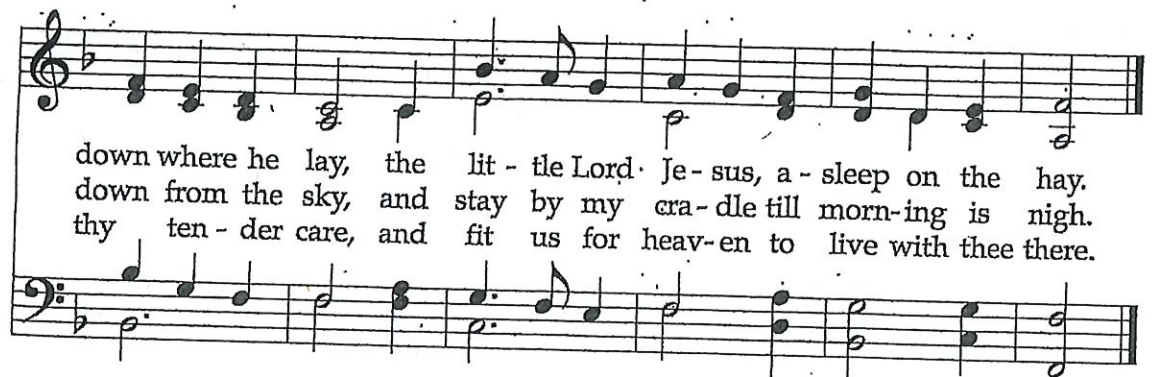
Unison



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

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



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-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 heaven-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-lemn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sound the 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.





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.

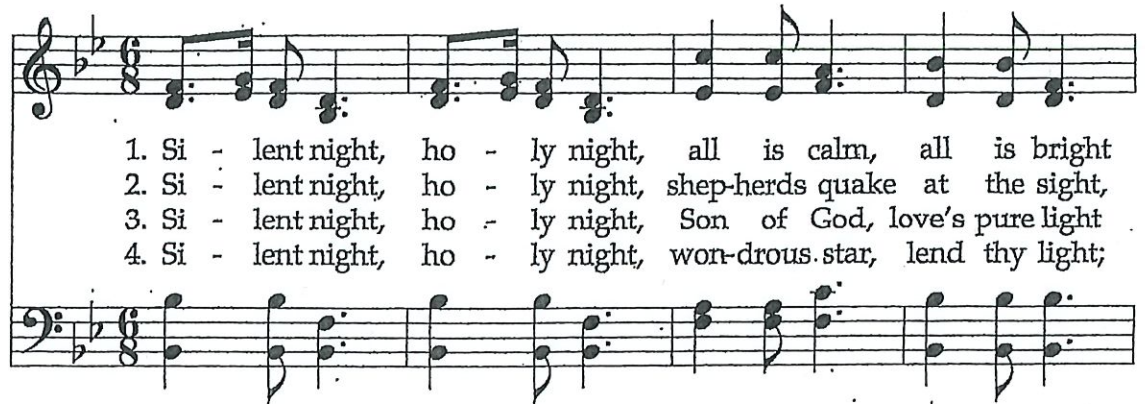


WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1865
 MUSIC: English melody (16th century)

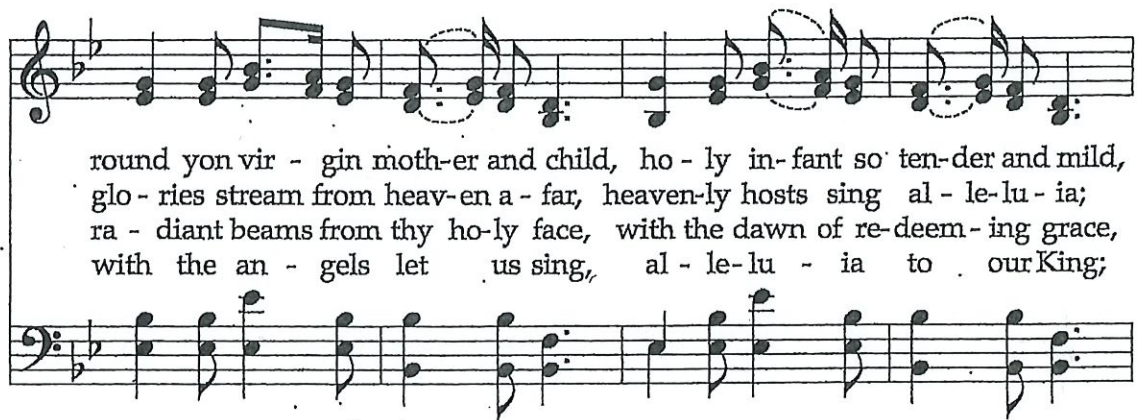
GREENSLEEVES
 87.87 w. refrain

Silent Night, Holy Night

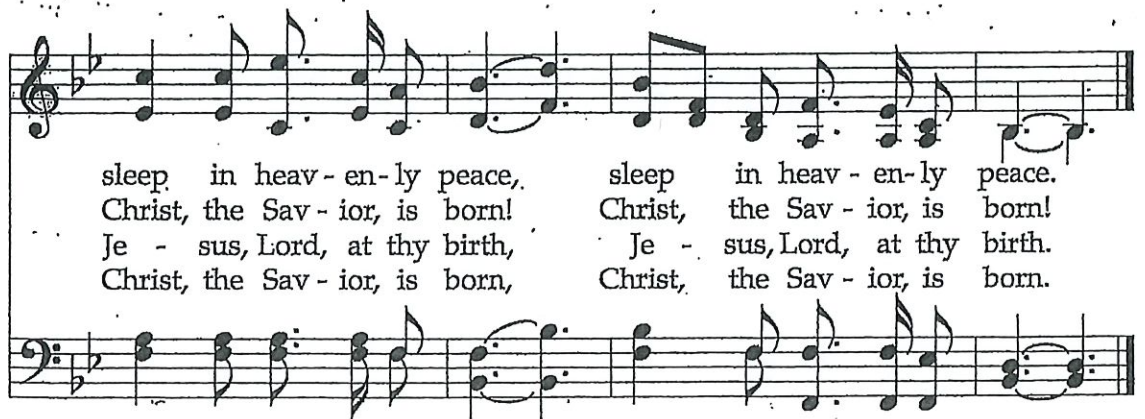
145



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 - dant 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,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719

USIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH

CM w. repeat