



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE, 2017



LIGHTING OF THE ANGELS' CANDLE AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

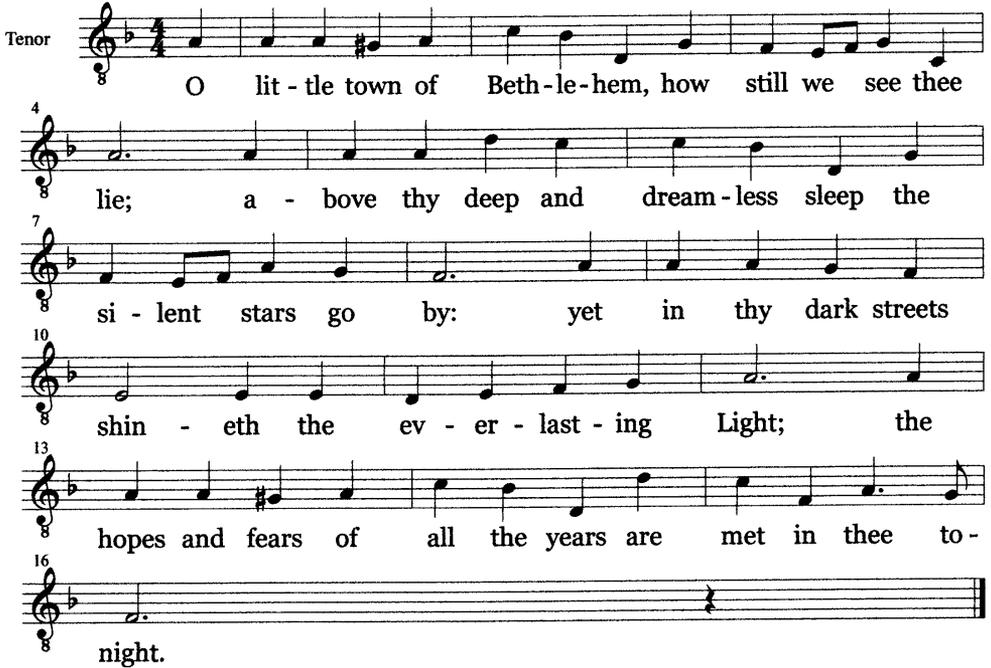
CALL TO WORSHIP • Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Text: Phillip Brooks • Music: Lewis H. Redner • Public Domain

Tenor



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee
lie; a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the
si - lent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets
shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to -
night.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in the world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 2 Corinthians 5:20b

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy One, we confess that we are unholy. We have taken the side of your Enemy and believed his lies rather than your Word. At a deep level we are suspicious of your goodness and authority. We revel in your gifts but do not delight in you. We are ungrateful and deluded in our pretended autonomy. You are Love, but we love ourselves and hate you. We sin. Clearly we do not deserve your forgiveness, but we are bold to ask for it because of your Son, Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us. Please, Father, assure us of your love through the Gospel of your Son, and purge our sins through the cleansing fire of your Holy Spirit. We ask in the name of Jesus and according to his will. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Luke 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

CHORAL OFFERTORY • “Sans Day Carol”

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise him, all creatures here below!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

ADVENT READING • Isaiah 7:14

“The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

(Te Deum Laudamus, 5th Century)

You are God.

We praise you!

You are the Lord.

We acclaim you!

You are the eternal Father.

All creation worships you!

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory!*

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.

Father, of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free,

you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,

bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Amen.

Hosanna In The Highest

Text: The Book of Common Prayer • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho - san - na to the
O Sav - ior with pro - tect - ing care, a - bide in this thy
4 Be ho - nor, praise, and glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and
liv - ing word! Where we thy par - ting prom - ise claim, as -
house of prayer; and make our se - cret soul to be, a
7 all in heav'n, to God the Fa - ther and the Son, and
semb - led in thy sa - cred name; to Christ, cre - a - tor
tem - ple pure and ho - ly; be hon - or praise and
10 God the Spi - rit three in one, be hon - or praise and
Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heav'n, Ho - san - nas sing! Ho - san - na!
glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n.
14 glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n! —
— Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! in the high - est! —

To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;
a child born meek and lowly, the infant King of Glory!
To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!

Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger
4 filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:
7 All glo - ry be to Je - sus! Up-on a cross my
11 Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still
15 o-pen wide: All glo - ry be to Je - sus! And this is
20 love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to
26 save! All glo - ry be to Je - sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,
his work of love and mercy done,
the Father's high ascended Son:
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,
because of our Lord's sacrifice,
new life through him, the crucified:
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!
He came to earth our souls to save!
And this is love! And this is grace!
That Christ, our God, did come to save!
All glory be to Jesus.
All glory be to Jesus.

GOSPEL READING • Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "How?" (Rev. Eric Costa)



VOWS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM

Andy Elliott; Travis, Myndi, Ashawntea, Hailey, Blaise, and Peter Koch

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Greet one another with the words, "*The peace of Christ be with you.*")

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THE MYSTERIUM FIDEI • 1 Corinthians 11:26; 5:7-8

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after the musicians. The glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine. There are gluten-free crackers on the table. An Elder is available for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4th Century), Martin Luther (16th Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed
Mar - y then was found with child,
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,
3 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored
6 passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.
9 Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.
8 Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____
15
8 In the high - - - est!

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.
Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.
Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

(Chorus)

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

(Chorus x2)

On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing
Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Tenor

On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
hear the news - the an - gels bring; On
Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
hear the news - the an - gels bring: News of great
joy, news of great mirth,
news of our mer - ci - full - King's
birth.

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The score includes a key signature change from G major to D major (two sharps) at the beginning of the final line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore, Amen!"

Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frederick Handel • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing." The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, 14, and 18. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and
na - ture sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

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Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church! For information about our regular meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit **ascensionpc.org/calendar**.

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After Worship • Please stay a while and join us for coffee and conversation. (There will be no Sunday School or Sermon Discussion today.)

Refreshments Volunteers • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: Hamilton / Elliott Next week: ____ / ____

Nursery Volunteers • Can you play with young children and help their parents once every 6-8 weeks? Join the nursery rotation! Contact: Rainy Aznoe (rainyrr@aol.com).

Today: Sery Next week: Jaques



Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
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(Please fill out this contact card, tear it off, and drop it in the offering.)

Name(s)

Email / Phone

- I am a visitor.
- I want to know more about being a Christian.
- I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.
- Please send me the email newsletter.
- Please use this info for the photo directory.