

ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE, 2020



FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Please...

- ... wear a mask and observe “social distancing” (6ft) between households;
- ... during Communion, parents, distribute the bread and cup to participating children;
- ... silence your cell phones.

Thank you for your help making others feel comfortable joining us for Worship!

FOR THOSE JOINING US ON ZOOM...

Please remain “muted” until the end of the service.

Man's maker was made man,
that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast;
that the Bread might hunger,
the Fountain thirst,
the Light sleep,
the Way be tired on its journey;
that the Truth might be accused of false witness,
the Teacher be beaten with whips,
the Foundation be suspended on wood;
that Strength might grow weak;
that the Healer might be wounded;
that Life might die.
Augustine (354-430)

~

Here is something marvelous: the Son of God descended from heaven in such a way that, without leaving heaven, he willed to be born in the virgin's womb, to go about the earth, and to hang upon the cross; yet he continuously filled the world even as he had done from the beginning!

John Calvin (1509-1564)

~

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel...
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

~

From where does the New Testament doctrine and ethic of humility come? It comes from the New Testament doctrine of the God who humbled himself in his Incarnation.

Karl Barth (1886-1968)

~

Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)



CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.



Joy To The World

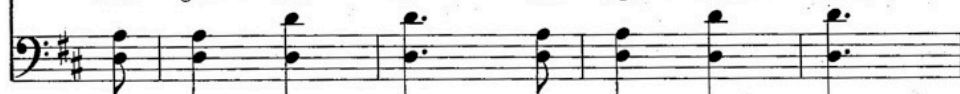
Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frideric Handel • Arr: Lowell Mason • Public Domain



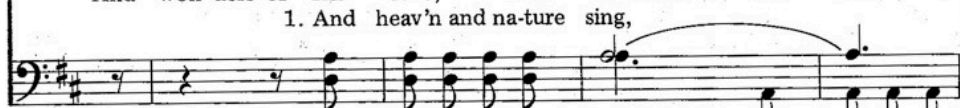
- 1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her King;
- 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy;
- 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, Nor thorns in-fest the ground;
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing,
 Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing joy,
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
 And won-ders of His love, And won-ders of His love,



1. And heav'n and na-ture sing,

1. And heav'n and na-ture sing,

And heav'n and na-

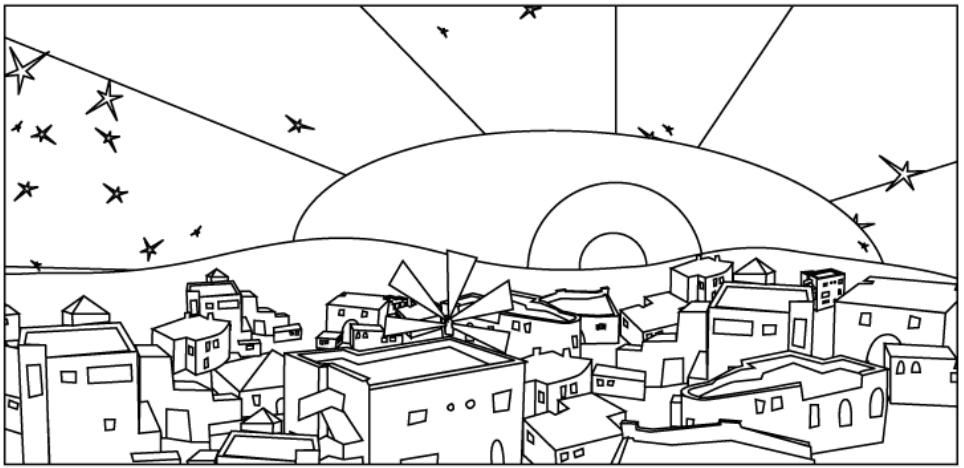


And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 Far as, far as the curse is found.
 And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



ture sing,

PRAYER OF INVOCATION



FIRST LESSON • Micah 5:2-5

² You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Away In A Manger

Text: Martin Luther, Tim Sauerwein • Music: James R. Murray • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Away In A Manger'. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The second staff begins with a measure rest and a '6' above it. The third staff begins with a measure rest and a '12' above it. The lyrics are: 'A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed, the The an - gels pro - claimed it, the pro - phets fore - told, but It was his strange glo - ry to make Him - self low, my lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The an - gels in heav - en looked how can God be what a man - ger can hold? Cre - a - tor and mas - ter, oh sor - rows to share and my bur - dens to know. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, pro - down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. how can it be that God was a ba - by and lay there for me? - tect and de - fend, my Help - er, my Broth - er, my Sav - ior and Friend.'

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed, the
The an - gels pro - claimed it, the pro - phets fore - told, but
It was his strange glo - ry to make Him - self low, my
lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The an - gels in heav - en looked
how can God be what a man - ger can hold? Cre - a - tor and mas - ter, oh
sor - rows to share and my bur - dens to know. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, pro -
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
how can it be that God was a ba - by and lay there for me?
- tect and de - fend, my Help - er, my Broth - er, my Sav - ior and Friend.



SECOND LESSON • Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ 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. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

What Child Is This?

Text: William Dix • Music: Greensleeves (16th Century English Carol) • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? 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 Mar - y."

What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? 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
Mar - y.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.



THIRD LESSON • Luke 2:1-7

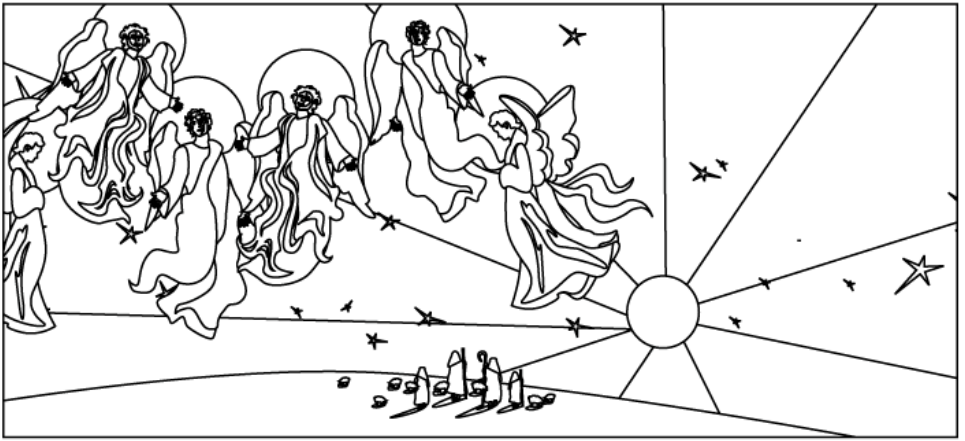
¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

O Holy Night

Text: John S. Dwight • Music: Adolphe Adam • Public Domain

Tenor

8 O ho - ly night - the stars are bright - ly shin -
5 Tru - ly He taught - us to love one a - noth -
8 ing, it is the night of our dear Sav - ior's birth.
10 er, His law is love and His gos - pel is peace.
8 Long lay the world - in sin and er - ror pin -
14 Chains shall He break - the slave he is our bro -
8 ing till He ap - peared and the soul felt its worth.
18 ther, and in His name all op - res - sion shall cease.
8 A thrill of hope the wear - y soul re -
22 Sweet hymns of joy in grate - ful cho - rus
8 joic - es, for yon - der breaks a new and glor - ious
26 raise we, let all with - in us praise His ho - ly
8 morn. Fall - - - on your knees - - - O hear -
32 name.
8 the an - gel voic - es! O night - - - di -
37 vine - - - O - night - - - when Christ was born!
42 O night! Di - vine! O night!
48 O night di - vine!



FOURTH LESSON • Luke 2:8-18

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The first Noel the an - gel did
say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they
lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier
sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so
deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the Alto voice part of the carol 'The First Noel'. The score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines. The lyrics are: 'The first Noel the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.' The final measure ends with a double bar line.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

(Chorus)

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

(Chorus)

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

(Chorus)



FIFTH LESSON • John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HOMILY

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER

(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 their Lord and Savior in this world.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Please come forward after the musicians. Grape juice is available for those who do not want wine. The cup with the ribbon contains gluten-free crackers.)

Silent Night

Text: Franz Gruber • Music: Joseph Mohr • Public Domain

Tenor

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!

All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin
moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so
ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!". The second staff starts with a measure rest of 3 measures, then continues with the lyrics: "All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin". The third staff starts with a measure rest of 6 measures, then continues with: "moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so". The fourth staff starts with a measure rest of 8 measures, then continues with: "ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,". The fifth staff starts with a measure rest of 11 measures, then continues with: "sleep in heav - en - ly peace.".

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Hallelujah Liturgy

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Through him all things were created.

Hallelujah!

Being in very nature God, he did not grasp at equality with God,
but made himself nothing.

Hallelujah!

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Hallelujah!

He took our infirmities and carried our sorrows.
He was crushed for our sins, and by his wounds we are healed.

Hallelujah!

He is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Hallelujah!

At the name of Jesus the Anointed One every knee shall bow,
and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord.

Hallelujah!

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength and honor and glory and praise.

Hallelujah!

He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever.

Hallelujah!

The Hallelujah Chorus

Text & Music: George Frideric Handel, "Messiah, HWV 56: Part II, No. 44" (1741)

Arr: Tim Sauerwein • Public Domain

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal -

- le - - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -

- lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! For the Lord God om - ni - po - tent

reign - eth. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

For the Lord God om - ni - - po - tent reign - eth. Hal - le -

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass clef. The treble clef contains the vocal line with lyrics: "For the Lord God om - ni - - po - tent reign - eth. Hal - le -". The bass clef contains the piano accompaniment, primarily consisting of chords and a simple bass line.

- lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! The king - dom of this

The second system continues the vocal line with lyrics: "- lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! The king - dom of this". The piano accompaniment continues with rhythmic patterns and chords.

world, the king - dom is be - come the king - dom of our Lord and of His

The third system continues the vocal line with lyrics: "world, the king - dom is be - come the king - dom of our Lord and of His". The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line in the latter part of the system.

Christ, and of His Christ. And He shall reign for - ev - er and ev - er. And

The fourth system continues the vocal line with lyrics: "Christ, and of His Christ. And He shall reign for - ev - er and ev - er. And". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

He shall reign for - ev - er and ev - er. King of kings, for - ev - er and

The fifth system concludes the vocal line with lyrics: "He shall reign for - ev - er and ev - er. King of kings, for - ev - er and". The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord and a few notes in the bass line.

ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le lu - jah! and Lord of lords, for - ev - er and

ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le lu - jah! King of kings, for - ev - er and

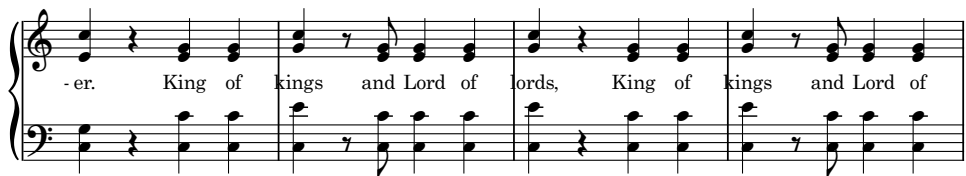
ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le lu - jah! and Lord of lords, for - ev - er and

ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le lu - jah! King of kings, for - ev - er and

ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le lu - jah! and Lord of lords, King of



Kings, and Lord - of lords, and He shall reign for - ev - er and ev - er and ev -



-er. King of kings and Lord of lords, King of kings and Lord of



lords, and He shall reign for - ev - er, for ev - er and ev - er, for - ev - er and



ev - er, for - ev - er and ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le



- lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!



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.

