

ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE, 2022





CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 60:1

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



O Come All Ye Faithful

Text: John F. Wade (1711-1786) • Music: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

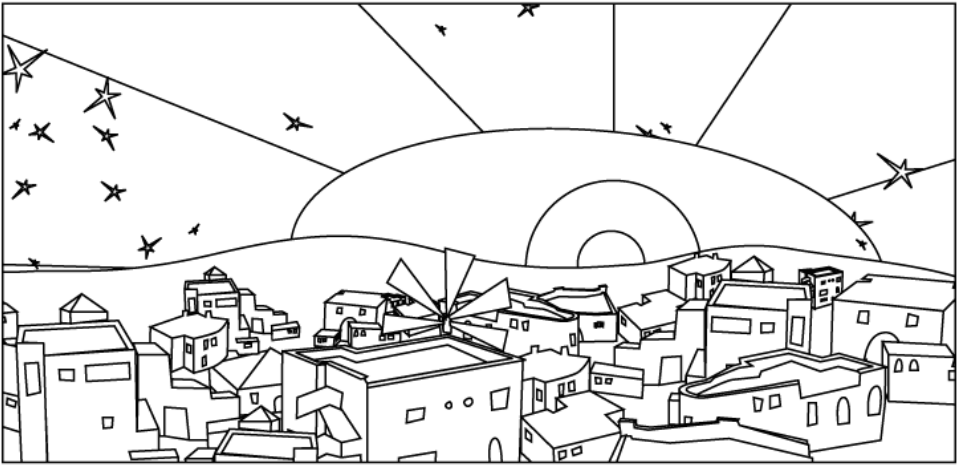
Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
glo - ry to the God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

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

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.

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." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16. The final measure of the sixth staff is a whole rest.

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.



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.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: 'An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.' The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18. The melody is simple and melodic, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

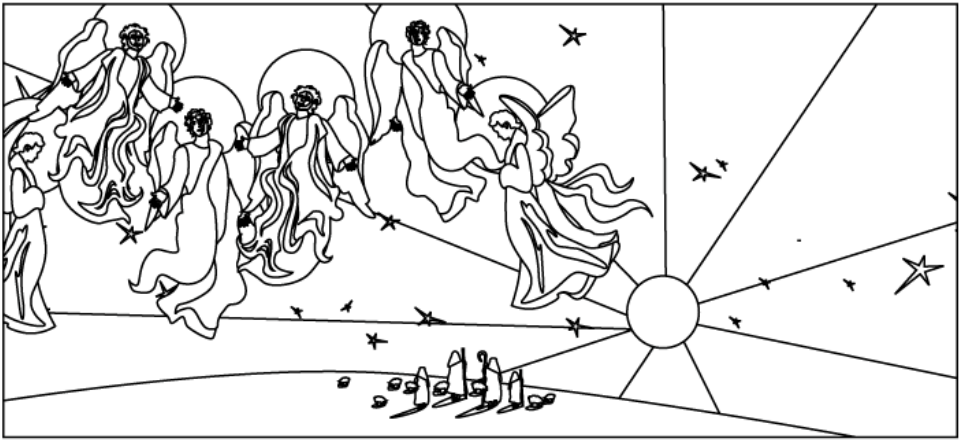
An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

(Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

(Chorus)



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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

1 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new - born King:
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, — Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord,
3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! — Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, — off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings, — risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —
veiled in flesh the Go - dhead see; — hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die, —

with th'an - ge - lic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, — our Im - ma - nu - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to — give us se - cond birth.

(Chorus)

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"



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

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

Silent Night

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

Tenor



8 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!

3
8 All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin

6
8 moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so

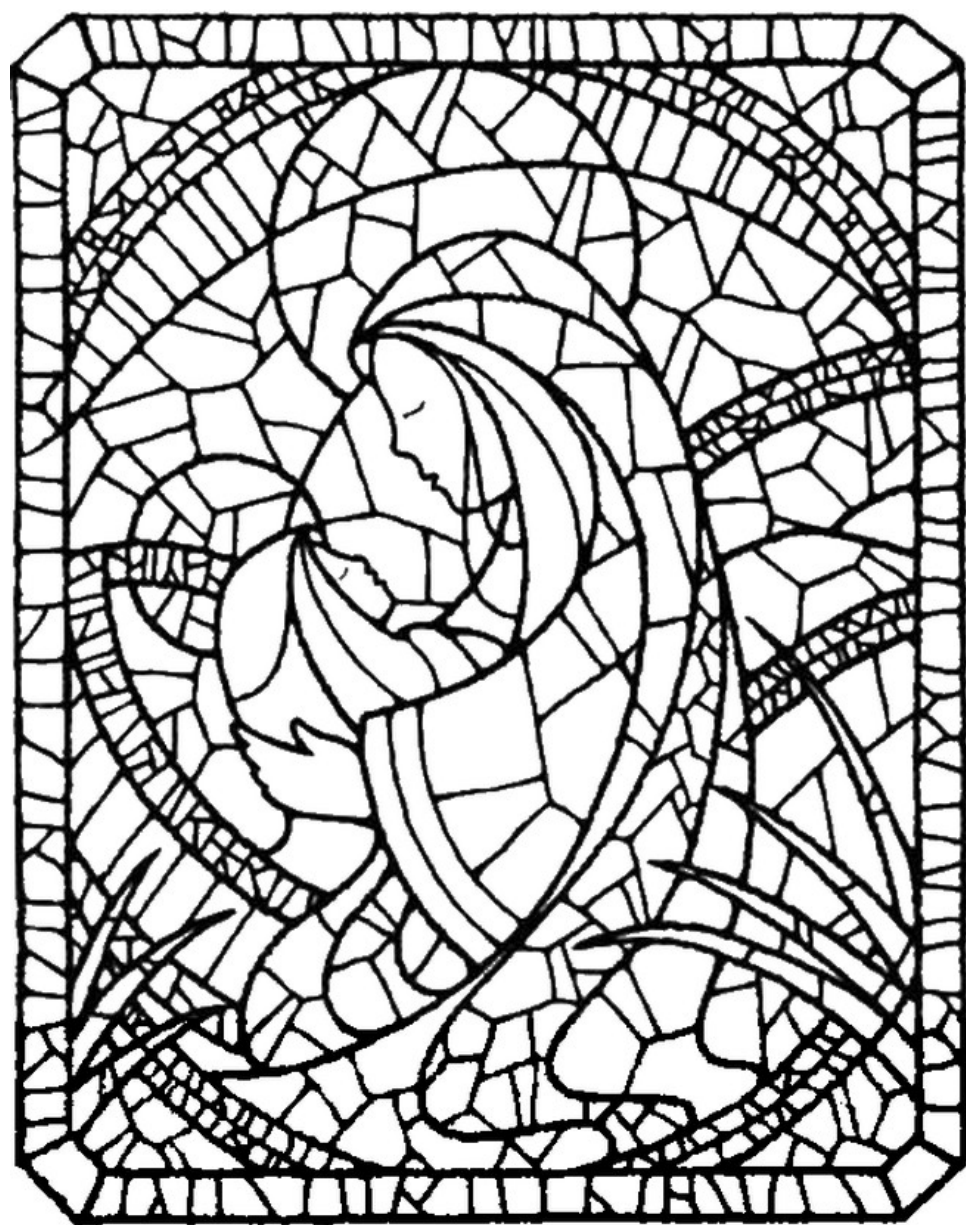
8
8 ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,

11
8 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!





BENEDICTION • Luke 2:14

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

