



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 10, 2023
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 135:1-5

Praise Yahweh!

Praise the name of Yahweh, give praise, O servants of Yahweh,
who stand in the house of Yahweh, in the courts of the house of our God!
Praise Yahweh, for Yahweh is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!
For Yahweh has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.
For I know that Yahweh is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of five 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 lyrics are hyphenated to fit the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

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)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Timothy 1:5

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Trinity, your love is eternal.

You are love.

There is none like you.

We are not like you.

We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, or strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We sin and fall short of your glory.

In the holiness of your love, forgive us.

Cleanse us, glorify us, fill us with your love.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Malachi 3:10

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says Yahweh of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Zephaniah 3:14-17

- 14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- 15 Yahweh has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, Yahweh, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
- 17 Yahweh your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.”

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...

(Elder leads in prayer)

And now we join together with the Lord in the prayer he taught us:

*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.*

Away In A Manger

Text: Martin Luther, Tim Sauerwein

Music: James R. Murray • Public Domain

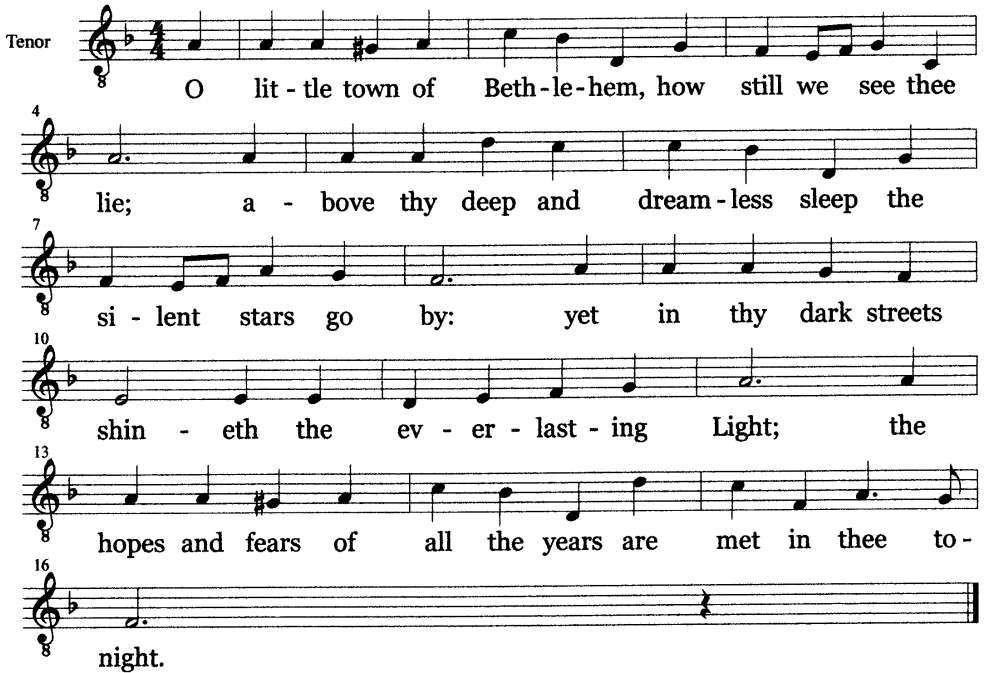
A musical score for the hymn 'Away In A Manger'. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The second staff begins with a measure rest and a '6' above it, indicating the start of the second line of music. The third staff begins with a measure rest and a '12' above it, indicating the start of the third line of music. The music ends with a double bar line.

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.

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.

GOSPEL READING • Luke 2:8-20

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. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "Christmas Carols" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Thus says Yahweh: In this place of which you say, 'It is a waste without man or beast,' in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of Yahweh:

"Give thanks to Yahweh of hosts,
for Yahweh is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!"

"For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says Yahweh.

"Thus says Yahweh of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks." (Jeremiah 33:10-12)

"Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." (Ephesians 5:18-19)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16-17)

"He is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,

'I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.'" (Hebrews 2:11-12)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • Colossians 1:15-20

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Amen.

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].)

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Text: 15th Century German Carol • Translator: Theodore Baker

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599 • Harmonized by Michael Praetorius

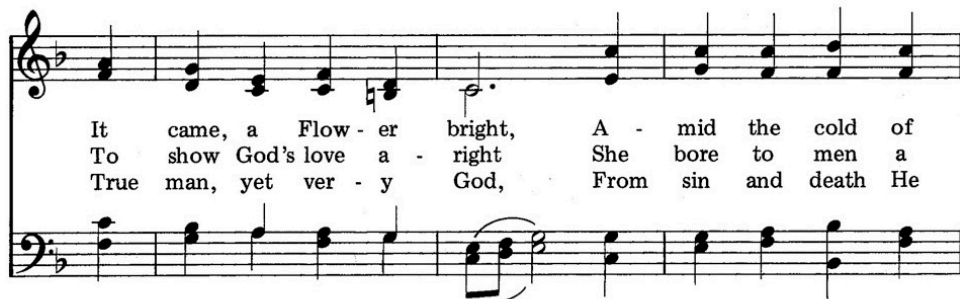
Public Domain



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind;
3. This Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,



Of Jes-se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.
With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.
Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - ery - where.



It came, a Flow - er bright, A - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right She bore to men a
True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death He



win - ter, When half - gone was the night.
Sav - ior, When half - gone was the night.
saves us And light - ens ev - ery load.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

18th Century English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is not explicitly marked, but the style is a traditional carol. The lyrics are: "God rest you merry gentlemen let no-thing you dis-may, re-mem-ber Christ our Sav-ior was born on Christ-mas day, to save us all from Sa-tan's pow'r when we were gone a-stray; O tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy, O tid-ings of com-fort and joy." The score ends with a double bar line.

God rest you mer - ry gen - tle - men let
no - thing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our
Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to
save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a -
stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and
joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of
com - fort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

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'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with 'Alto' on the left. 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 music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases like 'No - el' being repeated.

They lookéd 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)

BENEDICTION • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~

After Worship Today • Join us at 11:30 for Sunday School (kids) and Sermon Discussion (adults).

Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. men's study of the Book of Judges, at Longbottom Coffee.
Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).
- 1:30pm Wed. women's study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women* (McLaughlin).
Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).
- 6:30am Thu. men's study of *Habits of the Household* (Earley), at the Starbucks on Walker & 158th.
Contact: Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com).
- 7pm Thu. women's study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women* (McLaughlin).
Contact: Holly McGarry (hollykiewer8@gmail.com).

Youth Group • 6:30pm to 8pm Wednesdays. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us and to invite their friends. Contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com).

Lessons & Carols • 6:30pm Sun., Dec. 24 at the Stevensons' home. Stay tuned for more details...

Shepherding Meetings • The elders want to check in with the members of the church. We like to use these questions to kickstart our conversations: 1) *What are you thankful for?* 2) *Where are you seeing the grace of God at work in your life?* 3) *How can we as elders (or the deacons) serve you?*

We're available for these meetings on a regular basis on the third Sunday of each month for lunch or dinner. To schedule a shepherding meeting with us on one of these Sundays, or during some other time, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Email Newsletter • Visit ascensionpc.org/newsletter to subscribe to weekly announcements.

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)

Our Presbytery (pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com)

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)

Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge (serge.org)

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

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(Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)

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.