

*welcome to worship*  
**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS EVE**  
December 24, 2025 ♦ 7:30 PM



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement**  
5 Wyomissing Boulevard  
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081  
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ [www.atonementwyo.org](http://www.atonementwyo.org)  
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

*The assembly's responses are in bold print.*

PRELUDE

*African Noel*

traditional spiritual, arr. Harlan

*Still, Still, Still*

Austrian carol, arr. McWilliams

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. | For all is hushed, the world is sleeping;  
Holy star its vigil keeping. | Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of the Savior's birth. | The night is peaceful all around you;  
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come, | While guardian angels without number  
Watch you as you sweetly slumber. | Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

*Rise Up, Shepherd*

African American spiritual, arr. Taylor Davis

There is a star on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd and follow!

Its light will show where Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd and follow!

*Refrain:*

Follow the star to Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd and follow!

You'll find a manger behind an inn. Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

You need to heed the angel's word. Rise up, shepherd and follow!

Forget your flocks, forget your herds. Rise up, shepherd and follow! *Refrain*

You'll leave your sheep and leave your lambs. Rise up, shepherd and follow!

You'll leave your ewes and leave your rams. Rise up, shepherd and follow! *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS GREETING

Pastor Katie

*The assembly stands.*

GATHERING HYMN 270

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

READING

*Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-7 (The Message)*

<sup>2:11-14</sup> God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation is available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.

<sup>3:3-7</sup> It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, easy marks for sin, ordered every which way by our selfishness, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in and saved us from all that. It was all God's doing; we had nothing to do with it. We were baptized in God's name, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

ACCLAMATION      283      *O Come, All Ye Faithful* – stanza 1

♪ **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,**

**Come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 296

*What Child Is This*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth. **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In his light, draw all to the manger **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger **to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way. **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*If you brought an offering today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.*



OFFERTORY *Tidings of Great Joy (A Christmas Carol Medley)*  
*The assembly sings with the choir:*

arr. Drennan

♪ **Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains, in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

*Following the offering, the assembly stands.*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Following the words of institution...*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*The assembly is seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION

*Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ELW 279      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
ELW 282      *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
ELW 300      *The First Noel*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God-come-to-earth, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*The pastor will light a candle from the Advent wreath's Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World. Ushers will receive the light from the pastor and then light the candle of each worshiper seated on the aisle, who will pass the light to others in the pew. The lighted candle is never tilted, but always held upright when giving light to another person. Please leave the candles and candle holders in the baskets in the narthex on your way out.*

SOLO                                      *O Holy Night*                                      Adolphe Adam  
O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, his power and glory evermore proclaim.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world! His light no darkness can overcome. As we light these candles tonight, may the light of Jesus' love and forgiveness flow through us to other people and to the world. "So let our lights shine that others may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven and our Savior Jesus Christ."

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly 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 your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

May God bless you, keep you, + be gracious to you.  
May God give you grace never to sell yourself – or God – short.  
Grace to risk something big for something good.  
Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth  
and too small for anything but love.  
So may God take your mind and think through it.  
May God take your lips and speak through them.  
May God take your hands and do good with them.  
May God take your heart and set it on fire. Amen.

SENDING HYMN 290

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Let your light shine! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Harmon

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### **Assisting with Worship**

Mary Lou Hall, Patty Lehr, greeters ♦ Mick Bryan, head usher ♦ C. Louise Fair, lector

Yvonne Gilbert, assisting minister ♦ Crystal Shirk, Zoe Shirk, audio/visual

Tyler Good, Ken Lord, Macy Lord, Barb Mishler, Cara Pepper,  
Carolyn Wheeler, Sally Youngcourt, communion assistants

Karen Sandloop, altar captain ♦ Pat Noll, sexton

Atonement Christmas Festival Choir ♦ Donna Danielski, soprano

Mick Bryan, Sean McCrae, Madison McCrae, Kyleigh McCrae, percussion

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. The nursery is not staffed today, but the privacy room behind the nave is available for families who would like additional wiggle room.

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher or stop by the sound booth on your way into the worship space.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed until Monday, January 5. Please leave a voicemail at the office or email [cshirk@atonementwyo.org](mailto:cshirk@atonementwyo.org) if you need anything, we will be checking in periodically throughout the holiday break.

HOLOCAUST PRESENTATION given by the family of a local survivor will take place during the faith formation hour on January 11.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION will not meet again until January 18.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN resumes January 11 in the choir room at 8:45.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held the Sundays of January 4, 11, and 18, 8:45-9:45 am. The communion celebration for those students will be January 25 during 10:00 am worship.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

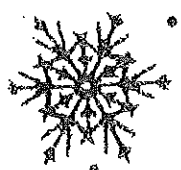
DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to [atonementwyo.org](http://atonementwyo.org) and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page. We are especially in need of **LARGER SIZED MEN'S CLOTHING**.

2025 PLEDGES should be close to fulfillment. If you are unsure of your remaining pledge, please email Amy Rogers at [arogers@atonementwyo.org](mailto:arogers@atonementwyo.org), or reach out at 610-375-3512 x110.

MONETARY GIFTS FOR COMMON GROUND can be placed in the offering or the box next to the angel tree. Mark your donation "Common Ground".

USHER TEAMS are being revised for 2026—if you would like to be added to a team please email [cshirk@atonementwyo.org](mailto:cshirk@atonementwyo.org) to be added to one of the teams! The commitment is about once every 6 weeks.

ATTENDANCE PADS are used to keep our records accurate. Please let us know you are here by signing the attendance sheet in your pew—thank you!



Atonement Lutheran  
Church  
*presents*

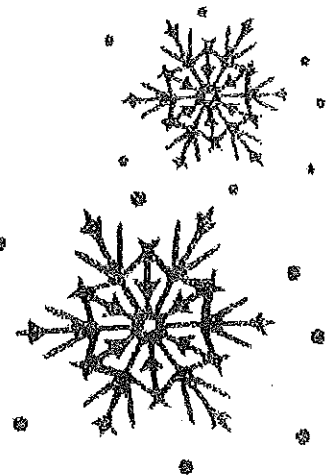
# *Winter Wonderland Dance*

Saturday, January 17  
5-7 PM

Lundin Hall

DJ \* *Dancing* \* Snacks  
Photo Booth \* Fun  
All ages welcome

*look for a sign up genius soon \**





*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



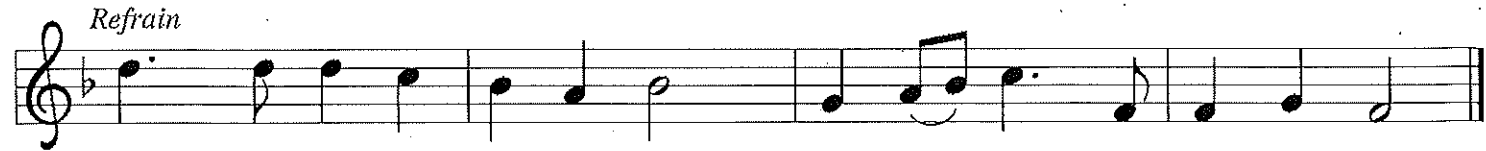
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y'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, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, 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.



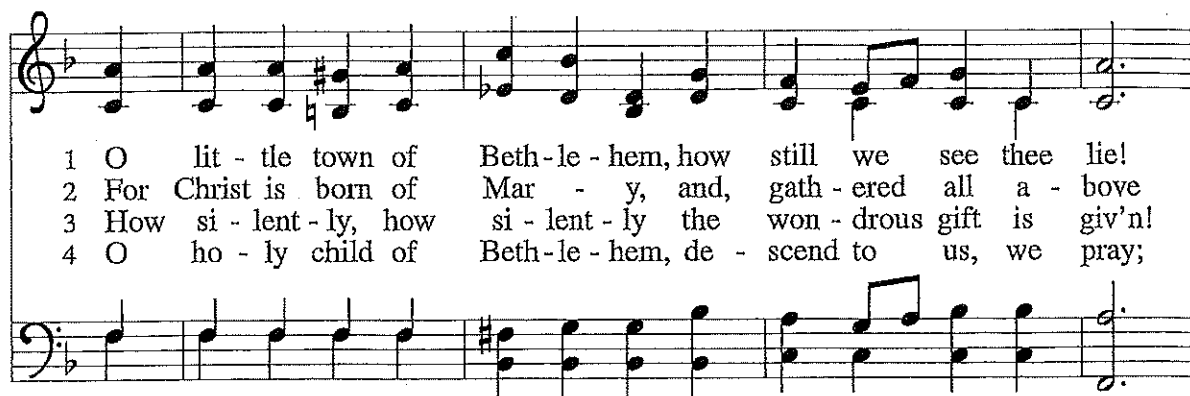
This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



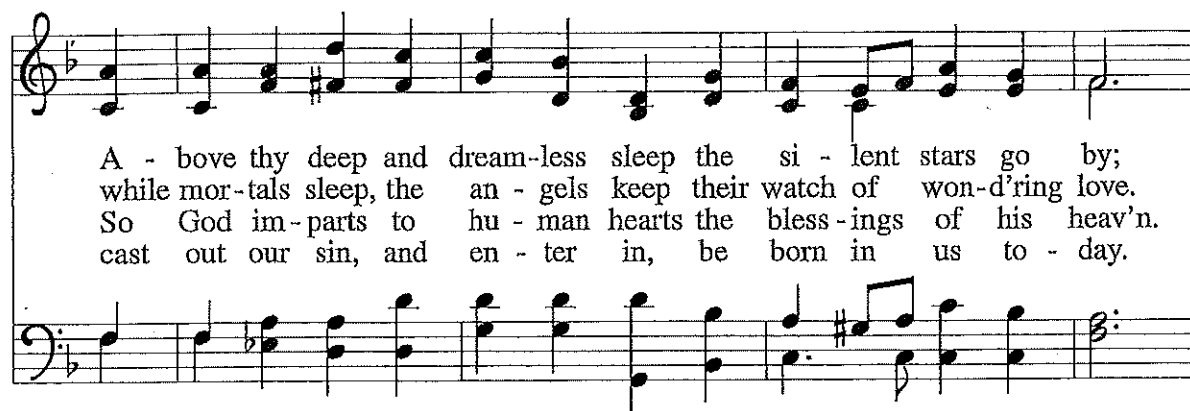
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



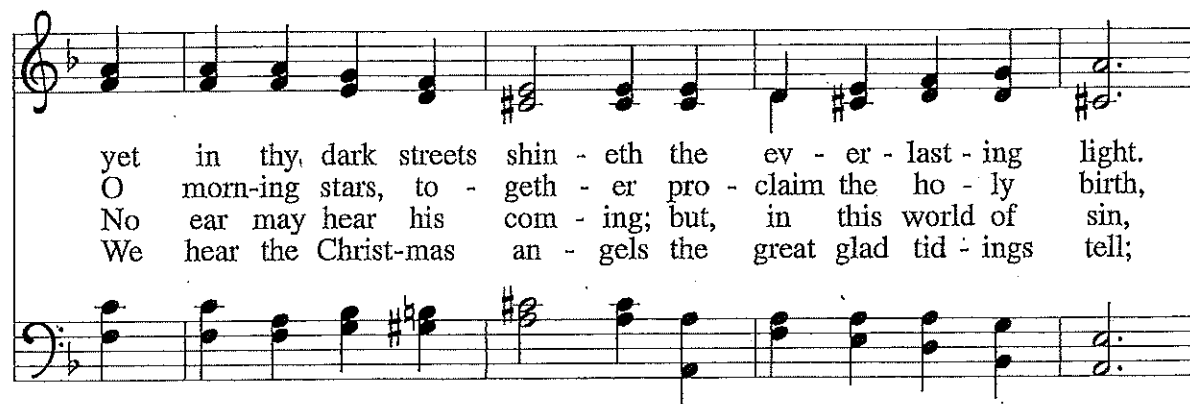
## O Little Town of Bethlehem



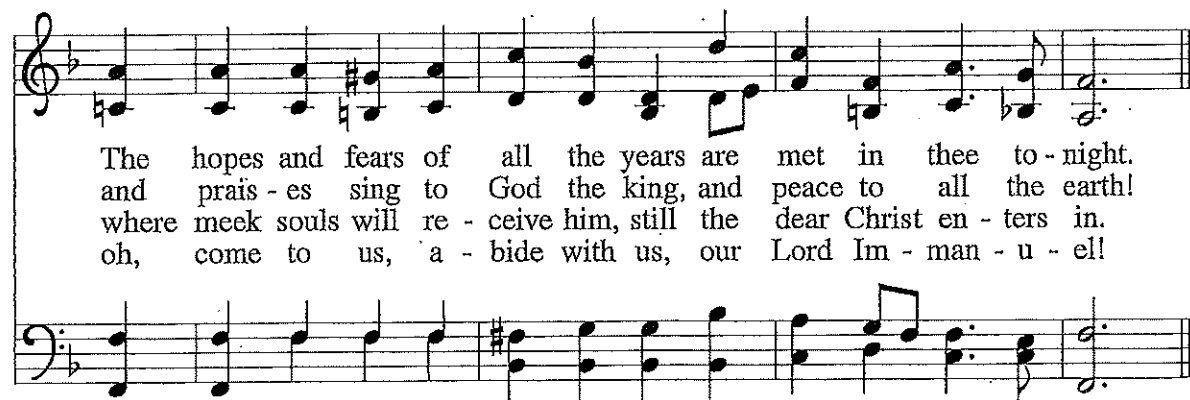
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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-d'ring love.  
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



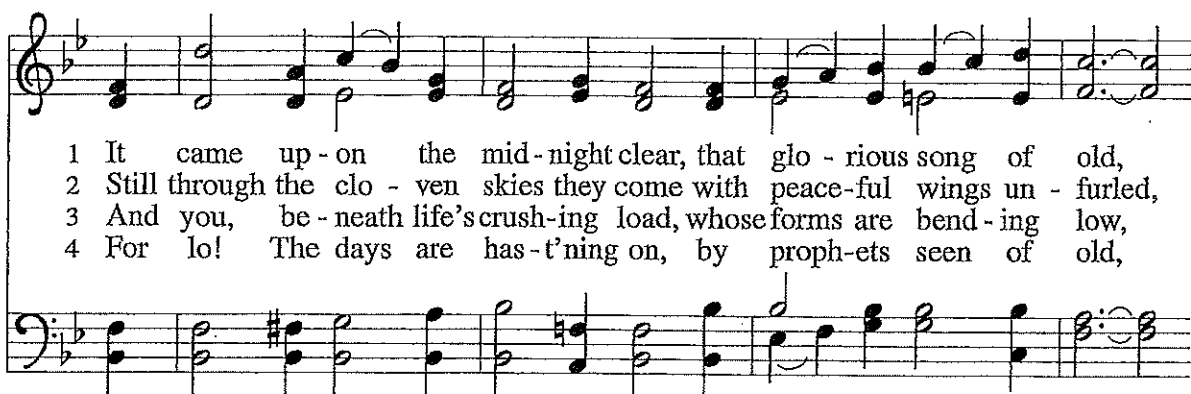
yet in thy, dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



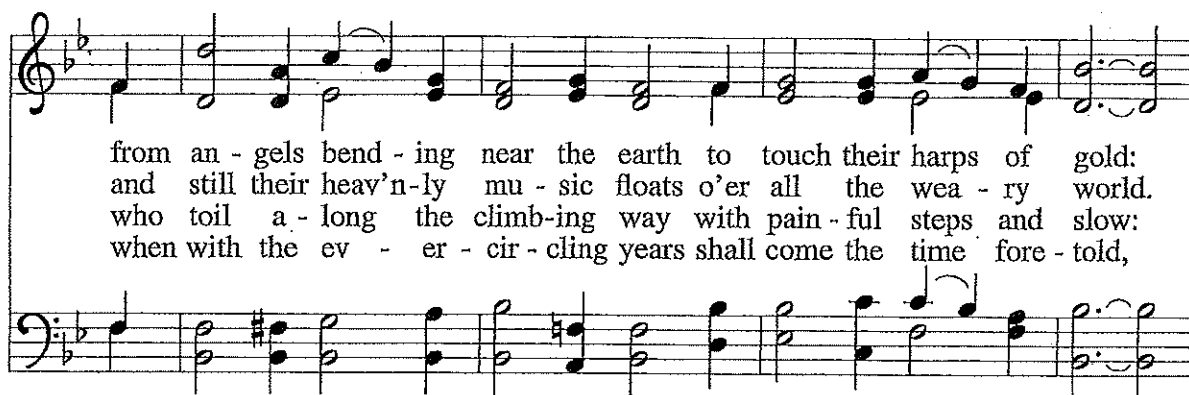
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - ell

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

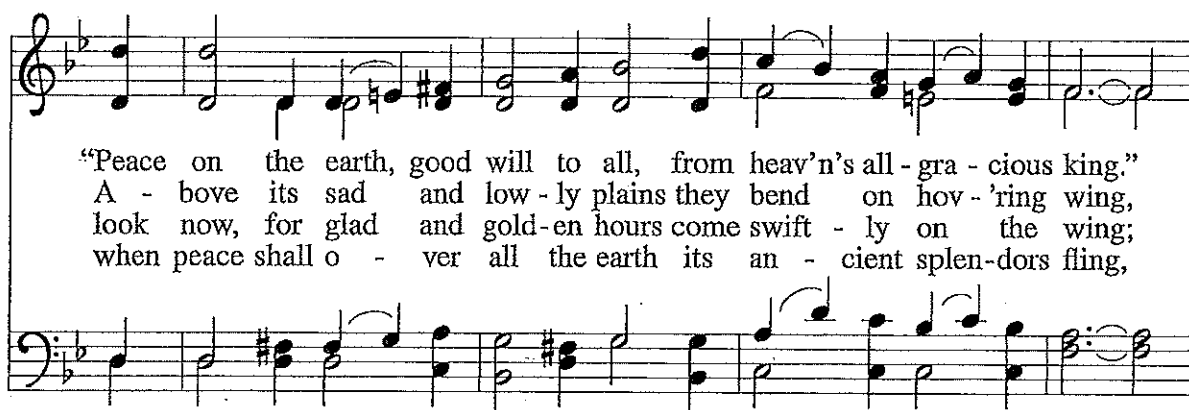
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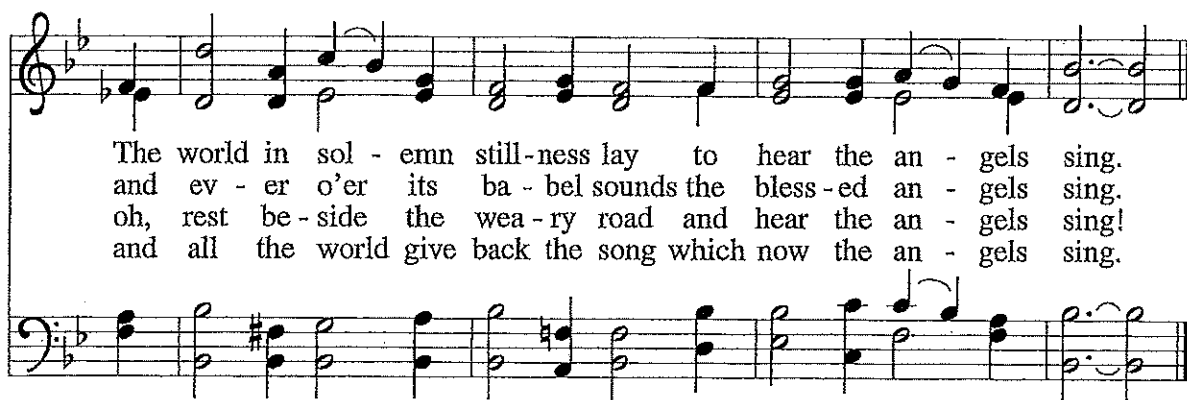
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n-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,

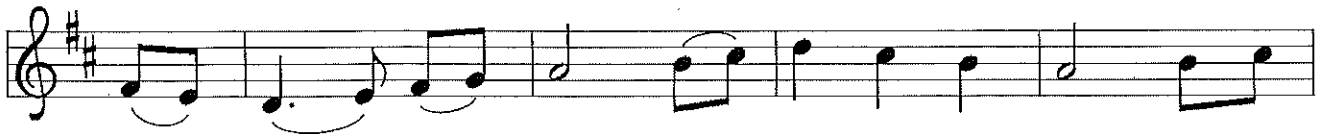


"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.  
 and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.  
 oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

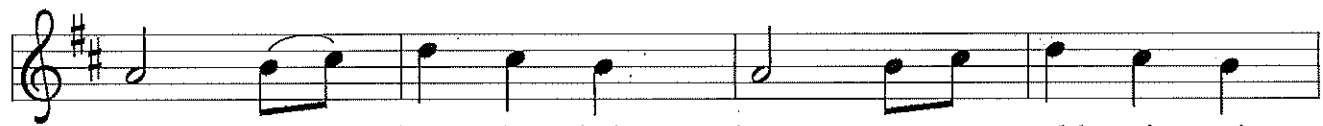
# The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

## Refrain



night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

290

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: African American spiritual

GO TELL IT  
78767676