



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2025 7 P.M.

WHITE MEMORIAL
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

Welcome to Worship this Christmas Eve!

In addition to the sanctuary, seating is available in the Jane Bell Gathering Space (through the side doors at the front of the sanctuary) and in Davidson Chapel (to the left of the sanctuary across McDonald Lane).

*In this order of service, words in bold are said or sung by everyone. Hymns are found in the purple hymnal, Glory to God, in the pew rack in front of you. Asterisks * invite all to rise in body or in spirit.*

Near the end of the service, we will light candles and sing. When a lighted candle is offered to you, tip your unlighted candle towards it to receive the light; then hold your candle upright and offer the light to your neighbor.

The sound of bells calls us to worship this Christmas Eve.

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

John Ferguson

This Day So Full of Joy

J. S. Bach

This day! So filled with high delight for ev'ry earthborn creature!
God's Son, from realms of heav'nly light
born to the world of nature.

What Child Is This

Richard Purvis

In Dulci Jubilo ("In Sweet Joy")

J. S. Bach

In sweet rejoicing, now sing and be glad!
Our hearts' joy lies in the manger.

In Dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupré

Here Mid the Ass and Oxen Mild...

Gilbert Martin

...sleep, sleep, sleep, thou little child.
Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim
come from heaven above to guard the Lord of love.

The Nativity

Jean Langlais

The Crèche – The Angels – The Shepherds – The Holy Family

Variations on ADESTE FIDELES

Marcel Dupré

Advent Wreath

People of God,
live in light.

Friends, behold the Light of the World—
God's hope, peace, joy, and love made visible.

This we know: Christ is born. God is with us. Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*Confession and Pardon

Cate Church Norman

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing life to all and teaching us to renounce
what is evil in the world.
This we know: God's grace can be trusted, and so we pray:

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in the darkness.
We confess that we have not always welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.**

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE
in the manner of Christ

**We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.**

**Renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

Silent prayers

Hear God's promise: See, your light has come!
You are a holy people, loved by God and not forsaken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 119 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prayer for Illumination

Lee Hunter

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

pew Bible p. 600

Anthem The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem

The hills are bare at Bethlehem—
no future for the world they show;
yet here new life begins to grow:
from earth's old dust, a greenwood stem.

The stars are cold at Bethlehem—
no warmth for those beneath the sky;
yet here the radiant angels fly,
and joy burns new, a fiery gem.

The heart is tired at Bethlehem—
no human dream unbroken stands;
yet here God comes to mortal hands,
and hope, renewed, cries out, Amen!

New Testament Reading Luke 20:1-20

pew Bible p. 78

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon A Child Born for Us

Christopher Edmonston

*Hymn 112 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

Anthem African Noel

arr. André Thomas

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel!
O come, ye people, gather here
to hear the news of good cheer!
The King of kings, the Lamb of God
is born today in Bethlehem – sing Noel!

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering

A Christmas Carol

Norman Dello Joio

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
O weary, weary were the world, but here, here is all aright.
The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,
His hair was like a star.
O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are.
The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
Weary, weary is the world, but here the world's desire.
The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him, and all the stars looked down.
O weary, weary were the world, but here the world is aright.

The Song of Peace

Atcherson/Christiansen

The heavens opened wide one night to let the angels through,
who sang for all the song of peace that only heaven knew.
Though centuries have measured time with each unfolding year
the song still lives in human hearts to bring new hope, new cheer.
We seek with bursting missiled power to pierce the realm of blue,
but love divine unfurled the skies to let a song come through.

Lighting of the Candles

**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! 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.**

Christmas Blessing

*Hymn Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all 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 known 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.**

Postlude Adeste Fideles

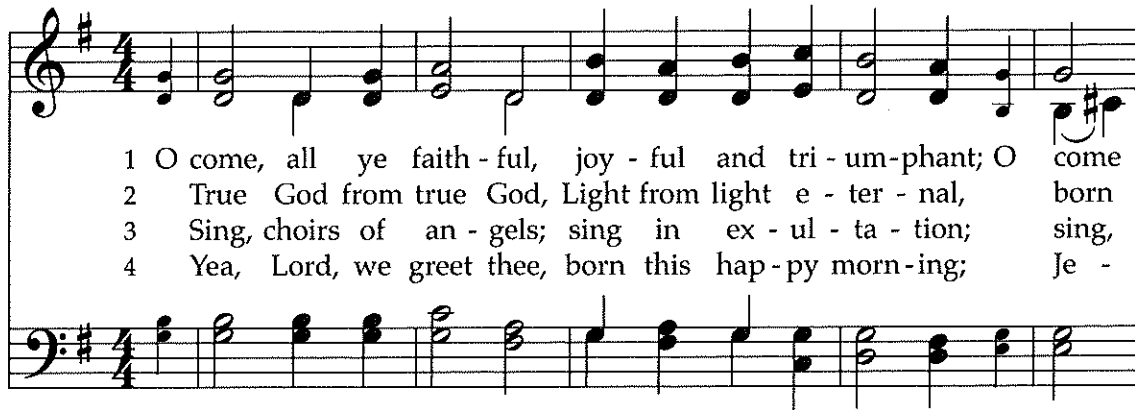
arr. Eric Thiman



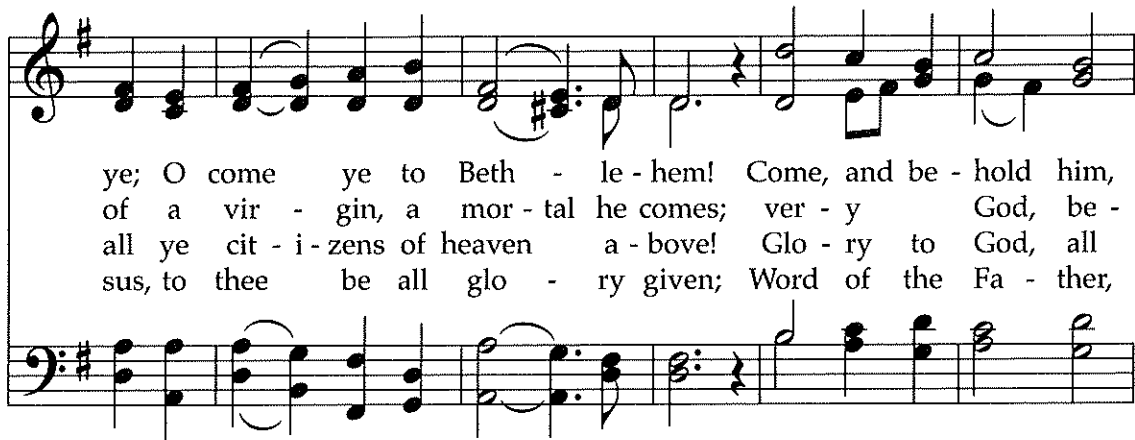
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O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

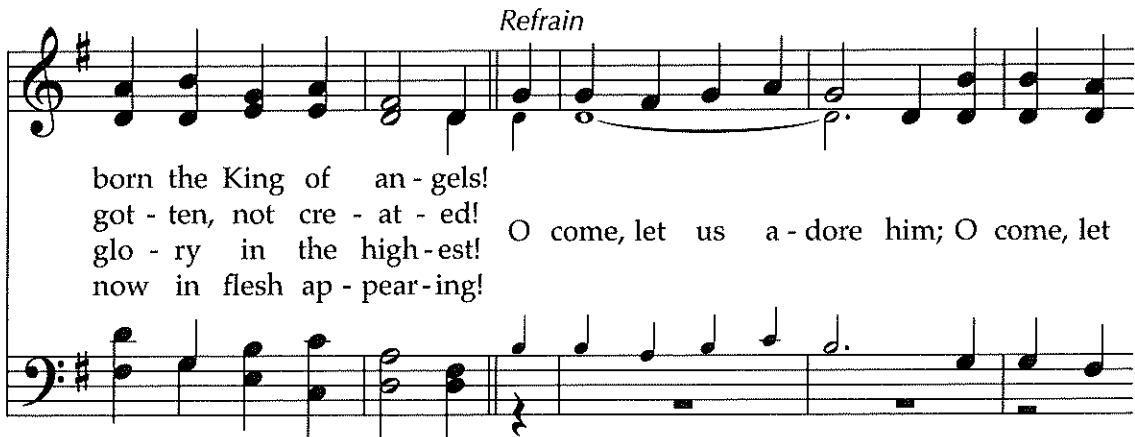


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain



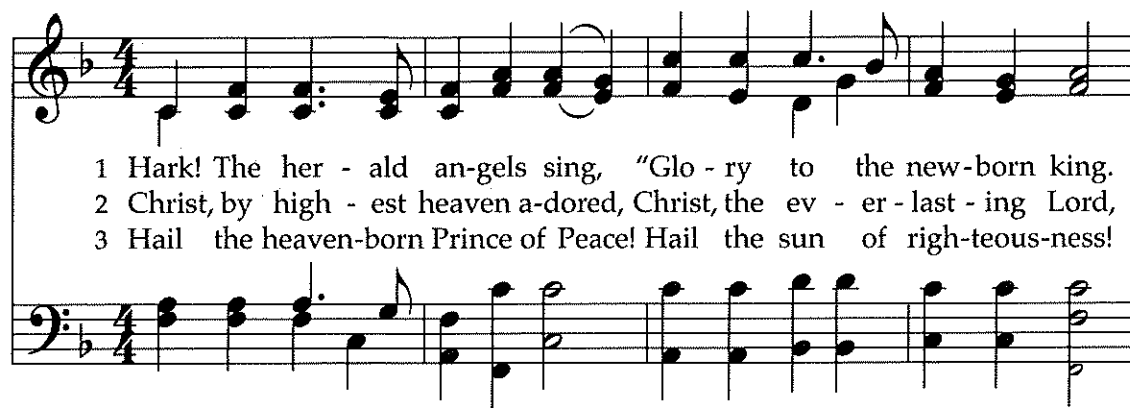
born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



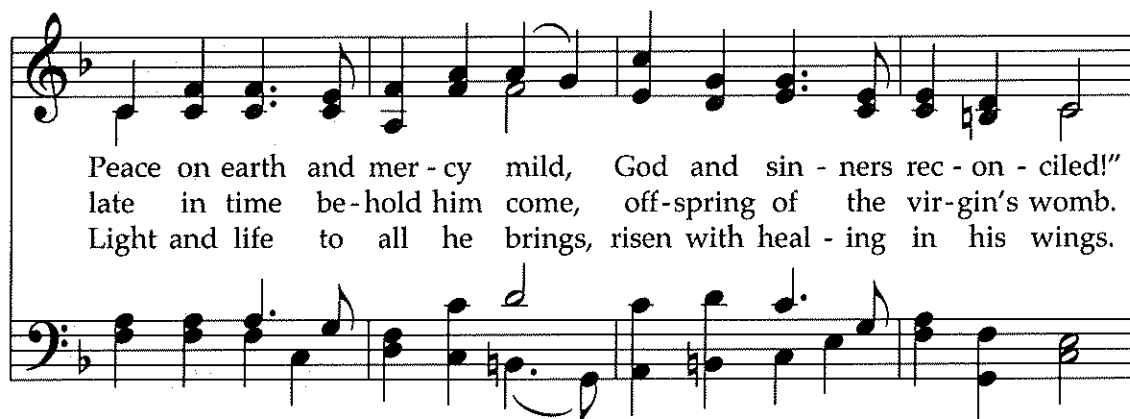
us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

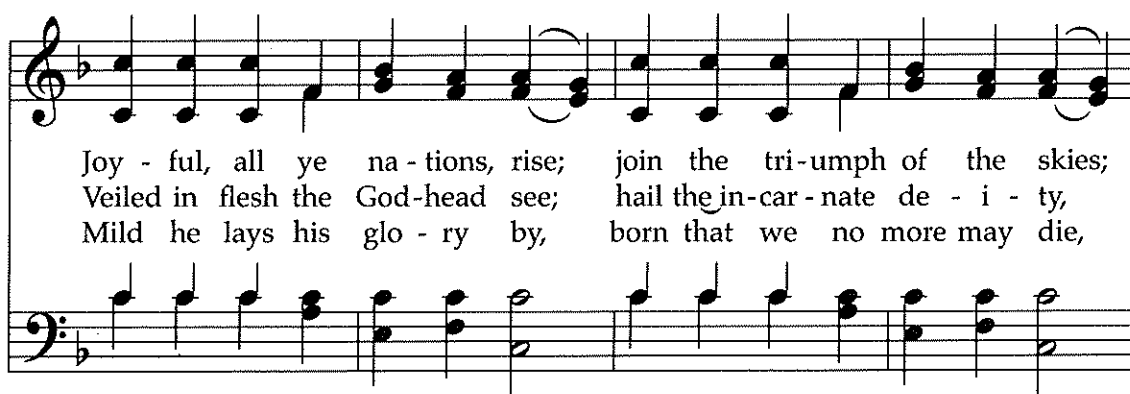
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



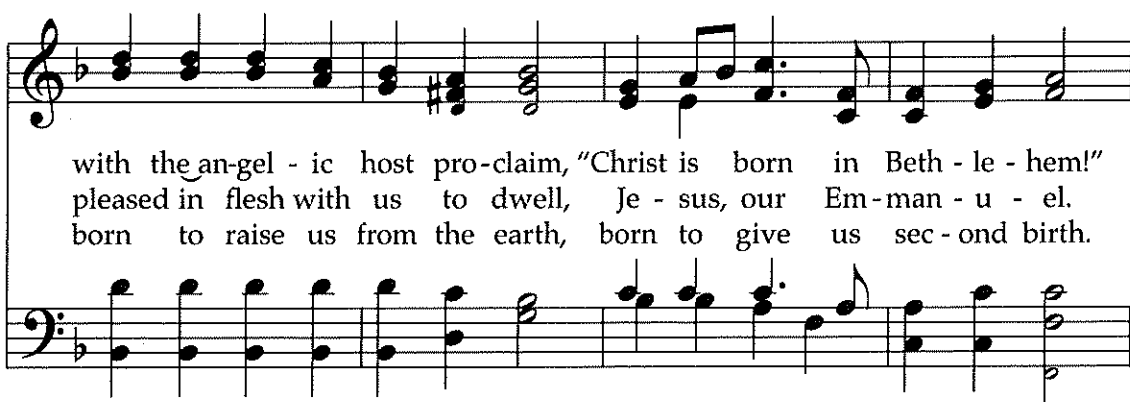
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of 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 God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.


On Christmas Night All Christians Sing 112

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (A7) (D)
F B \flat F C7 F




1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the

(G) (A) (D) (G)
B \flat C F B \flat




news the an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all
deem - er made us glad; then why should we on
health come in its place; when sin de - parts be -
an - gels sing this night; all out of dark - ness

(D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B \flat C F




Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring,
earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er made us glad,
fore his grace, then life and health comes in its place;
we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night:

(A) (Em) (D) (A)
C Gm F C



news of great joy, news of great mirth,
when from our sin he set us free,
heav - en and earth with joy may sing,
"Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven;

(D) (G) (A) (G) (D)
F B \flat C B \flat F



news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
all for to see the new - born King.
peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

The words of this carol first appeared in 1684 in a collection by an Irish bishop, Luke Wadding. Whether they were his own work or something gleaned from popular use is not clear. The tune name recalls that the tune was collected in 1904 from Mrs. Verrall of Monk's Gate, Sussex.