

FOUNDED 1716

*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ

*Christmas Eve*



North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Thursday, December 24, 2020**

**Christmas Eve**

**PRELUDE:** Prelude on *Divinum mysterium*

Wilbur Held

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**P132**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Tonight, old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

**PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

**PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.

**PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: And this light is a light for all, igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh within us and among us

**ALL: Within us and among us, now and always. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.\*\***

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**~*unison*

Mysterious God, you come to us this night softly as a mother's sigh, as startling as the cry of a newborn child. Come into our hearts, we pray, that we might be cradled in your love and stirred by your glory. We pray in the name of the One whose coming we celebrate, Jesus Christ, the Bethlehem baby.<sup>##</sup> Amen.

**A WORD OF WELCOME**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**ANTHEM:** *Before The Marvel Of This Night*

Sung by Cathy Welch, Carol Mitchell, and Susan Beth Higgins  
Gary Snowbeck, Organ

Music by Carl Schalk  
Text by Jaroslav Vajda

**THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER** (*trespasses*)

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. Amen.

**ANTHEM:** *Candlelight Carol*

Words and Music by John Rutter

Offered live by the Chancel Choir in the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert on Dec. 9, 2016.

## OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

\*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY - LESSONS AND CAROLS

**A GIFT OF MUSIC:** *Mary, did you know?*

Joshua Peiffer – Flute    Jenny Li - Piano

Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry

Setting by Joel Raney

**THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY:** Luke 1:26-38

p. 1201

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1)

**P 129**

**THE PROCLAMATION TO JOSEPH:** Matthew 1:18-25

p. 1147

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1)

**P 134**

**THE BIRTH OF JESUS:** Luke 2:1-7

p. 1203

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

## **A CHRISTMAS STORY (Part One)**

**ANTHEM:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
Chancel Choir

Traditional Polish Carol  
arr. Sir David Willcocks

Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing,  
Little knowing  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging  
Angels singing,  
Noels ringing,  
Tidings bringing,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping,  
Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new,;  
Saw the glory,  
Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing,  
Greet the morrow,  
Christ the Babe was born for you!

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Karlee Etter

Sung Response: “People Look East”  
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.

V9

**ANTHEM:** *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

Traditional Carol  
adapted & sung by Jeffrey Hutchins  
Verse three inspired by Sir David Willcocks

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;

Chorus (sung after each verse)  
*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,*  
*This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance

Thus was I knit to man's nature  
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard I from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.

**THE SHEPHERDS:** Luke 2:8-20

p. 1203

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn: "The First Nowell" (vs. 1)

**P 141**

**A CHRISTMAS STORY** (Part Two)

**A GIFT OF MUSIC:** *Bethlehem Down*  
Sung by Jeffrey Hutchins

Music by Peter Warlock  
Poem by Bruce Blunt

When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
Beautiful robes, said the young girl to Joseph  
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd on Bethlehem down.

**THE FUTURE'S HOPE:** John 1:1-14

p. 1236

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1,3)

**P 120**

**THE LIGHT GOES OUT AMONG US**

Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

**P 138**

\* **CLOSING HYMN:** "Joy to the World"

**P 130**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *Christmas Postlude*

William Stickles

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** Monday, December 28 through Friday, January 1. If you should have an urgent pastoral need, please leave a message at the church in the “Pastoral Emergency” voice-mail box which is checked regularly each day.

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** Heather Purcell, Ona & Sam Gott, Ben & Cole Purcell, Heidi Welch, Mary Cestaro, Tim Peiffer, David Bellonio, Marlene Belonio, Stefan McKosky, Rose Monaco, Sabrina Selmer, Linda Shannon, Elaine Burr, Joyce Bellonio, and Betsy Gumbart.

Church Office Staff:

All the Members, Ministers to the World  
The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Pastor  
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children  
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music  
Gary Snowbeck, Organist  
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager  
Todd Swarney, Sexton  
Telephone: 203-239-5691  
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Website: [northhavenucc.org](http://northhavenucc.org)

**MISSION**

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

**VISION**

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

**VALUES**

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.



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 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
 We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



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



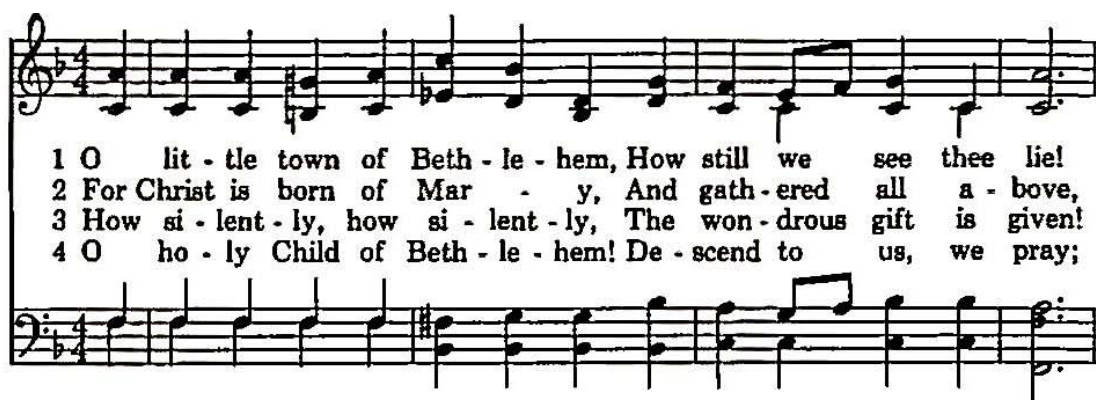
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

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 ye, be - neath life's crush-ing load Whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, By proph-et bards fore-told,

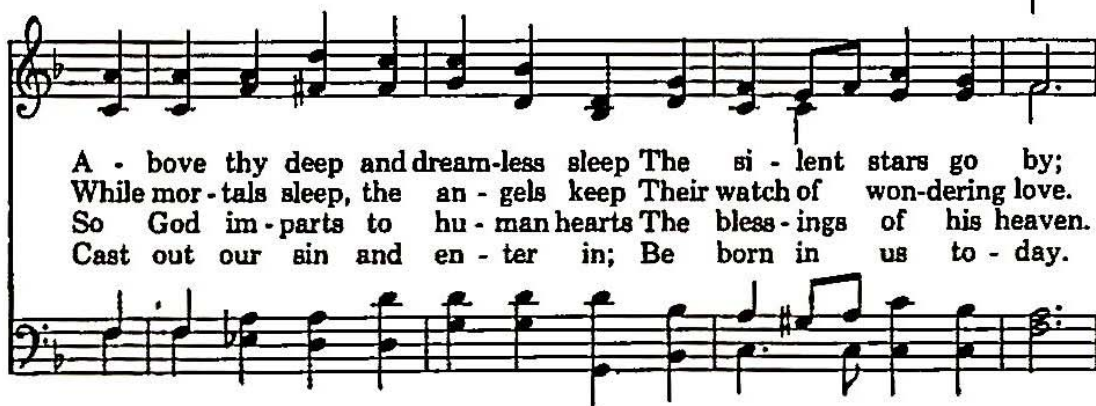
From an - gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;  
 And still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;  
 Who toil a - long the climb-ing way, With pain - ful steps and slow,  
 When with the ev - er - cir-cling years Comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra - cious King."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hover-ing 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,

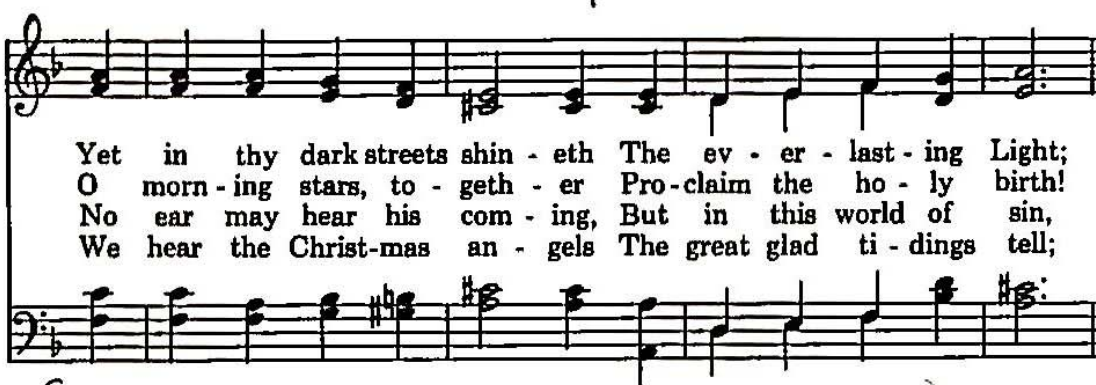
The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bels sounds The bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!  
 And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A men.



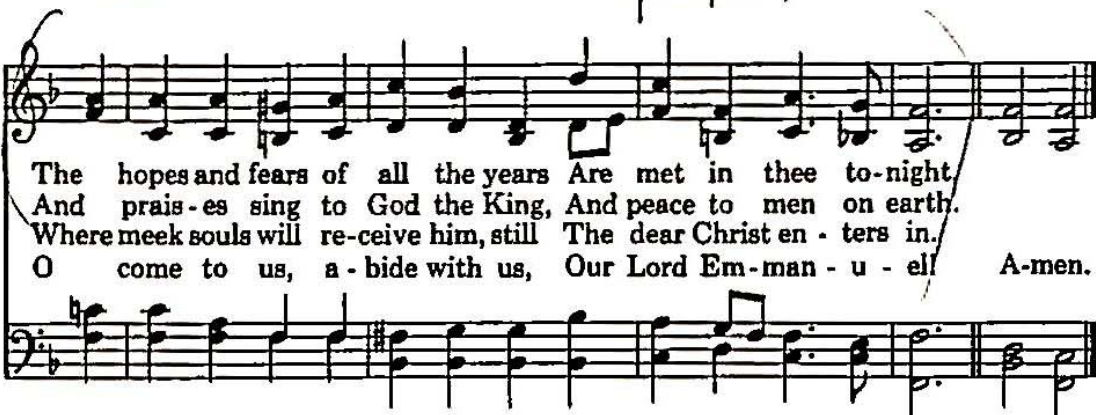
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



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 - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heaven.  
 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 ti - dings 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 men on earth.  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el A - men.

1 The first Now - ell, 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 nigh to the north - west, O'er  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full

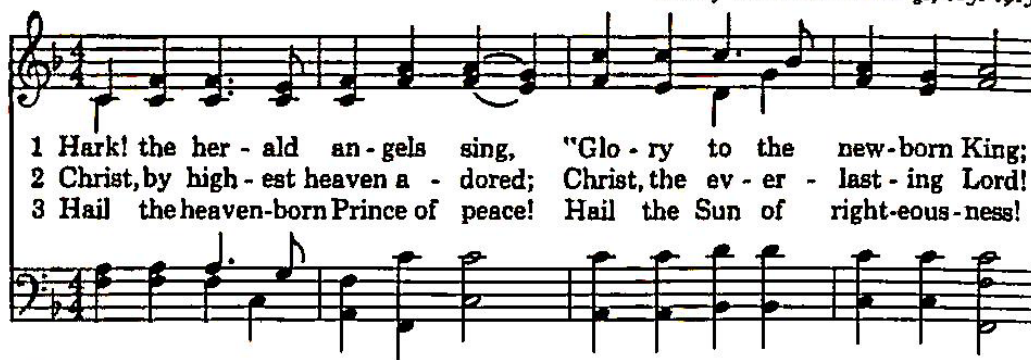
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where  
 in the east, be - yond them far, And to the  
 wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it  
 rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered

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

night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went.  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

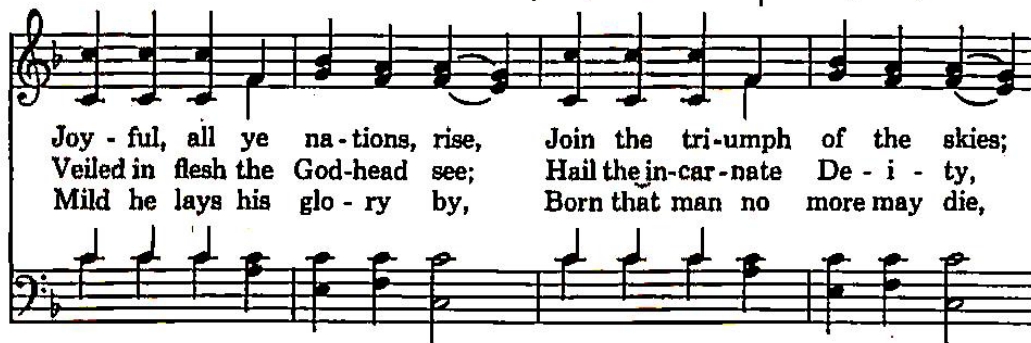
ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



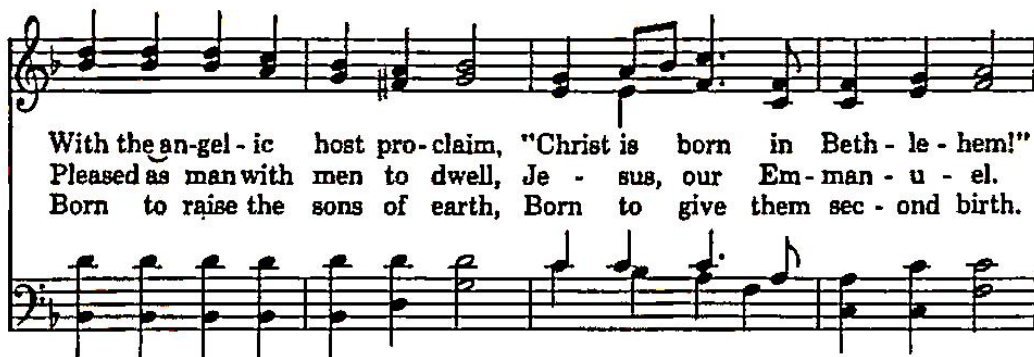
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!



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 man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A - men.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,  
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

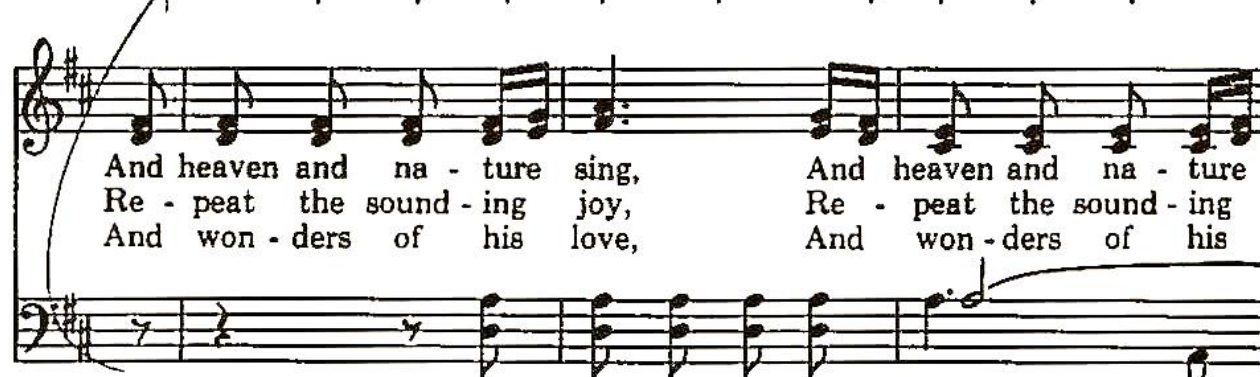
The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night". It is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score is arranged in three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines, which are repeated. The music is written in a simple, clear style, suitable for a hymn book.



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their  
 3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 And won - ders of his love, And



sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love. A - men.

heaven and na - ture sing.  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 won - ders of his love,