

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**

Saturday, December 24, 2022

10:00pm

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE: *The Birthday of a King*

Wm. Harold Neidlinger

Child of the Poor

Greensleeves words & music by Scott Soper (b. 1961)

Gail DeBoer, organ Jeffrey Hutchins, voice Joshua Peiffer, flute

***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.****

***HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard On High”**

P116

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

Tonight, O God, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.
Tonight, the back street, the forgotten place, have been lit up with
significance far beyond our wildest dreams. Tonight, the households
of earth welcome the Child of heaven. For you have come among us,
you are one of us. So may our songs rise to surround your awesome
mystery as our knees bend to approach your cradle. We pray in the
name of our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ^{##}. Amen.

GIFT OF MUSIC: Star-Child, Earth-Child

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (b. 1926)

Gail DeBoer, organ Jeffrey Hutchins, voice Joshua Peiffer, flute

A WORD OF WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Murphy-Mulvey Family

ANTHEM: *Carol of the Bells*

Music by Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921)

Based on a Ukranian folk change, *Shchedryk*

Arranged and adapted by Peter Wilhousky (1902-1978)

Sung by the Chancel Choir

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.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Offertory: *Angels We Have Heard on Silent Night* John R. Cowell

*Doxology Tune: O Tannenbaum

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - LESSONS AND CAROLS

ANTHEM: *The Star Carol* by Wihla Hutson & Alfred Burt

Sung by The Chancel Choir, Joshua Peiffer, flute

Long years ago on a deep winter night,

High in the heav'ns a star shone bright,

While in a manger a wee baby lay,

Sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.

Jesus the Lord was that baby so small,

Laid down to sleep in a humble stall;

Then came the star and it stood overhead,
shedding its light 'round His little bed.

Dear baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art,

I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,

And when the stars in the heavens I see,

Ever and always I think of Thee.

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"

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”

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.

ANTHEM: *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Sung by the Chancel Choir

Plainsong, 13th c.

Arranged by Paul Wohlgemuth

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 4th c.

Tr. John M. Neale

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE The Murphy-Mulvey Family

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:6

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:10, 14

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:

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

Romans 5:5

and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Sung Response: “A Candle is Burning” v. 5

V6

We honor Messiah with Christ candle’s flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian’s true light.

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, 2

P141

THE MAGI: Matthew 2:1-12

p. 1147

Hymn: “What Star Is This?” vs. 1, 2

P144

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 Joy* Franklin Ritter

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacons are Doris Ferner, Kathy Harple, and Cathy Welch.

Guest Organist is Gail DeBoer. **Poinsettias** decorate the sanctuary in memory of family and friends of NHCC.

Special thanks to Gail DeBoer and Joshua Peiffer for their musical contributions to our worship tonight!

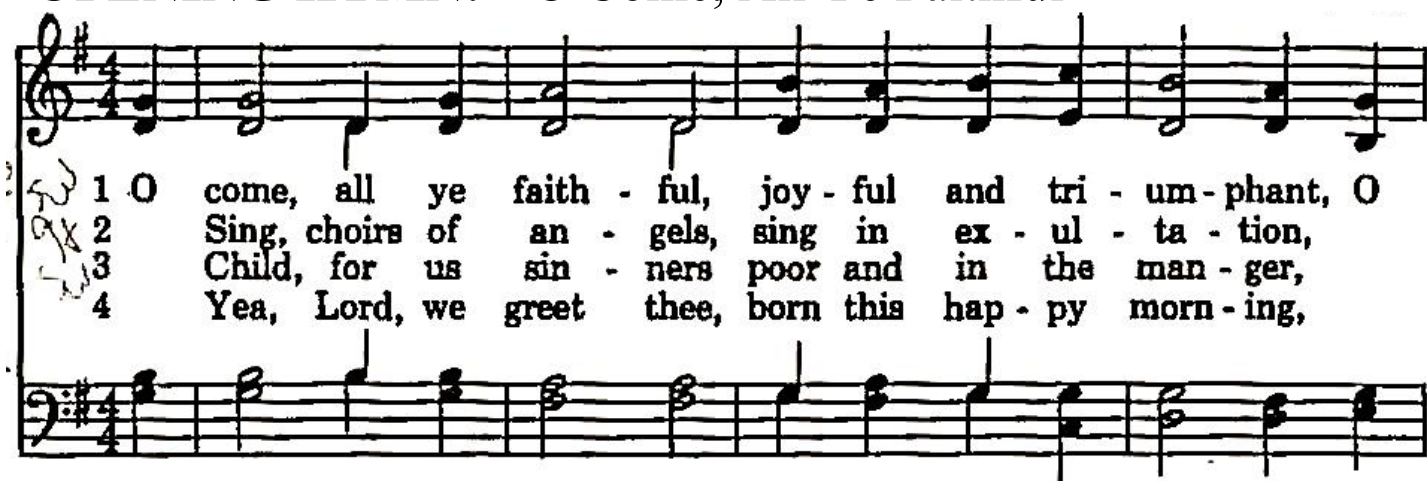
Tonight we receive the all-church special offering for **The Christmas Fund**. This fund aids clergy and lay church workers in the United Church of Christ who have underfunded pensions or emergency situations. Please give prayerfully and generously.

Join us for Christmas Morning Worship tomorrow at 9:30am. Come and enjoy a warm service of carols and a Christmas story.

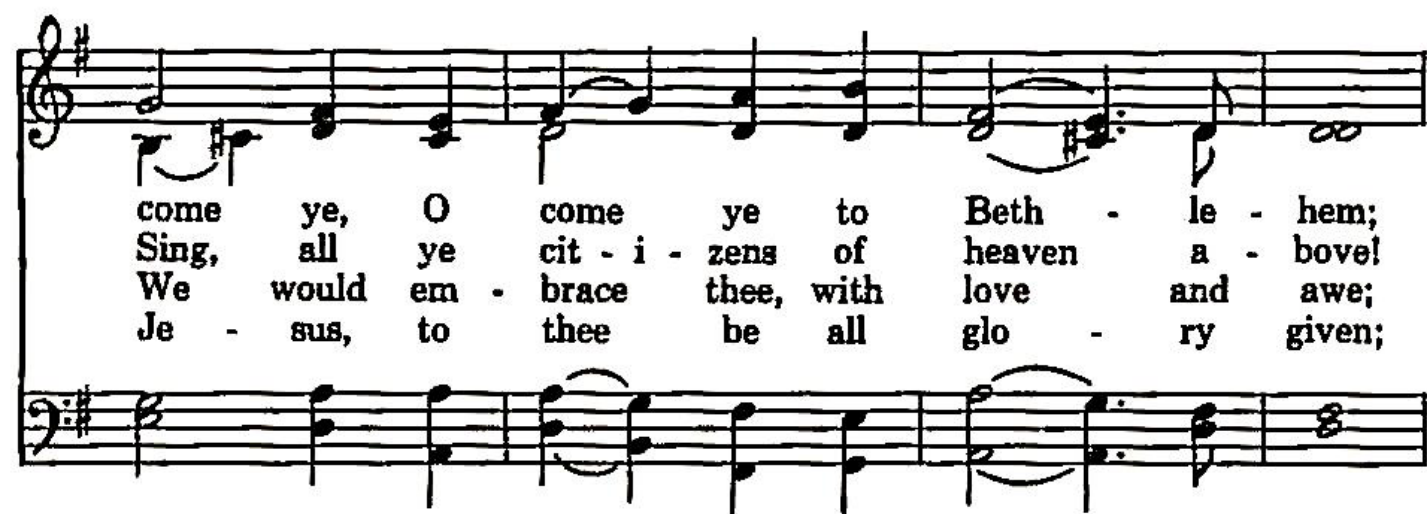
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday and Tuesday, December 26 and 27. If you should have an urgent pastoral need, please leave a message at the church in the “Pastoral Emergency” voice-mail box which is checked regularly each day.

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
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Todd Swarney, Sexton



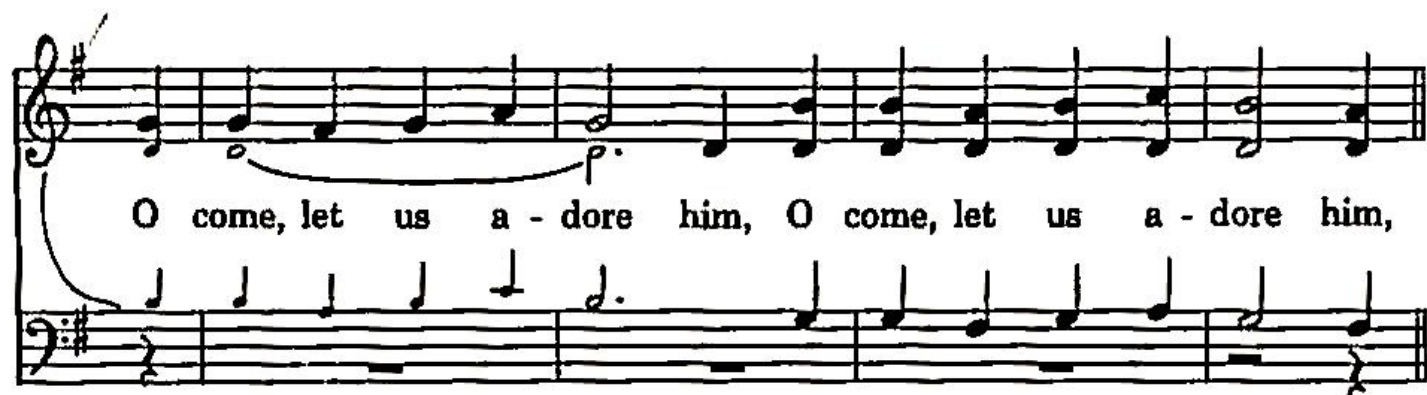
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



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;



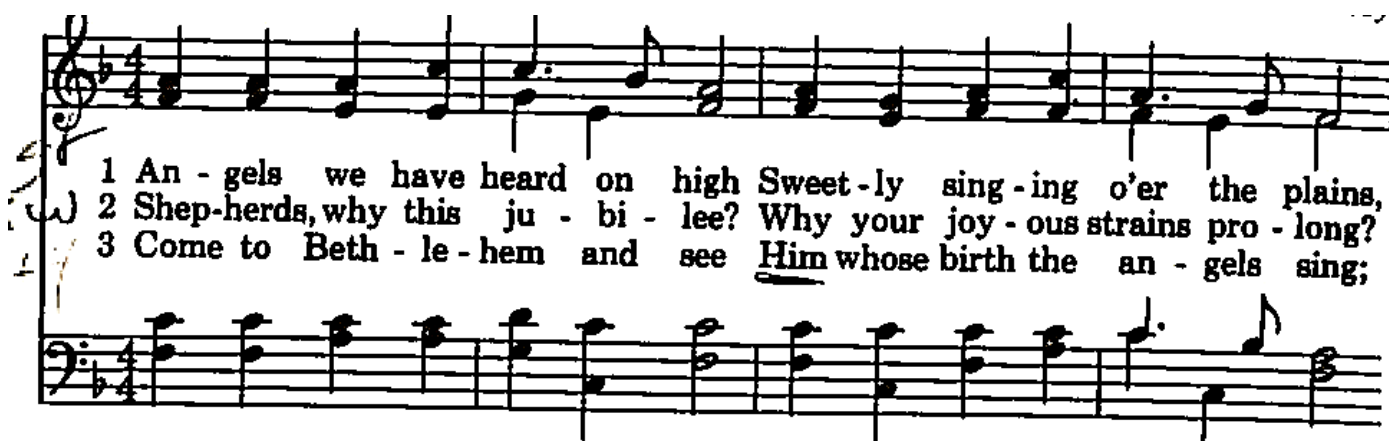
Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



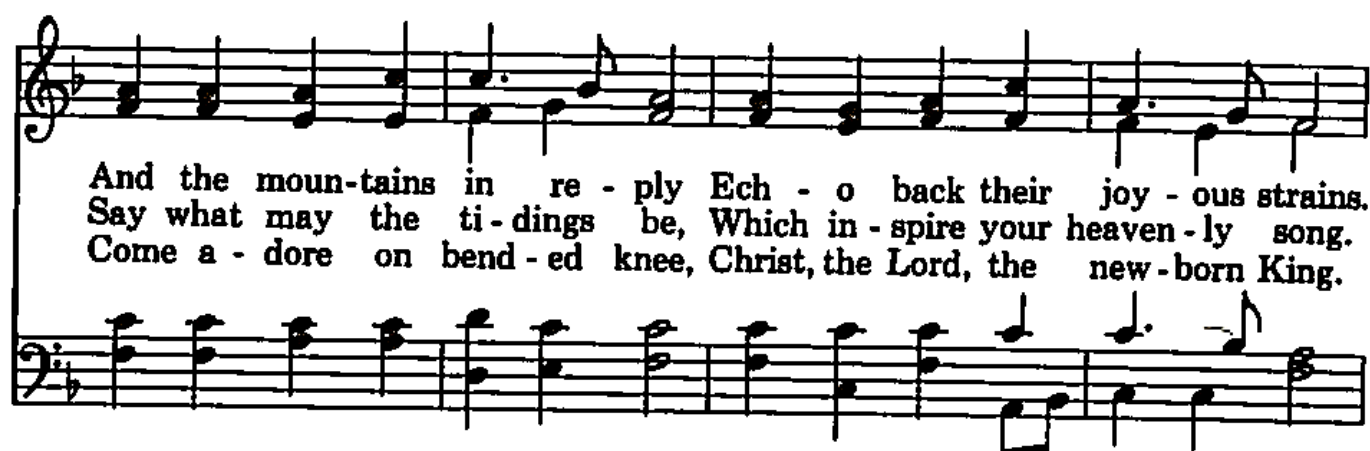
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



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



1 An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

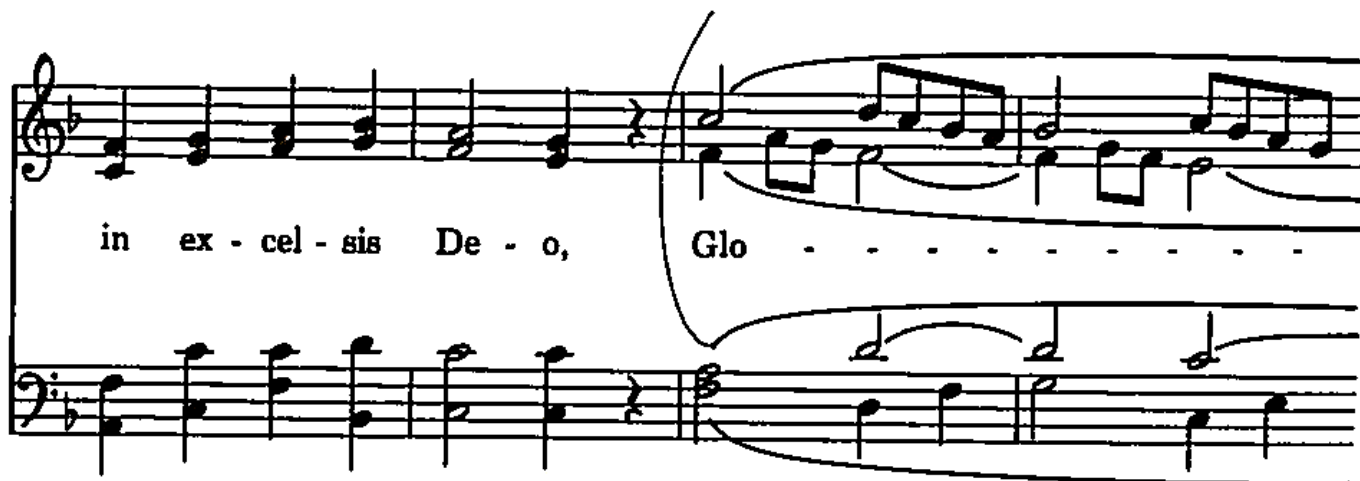


And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



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 heaven - 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;

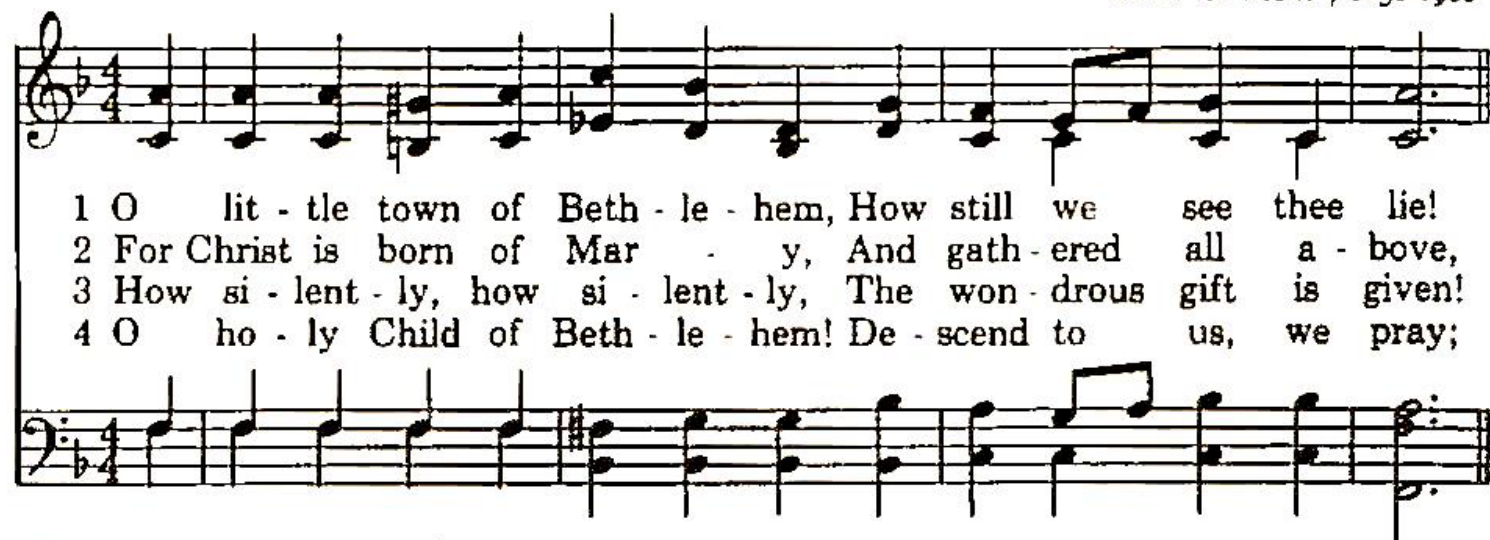


"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra - cious King."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hover - ing wing,
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;
When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,

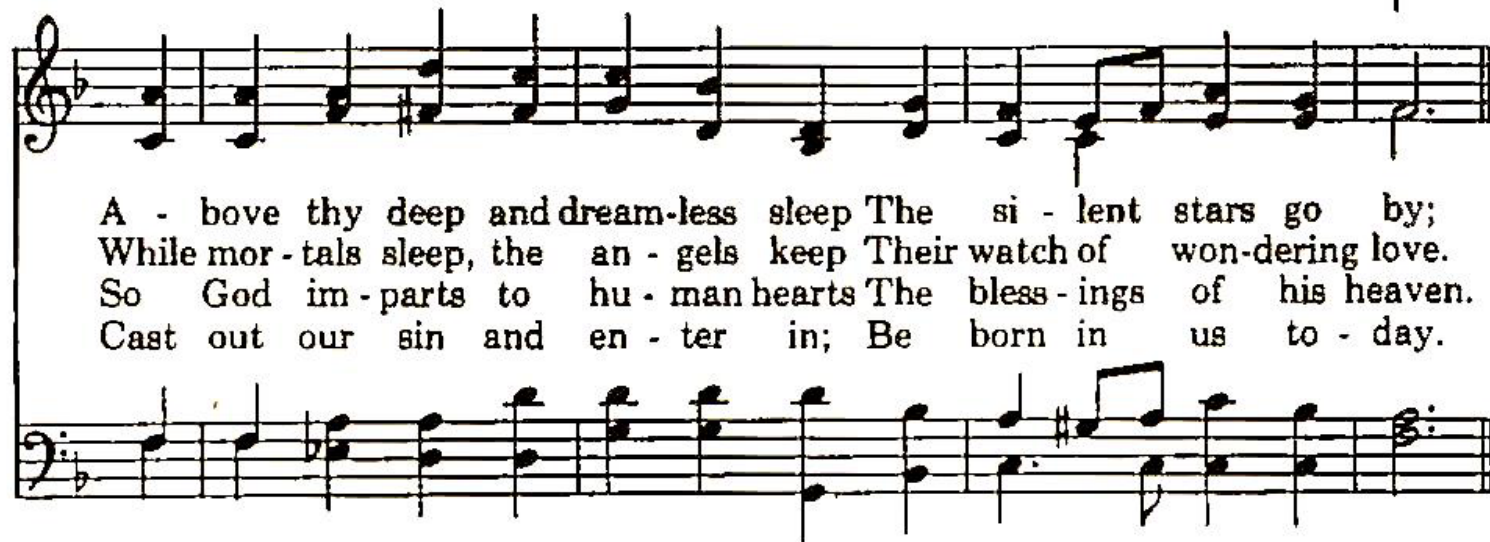


The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bels sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A men.

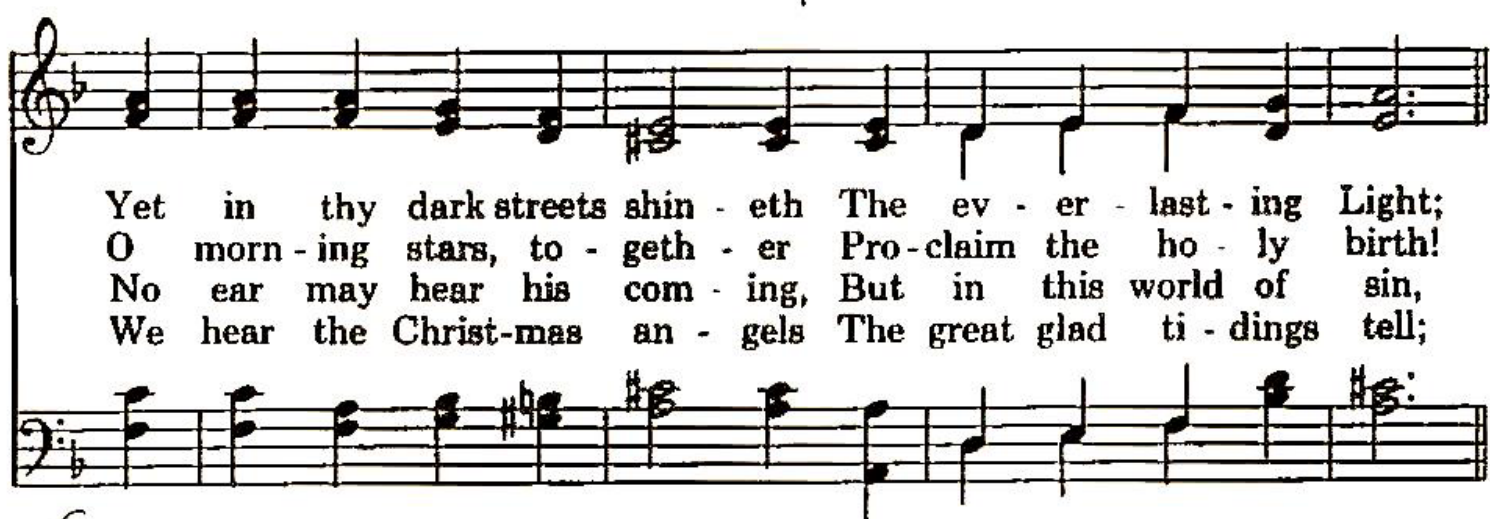




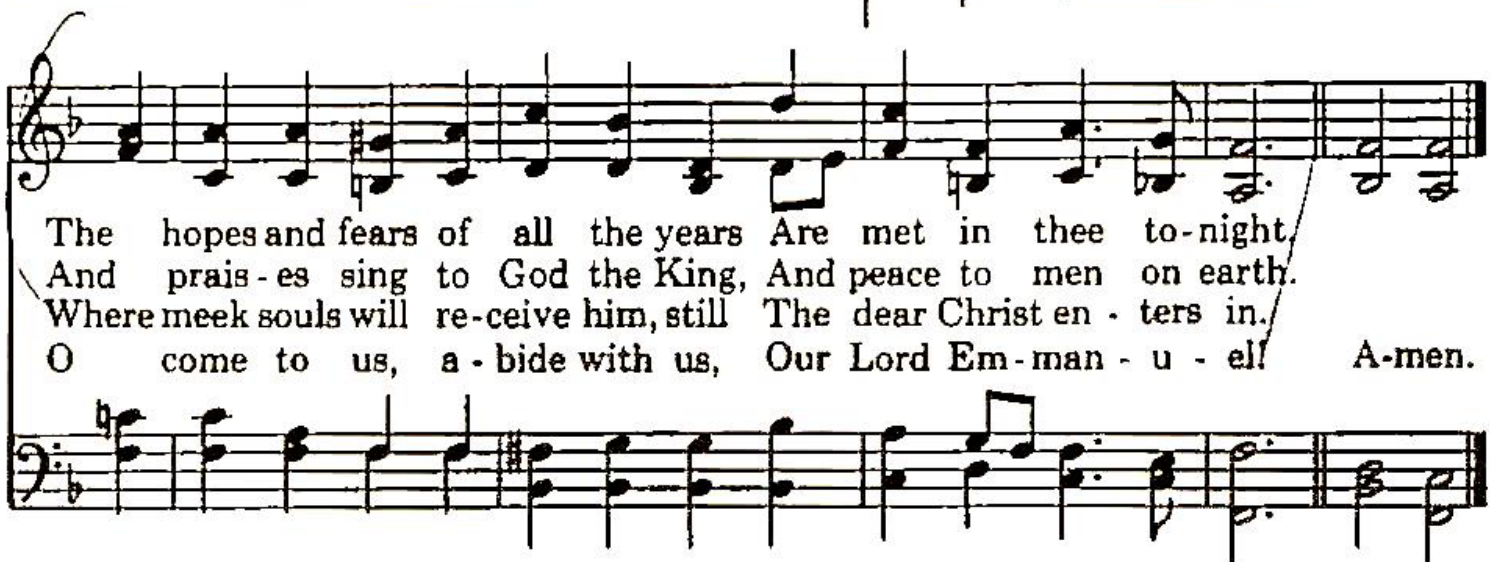
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



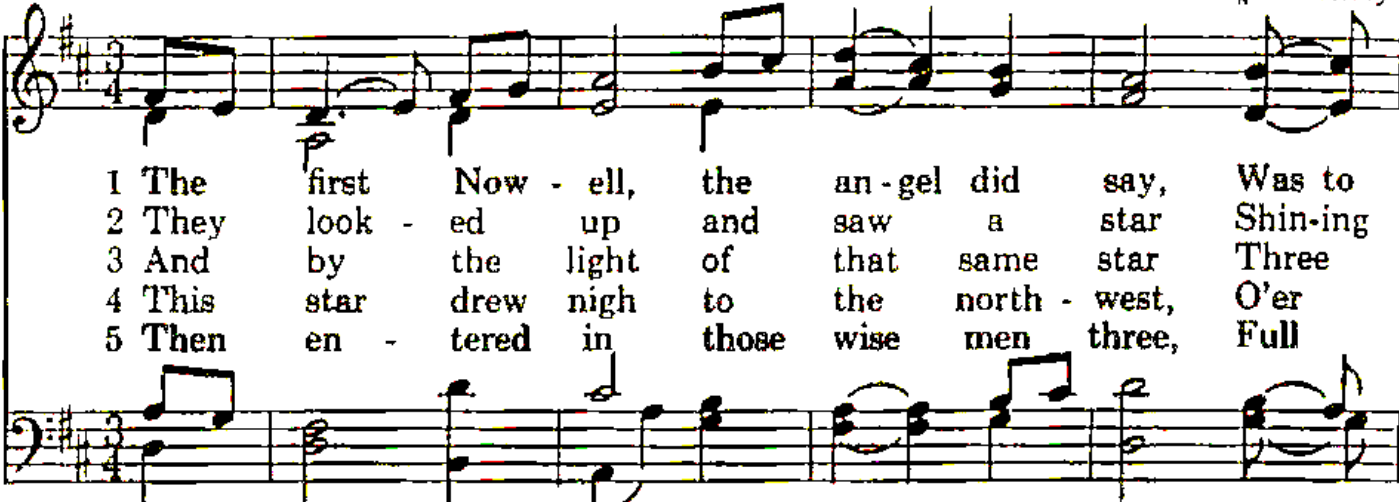
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



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.



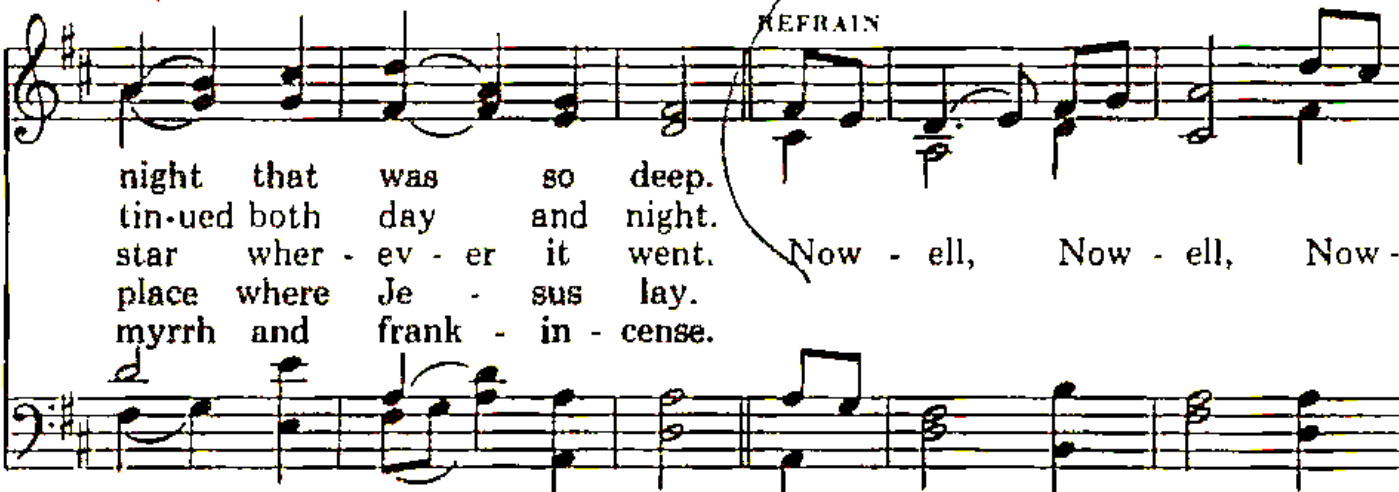
1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star Three
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full



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



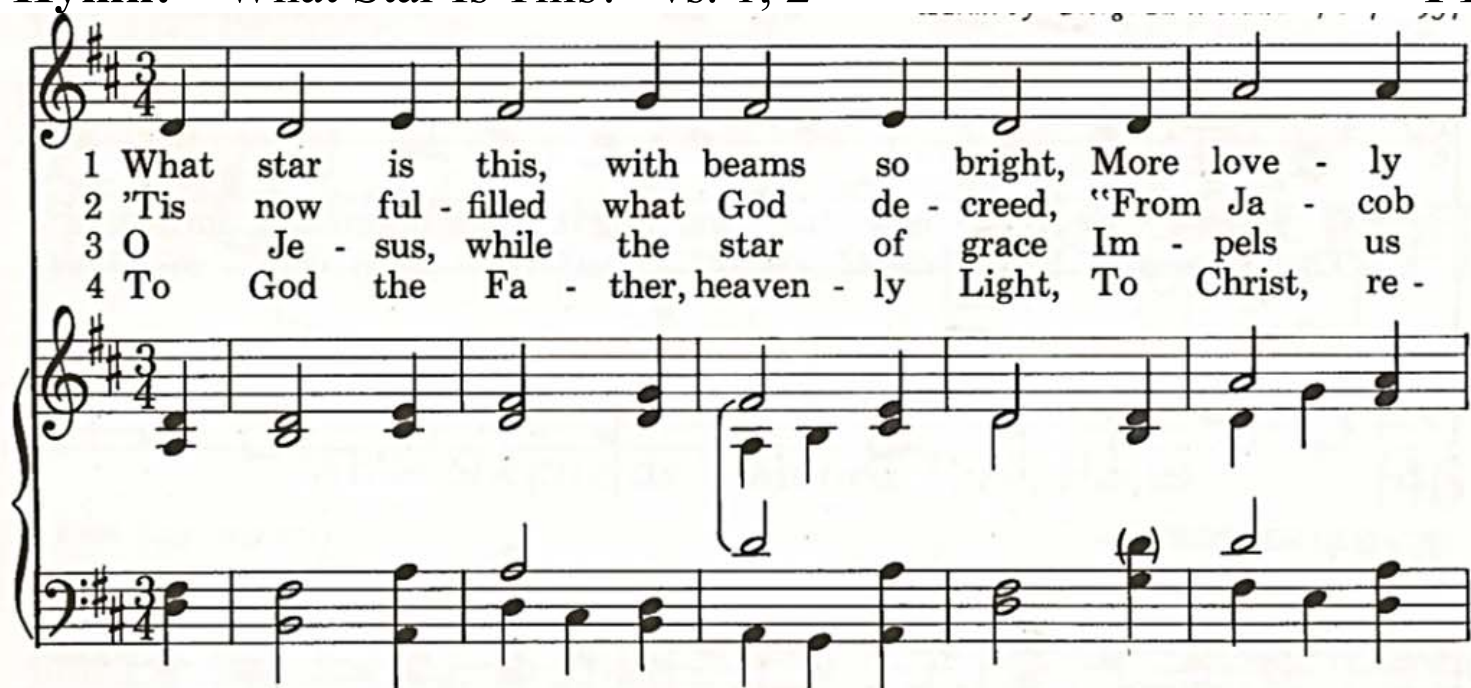
night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went.
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

REFRAIN

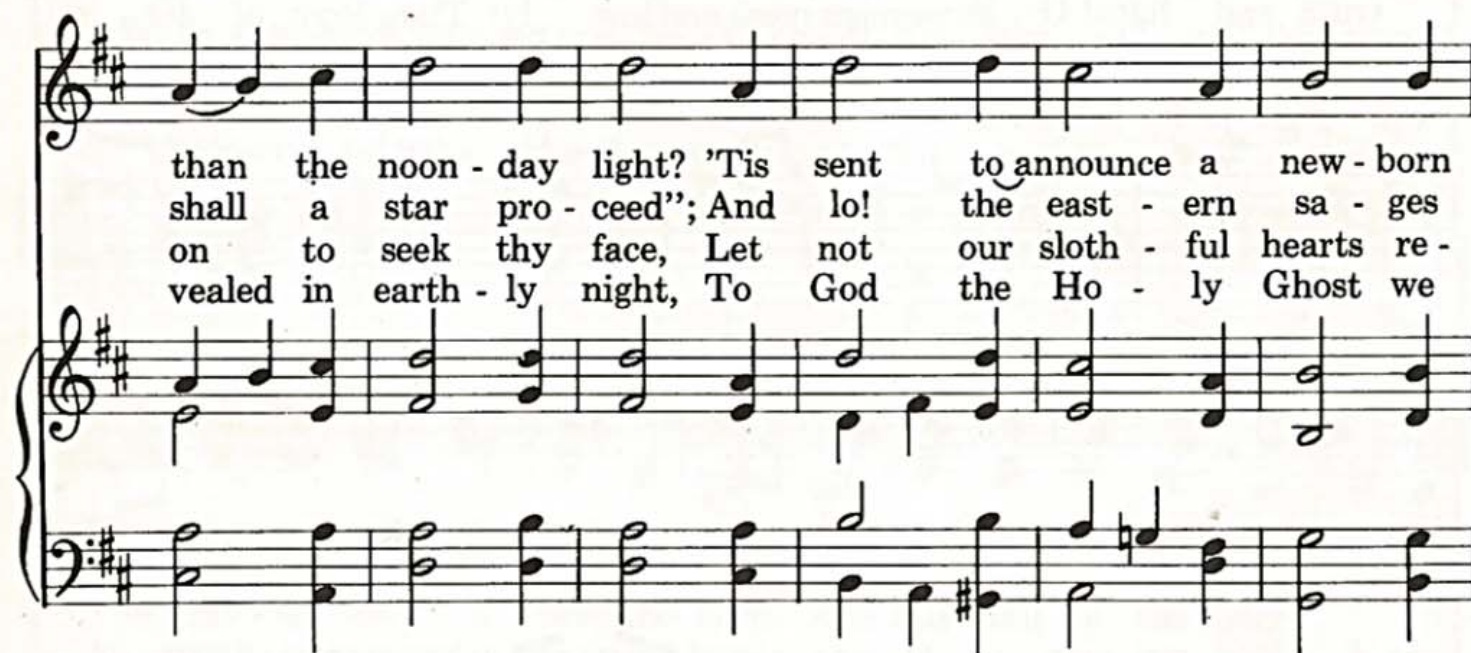
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -



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



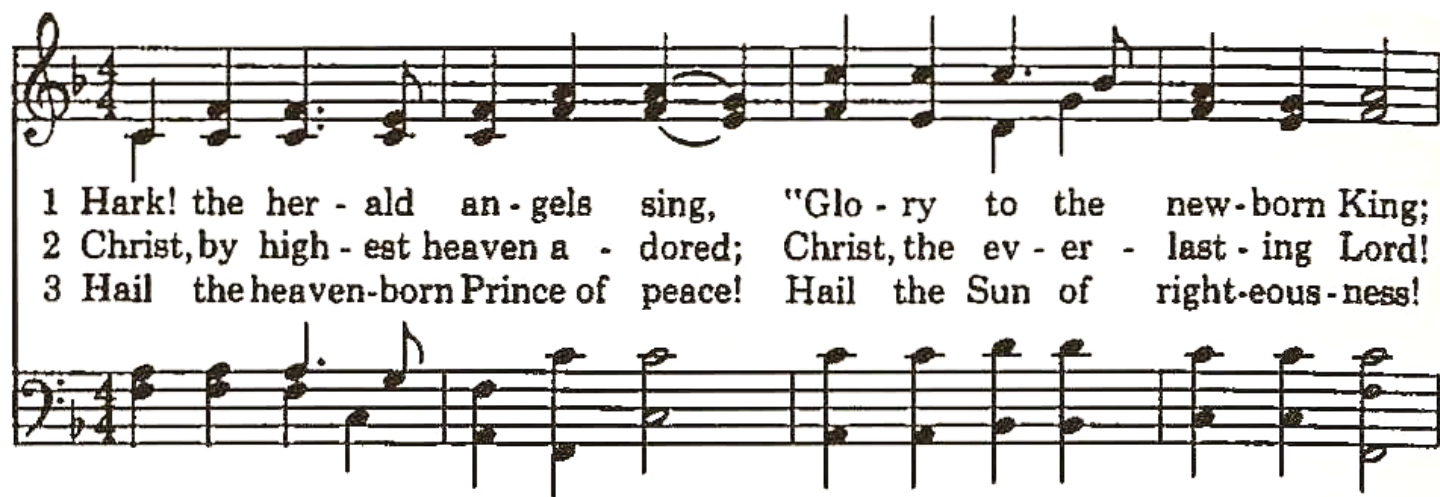
1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
3 O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
4 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, To Christ, re -



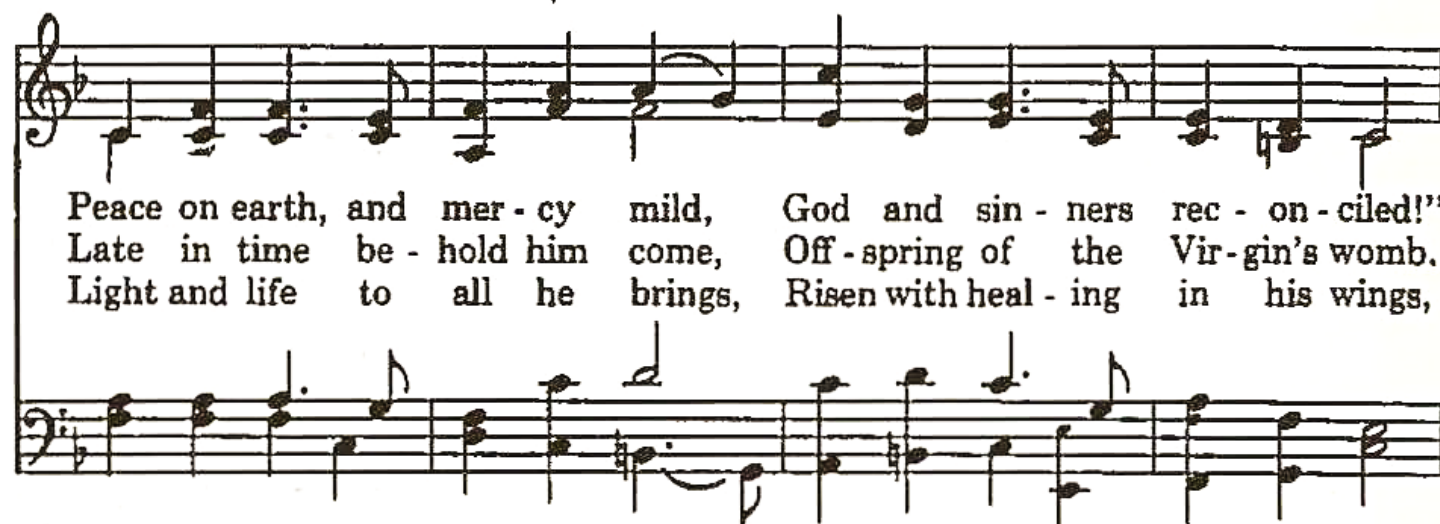
than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to announce a new - born
shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the east - ern sa - ges
on to seek thy face, Let not our sloth - ful hearts re -
vealed in earth - ly night, To God the Ho - ly Ghost we



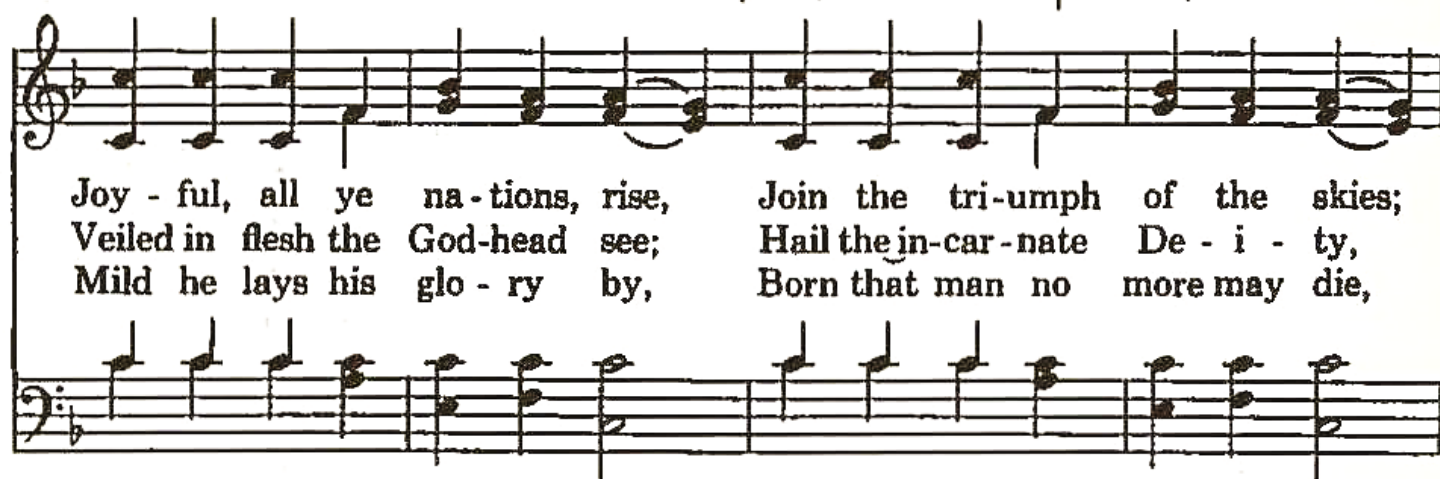
king, Glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
stand, To read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise! A - men.



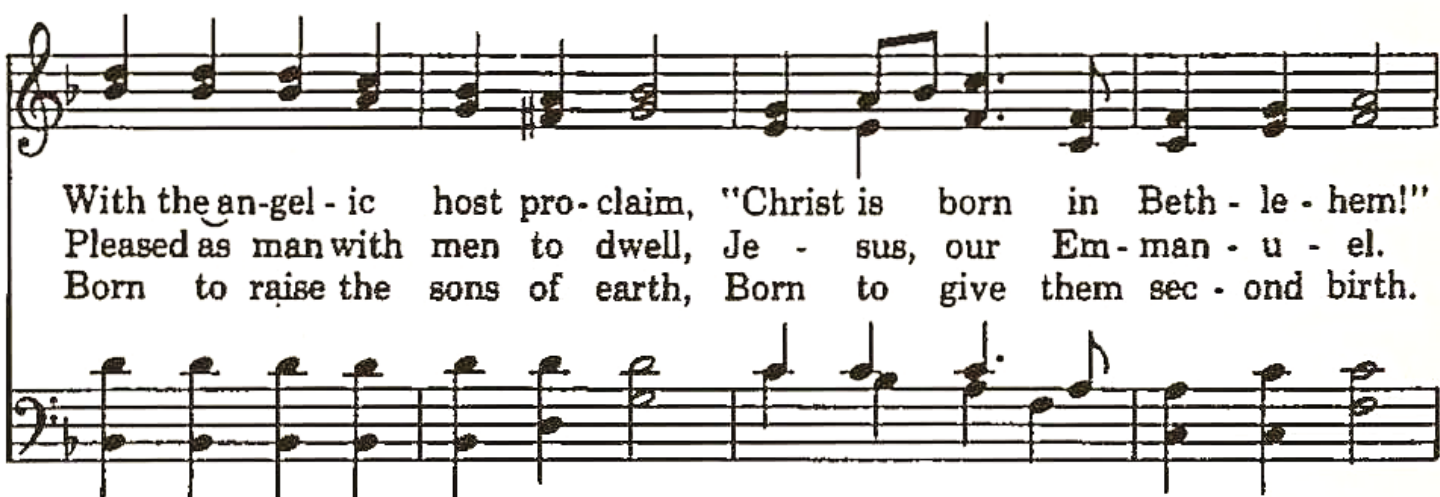
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!



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,

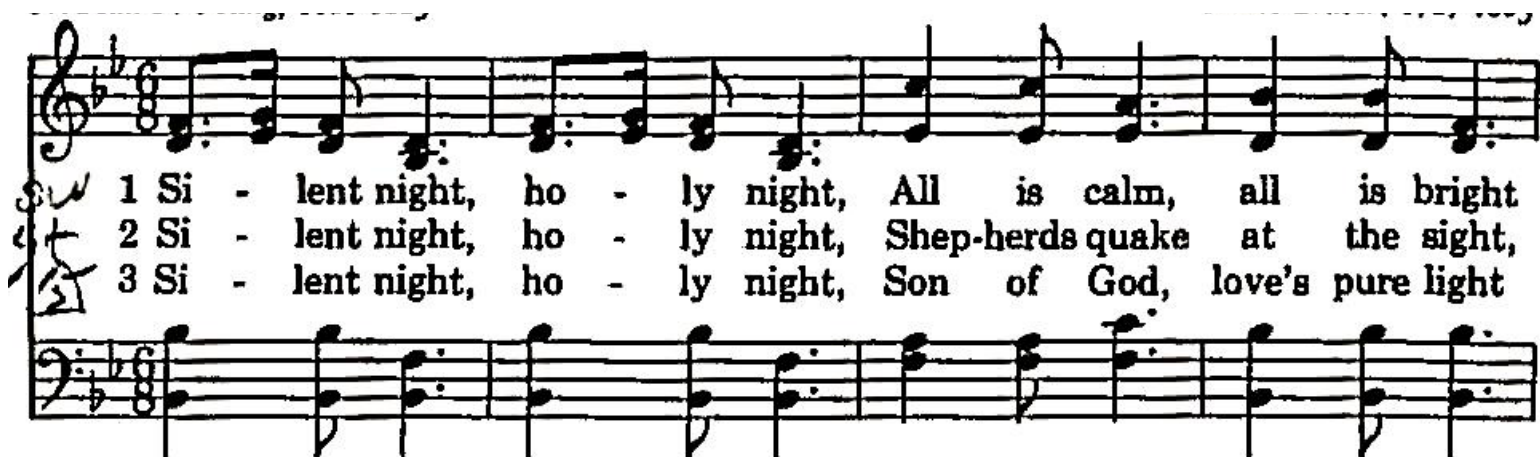


With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

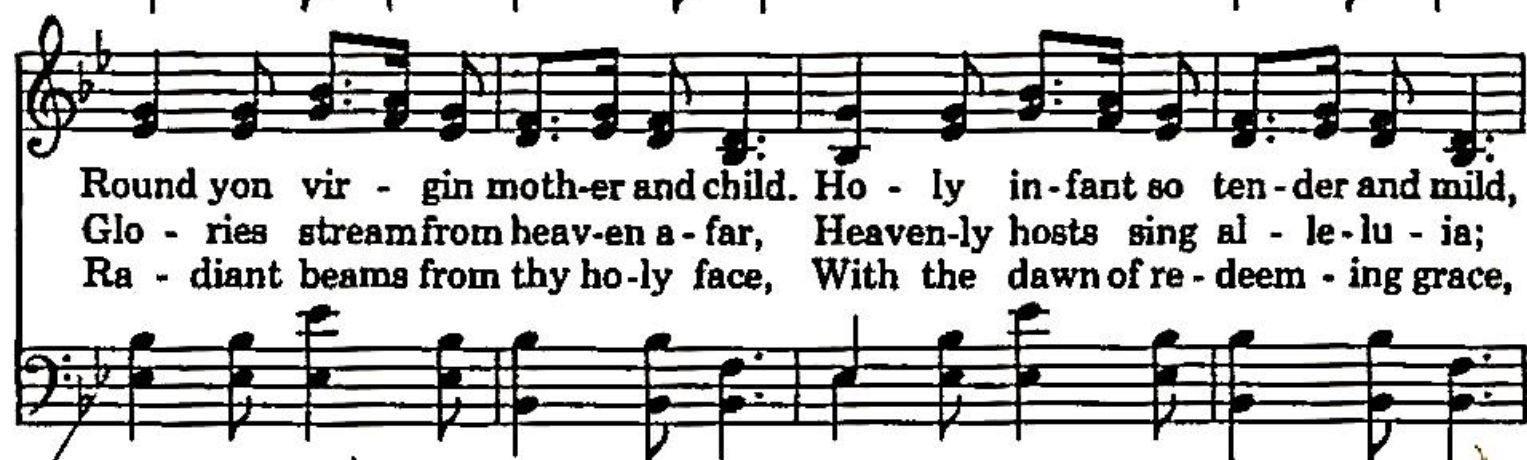
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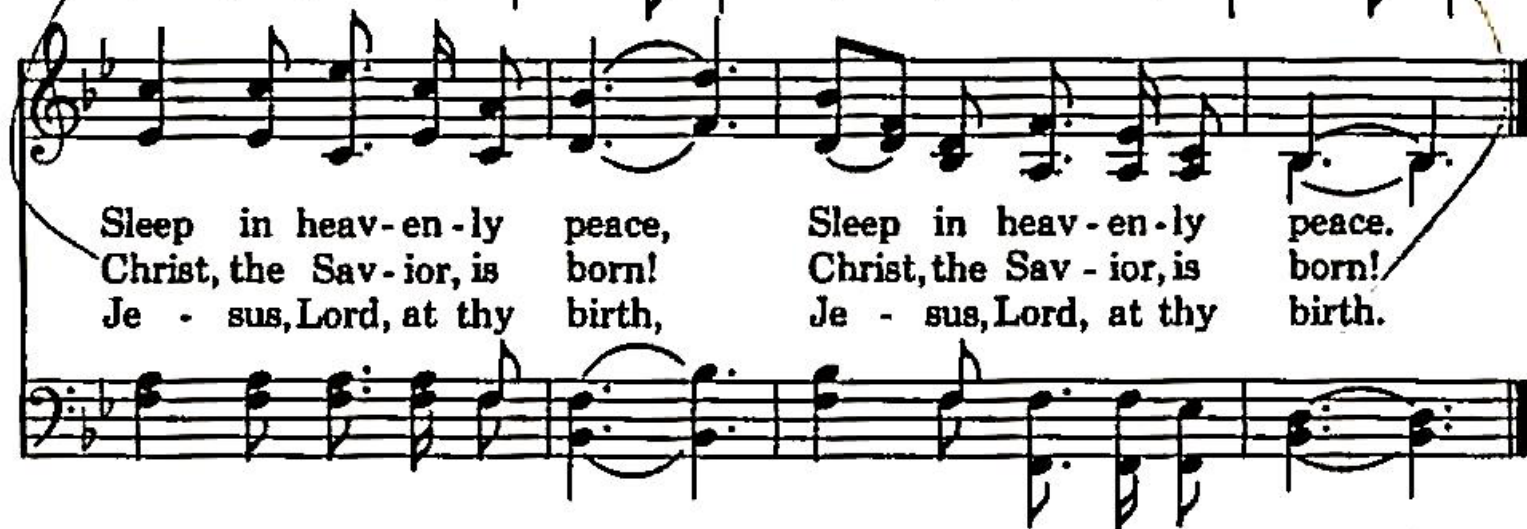
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A - men.



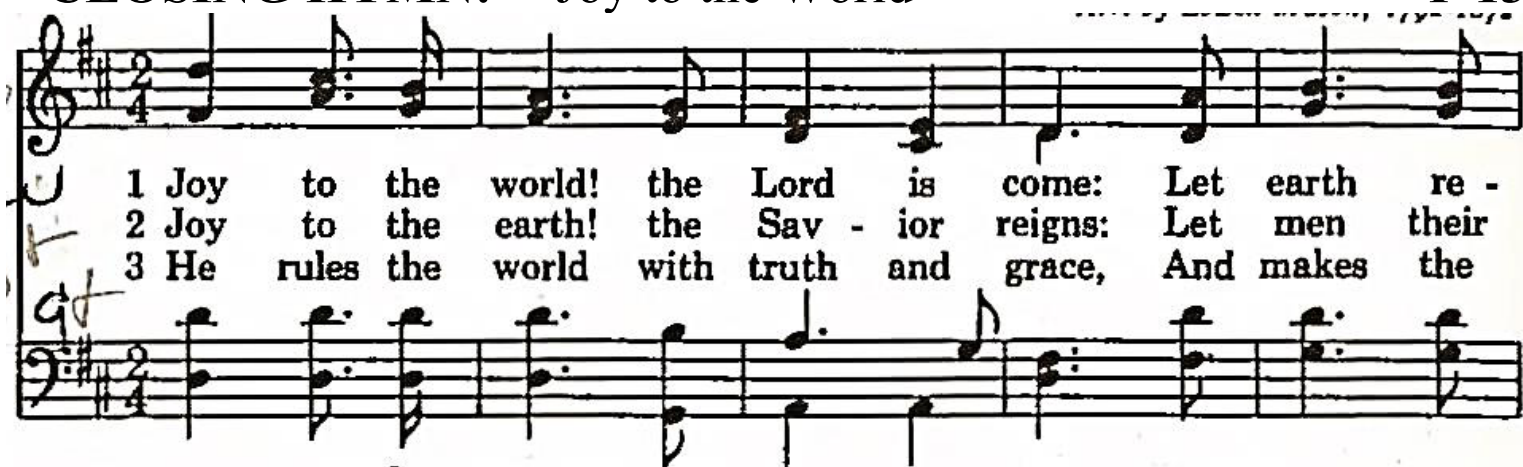
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light




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, Heaven-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



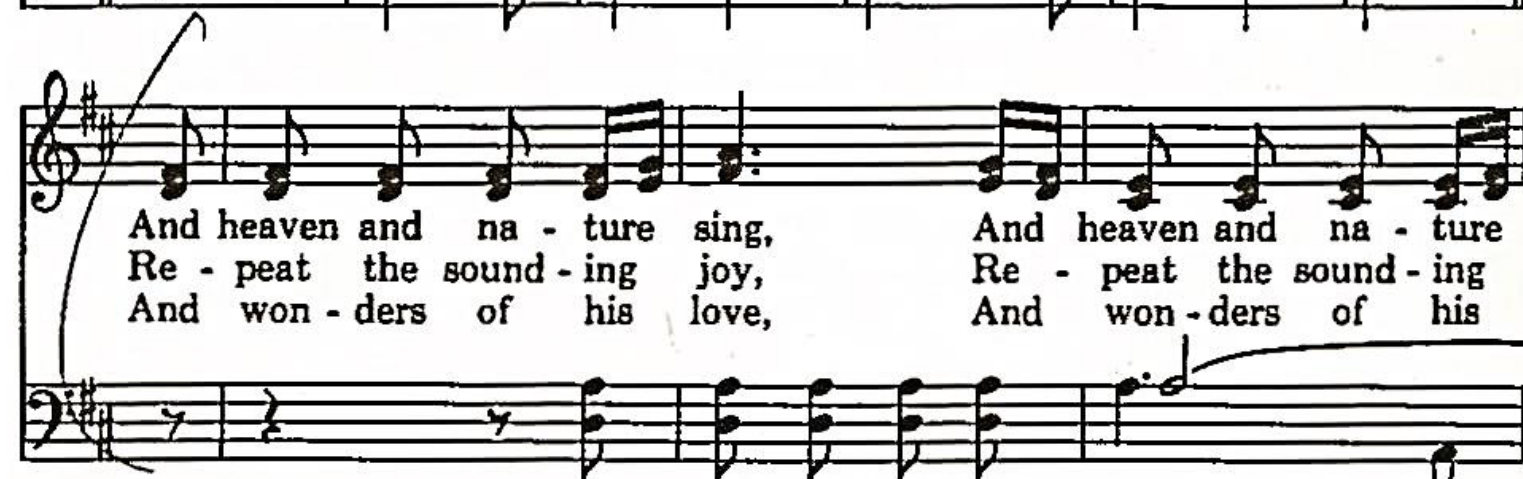
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.



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,

2022 POINSETTIA FUND



Donations Provided By

Heather Rowe-Purcell: In loving memory of David Purcell.

Tony and Cheryl Solecki: In loving memory of Marion & Joseph Dunn, and Anthony Solecki, Sr.

Barbara Massey: In loving memory of David & Gert Diana.

Dot Pierce: In loving memory of Greg & Stephen Pierce.

Carla & Mike Hill: In memory of – with much love; my grandparents-Mr. & Mrs. Warren & Gertrude Geney, Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Hazel James, my parents-Mr. & Mrs. Philip & Cynthia James, my bother-Mr. Brian James, my paternal aunt-Mrs. Marcia (James) Carthaus, and my maternal uncle-Mr. Charles Gedney.

Scott Morrow and Carol Amico: In loving memory of Robert & Marylou Morrow, Anthony Amico and Robert Amico.

Cheryl Bogert: In loving memory of my parents, Joan & Al Bogert.

Lynne and Rob Nielsen: In memory of our parents.

Sandy Carter: In memory of my grandson Jack Viele and my parents Richard & Carmel DeCola.

Linda Lacobelli: In loving memory of Anthony Lacobelli (husband), Tony Lacobelli (son), Mr. & Mrs. Frank Prentice and Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Lacobelli.

Ed & Mary Ellen Collett: In loving memory of Barbara Collett.

Joyce Bellonio: In loving memory of Anthony & David Bellonio, Edith & Frank Prentice and Eugene & Berha Allen.

Bernie and Elfie Hummel: In loving memory of Bernie and Elfie's parents, Paul & Irmgard Hummel and Martin & Adelheid Dimmlich.

Jim and Joan Bennett: In loving memory of Jean Bennett & Ethel Flynn.

Susan Guckert: In loving memory of George & Agatha Guckert, and Gary Heffernan.

Sandy Carter: In loving memory of my grandson Jack Viele, and my parents.

Susan Guckert: In loving memory of George & Agatha Guckert.

Lori Murphy: In loving memory of LeRoy Smith Sr., Brian & Albert Aponte Gallagher.

Michael Murphy: In loving memory of Mane Murphy.

Ann & Herb Schneider: In loving memory of June Anderson, Cynthia James & Jacqueline Gherlone.

Wendy & Tom Glynn: In loving memory of Tom's parents, Thomas & Helga Glynn and Wendy's dad Richard Jahoda.

Mastracchio Family: In loving memory of my grandparents.

Lillian and Carl Flodquist: In loving memory of David Thomas Flodquist (Son).

Elizabeth Anderson: In loving memory of my husband Philip DiPeri and parents Robert & Catherine Anderson

Gail Fulop: In loving memory of Janet, Henry, Richard, & Glenn Fulop and dear friends Tony and Lois.

Mabel & Stephen Peterson: In loving memory of Grace & Donald Peterson, Pollyanne & Robert Moen, Charlotte and Byron Liske (Mabel's sister and brother-in-law), and Stewart LaRocque (Mabel's brother-in-law).

Bob & Kathi Mickolyzck: In loving memory of Pyllis Pugliese & Chip Whalen.

Sara & Bryant Munson: In loving memory of Philip Munson.

Catherine Welch: In loving memory of my beloved husband Ken Welch, parents Henry & Martha Griffis and Betty & Max Welch.

AnnMarie & Gary Czajkowski:
In loving memory of John & Catherine Bartizek, grandparents

of AnnMarie Czajkowski, Joan Lynch, mother of AnnMarie, and Louis Czajkowski & Susan Stiber, parents of Gary Czajkowski.

Carol Mitchell: In loving memory of Jörn & Mary Berg-Johnsen and William S. Dawless.

Billy, Jeanne, Christina & Nikki Mecca: In loving memory of "3 Wise Women", Maria Mecca, Marylou Lampe & Susan Gooley.

James & Leslie Dockendorff: In loving memory of Pat & Jack Dockendorff, John W. Dockendorff, and Trevor Davis Sr.



In Our Prayers This Week are:
Mabel Peterson, Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, and Ellen Robert.