

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

4:30pm

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE: *The Birthday of a King*
Child of the Poor

Wm. Harold Neidlinger

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

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

***OPENING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

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***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.**

UNISON PRAYER AND OUR LORD’S PRAYER:~unison

Emmanuel, God-with-us most of all tonight, your light lifts up our hearts, our spirits, and our voices. We give you thanks for your birth long ago and presence with us always. Your hope is more trustworthy than our promises. Your peace is deeper than our prayers. Your joy teaches us to sing even when we want to cry. Your love is wider than the chorus of the galaxies, and yet your Star shines on us now in this church which has become a manger. ** We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who has taught us to pray together saying:

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.

A WORD OF WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Civitello and Collett Family

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

Page 627

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

A 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

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) P 1203

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

Now in that same 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, and 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, just as it had been told them

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

A GIFT OF MUSIC “*The First Nowell*
Aidan Nottingham, piano

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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

*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 PAGEANT

A GIFT OF MUSIC: *Once in Royal David's City* **V62**

Verse 1 solo by Gabriella DeLuca

Congregation and Choir join on verse 2 and 4

Gabriella Solo:

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Congregation and Choir join:

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
who, with God is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Carol: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” P131

Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” P134
Joshua Peiffer, flute

Carol: “Away in a Manger” P137

Interlude: “Angels We Have Heard On High”
Aidan Nottingham, piano

Carol: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” v. 1 P143

Anthem *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*”
The Children’s Choir

Carol: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” v. 1,3 P120

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Civitello and Collett 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.

THE LIGHT GOES OUT AMONG US

Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night”

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Joshua Peiffer, flute Tim Peiffer, guitar

*** CLOSING HYMN:** “Joy to the World”

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***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Christmas Joy*

Franklin Ritter

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon is Nancy Mahoney. **Guest Organist** is Gail DeBoer.

Poinsettias decorate the sanctuary in memory of family and friends of NHCC.

Today 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.

Special thanks to Gail DeBoer, Joshua Peiffer, and Tim Peiffer for their musical contributions to our worship this afternoon!

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.

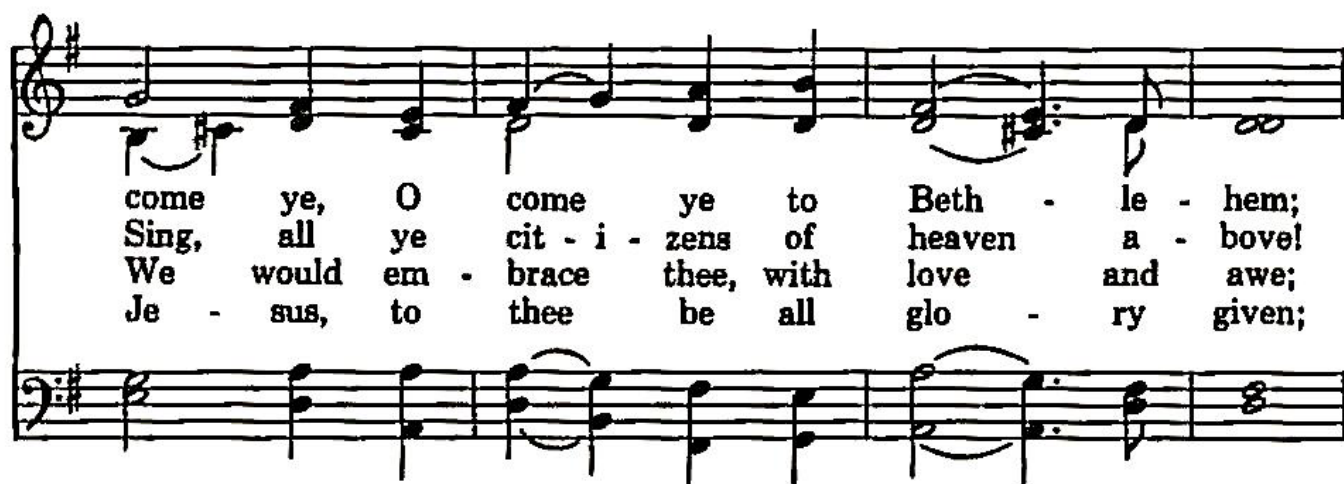
In Our Prayers This Week are: Mabel Peterson, Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, and Ellen Robert.

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



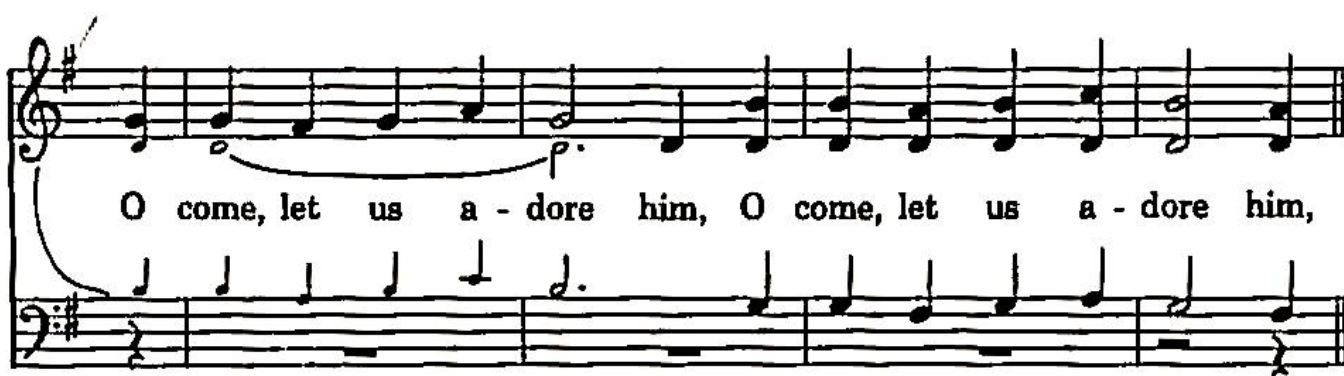
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



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;



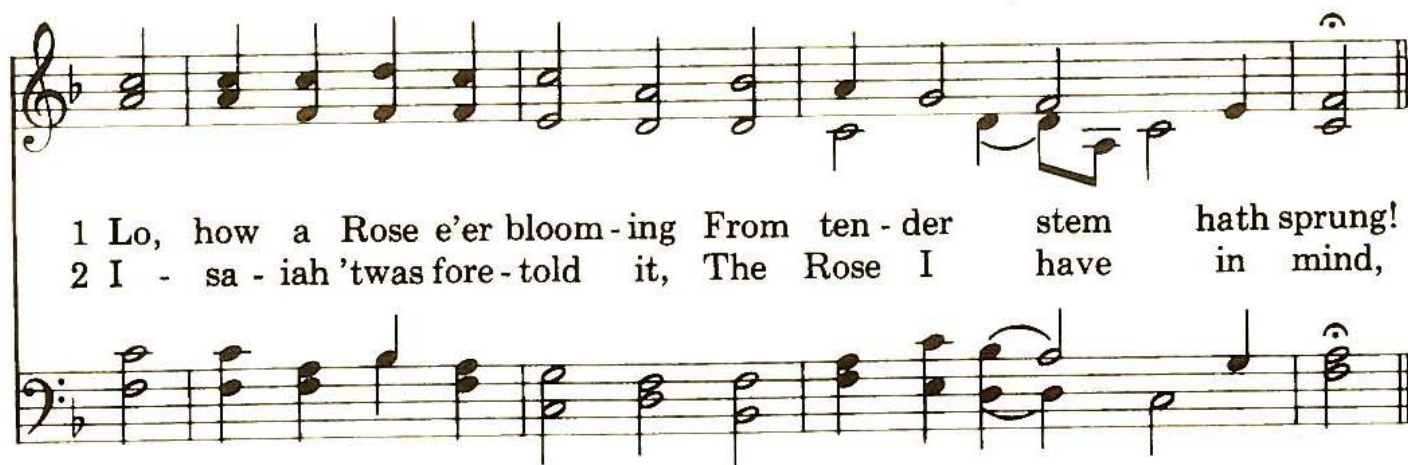
Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



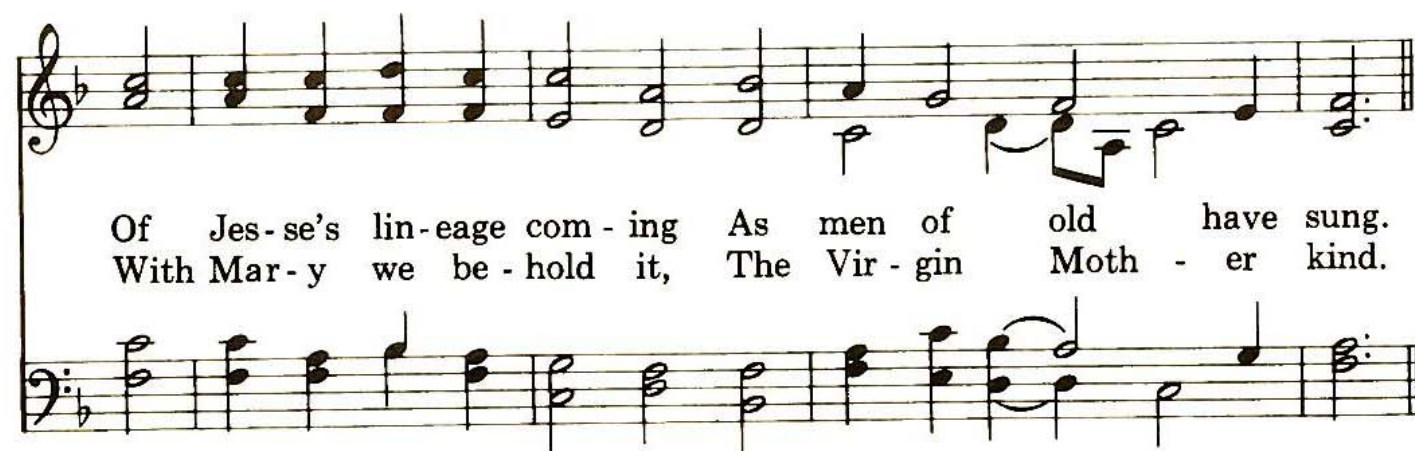
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



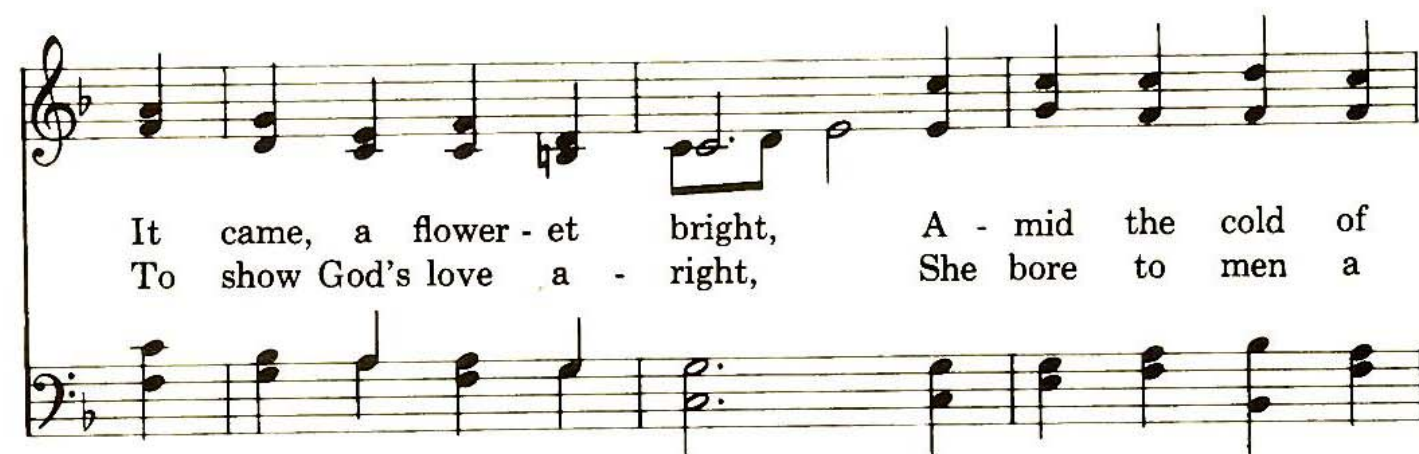
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.



1 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,



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.

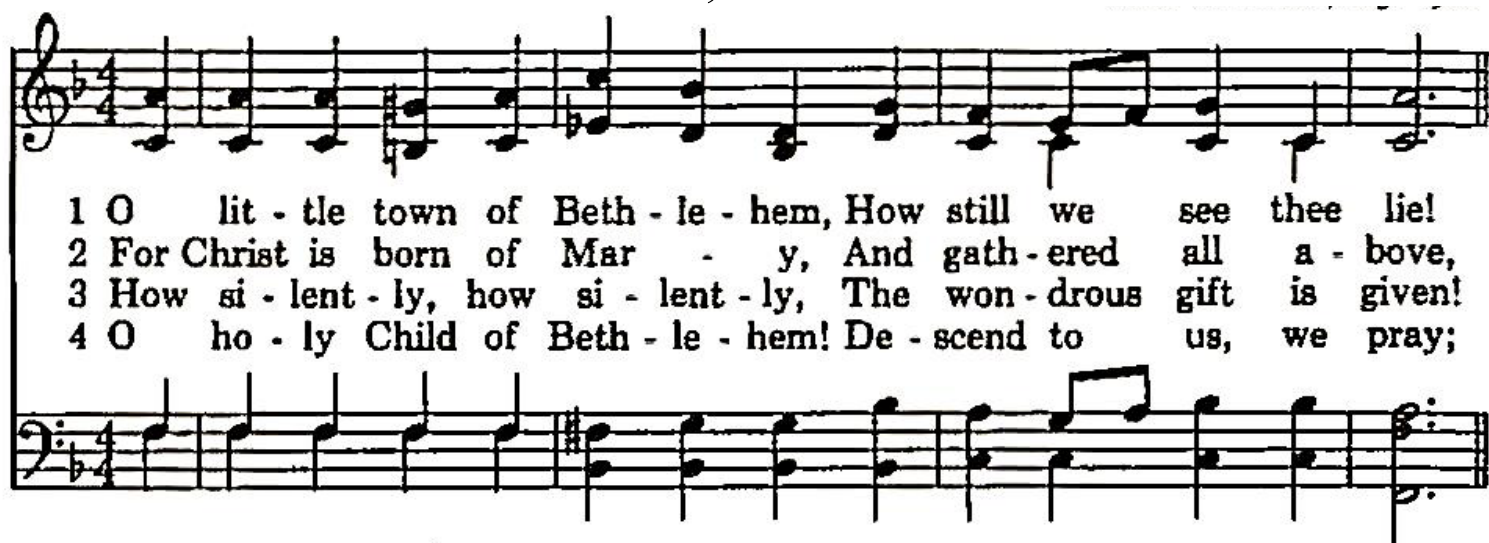


It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a

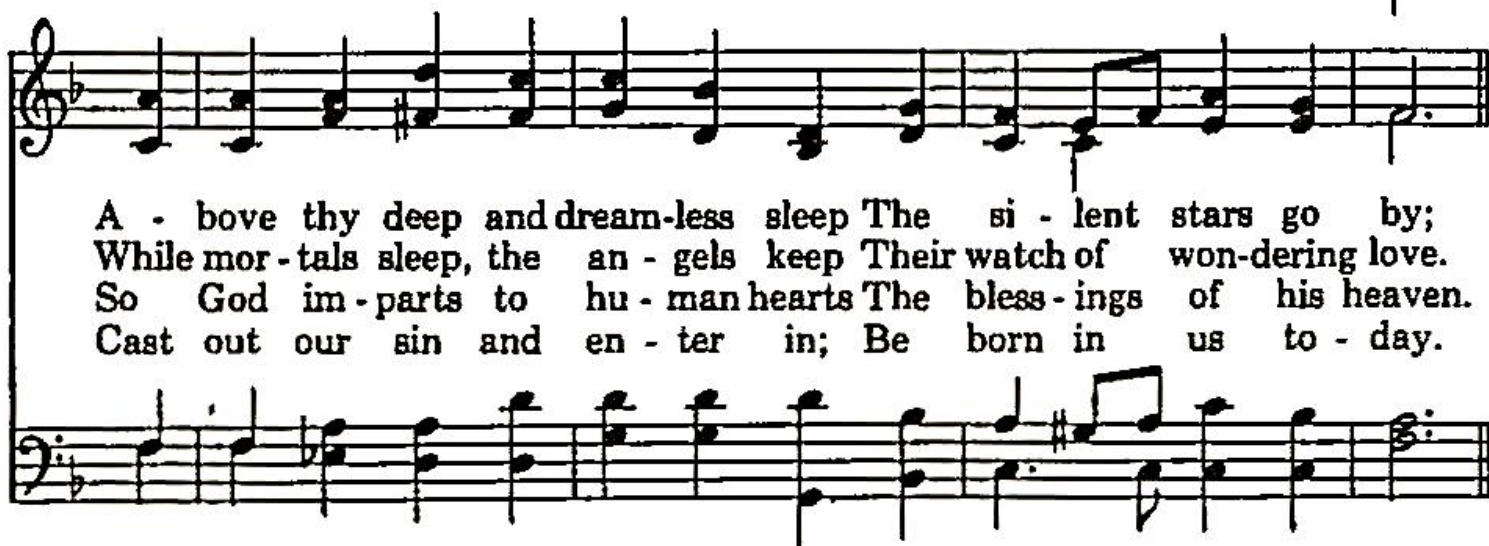


win - ter, When half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.

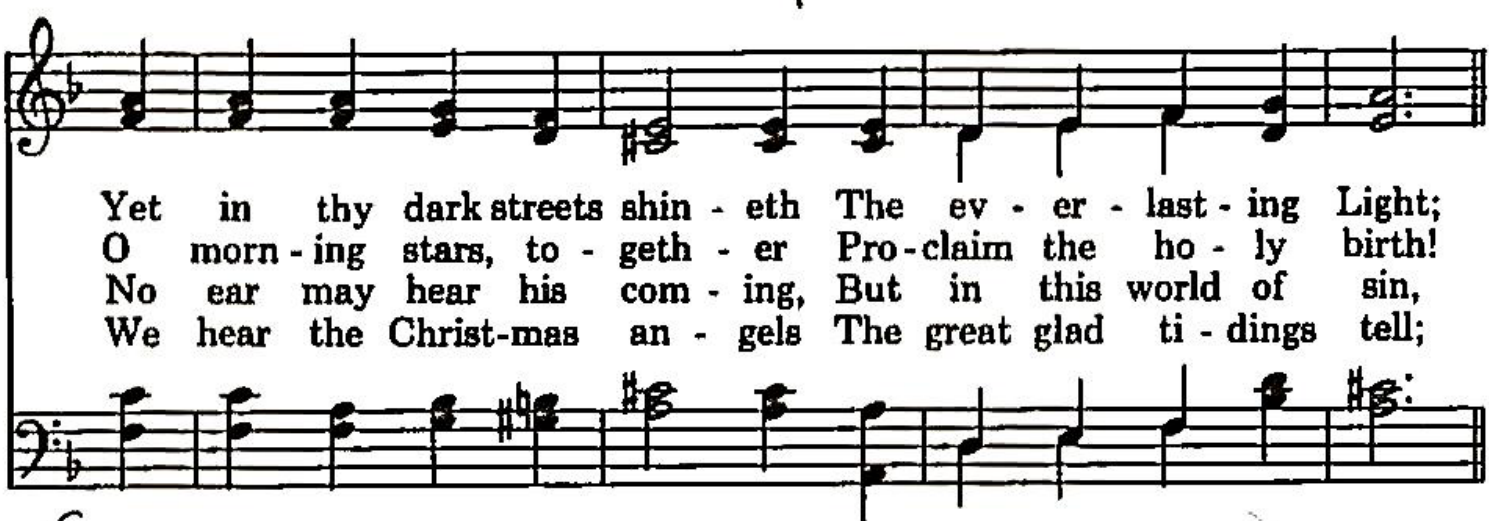
Joshua Peiffer, flute



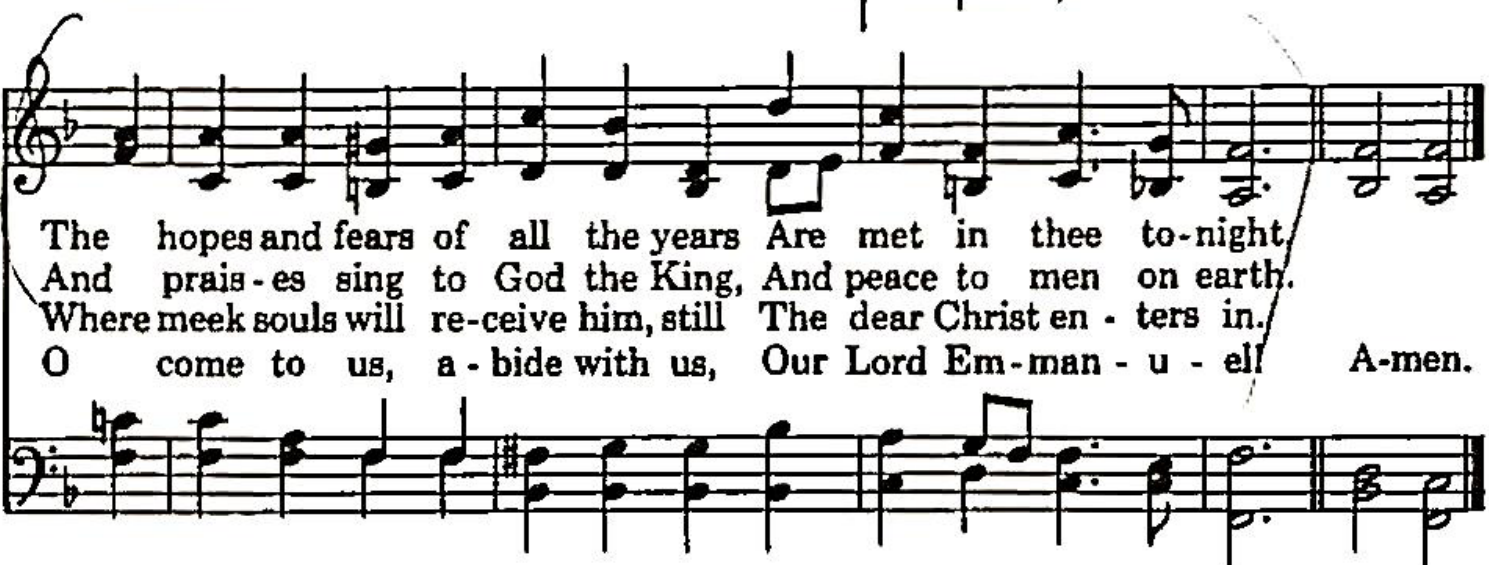
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



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 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look



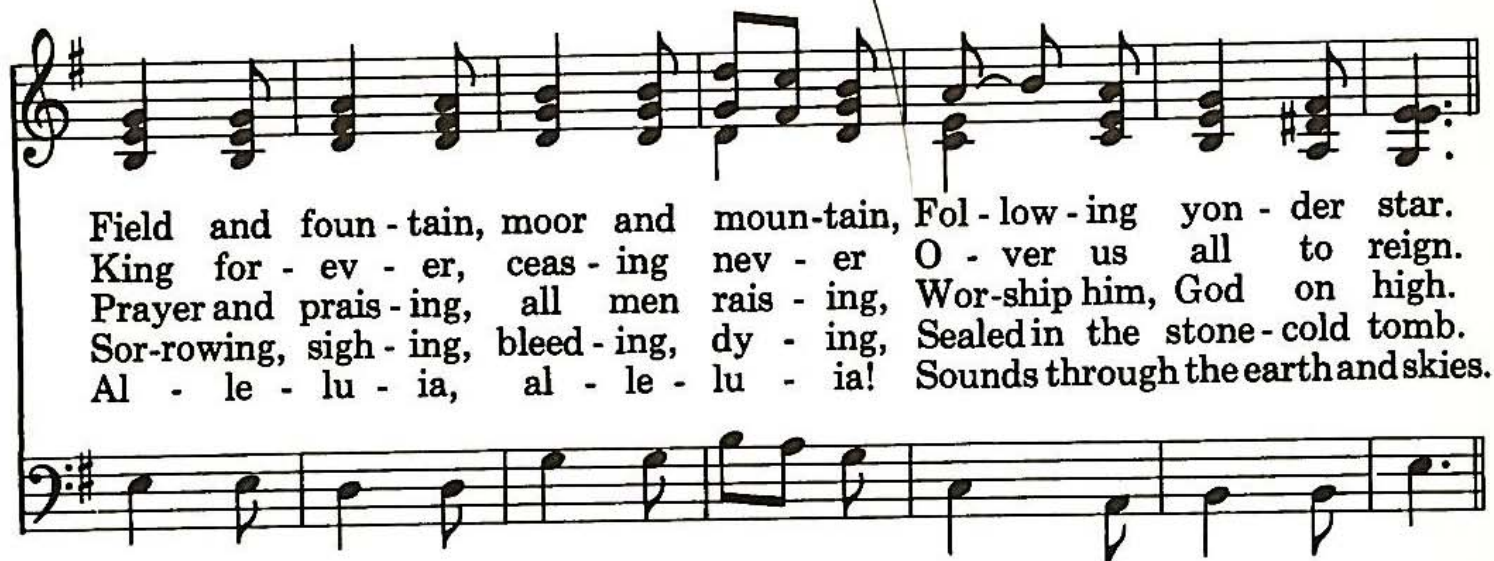
down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay,
down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.



In unison

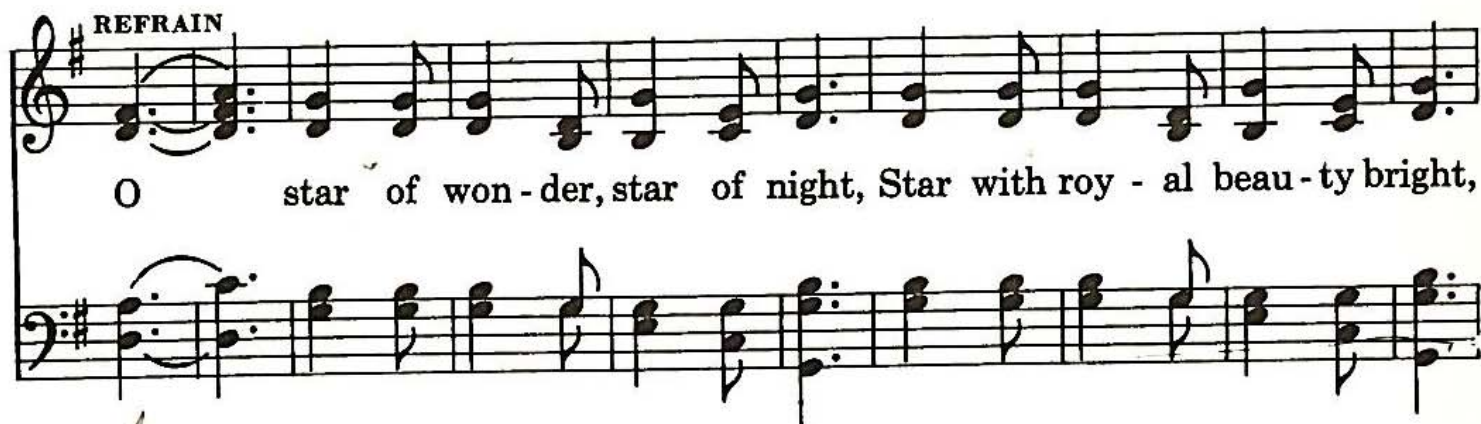


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

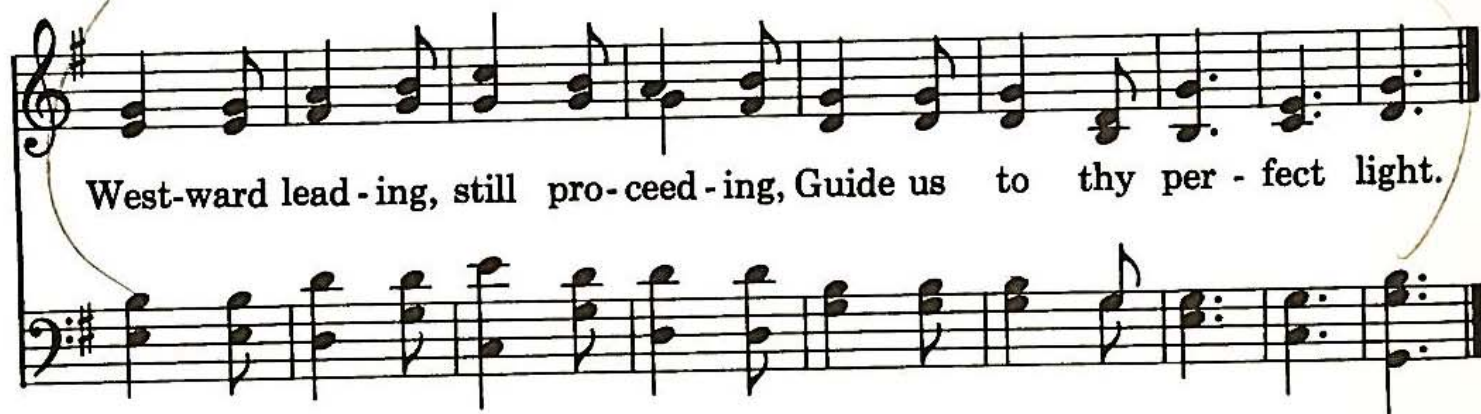


Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on high.
 Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

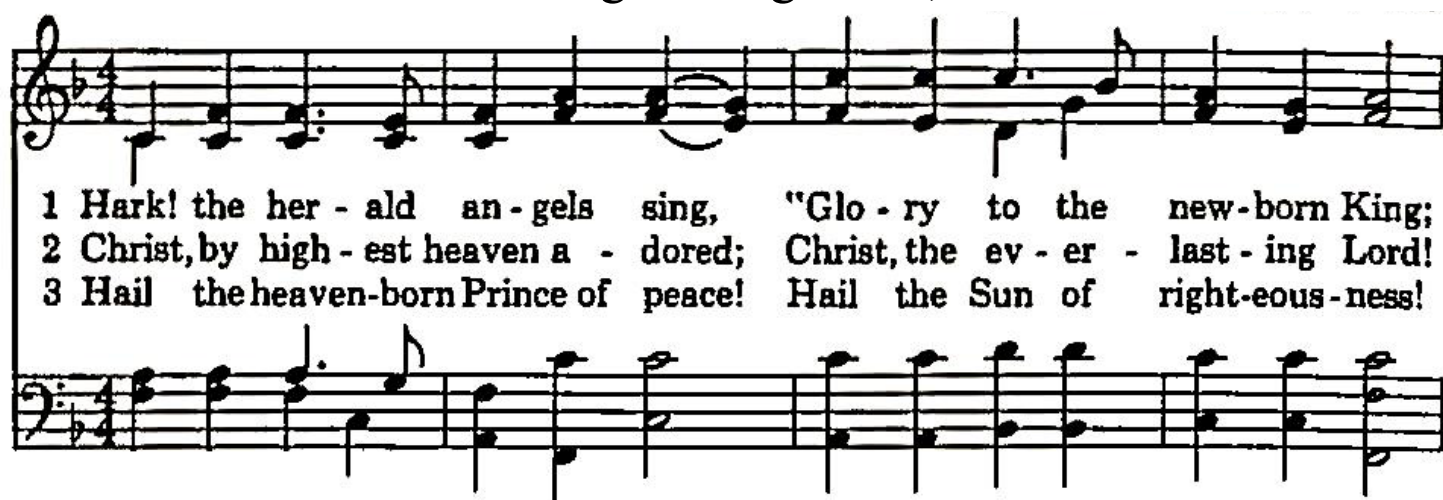
REFRAIN



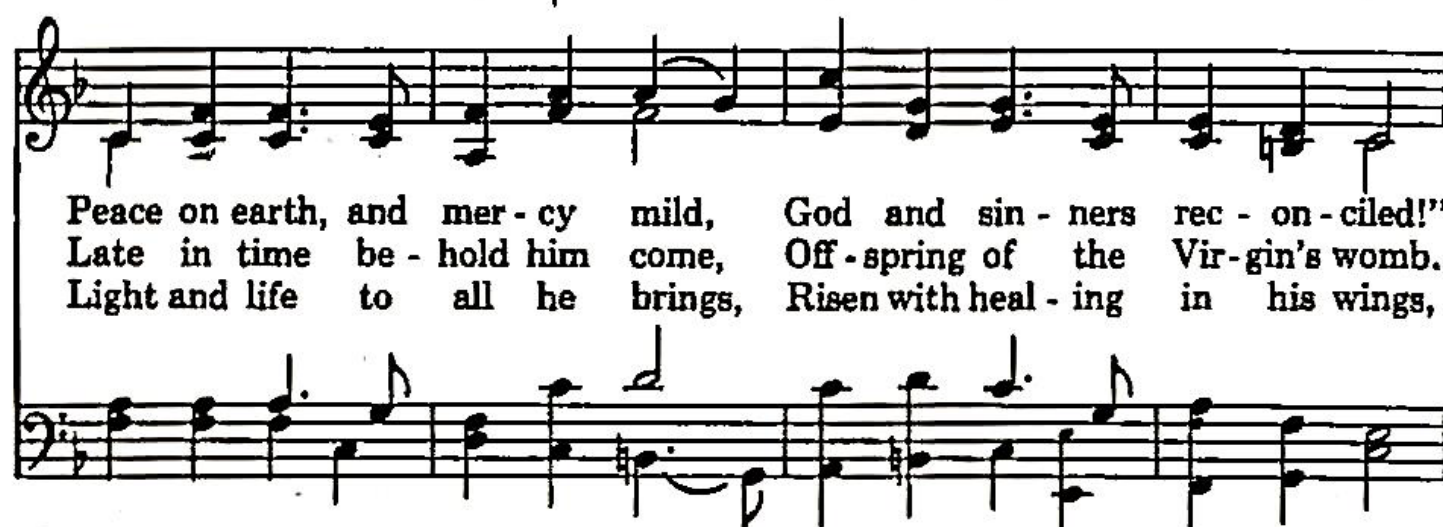
O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



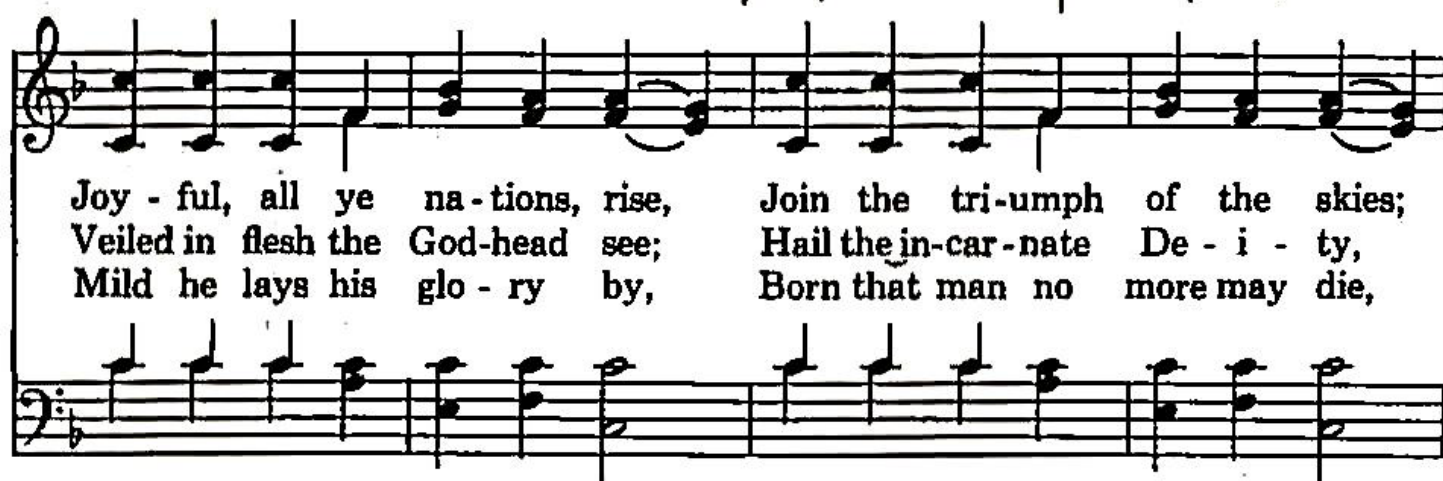
West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.



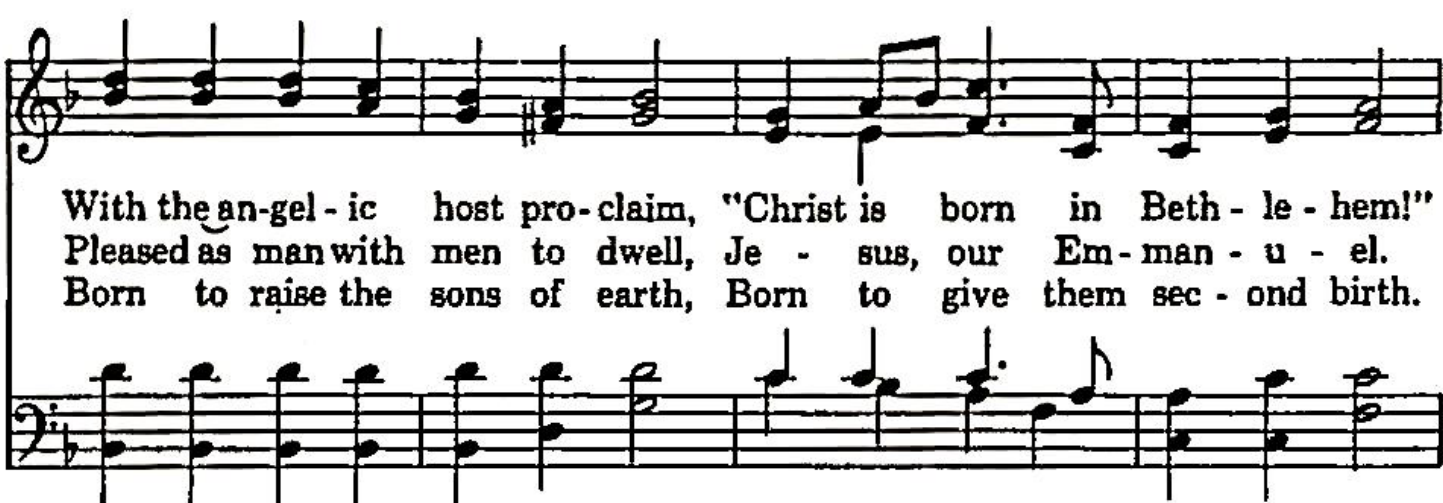
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!



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.



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

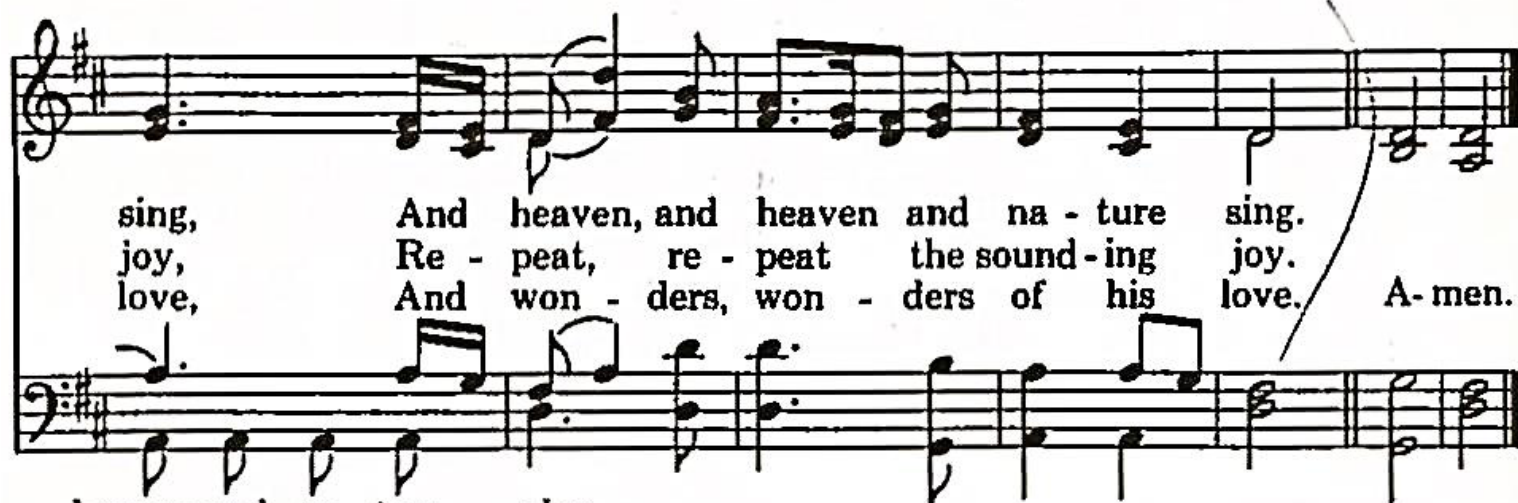


ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



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 & Frances 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.

