

FOR UNTO US



A CHILD IS BORN

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
December 24, 2024 ~ 4:30 p.m.

# Prelude Music

## Welcome/Introduction

### Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
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 heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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

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

## Invocation and Prayer

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Beloved in Christ, in this Christmas season, let it be our delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and to travel with heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought to us by this holy Child; and let us make our homes joyful with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which He died. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or love Him, or who have grieved His heart.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**All:** **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.**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ Jesus grant us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

# The Christmas Acclamation

**Pastor:** Unto us a Child is Born!

**All:** Unto us a Son is given!

**Pastor:** And His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**All:** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

**Pastor:** Son of David, Son of God,

**All:** Prophet, Priest, and King,

**Pastor:** Root of Jesse's Stem, Key of David,

**All:** Rock of Ages, the Cornerstone,

**Pastor:** Dayspring from on High,

**All:** The Light of the World,

**Pastor:** The Alpha and the Omega,

**All:** The Beginning and the End,

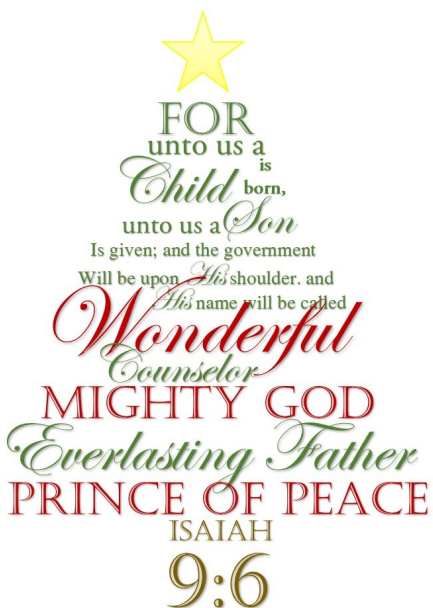
**Pastor:** The Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep,

**All:** The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World,

**Pastor:** Emmanuel, God with us,

**All:** Jesus, Our Savior, Which is Christ the Lord!

**All:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



# THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IN WORD AND SONG

## Lesson 1: Genesis 3:8-15

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And the man said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

And God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Lesson 2: Isaiah 7:10-14

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

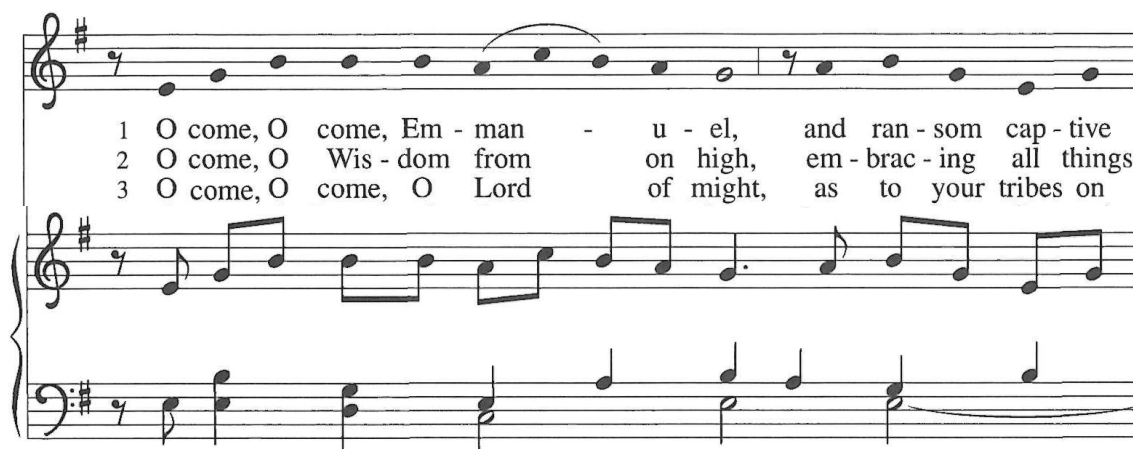
Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask again of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

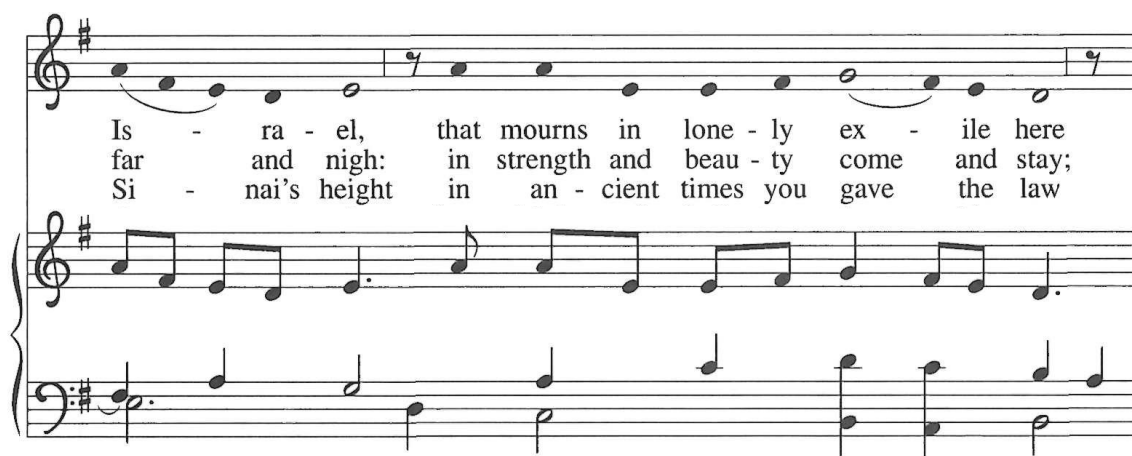
**All:** Thanks be to God.



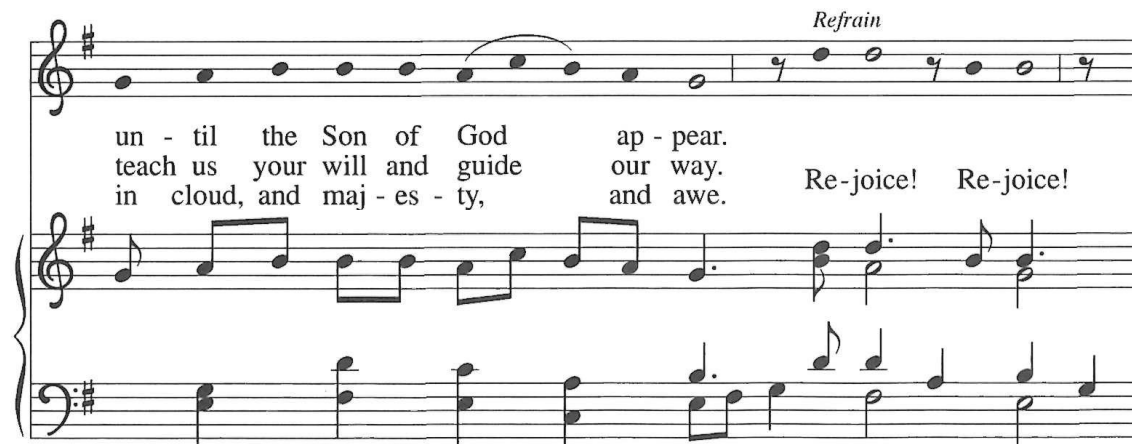
# Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law



*Refrain*  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## Lesson 3: Isaiah 9:2-7

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

You have multiplied the nations; you have increased its joy;  
They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
As they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,  
The rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult,  
And every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
And his government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of his peace there will be no end,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it,  
With justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this,

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.





## Lesson 4: Luke 1:26-38

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 Father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God.

And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.





# Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High



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 - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - 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.



## Lesson 5: Matthew 1:18-25

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Matthew.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel.” *Which means, God with us.*

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Lesson 6: Luke 2:1-7

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Luke.

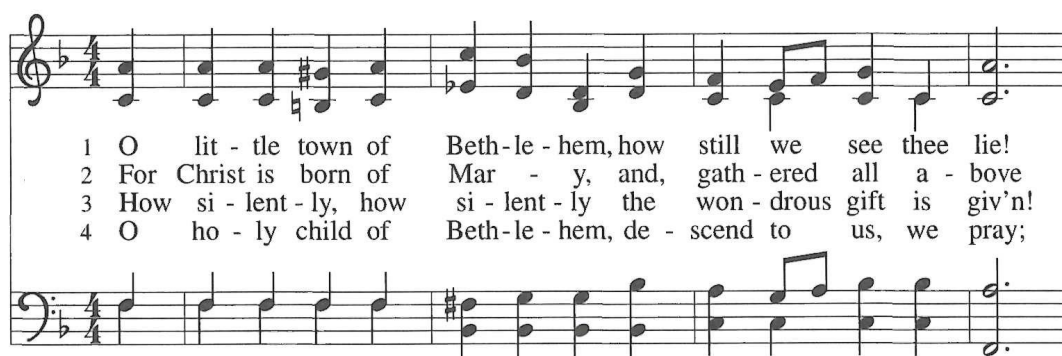
In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

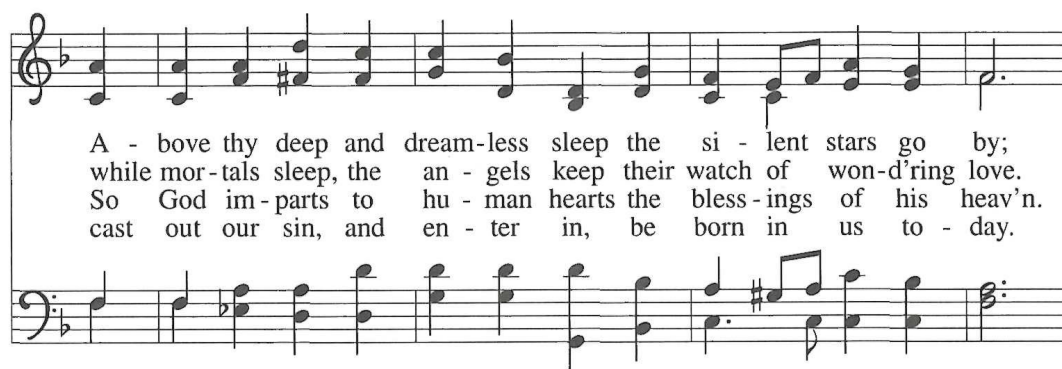
**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

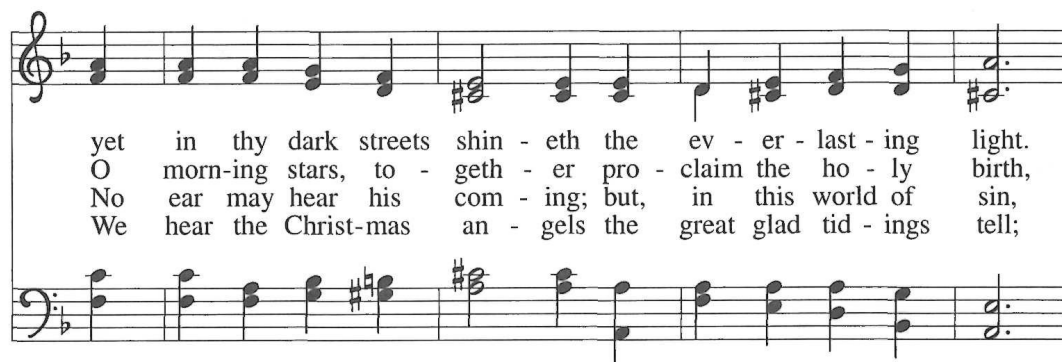
## Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*



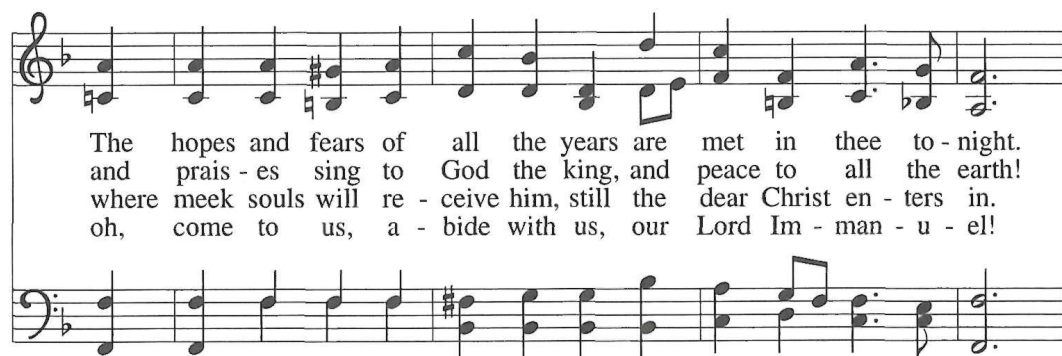
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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 - el!



## Lesson 7: Luke 2:8-14

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Luke.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Lesson 8: Luke 2:15-20

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Luke.

When the angel went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning the child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.





# Hymn: *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.

*Refrain*

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



## Lesson 9: Matthew 2:1-12

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Matthew.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him,

“In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ‘and you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem saying,

“Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.



## Lesson 10: John 1:1-14

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of John.

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming in the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.



## THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*PASTOR  
JOACHIM  
WILCK*



## Offertory Hymn: *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 . .

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

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

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -

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

## Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of abundance,

**All: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us as your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

### SERVICE OF LIGHTS

*Please stand if you are able*

Pastor: On this holy night so long ago, a star shone brightly over Bethlehem town.

**All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!**

Pastor: In fields where shepherds were watching sheep, a glorious company of angels filled the sky and sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!**

Pastor: In a quiet cattle stall, a woman named Mary gave birth to a son.

**All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!**

Pastor: On that very night, the shepherds ran to see Jesus, their faces beaming because of what they saw.

**All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!**

Pastor: In the midst of this dark world, Jesus is our ray of hope.

**All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!**

Pastor: The shadows that sin casts on our world are overpowered by the brightness of God's gift.

**All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!**

Pastor: As candles brightly burn, and this night is filled with light.

**All: Let our lives be filled forever with the light of Christ's love.**

*The Pastor lights a candle from the Christ Candle.*

*The light is distributed to the congregation.*

*As the light is passed, (only) the person receiving, tips their candle toward the lit candle.*

*As this happens, please say:*

**Light Giver: Christ's light be with you.**

**Light Receiver: And also with you.**







# Hymn: *Silent Night*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

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



## The Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**All:** **O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth, may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

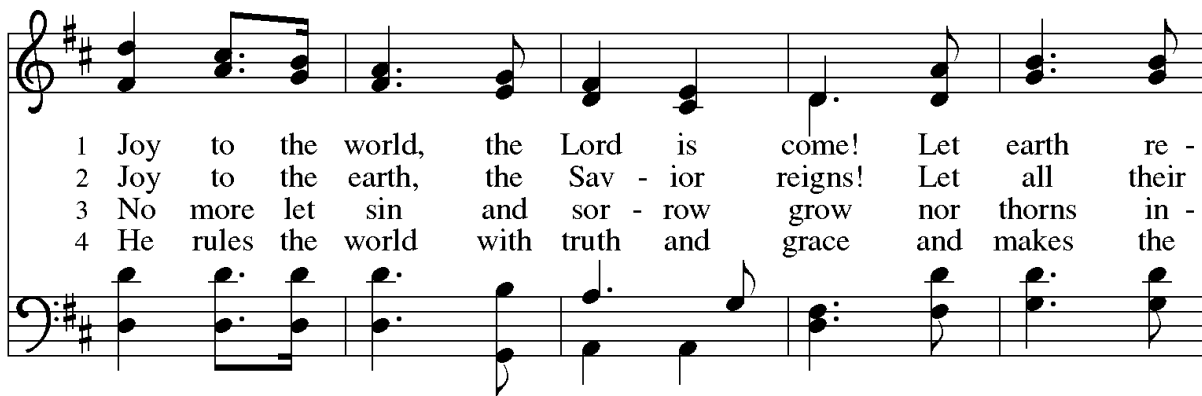
**All:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Merry Christmas! Go in peace and serve the Lord.

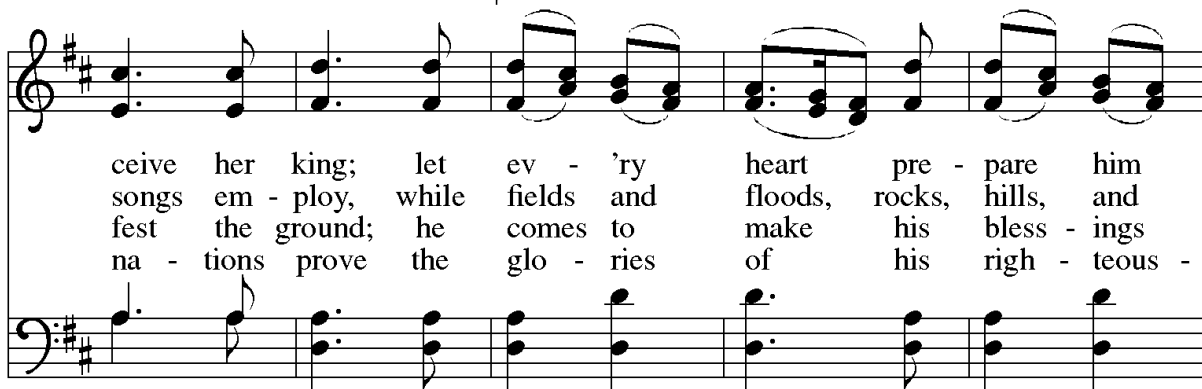
**All:** **Thanks be to God!**



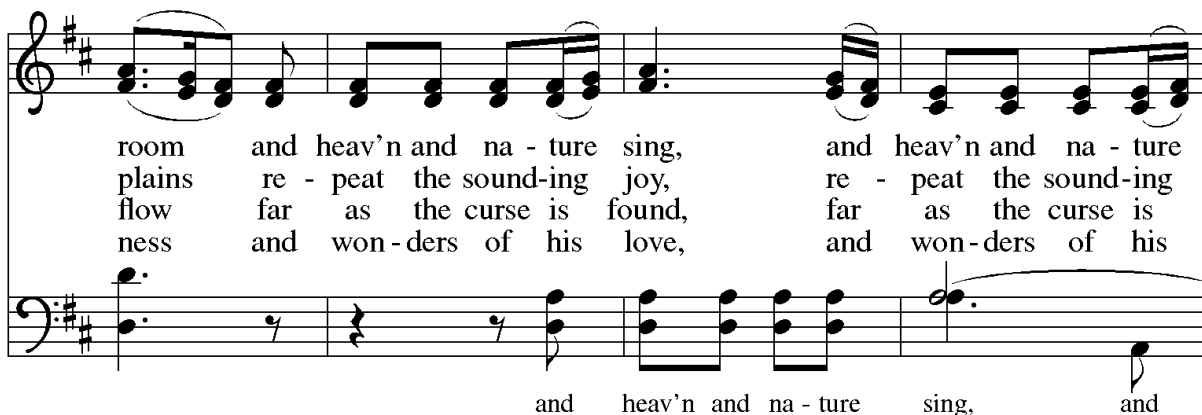
Hymn: *Joy to the World*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

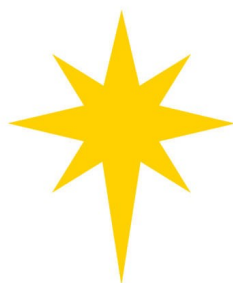


room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
heav'n and na - ture sing,

Postlude



Thank you for joining us in celebration of the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us again soon. If you are a visitor passing through, we wish you safe travels on your journey home. If you are new to the area or interested in worshipping with us again, please take a moment to sign our guest book and introduce yourself to one of our ushers or other service leaders. On behalf of our entire church family we wish you a very Merry Christmas. And may the new year bring us closer together, ever mindful that our God loves us, so much so, that he sent us his only Son.

*Joachim Wilek*

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