

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ... Psalm 100:3



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection. We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd. In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an *AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation* - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

The building is in the process of becoming carbon neutral.

Please excuse the mess!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship-**ELW** (red book)

hymn numbers (#) in back of ELW

congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

GATHERING MUSIC:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" – arr. Lennie Niehaus

"Once in Royal David's City" - arr. Brooke Joyce

"Rise Up Shepherd and Follow" - arr. Niehaus

"Good King Wenceslas" - arr. Stan Zielinski

"A Child is Born" - Thad Jones, arr. Thomas H. Graf

PRAYER BELL

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS

***ENTRANCE HYMN:** ELW #283 O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1-3

1- O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2- The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3- Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

***CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE and GREETING**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

To you is born, this day, a Savior.

Unto us, a child is born; unto us, a son is given.

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.

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

Let us go now and see this thing that has taken place.

Fear not, for Christ is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray ... **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 - response after each reading:

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: ELW #284 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



Choir: 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that

All: With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a

All: O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



might - y Git - chi Man - i - tou sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but

ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:

kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7 - Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ELW #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

HYMN: ELW # 269 Once in Royal David's City vs. 1&2



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: ELW #289 Angels We Have Heard on High - *all children are invited to come up front to join in spontaneous bell ringing during the refrain*

- **HYMN ON NEXT PAGE**

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

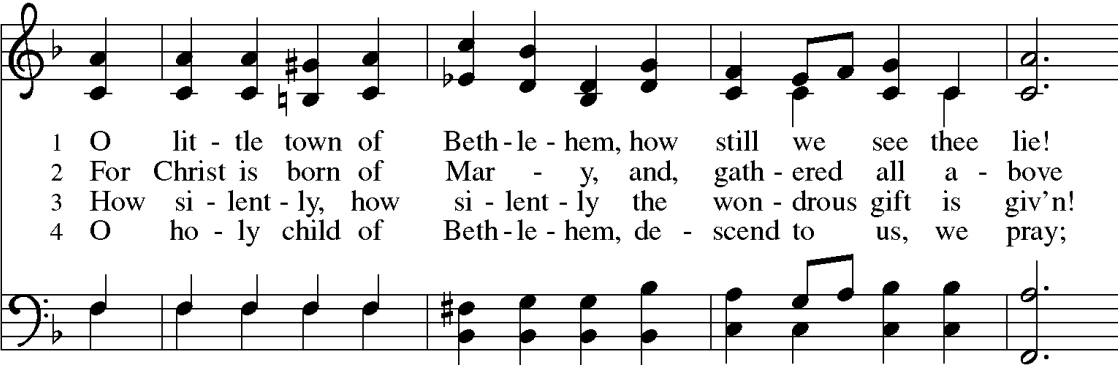
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

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

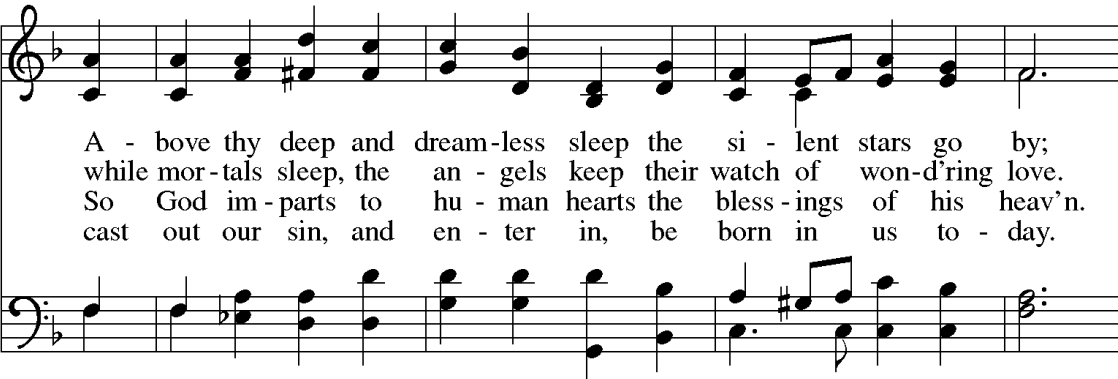
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

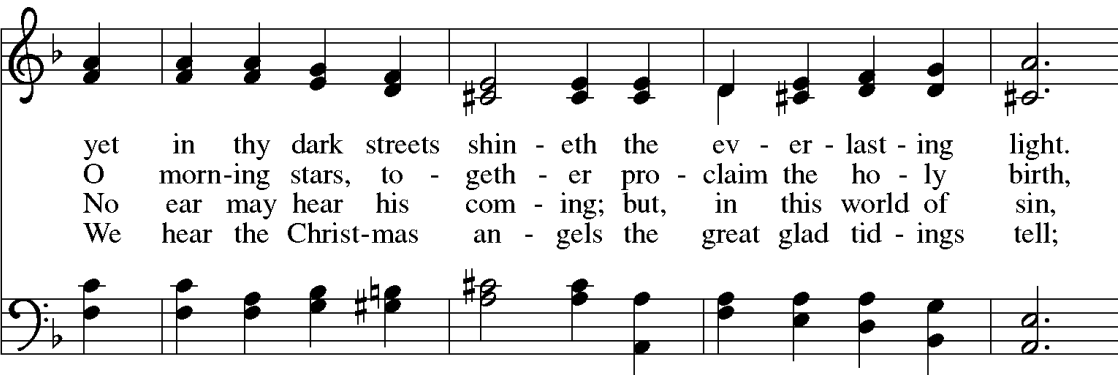
***HYMN: ELW #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem**



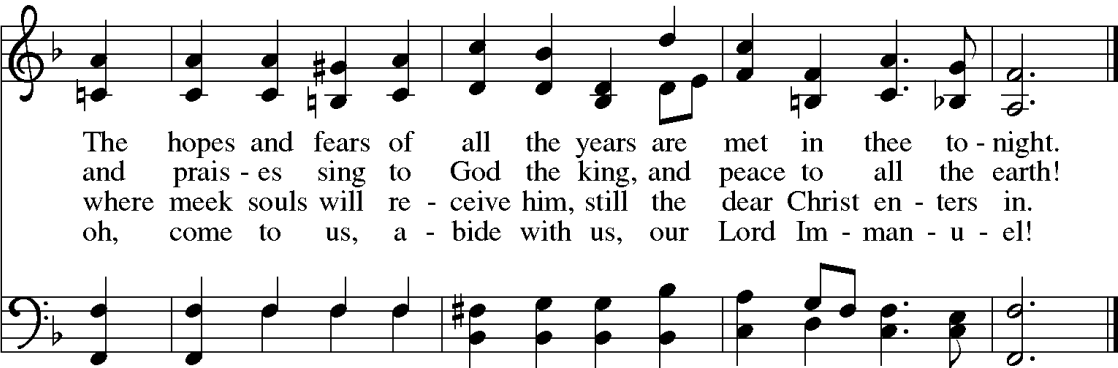
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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!

***PRAYER LITANY:** Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You reign with justice and mercy.

Bring your gift of peace to all nations and peoples of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You guide with steadfast love.

Enliven us to bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be present always and especially among those who are hungry, lonely, in prison, homeless.

Open our eyes to see you in all people and to care for all in any need.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to the world.

Amen.

OFFERTORY: "Bethlehem Baby" – Don and Marygrace Hommen

Christmas Offerings will go to ELCA World Hunger and the Decorah Community Food Pantry. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger are being matched this month.

***OFFERING SONG:** ELW #274 On Christmas Night vs. 1 and 4



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

***OFFERING PRAYER** Let us pray...**Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION**

***The Lord be with you. And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(sung to the tune of Angels, from the Realms of Glory)

Holy, holy, Lord most holy,

God of pow'r and God of might:

heav'n and earth reveal your glory.

Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!

Blessed be the coming Savior.

Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

All are welcome at Christ's table. The ushers will direct you out to the aisle on the right of your pew, you will return on the aisle to the left of your pew. You can hold out your hands to receive gluten and dairy free bread, then the plate of cups will be offered for you to select red wine or grape juice. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by placing your hands in front of your heart. If you need an individual, pre-packaged serving of bread and wine, please request that of your server. Place wine/juice cups in the basket by the altar as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION HYMNS: Communion Hymns are in the back of the bulletin ELW #271, ELW #276, ELW #278, ELW #282, ELW #296

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

(The light is shared, passing from one person to the next. Please be sure that the lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another.)

***HYMN OF LIGHT: Silent Night, Holy Night!**

Verse 1 in Spanish (choir and all who wish to join), then all sing vs. 1-3



Choir (and all): No - che de paz, No - che de a - mor, To - do duer - me en
 All: Si - lent night, Ho - ly night! All is calm,
 All (harmony): Si - lent night, Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 All (unison): Si - lent night, Ho - ly night! Son if God,

de - rre - dor. En - tre sus ast - ros que es - par - cen su luz,
 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,

Vie - ne a - nun - cian - do al ni - ñi - to Je - sús. Bri - lla la es - tre - lla de
 Ho - ly In - fant, 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

paz,
 peace,
 born!
 birth,
 Bri - lla la es - tre - lla de
 Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 Je - sus, Lord, at your
 paz.
 peace.
 born!
 birth.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the word. **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

***BLESSING** (The candles are extinguished. Please blow gently and hold upright until wax is hardened ☺.)

***SENDING HYMN: #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain**

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over
the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the
mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night, behold
throughout the heavens there shone a
holy light

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth rang out the
angel chorus that hailed our Savior's
birth.
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble
Christ was born; and God sent us
salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

***PRAYER BELL**

***DISMISSAL:** Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Sleigh Ride" - Leroy Anderson

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MUSICIANS WHO ARE PART OF TONIGHT'S SERVICE!

POINSETTIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Marv & Mickey Slind

In Memory of Don Kemp – Jane Kemp

In Memory of Rev. Paul Hasvold – Carol Hasvold

In Honor of Jane Jakoubek – Ruth & Jerry Bruce

In Thankful Memory of Our Parents – Dave & Kris Peterson

In Memory of Our Family Members – Marie & Russell Freerking

In Gratitude for the People of Good Shepherd – Pastor Amy Zalk Larson & family

In Memory of Joe Callaghan, Liv Østby, Glen Erik Andersen- Ingrid Callaghan

In Honor of the Good Shepherd Church Family: my church home away from home. – Melissa Jackson

In Gratitude for 2022 Blessings – Connie & Tom Buresh

In Honor of Mike & Carol Moe – Naomi Craft

In Remembrance of our grandson, Brendan Numedahl – Ann & Bob Naslund

In Honor of Glenn Nelson – Jane Borelli

In Memory of Sarah K. Caton – The Caton Family

In Gratitude for Pastor Amy, Brooke, Kelli, and Erica – Joyce and Ed Epperly

White poinsettias: Honor Altar Guild members, Communion Bread bakers, and all who help prepare our sanctuary and church for the seasons of the church year. - Elizabeth Kaschins

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY –ASSISTING MINISTER: Jane Jakoubek; READER: Brian Caton; ORGANIST/PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; PREACHER & PRESIDER: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson.
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UPCOMING SERVICES:

- **Christmas Day worship:** Dec. 25- 9:30am, Preaching, Carols, Holy Communion
- **Second Sunday of Christmas:** Jan. 1- 9:30am, Service of Lessons and Carols, Holy Communion. Following this service folks are invited to stay and help take down the ornaments from the tree. After all are welcome to bring a tray of leftover treats and share in coffee and fellowship together!



RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Antiracism Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. A portion of the Statement is printed here each week: find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code:



We proclaim that God has created the diversity of humankind in God's image and we are all equal and beloved children of God. Racism and white supremacy are evils that estrange us from one another, from God, and from the fullness of our humanity. (Genesis 1:27a)

We are in need of liberation from the sins of racism and white supremacy. (Romans 3:23)

We confess by what we have done and left undone that we have perpetuated systems of racial injustice and violence. (Micah 6:8)

We acknowledge that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is built on land that was home to the loway, Otoe-Missouria, Eastern Dakota, Sac, Fox, Winnebago and Ho-Chunk tribes. In 1848, over two thousand Winnebago were forcibly displaced from here by the U.S. military to make way for European-American settlers. (2016 Assembly Action CA16.02.04 Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery)

We lament that the white Church in the United States, through its dominant place in our country's culture and history, has actively constructed, justified, and sustained systems of racial injustice and violence. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has marginalized Lutheran Black, Indigenous, and People of Color leaders and communities and perpetuated a patriarchal, monocultural and racially segregated status quo. (From Declaration of the ELCA to Peoples of African Descent issued by ELCA Church Council, June 27, 2019)

We trust in the new life made possible through Christ's resurrection and we are hopeful that the Church is an ideal place to engage in the lifelong and transformative work of racial justice. Fostering antiracist ideas and actions is one way that we can follow Jesus' example of love for our neighbor. When we fail, we will rely on God's grace, that God might work in and through our broken humanity and that we might be sustained to learn from our mistakes and continue to show up for the work of antiracism. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

We commit to listen, learn, and act with courage, kindness, respect, and humility as we practice antiracism both individually and as a congregation. (Galatians 5:22)

We publicly declare that we will actively pursue racial justice in all aspects of our congregational life and make changes to adopt antiracist policies and practices around worship, education, advocacy, stewardship, governance, and through our community partnerships and relationships. (Ephesians 2: 14-15, Isaiah 56: 6)

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

563-382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org goodshepherddecorah.org

Pastor Amy: Cell 563-419-0140, pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org

Please sign the red hospitality books for the sake of welcome and as a record of worship attendance. Guests, if you leave your email in the hospitality books, the Church Office will contact you if there is news of a positive case of COVID in worship.

WELCOME GUESTS. THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

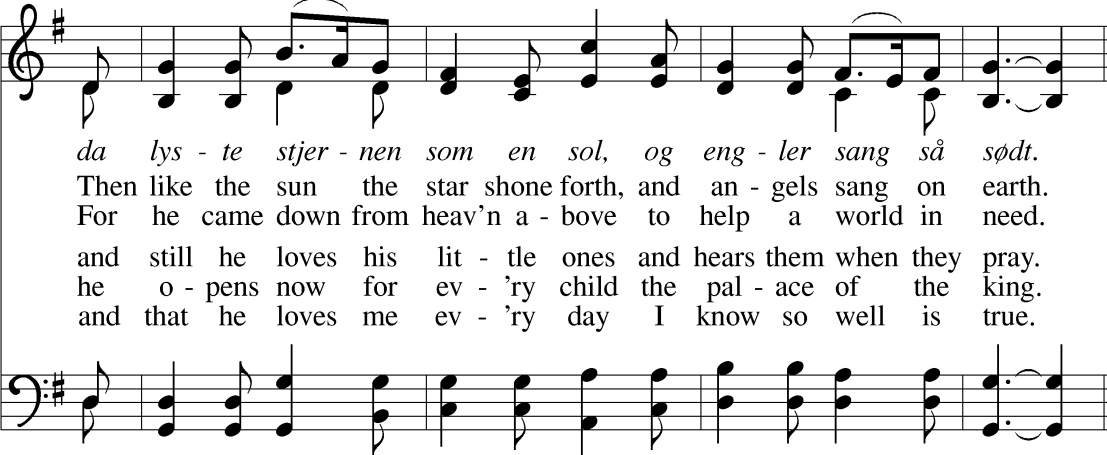
THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE. The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags are available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works for you and your child. An Infant Feeding Chair is available in the music office (hallway outside of sanctuary) for more privacy if desired.

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

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Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



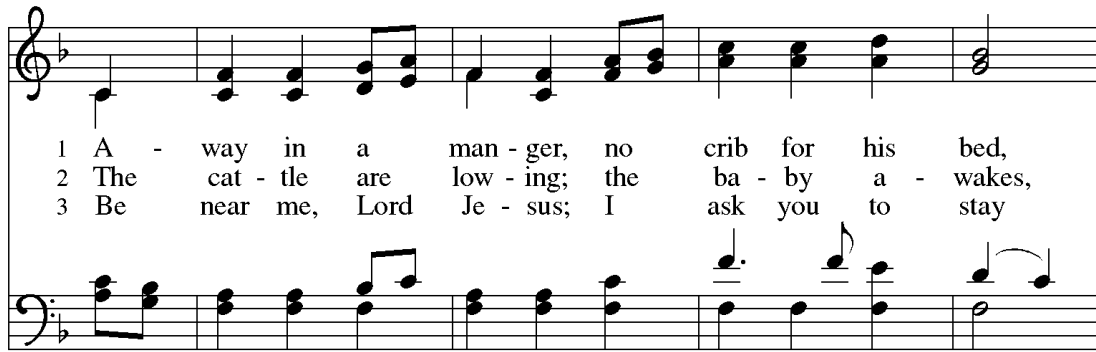
Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



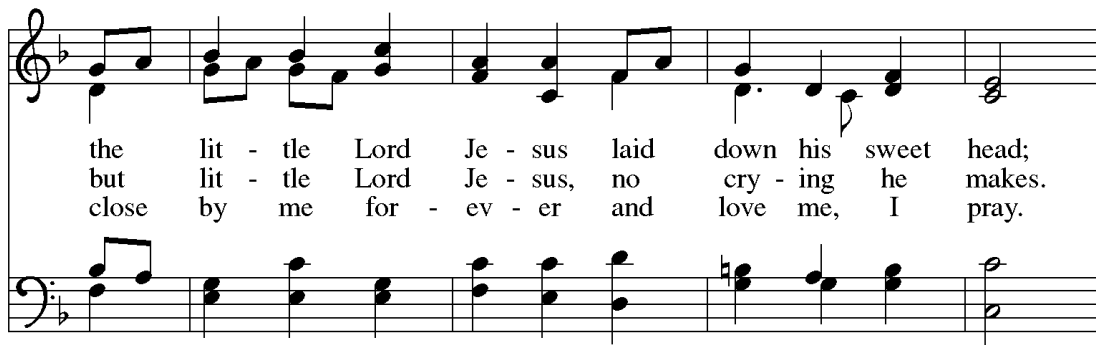
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol


Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919

Arr. from *Carols for Choirs 1*, © Oxford University Press 1960.

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It Came upon the Midnight Clear



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 you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - 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 shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring 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 - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.