Lord's Day Service

Third Sunday of Advent at Church of the King

Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence

Hear today's call to worship from God's Word: [congregation standing]

"Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!"" Luke 2:10-14

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Praise

based on Luke 2:15

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.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

God of God, Light of Light,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

Salutation and Response

[based on Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 9:2]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit **Amen!**

The People who walked in darkness, **Have seen a great light**

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, **Upon them a light has shined!**

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us in Christ

The call for confession from God's Word

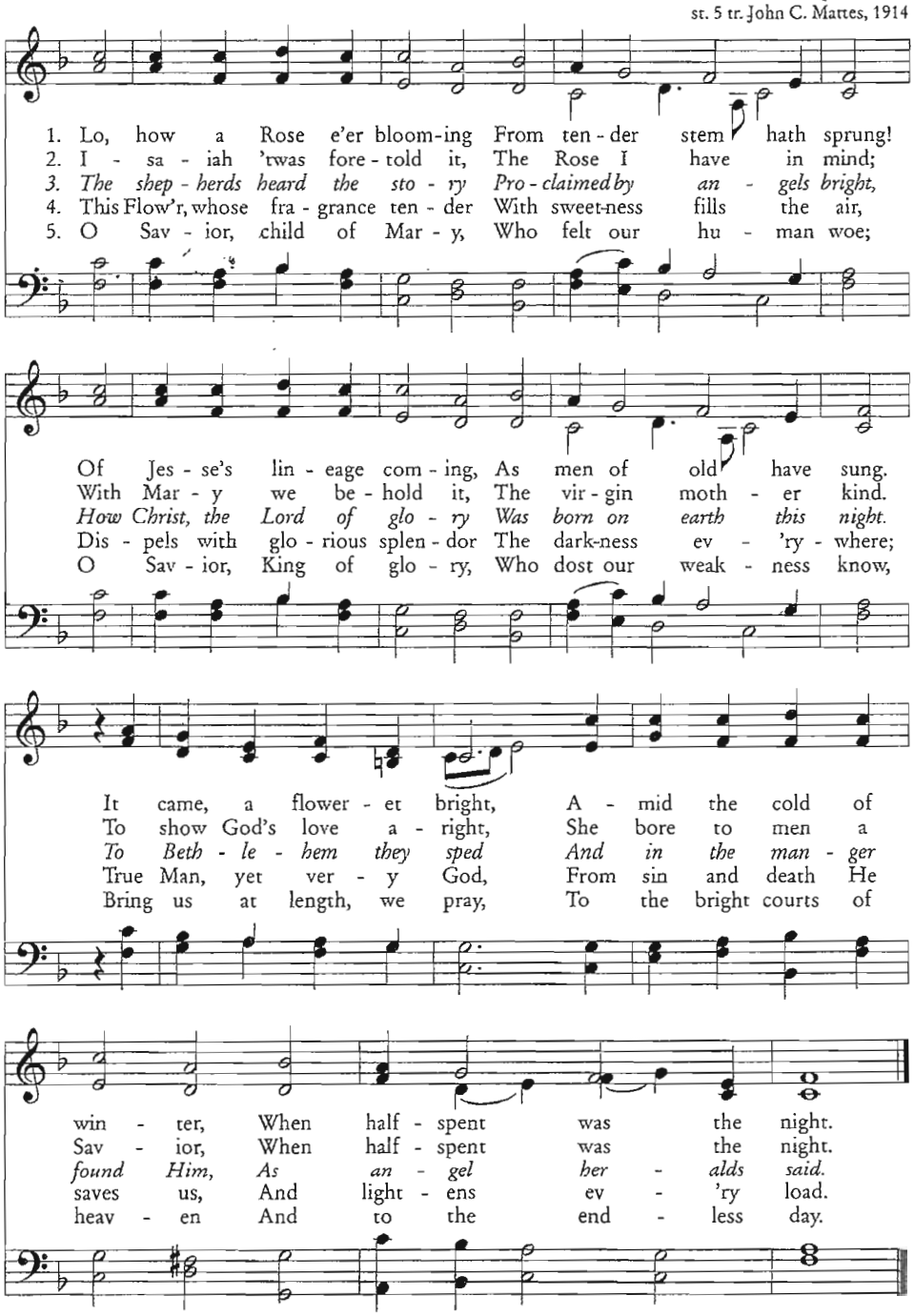
""Now, therefore," says Jehovah, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to Jehovah your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm." *Joel 2:12,13*

God's People Join in a Hymn of Confession: [congregation standing]

Lo How a Rose Ever Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN (7 6. 7 6. 6 7 6)
German melody, 15th century
arr. Michael Praetorius, *Musae Sionae*, 1609

German, 15th century
st. 1-2 tr. Theodore Baker, 1894
st. 3 tr. Harriet R. Spaeth, 1875
st. 5 tr. John C. Mattes, 1914



Silent Confession

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15

Corporate Prayer of Confession

"Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers." Nehemiah 9:2

Almighty God our heavenly Father. You are completely holy and just in all Your ways. In Your love You have given us every good gift, most of all the Gift of your Son Jesus. Yet we are often unthankful, and fail to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In the same way, we take one another for granted, we become unthankful for the people you have lovingly brought into our lives, and we grumble and dispute, thus failing to love one another as we ought. Forgive us our sins, we beseech You, and cleanse us, for the sake of Jesus whom You sent to be our Savior and Lord. Make us a thankful people, now and throughout our lives. We ask this through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN!

Assurance of Pardon and Forgiveness

From Matthew 1:20-23; 18:11

"But while Joseph thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."
For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for your sins and to be raised for your justification; and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Our Triune God has truly demonstrated His righteousness in the Gospel, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks:

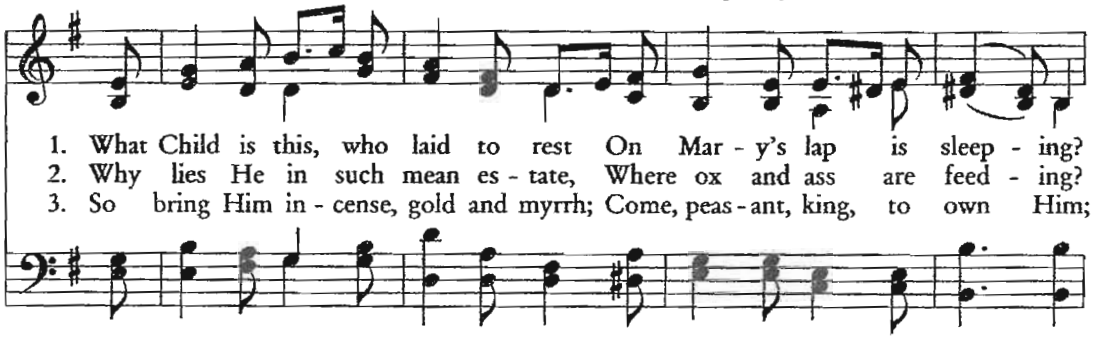
[congregation standing]

What Child is This?

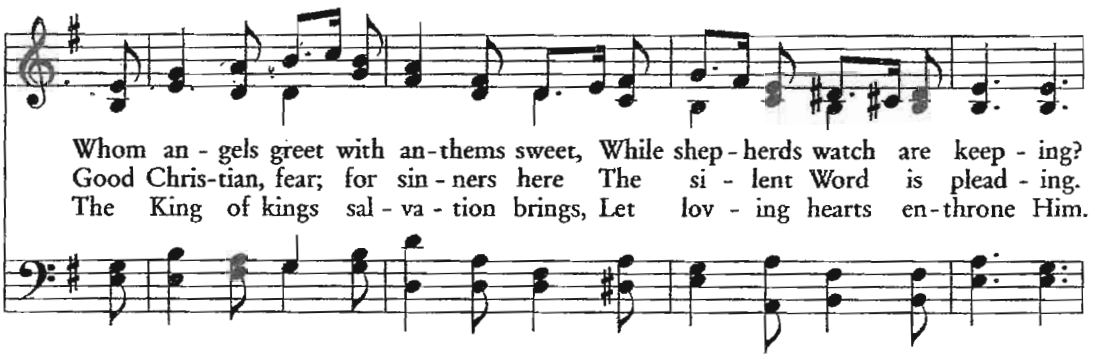
"And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds." Luke 2:16-18

GREENSLEEVES (8 7. 8 7. 6 8. 6 7)
English melody, 16th century

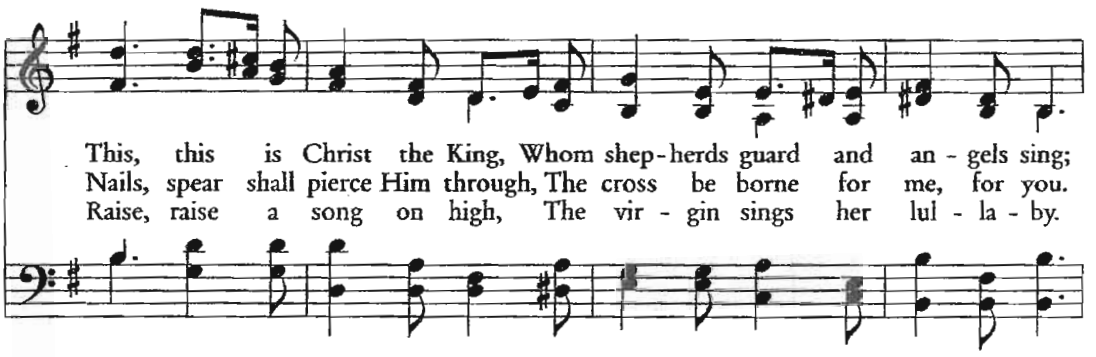
Traditional English carol, before 1642
adapted by William Chatterton Dix, c. 1865



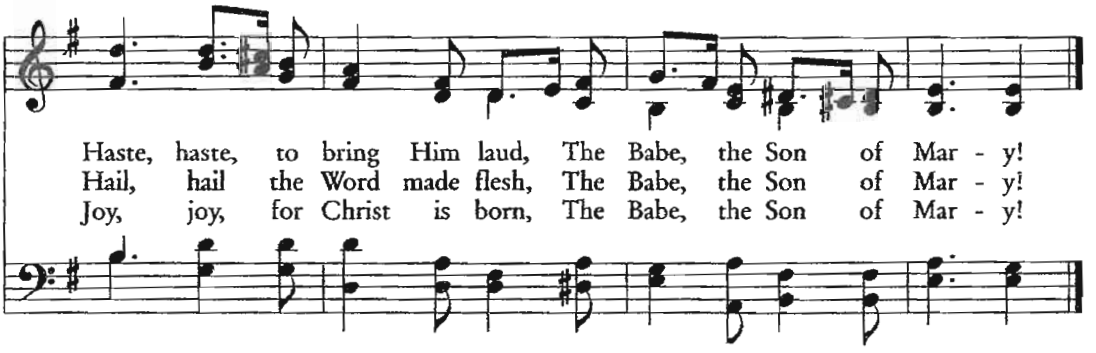
1. What Child is this, who laid to rest On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own Him;



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 a 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!

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" Romans 12:1,2

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD:

The Responsive Reading of Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

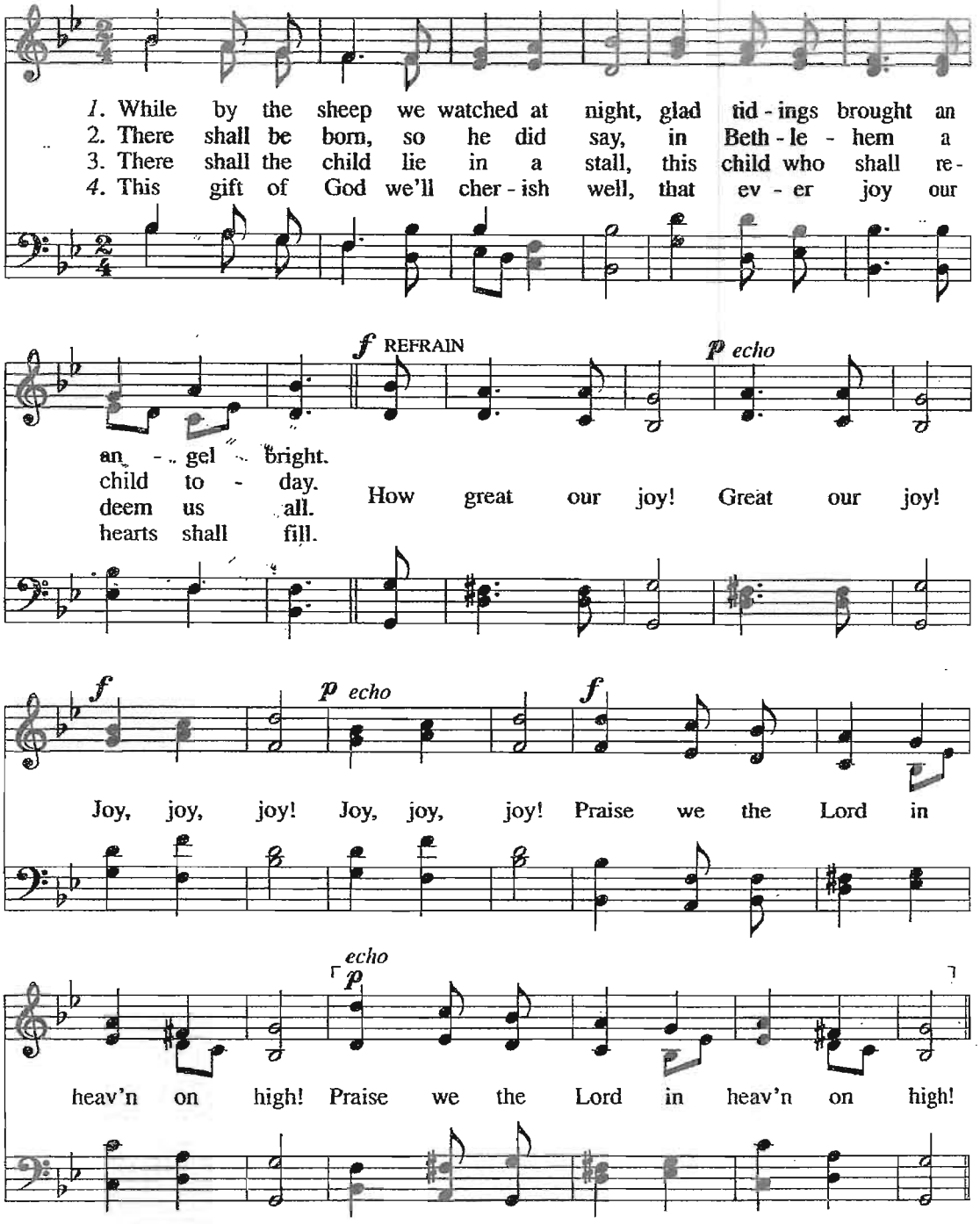
36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Faith:

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." Luke 2:8



God Speaks to Us Through His Word: Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon

"Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, And teach out of Your law." Psalm 94:12

"What He Gives All the World"

From Elder Theron Johnson, based on Luke 1:57-80

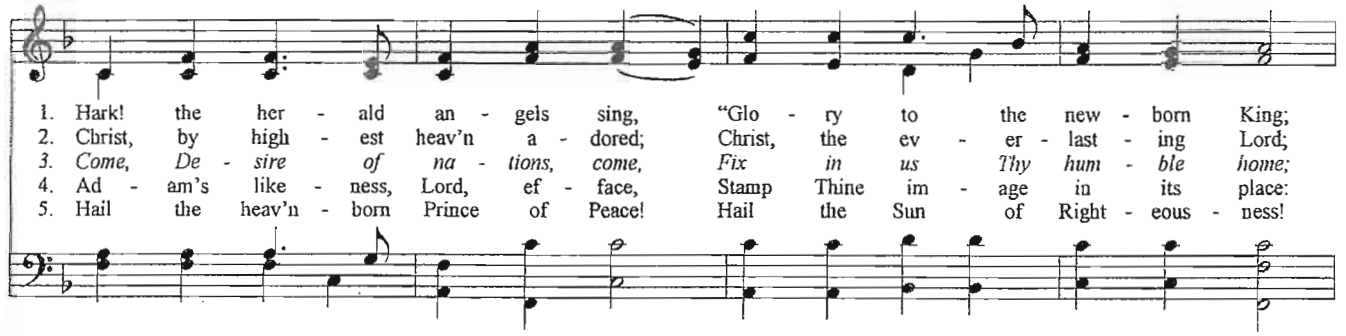
God's People Respond with a Hymn of Faith:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

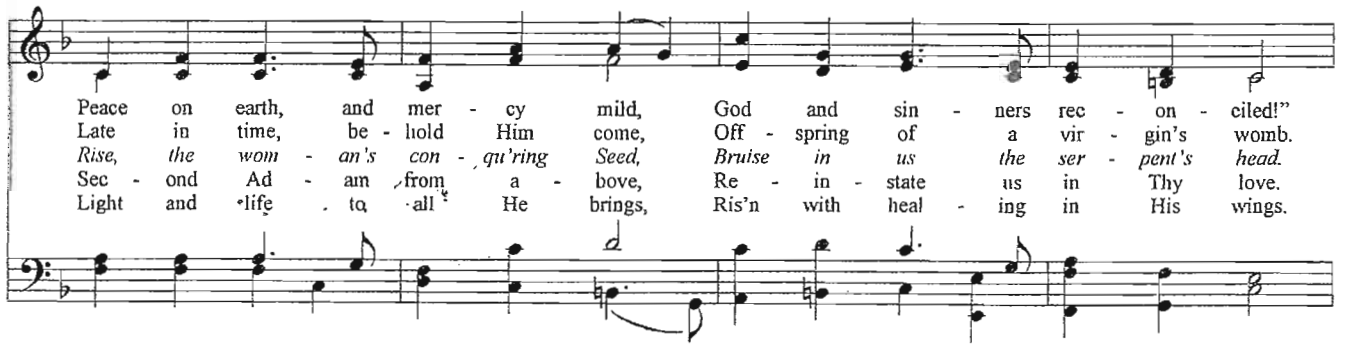
"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." Luke 2:8

MENDELSSOHN (7 7 7 7. 7 7 7 7. 7 7)
Felix Mendelssohn, 1840
arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

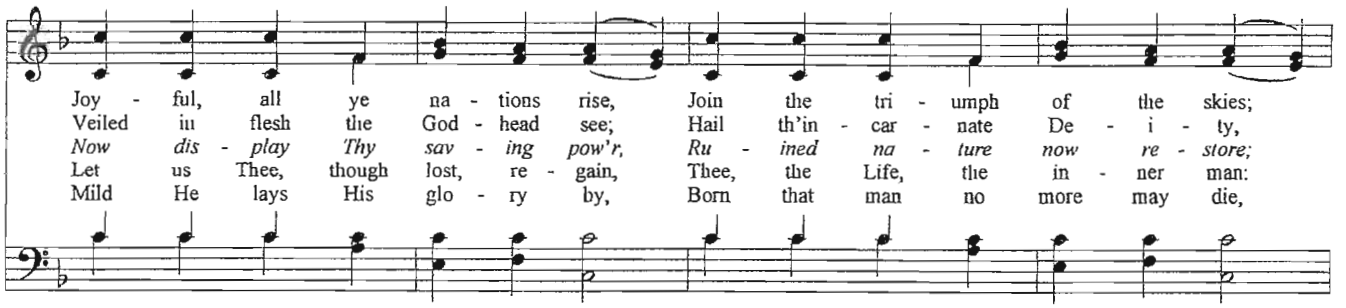
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



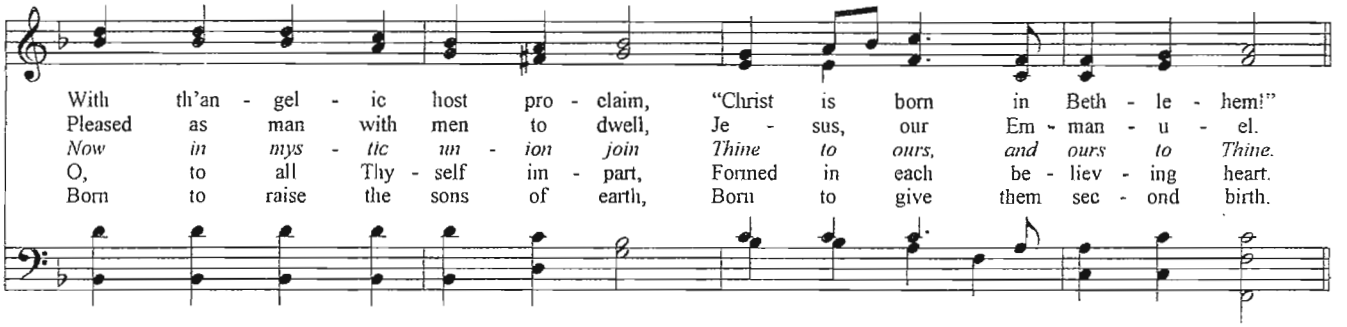
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. *Come, De - sire of na - tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum - ble home;*
4. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place:
5. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



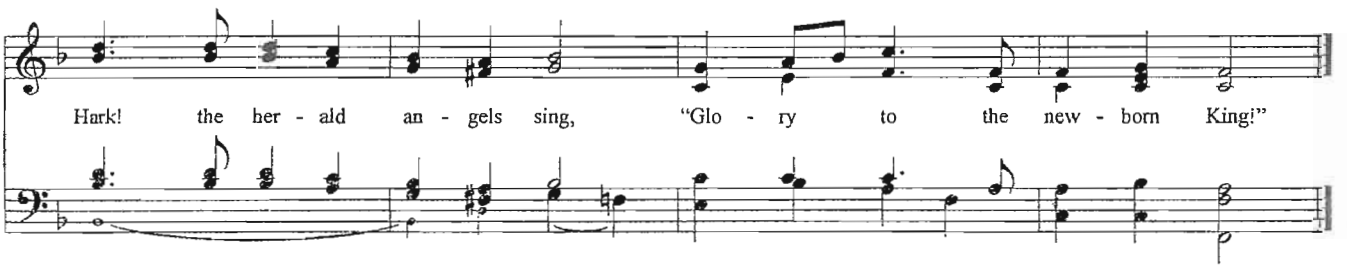
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time, be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Rise, the wom - an's con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head.
Sec - ond Ad - am from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n 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 th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Now dis - play Thy sav - ing pow'r, Ru - ined na - ture now re - store;
Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain, Thee, the Life, the in - ner man:
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With th'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.
Now in mys - tic un - ion join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.
O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be - liev - ing heart.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



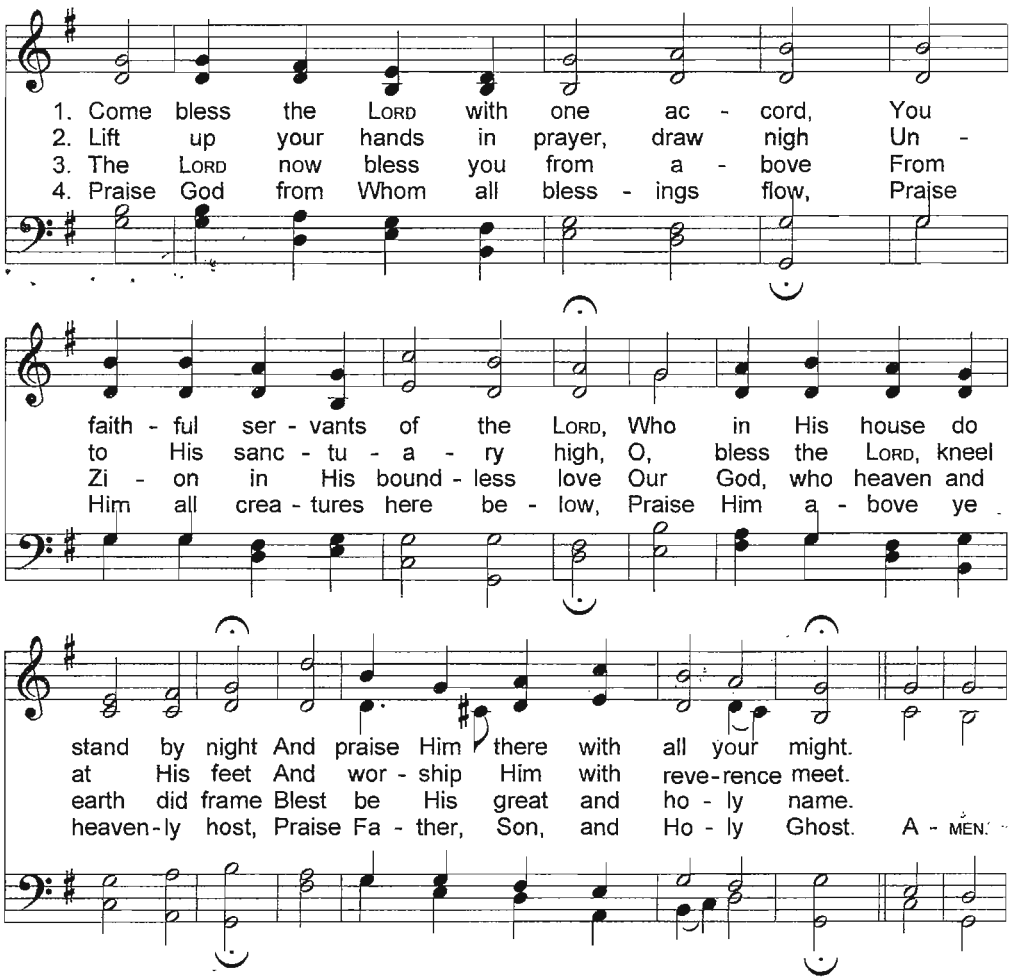
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

God receives our tithes and gifts as a Tribute Offering [read in unison]

"And it shall be, when you come into the land which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that Jehovah your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where Jehovah your God chooses to make His name abide.
... So Jehovah brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey"; and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Jehovah, have given me.' Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before Jehovah your God." *Deuteronomy 26:1-3, 8-10*

The Collection of our tithes and offerings

The singing of Psalm 134 & the Doxology



The Great Prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

"The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous." Proverbs 15:29

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one,
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN [Matthew 6:9-13]

Communion: Where God Communes With His People

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 10:16

Preparation for Communion:

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized and are in good standing in Christ's Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call.

Our Confession of Faith – The Apostle's Creed [sung with echo, music by Jamie Soles]

I believe in God the Father Almighty;
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord.
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin, Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into Hell. *[sung in unison]*
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
I believe a holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body, *[sung in unison]*
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A word of encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the bread

God's People Sing a hymn of thanks and celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new Week

Partaking of the bread together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the wine

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." I Corinthians 11:26

Commissioning *The LORD Blesses and Sends Forth His People*

"But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." [Matthew 2:20-23]

Our Final Responsive Reading: **Psalm 98**

1 Oh, sing to Jehovah a new song!

For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

2 Jehovah has made known His salvation;

His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Shout joyfully to Jehovah, all the earth;

Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

5 Sing to Jehovah with the harp,

With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn;

Shout joyfully before Jehovah, the King.

7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,

The world and those who dwell in it;

8 Let the rivers clap their hands;

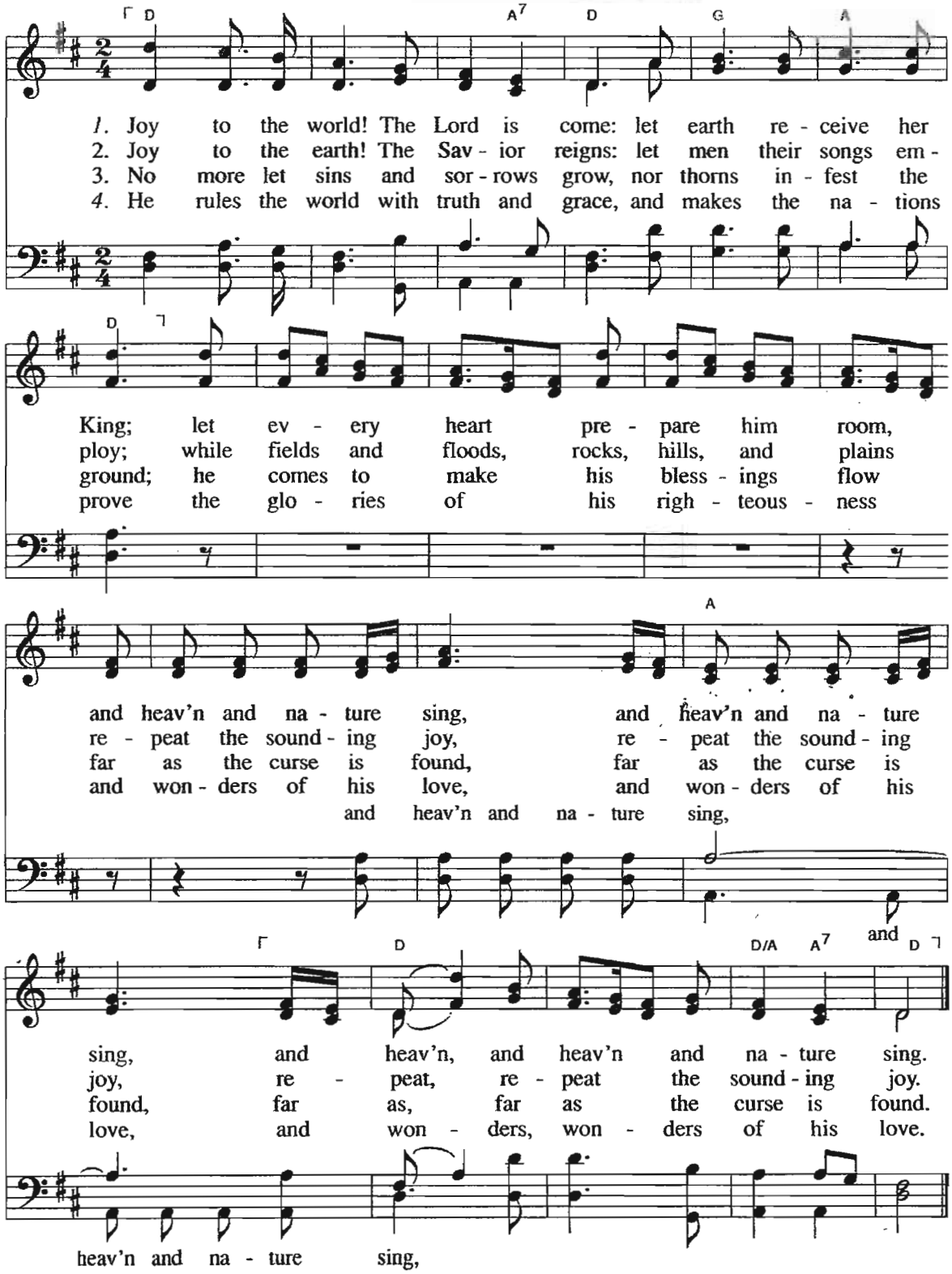
Let the hills be joyful together before Jehovah,

9 For He is coming to judge the earth.

With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

God's people prepare to be sent forth to serve our Risen & Reigning Savior

The Singing of Joy to the World



Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836