

First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
‡ December 24, 2023 ‡ 9:00 p.m. ‡

*Please complete the Red Friendship Book and pass it to others in your pew.
Please note any concerns on the yellow prayer cards and place those in the offering plate.*

Where indicated by the asterisk (), please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Prelude Music

“The Huron Carol”

arr. C. McMichael

“Silent Night”

arr. E. Larter

Welcome

Rev. Doug Hagler

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Sarah Shulman

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Barkley Family

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.

Introit: *“Cantate Domino”*

H. Hassler

Call to Worship (Leader, **People**)

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

Glory to god in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to god in the highest!

The Logos became flesh
and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

Hymn #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

(Please be seated.)

Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

Titus 2

**The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all
and teaching us to renounce
what is evil in the world.**

This is the covenant God made with us: that God would put the law within us, and write it upon our hearts, and would be our God, and we would be God’s people. God forgives the wrong we have done, and the good we leave undone. In penitence and faith, let us silently confess our sins to God.

(Silent prayer and reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone;
a new life has begun.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Amen.

* Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

(Please be seated.)

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Reading: Psalm 96:1-13

- ¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.”
¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹² let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³ before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Reading: Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Hymn #147 “The First Nowell”

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

A child is born for us in Bethlehem,
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;
**and he will be our Shepherd,
feeding his flock with the strength of the Lord.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Anselm (1033-1109)

Lord, because you have made me,
I owe you the whole of my life;
because you have redeemed me,
I owe you the whole of myself;
because you have promised so much,
I owe you my whole being.
Lord, make me taste by love
what I taste by knowledge;
let me know by love
what I know by understanding.
I owe you more than my whole self.
Draw me to you, Lord,
in the fullness of your love.
I am wholly yours by creation;
make me all yours, too, in love.

Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread and Cup

Special Music: “*The Wexford Carol*”

arr. C. McMichael

Offering Prayer

With what shall we come before the Holy One,
and bow ourselves before God on high?

God has shown us what is good.

Let us present ourselves to God
as those who have been delivered
from death to life.

Offertory: “*The Star Carol*”

J. Rutter

Prayer of Dedication

The Nicene Creed (**Unison**)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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 evil. For thine is
the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*** Hymn #136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

*** Benediction**

Rev. Doug Hagler

Special Hymn: #122 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

Postlude: "*Carillon on 'Run All Ye Shepherds'*"

arr. G. Young

PRAYER REQUESTS

Joys:

Concerns:

Helen Harrop, Kaitlyn, Cheryl, Family & Friends of Muriel Rowlands

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE: Please send any prayer needs to this new address, fpcprayerchain2@gmail.com. Your request will be distributed to FPC's prayer angels. Their silent efforts will be put to work to lift you up. The same email address can be used for anyone wishing to join the prayer team.

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

Dec. 31st: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40

Jan. 7th: Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

STAFF VACATIONS

Dec. 31: Pastor Doug, Diane Legnini

Jan. 7: Pastor Doug

GUEST CELEBRANTS

Dec. 31: Rev. Bob Larson

Jan. 7: Rev. Don Lincoln

GRATITUDE JOURNAL: During our year-long journey of gratitude, we invite you to record your responses in a journal so you can reflect at the end of the year. This week's prompt is: **How will you live out the gift of Jesus?** If you would like to share your reflection (1-2 minutes) after a specific prompt or something you are grateful for, please let us know and we can let you share! *The Church Growth Committee*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY: There will not be an Adult Sunday School/Bible Study session next Sunday, **December 31st** - Sessions will resume on **January 7th** at 8:30 AM. New learners are always welcome. If interested, please contact [Sue Casey](#) for a book and the Zoom link.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GREETING CARDS: Do you need a unique, last-minute Christmas card for a special person on your list? The MAC shop is open with Alternative Gift Greeting Cards. Purchase a card and support a cause. This year's choices are as follows:

- Heifer International – bees & training for a family in need
- PACS – providing nutritious food to those experiencing food insecurity in our area
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – aiding those experiencing a disaster
- CWS Blankets – responding to those affected by war, hurricanes, earthquakes
- Citizen Advocacy – building relationships with people with disabilities

The cards are \$5.00 each and can be purchased before and after church in the narthex, and in the church office during the week.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS: We would like to thank everyone who supported the Scrip Gift Card Program in 2023. Now it's time to begin a **New Year...2024!** We are placing orders for gift cards every other Wednesday in January (**Jan. 3, Jan. 17, & Jan. 31**). Know that a percentage of each card ordered is donated to the church. If you would like to place an order, please call or text Lynne Williams at 610-415-1581 (home) or 610-955-4749 (cell) or send an email (brettdrew@comcast.net). We will complete the order forms for you. Orders and checks must be received by the day before the orders are placed (**Jan. 2, Jan. 16, & Jan. 30**) Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church DR". Thank you for continuing to support this program! **Have a Happy New Year!**

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CLOTHING MINISTRY: People to People clothing sorters will be taking time off to enjoy the holidays. Please hold all donations until Thursday, January 11, 2024. Thank you for understanding.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2024 Offering envelopes are ready for pick up. Please check the table in the narthex for your box. Please contact Maggie in the main office if you need a box—610-933-8816, secretaryfpc145@gmail.com.

PLEDGE FULFILLMENT: This is the time of year that our Finance Committee works to balance everything and close the books for the year as we look forward to 2024. Know that we appreciate your financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church throughout this past year. We ask that you please take a moment to reflect on your giving and prayerfully consider fulfilling your 2023 pledge. Thank you for all that you do and for your faithful support. - *The Stewardship Committee*

2024 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN: The 2024 Pledge Campaign - The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has completed and returned their pledge card for 2024. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please know that it is not too late! We ask that you take a moment to reflect on your giving for the coming year. Your generous and faithful offerings help to support the ministry and the many good works of FPC. By completing your pledge card, you are helping the Finance Committee as they plan for 2024. Completed cards may be returned by mail, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. If you need a pledge card, please call the church office at 610-933-8816.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: As we near year end, please see that pledge or other contributions to the church are received by Sunday, December 31st. Funds received after that date will be credited to your 2024 contribution statement. The Stewardship and Finance committees thank you for the continued support of FPC Phoenixville.

RESTROOM ACCESS DURING WORSHIP: You are welcome to use the doors on either side of the chancel to go to the restrooms at any time during worship. If you have a mobility concern, then an usher in the Narthex will accompany you down the outside ramp and let you in through the glass door. For security reasons, we will be keeping the glass door locked during worship.

NURSERY NEWS: Children of all ages are welcome in both services today while our childcare staff and volunteers take a Christmas break. Childcare will resume next Sunday, December 31st.

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**This Week in the Life of the Church**

**Sunday, December 24**

*(\*Children remain with families. Childcare not available.)*

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:00 p.m. \*WORSHIP – Candlelight Communion Service with Rev. Doug Hagler, in-person and on [YouTube](#)

**Monday, December 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

No events scheduled. The office is closed.

**Tuesday, December 26**

No events scheduled.

**Wednesday, December 27**

No events scheduled.

**Thursday, December 28**

10:00 a.m. People to People Food Ministry (Kitchen)

**Friday, December 29**

Office is closed.

**Saturday, December 30**

No events scheduled.

**Sunday, December 31** *(\*Childcare available)*

10:30 a.m. \*Worship – Rev. Bob Larson, in-person and on YouTube

10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Parlor)

**Nursery & Sunday School:** The church nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the main building in room 209 and is available for children ages infant-3 years. All children 3 years and older are invited to attend Sunday School during worship (children will depart fellowship hall for their classrooms immediately following the Children's Sermon), with ages 3-5 in room 210, ages 6-8 in room 208, and grades 5 and older in the third-floor class-room. Sunday School is from 10:45am–11:45am.

**Restrooms:** The church restrooms are located on the first & second floors of the main building. Ushers can help direct you to the restrooms.

**For Hearing Assistance:** If you wish to use a wireless assistive listening device to better hear the service, see one of the ushers.

**Large Print Bulletins** are available from an usher.





## **Christmas Poinsettias 2023**

### **In Memory Of:**

|                                                               |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Steve Pilotti                                                 | by Sarah, Noah, & Shane Pilotti         |
| Robert Mucklow                                                | by Richard, Rebecca, &<br>Sarah Barkley |
| Jack Giebler                                                  | by Gary & Barbara Giebler               |
| Helen & Dick Schnaedter,<br>Marian & Don Meckstroth           | by Gail & Rick Schnaedter               |
| Our Family members celebrating<br>Christmas with us in spirit | by Randy & Sandy Schrack                |
| Abe & Pat Hostetter,<br>Andrew J. Hostetter                   | by Becky Sinapius                       |
| Karen & Larry                                                 | by Lucinda Parrish                      |
| My parents: Louise & Chet Hain                                | by Jewell Baker                         |
| Ann Miller                                                    | by Jen Johnson                          |
| Victor & Dorothy Johnson;<br>Paul & Marge Anguish             | by Jen Johnson                          |

### **In Honor Of:**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| David, Paul, & Jay Parrish | by Lucinda Parrish |
|----------------------------|--------------------|

### **In Appreciation For:**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Deborah Williams | by Lucinda Parrish |
|------------------|--------------------|



# FPC Phoenixville

Rev. Douglas Hagler, [Pastor145@comcast.net](mailto:Pastor145@comcast.net); 415-300-7912 (cell)

Diane Legnini, Director of Music

Sarah Shulman, Praise Team Leader

Maggie O'Malley, Office Manager & Communications Coordinator,

[Secretaryfpc145@gmail.com](mailto:Secretaryfpc145@gmail.com) & [FPCcommunications@comcast.net](mailto:FPCcommunications@comcast.net)

Jeff McLaughlin, Children & Youth Coordinator,

[fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com)

Church Treasurer: [fpctreasurer145@gmail.com](mailto:fpctreasurer145@gmail.com)

Church Telephone: 610-933-8816

Website: [FPC-Phoenixville.org](http://FPC-Phoenixville.org)

## **Elders on Session**

Ken Brown

Kevin Carrabine

Kathryn Grocki

Roger Warwick

Jewell Baker (Clerk)

George Cockerill

Jeff McLaughlin

Adam Smith

Karin Goodman

Cassy Gulden

Jill Kleppinger

Jeanie Osterhoudt

## **Deacons**

Jen Johnson

Gail Schnaedter

Ellen Williams

Kristin Craven

Gail Landazuri

Mona Sabia (Chairperson)

Paulette Mark

Lucinda Parrish

Lynne Williams

Bob Wittrock



# 113 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 ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - ri - a

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

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

GLORIA  
7.7.7.7 with refrain

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.  
 MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937  
 Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.  
 (admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

## The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

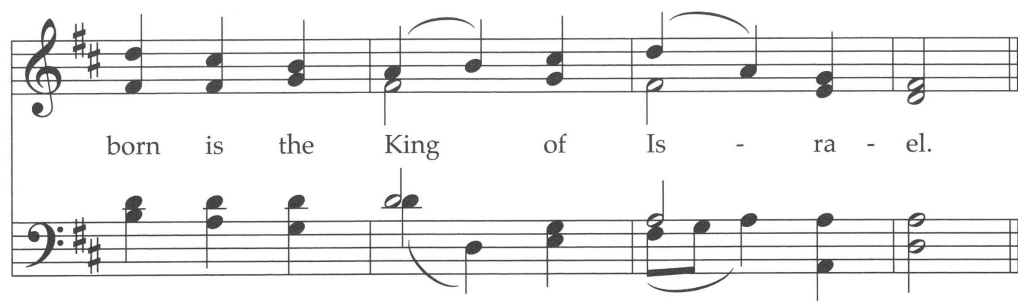
## Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

continued...

147

## The First Nowell

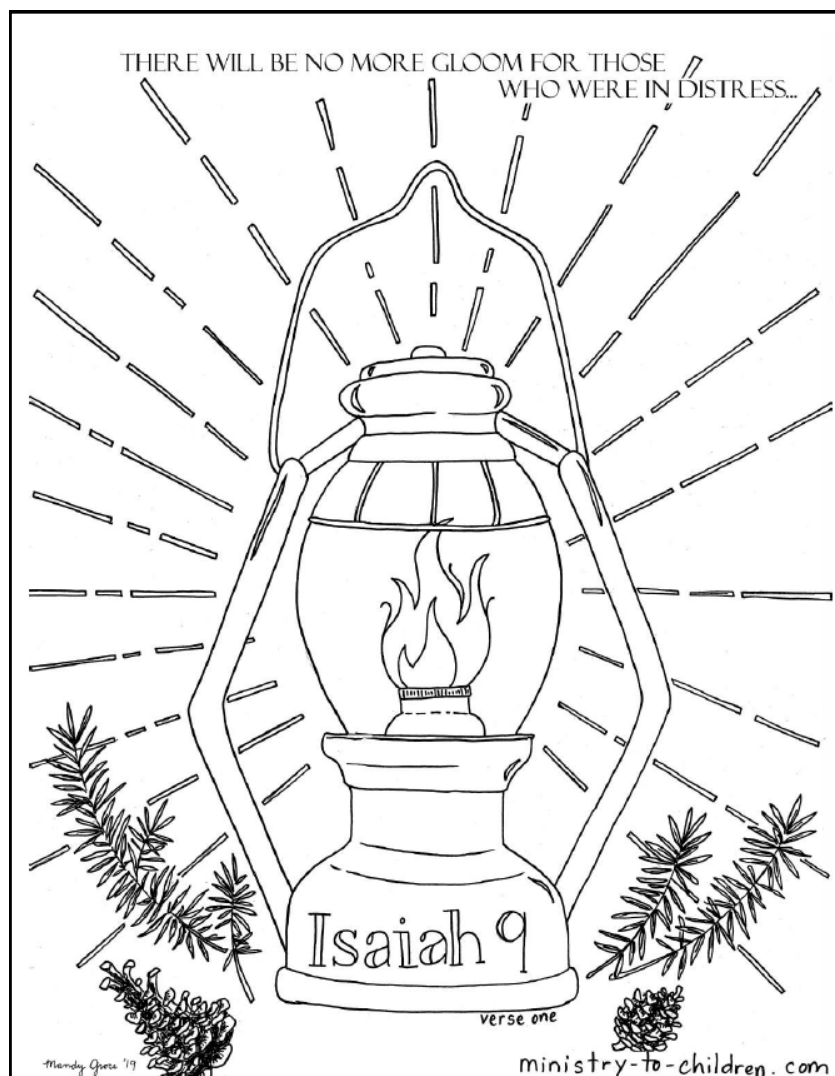


- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.  
 MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irregular



# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

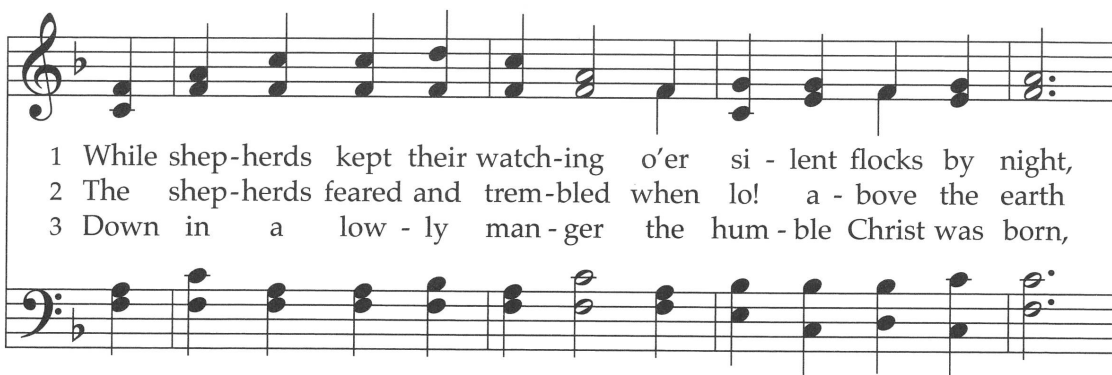


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

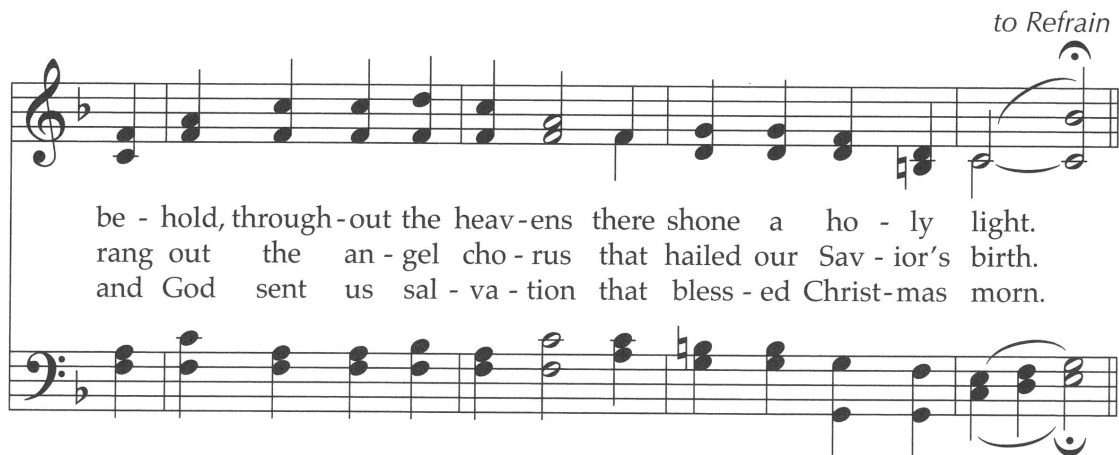


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Fine*



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*to Refrain*

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

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  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*  
*Alles schläft, einsam wacht*  
*nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.*  
*Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

## KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앉아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

## SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*  
*Todo duerme en derredor,*  
*entre los astros que esparcen su luz,*  
*bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;

stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.

MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT

Irregular