

CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Family Service – 4:30 P.M.
December 24, 2021

PRELUDE

“In dulci jubilo”
(Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)

Noel Rawsthorne

CALL TO WORSHIP – *Liam Smith*

He’s coming! He’s coming! The Savior of the World is coming!

Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!

He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

Praise be to God for God’s mighty gift to us.

O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

We are ready to receive you in our lives! AMEN.

****Please stand if you are able***

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Jocelyn Aqbadan:

We light the first Advent Candle: the candle of watching and waiting for we have searched and waited for our Savior to come to us.

Maggie Rossi:

We light the second Advent Candle: the candle of preparation as we have prepared our hearts to receive the Savior.

Shealyn O’Gara

We light the third Advent Candle: the candle of beholding and believing because we have seen the mighty power and love of God in our lives.

Sonny Rossi:

We light the fourth Advent Candle: the candle of rejoicing because we have been blessed with the good news of God’s love for all God’s people!

Pastor Ashley:

Now the time is near! The One who will save us, brings God’s light into our world. We light this Christ Candle in celebration of God’s most precious gift to us - our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION – *Pastor Ashley*

Lord, we are so excited. Christmas Eve is here. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. As we hear Mary say "Yes!" to God’s good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON – *Pastor Ashley*

God's love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas – a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you – to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, to make you whole.

LITANY OF BELIEF – *Sonny Rossi*

Please join me in the responsive reading of the litany of belief:

God promised to save God's world.

And the people believed.

God sent the prophets to remind them of the covenant of trust and love.

And the people believed.

In the fullness of time, God's promise became incarnate in the life of Mary.

Mary and Joseph believed.

Those who were the least and the lost received good news.

And they believed.

We are called to open our hearts, spirits, and minds to God's Good News

That, believing, we may be witnesses to God's great love. AMEN.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-38) – Liam Smith

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning!

You're beautiful with God's beauty,

Beautiful inside and out!

God be with you.

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

He will be great,

be called 'Son of the Highest.'

The Lord God will give him

the throne of his father David;

He will rule Jacob's house forever—

no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,

the power of the Highest hover over you;

Therefore, the child you bring to birth
will be called Holy, Son of God.

“And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.”

And Mary said,

Yes, I see it all now:
I’m the Lord’s maid, ready to serve.
Let it be with me
just as you say.

Then the angel left her.

*HYMN #16 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* GABRIEL’S MESSAGE

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7) – J.D. Rossi

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David’s town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

*HYMN #24 *Away in a Manger* CRADLE SONG

The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-14) – Sophia Keshishian

There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.”

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God’s praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

ANTHEM *“On Christmas Night”* arr. Colin Mawby
Junior Choir Traditional English

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;*

News of great joy news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

*Then why should people be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should people be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty.*

*When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels above with joy may sing All for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God we sing again; Now and forevermore, Amen.*

The Visitation of the Shepherds (Luke 2:15-20) – Venus Agbadan

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!

*HYMN #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

The Visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12) – Gabriella Keshishian

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land,
no longer bringing up the rear.
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the

prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

*HYMN #60

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Pastor Ashley

OFFERING INVITATION – *Shealyn O'Gara*

Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you have. Offer your gifts in wonder and surprise and awe. Offer your gifts in joy and delight.

OFFERTORY

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(Text: Hymn 38)
Evelyn Abraham, soloist

Richard Storrs Willis

*DOXOLOGY #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION – *Shealyn O'Gara*

There are so many things to be thankful for tonight, God. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe magic back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy. Amen.

*HYMN #40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

*BLESSING

CHIMES

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Dale Wood

Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor
Ashley B. Rossi, Associate Pastor
Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music
Lynne Schutt, Pianist for the Junior Choir
Gary Moll, Stefanie O'Gara, and Jay Raulinaitis, Live-Streaming Operators

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJlIDvsRw>

Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409> and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

For those Participating and Facilitating in Worship

By attending in-person worship at Carmel Presbyterian Church you acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and variants and voluntarily assume the risk that you and your family may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19. You also acknowledge that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and its variants may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of yourself and/or others, including, but not limited to, church employees, contractors, volunteers, members, and participants and their families. You agree to assume all the foregoing risks, waive liability against Carmel Presbyterian Church and church employees, contractors, volunteers, members, and participants and their families, and accept sole responsibility for any illness, injury, disability, or death to you or your family, including all claims that may arise resulting from any of these.

Carmel Presbyterian Church

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"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849. Public Domain. Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. Public Domain. Hymn tune name: Carol.

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow," Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709. Doxology. Public Domain. Music: from the Genevan Psalter, 1551. Public Domain. Hymn tune name: Old Hundredth.

"Joy to the World!" Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; altered. Public Domain. Music: Attributed to George F. Handel, 1742. Attributed to Lowell Mason, 1836. Public Domain.

"Angels We Have Heard on High", Setting by Dale Wood. From the collection "Christmas Pipings" by Dale Wood. Copyright 1997. The Sacred Music Press. Streamed under One License 735006-A.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
 *3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

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!

*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

Stanza 3, alternate arrangement*

Descant

Melody

3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Glo - ry

Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est! O

*Desc. and harm. David Willcocks, 1961

CHRISTMAS

O come, O come,

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

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains the lyrics "O come, O come, come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, O". The piano accompaniment is written on two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp. It features a steady rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Christ the Lord!

come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic accompaniment, ending with a double bar line. The key signature remains one sharp.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 16

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE 10.10.12.10

Basque carol

Para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Arr. by Edgar Pettman and John Wickham

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And

hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:

high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo ri - al

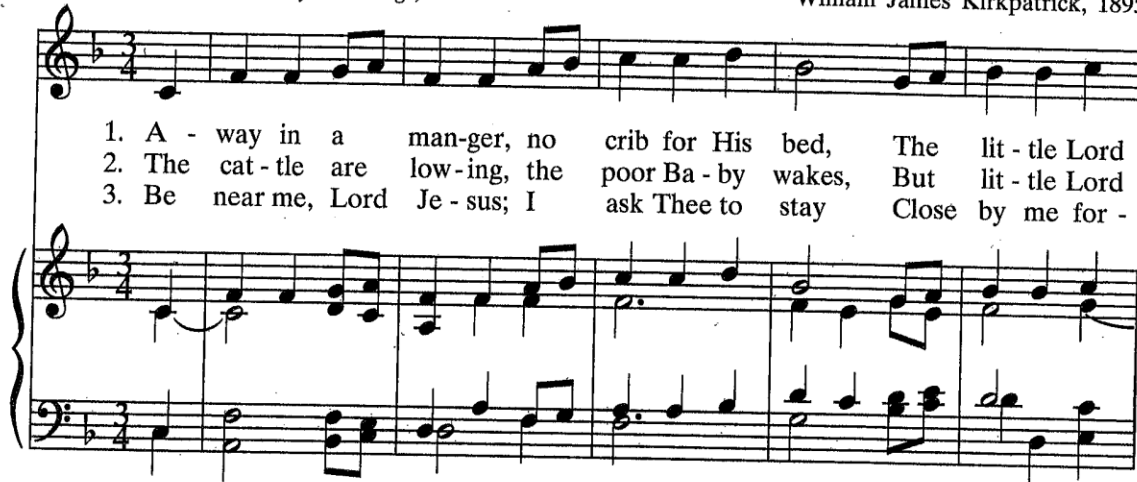
24

Away in a Manger

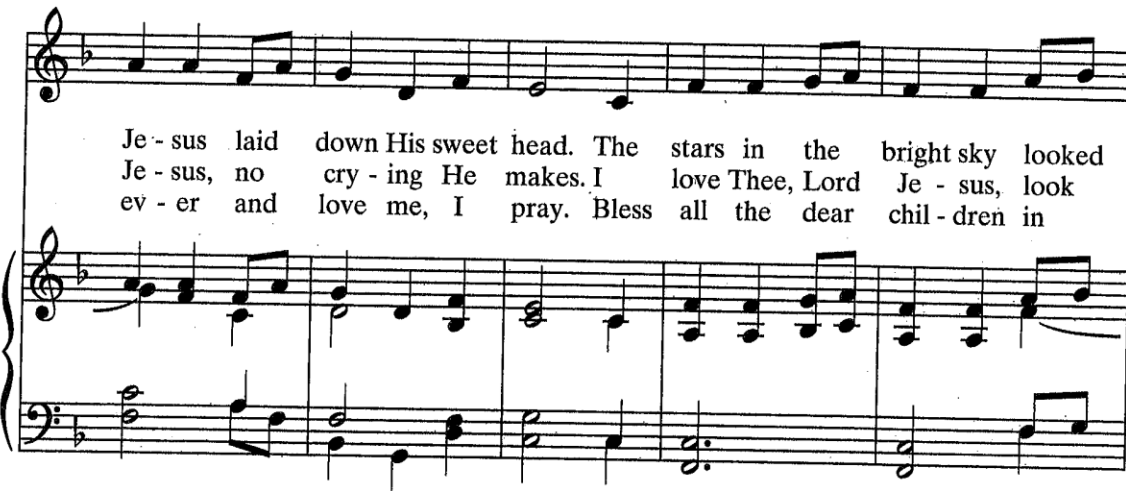
CRADLE SONG 11.11.11.11

Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book*
for Schools and Families, c. 1885Stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892

William James Kirkpatrick, 1895



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for His bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low-ing, the poor Ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn-ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav-en to live with Thee there.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29


GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

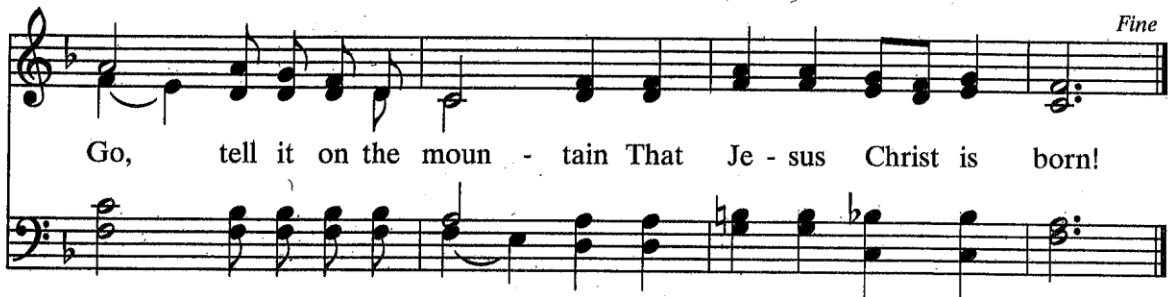
Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain

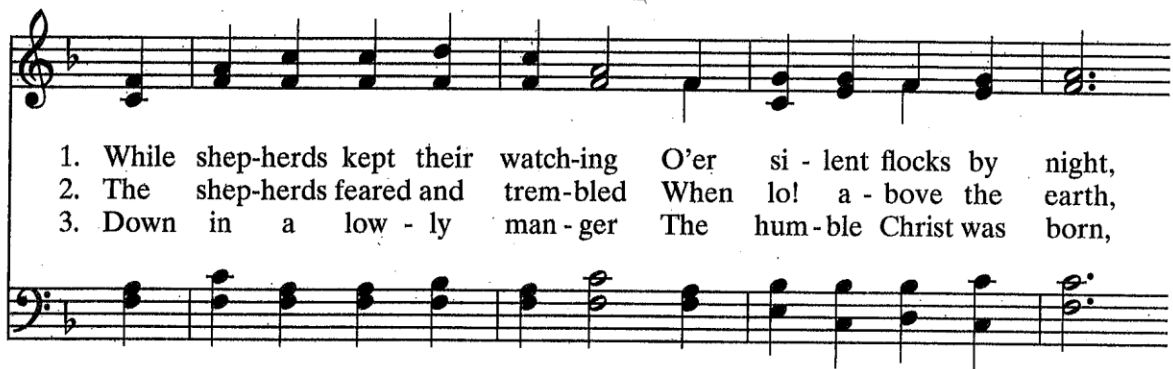


Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

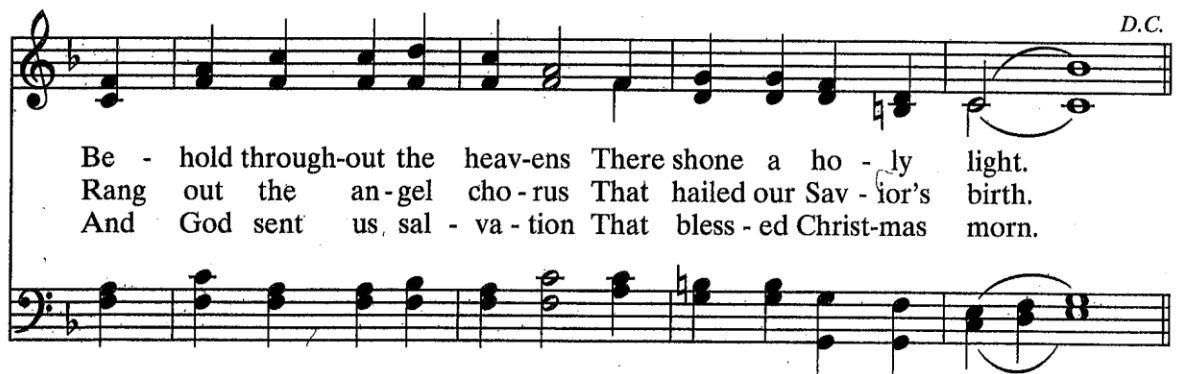


Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

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.

D.C.

Silent Night, Holy Night

60

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

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'!
2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Hirten erst kundgemacht
 Durch der Engel Alleluja,
 Tönt est laut von fern und nah:
 Christ der Retter ist da,
 Christ der Retter ist da!
3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
 Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
 Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':
 Christ, in deiner Geburt,
 Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven 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.

heaven and na - ture sing,