Church of the Nativity

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025 at 4 pm

Welcome to Church of the Nativity! We are so glad that you have come to join us in celebrating the birth of Christ. Everything you need to participate in tonight's service is in this bulletin. If you are a visitor, we would love for you to fill out a welcome card, which you can find in the pew rack in front of you; you can drop the completed card in the offering plate, or hand it to an usher on your way out. All are welcome to receive communion — it is Christ's table, and at Christ's table all are welcome. If you don't want to receive communion, you are welcome to still come forward and receive a blessing; you can indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

The Pre-service Music

In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 52 — Dietrich Buxtehude

Divinum Mysterium — Setting by Raymond Haan (Megan Douglas, Cello)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader We light this candle to remember God's promise of hope. This Advent, Paul reminded us that the day of the Lord is near, calling us to live with hope, integrity, and faith. Hope can mean something we wish for, like a dream or a desire. But it can also mean trusting with confidence in the certainty of God's promises.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Leader We light this candle to remember God's gift of peace. The prophet Isaiah reminded us of God's promise of a peaceful kingdom, where justice reigns, and all creation lives in harmony. Peace can mean the absence of conflict, but it also means being still in our hearts, resting in the assurance of God's presence.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Leader We light this candle to celebrate God's joy in our hearts. The psalmist reminded usthat our joy is found in trusting the Lord, who brings justice, compassion, and hope. Joy can mean happiness, a momentary delight. But it can also mean abiding contentment, rooted in the deep understanding of God's love and the dignity of every human being.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Leader We light this candle to share God's great love with the world. Matthew reminded us that Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us," born through God's saving love. Love can mean affection or a warm feeling, but it is also an active choice—selfless, enduring, and demonstrated in acts of kindness and grace.

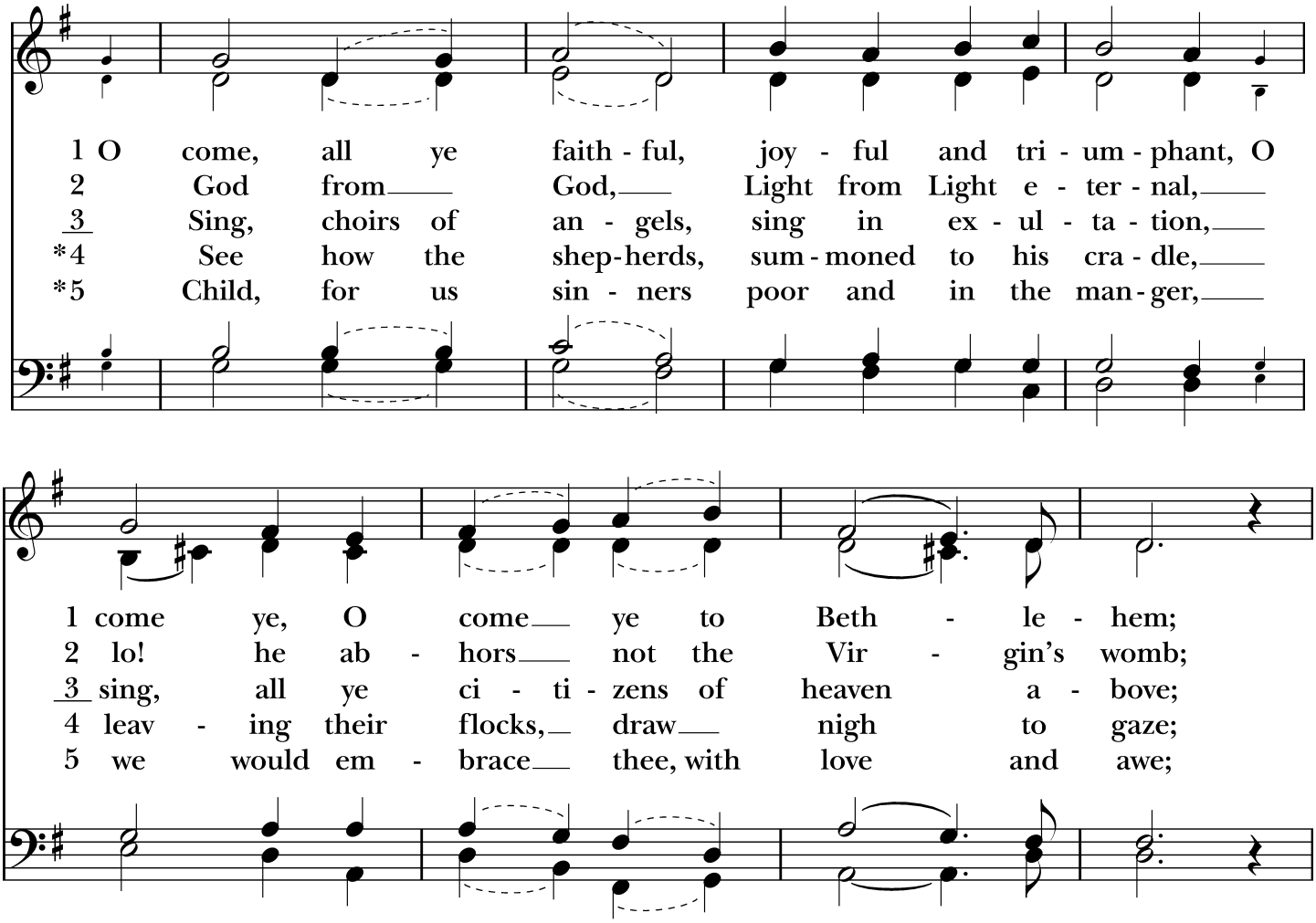
People **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Leader Tonight, we light the Christ Candle to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke tells us of angels proclaiming the good news: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." The light of Christ reminds us that Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and God's love into the world. This light is not just a guide in darkness but also a source of life.

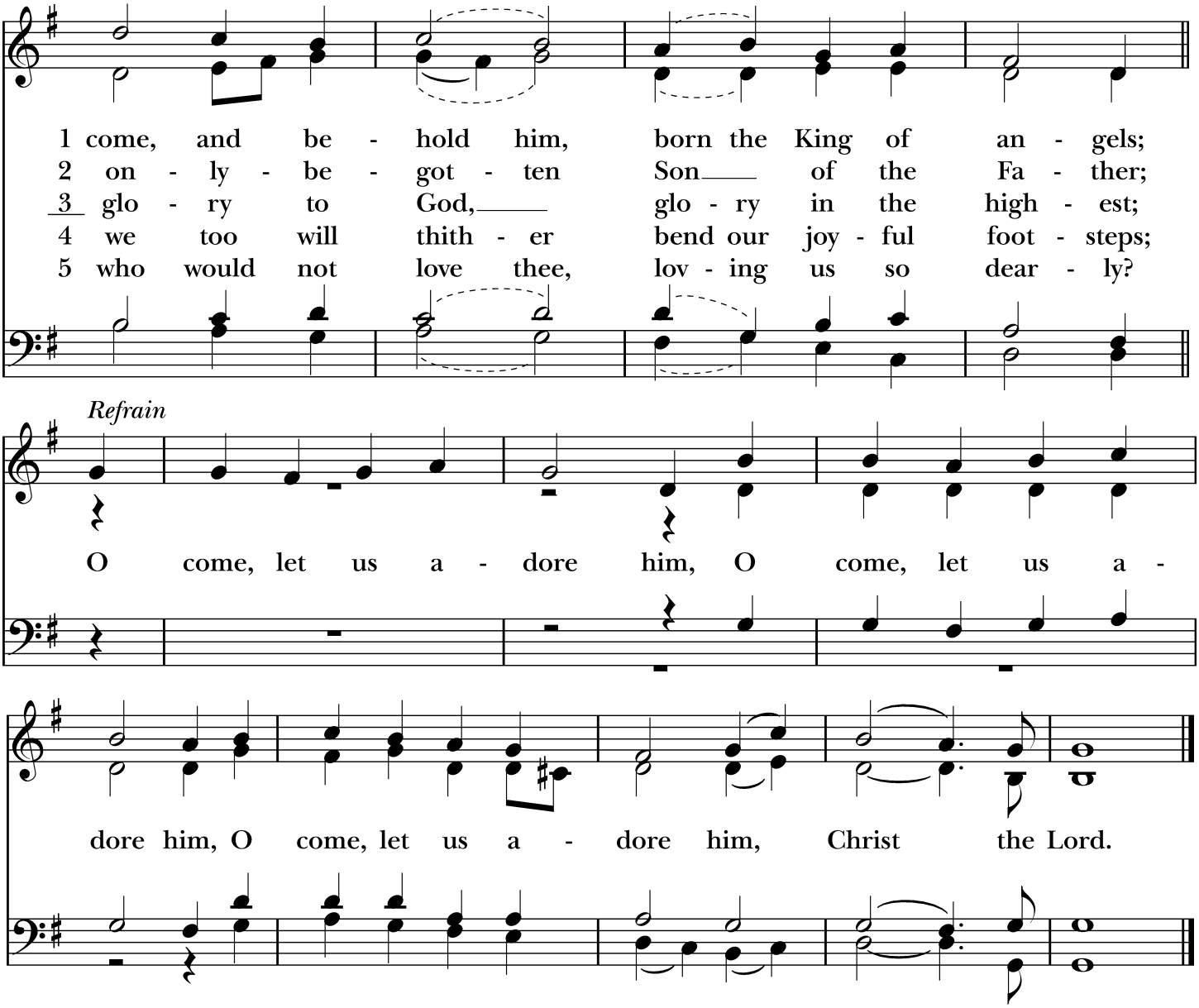
People **Come, Lord Jesus, and be our guest this night. Amen.**

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

83. O Come, All Ye Faithful (sung by all) *Adeste Fideles*



(See next page for music.)



The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation

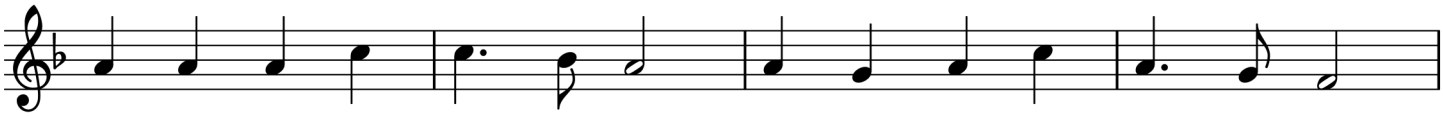
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

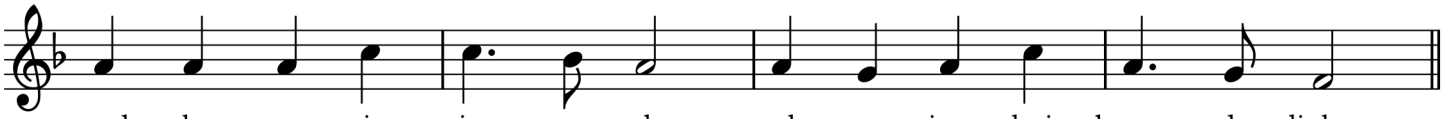
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Song of Praise:

96. Angels we have heard on high (sung by all) *Gloria*

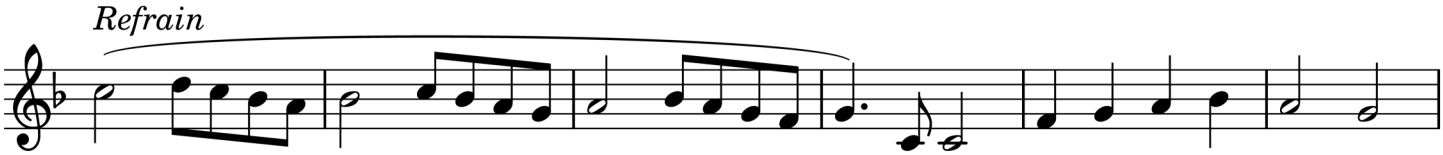


1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing through the night,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



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

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The First Lesson — Isaiah 9:2–7

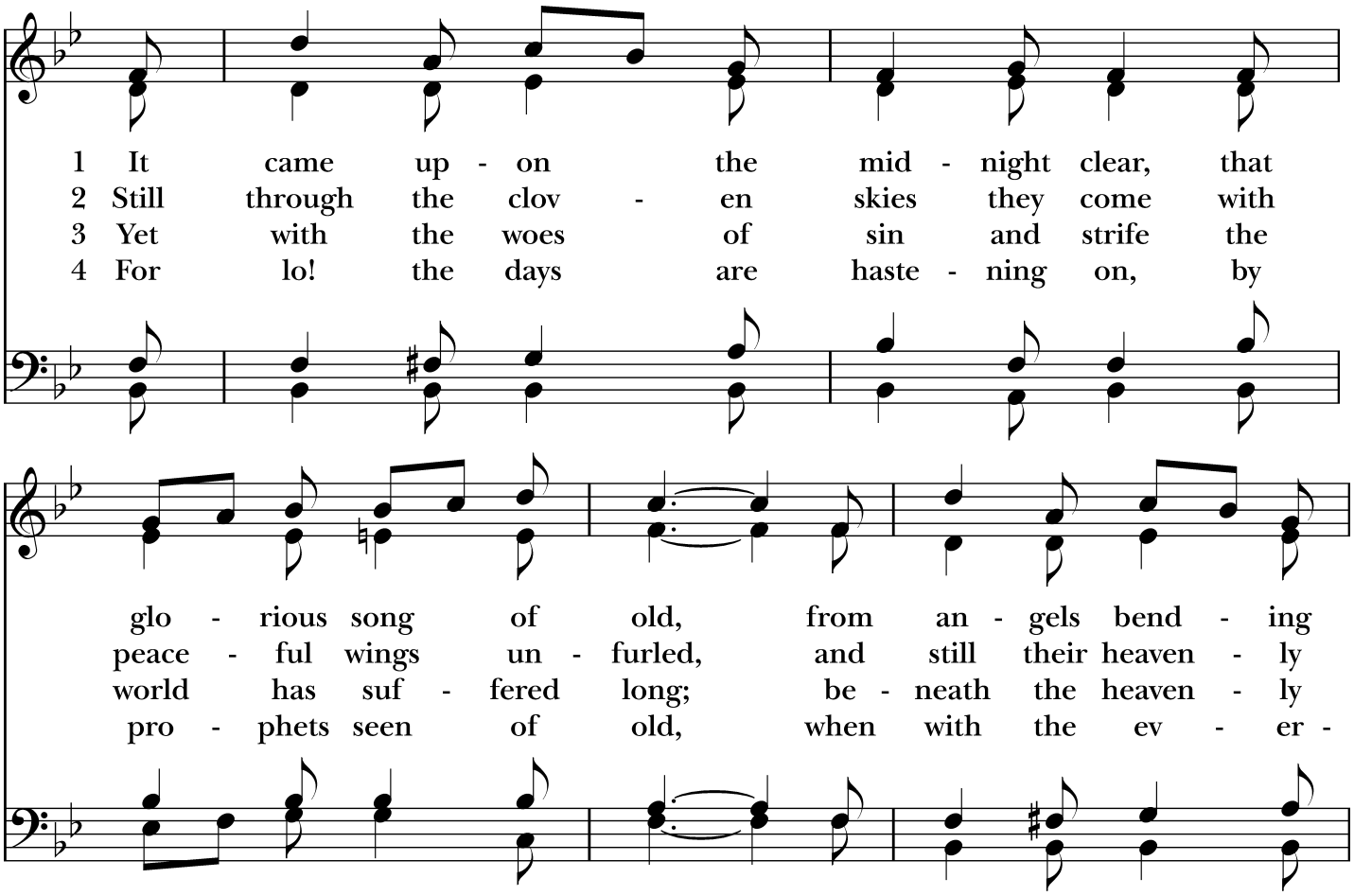
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual:

89. It came upon the midnight clear (sung by all) *Carol*



(See next page for music.)

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
back the song which now the an - gels sing.

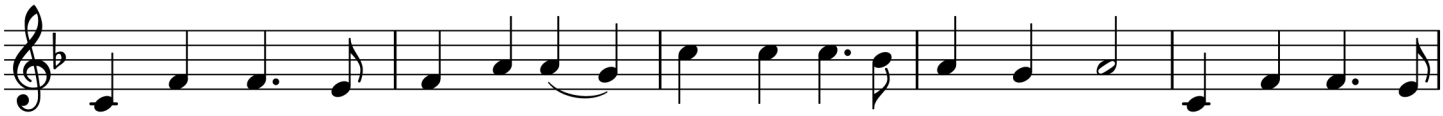
The Second Lesson — Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

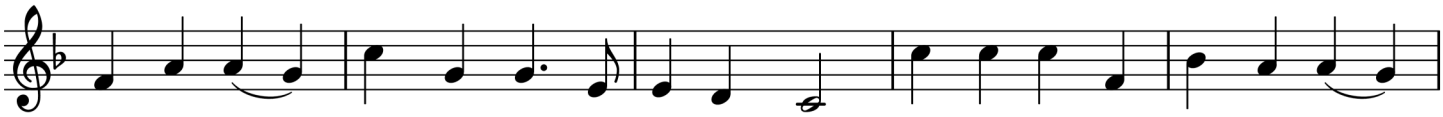
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn:

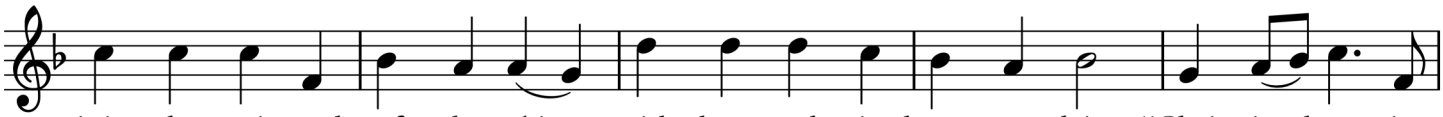
87. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (sung by all) — *Mendelssohn*



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King! Peace on earth and
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord; late in time be-
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! Light and life to

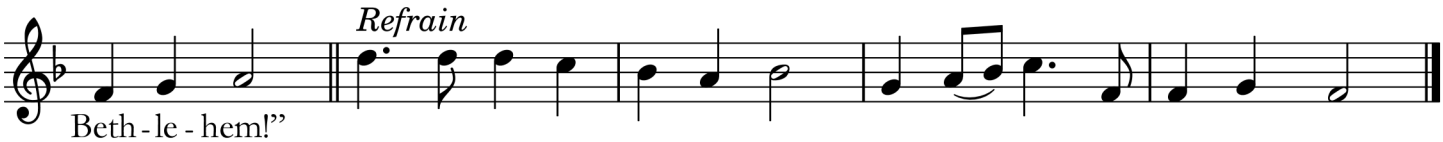


mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir-gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings, Mild he lays his glo - ry by,



join the tri-umph of the skies; with the an-gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in
hail the in car-nate De - i - ty. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em-
born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us

Refrain



Beth - le - hem!"
man - u - el! Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"
sec - ond birth.

The Holy Gospel — Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Grey Maggiano

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 Prayers of the People

As we continue along the path of the Savior's birth, we gather in Bethlehem to celebrate Christ's arrival. We lift up our prayers for peace and goodwill, saying, Incarnate God, hear our prayer.

May the universal church, especially the members of this congregation, be like the Angels heralding the birth of Christ, and proclaim the inclusive love and exuberant grace of God to the world. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit be like Elizabeth and find healing and joy infusing their bodies and souls in unexpected ways. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks, ready to leap into action, as we offer our care and compassion for a hurting and worried world. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Zachariah and allow God's hand to cover our mouths when it is best that we not speak, and instead listen and pray. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Joseph and dream of a just and equitable creation, a dream that sees the presence of the incarnate God in all things, and in our dreams, invites us to be a part of the new creation. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Mary, trusting in God's providence, leading by word and example, lifting up the lowly, filling the hungry with good things, and toppling towers of injustice. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we, like the wise men, seek light, follow the star and not be afraid of where the Holy Spirit is calling us in the year ahead. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

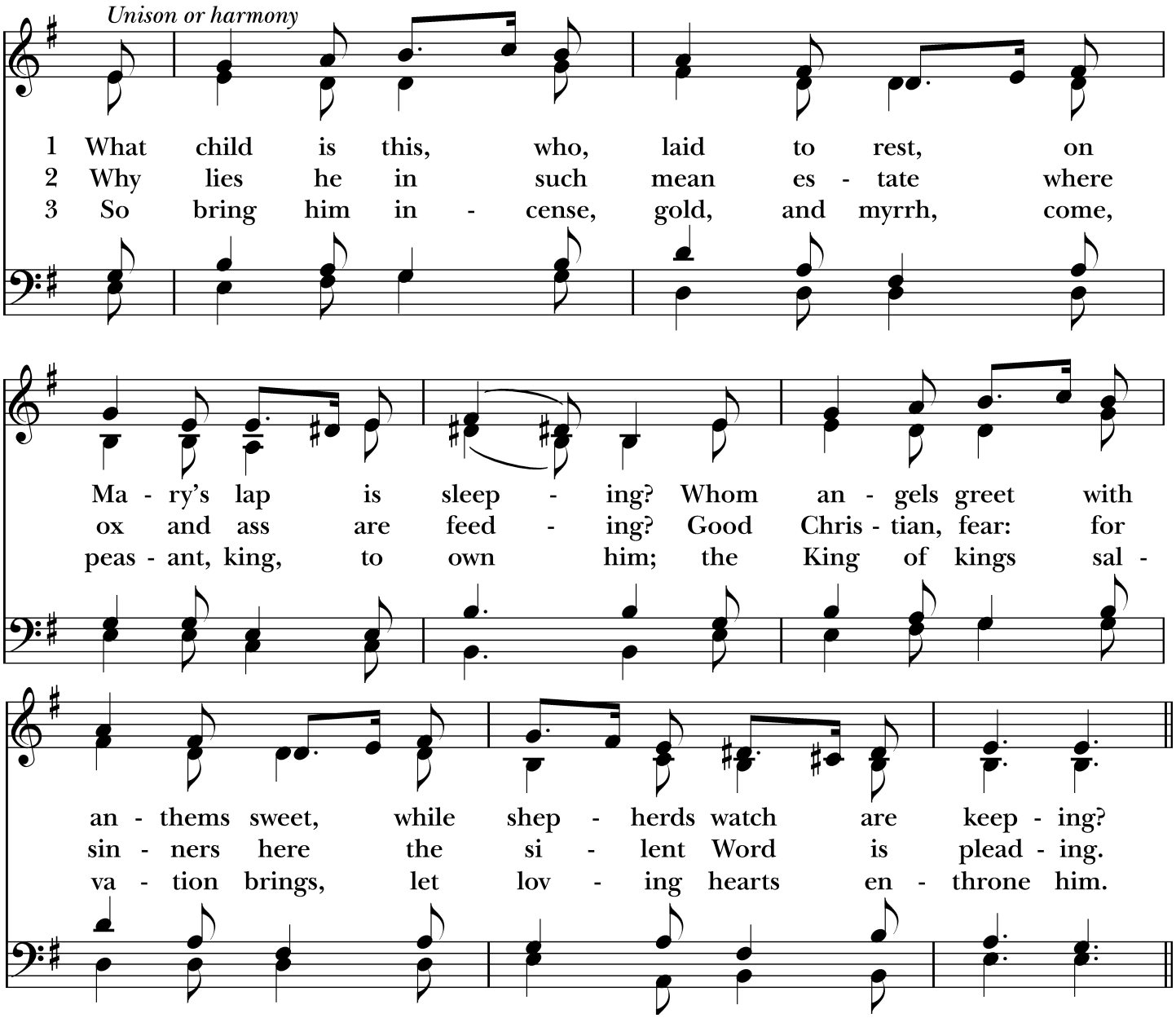
The Offertory Anthem:

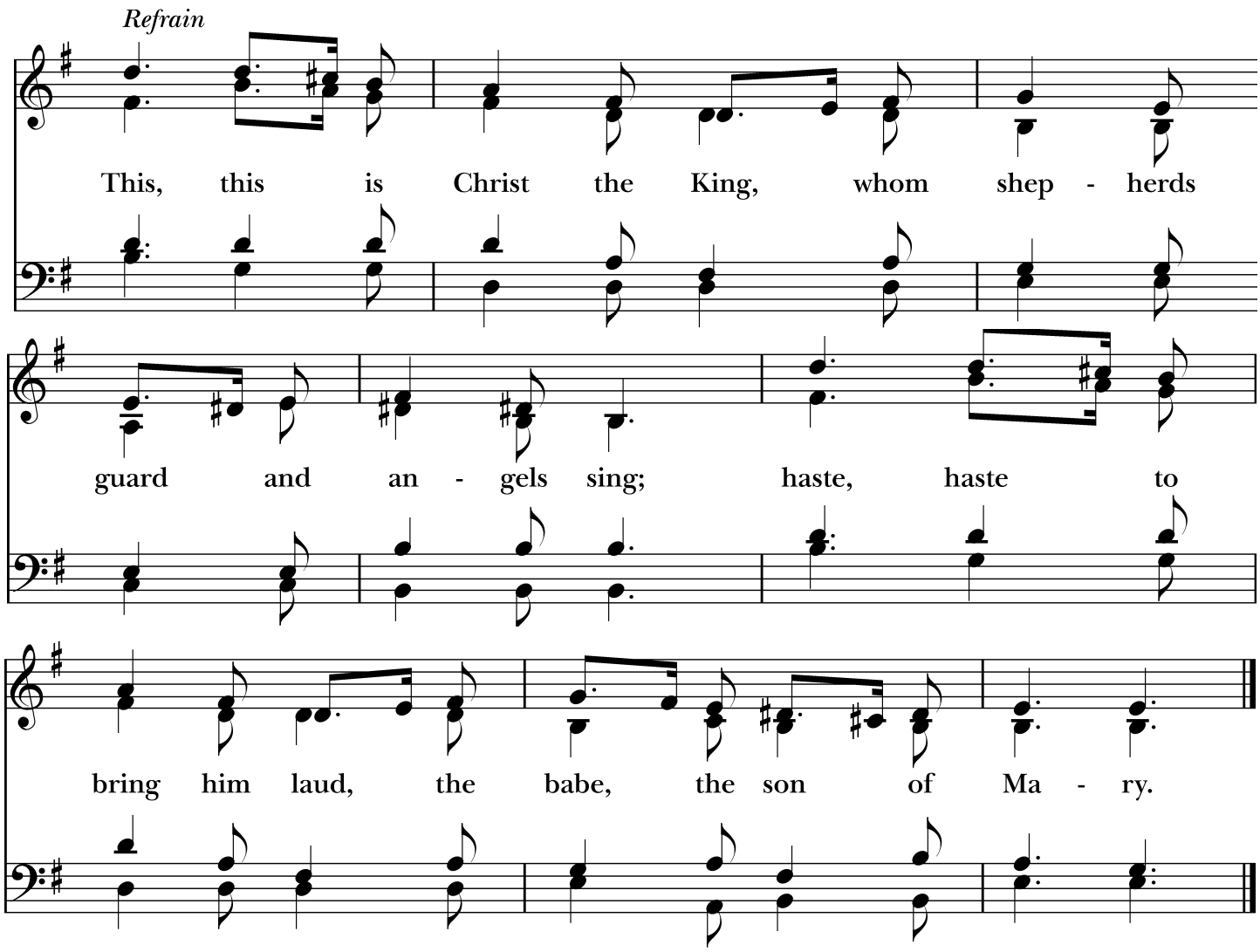
I Wonder as I Wander — John Jacob Niles
Julia Cavalier: Soloist
Megan Douglas: Cello

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn; it shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?" Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel. The gift in the manger is given for all, the strong and heroic, the lost and the small. Christ bids to our stone hearts, "comes soften and give," and offers his own heart, as others may live. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how the light of the heavens is born in this child. The universe dances with glory and grace and I gaze in the manger, and see love's face. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel. I wonder as I wander out under the sky, I wonder out under the sky. I wonder under the sky.

The Hymn at the Presentation of the Gifts

115. What Child is this, who, laid to rest (sung by all) *Greensleeves*





The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

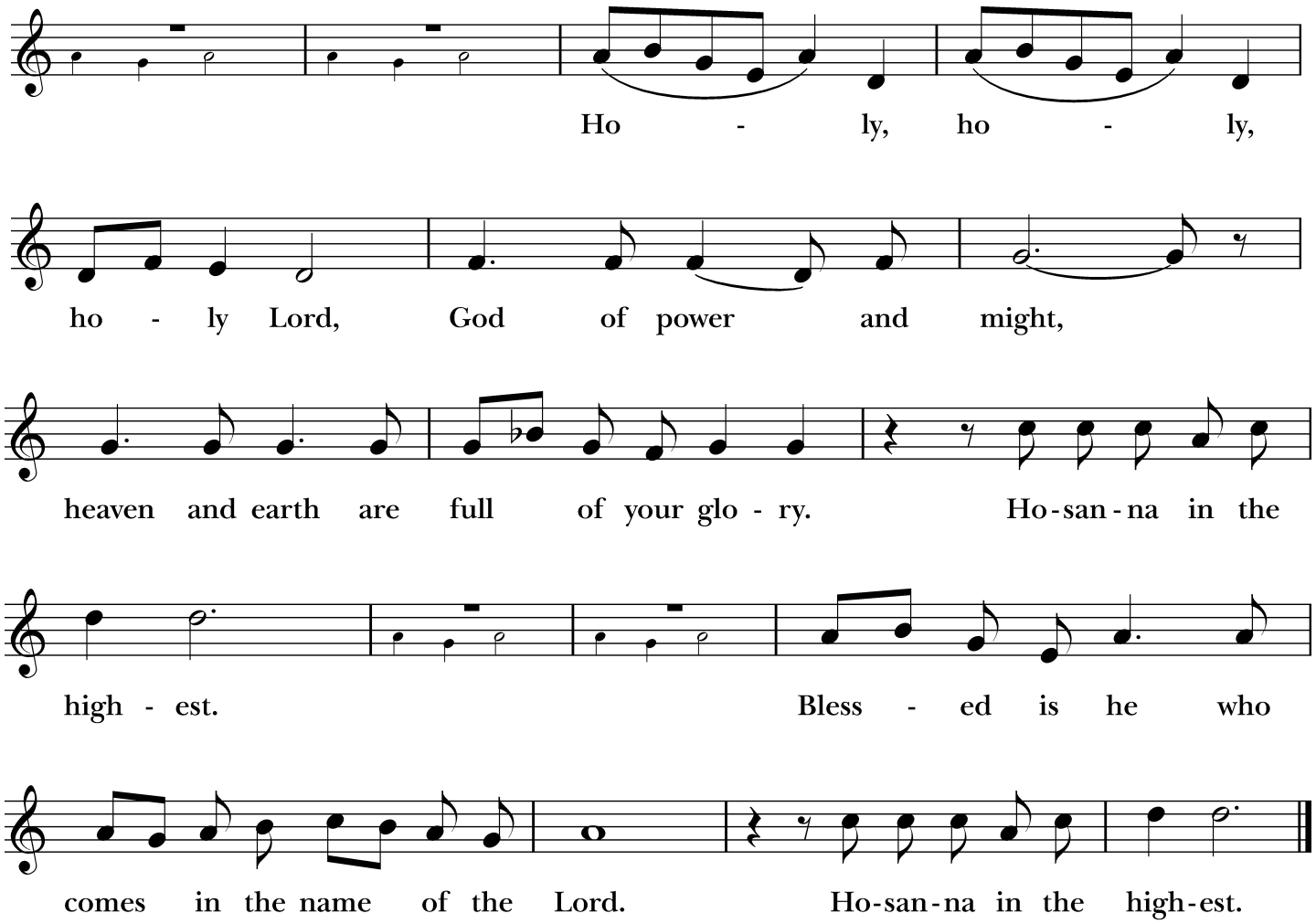
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S128. Holy, holy, holy — Mathias



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

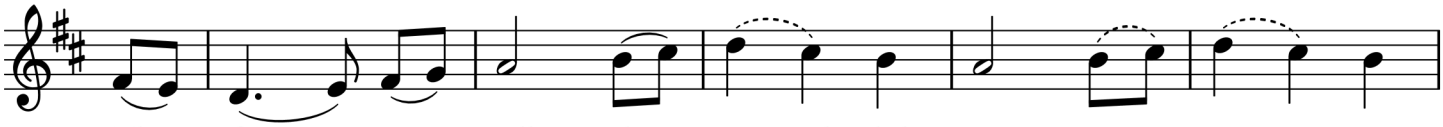
The Lord's Prayer: Traditional Language

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

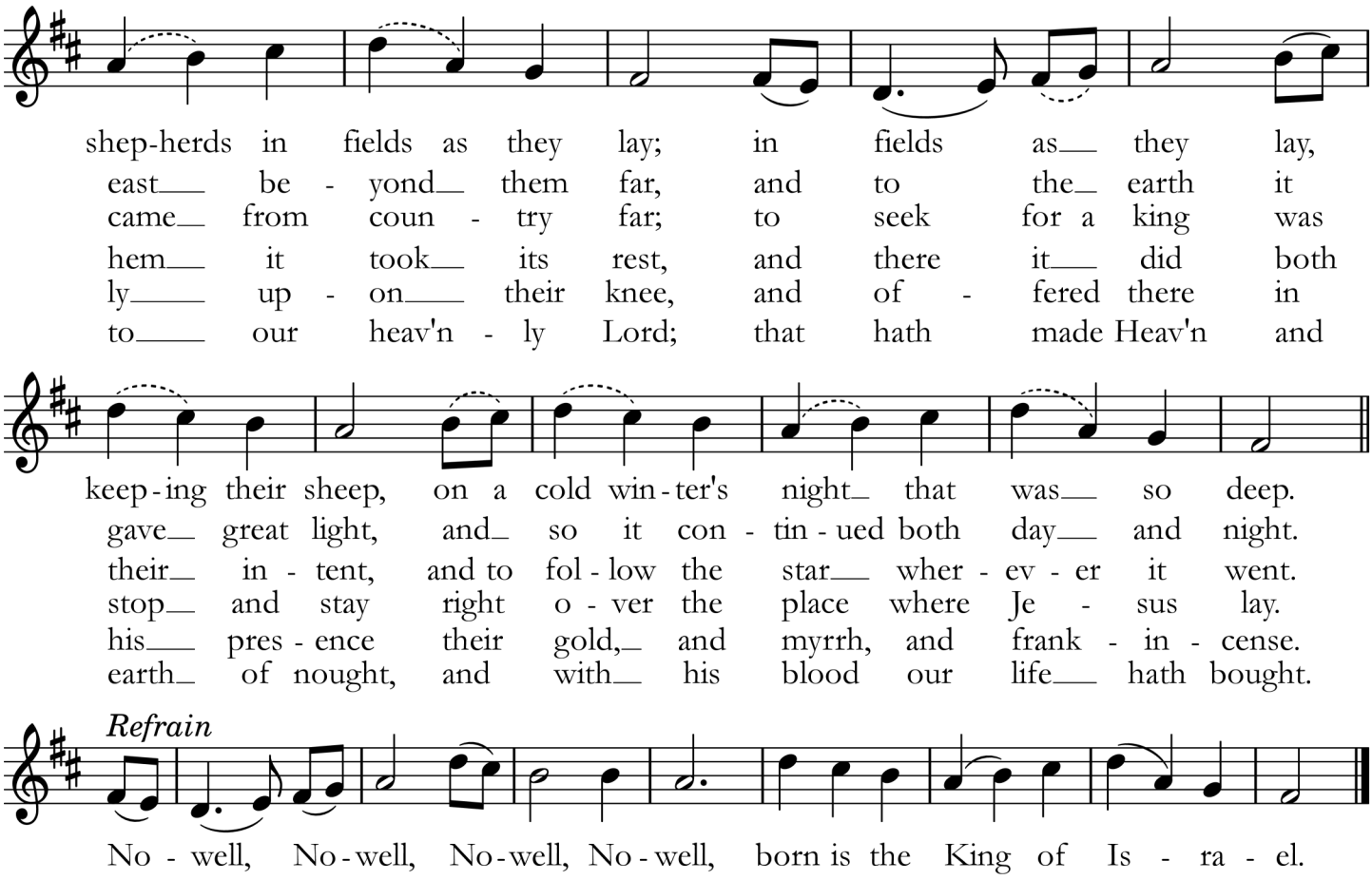
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Music During Communion

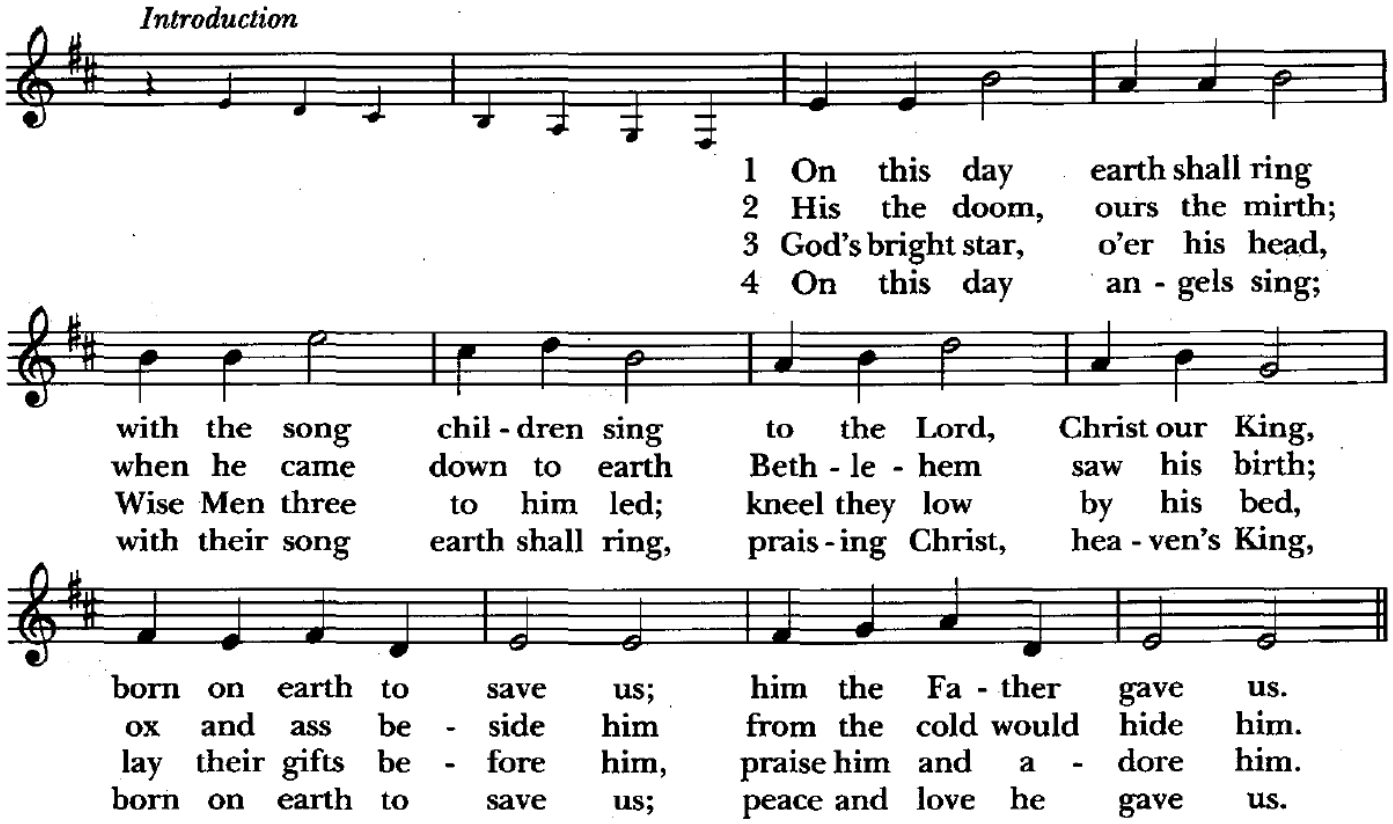
109. The first Nowell the angel did say *The First Nowell*

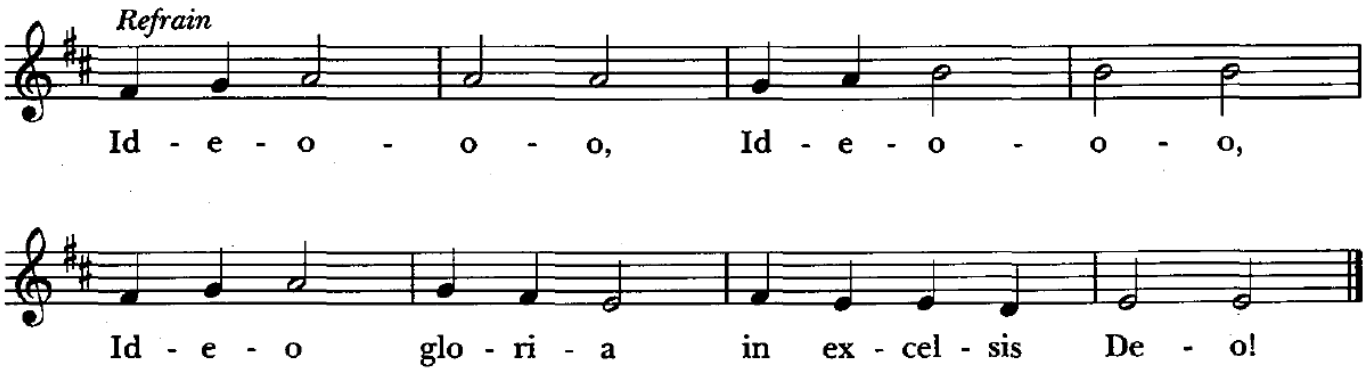


1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
2. They look - èd up and saw___ a star shin-ing in___ the
3. And by the light of that___ same star three_ wise___ men
4. This star drew nigh to the___ north - west, o'er_ Beth__ - le -
5. Then en - tered in those wise___ men three full__ rev - erent -
6. Then let us all with one___ ac - cord sing_ prais - es



92. On this day the earth shall ring (sung by all) *Personent Hodie*



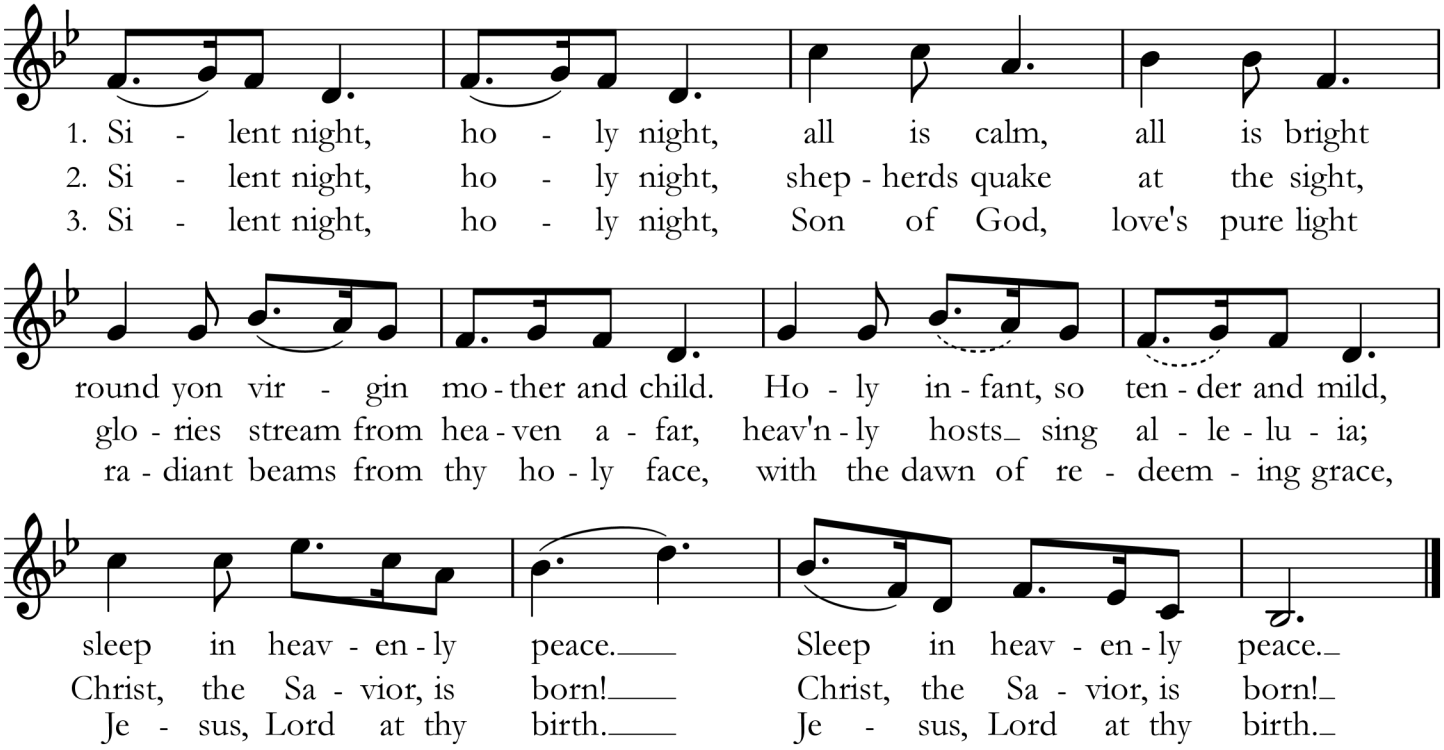


The Lighting of the Nativity Candles

The altar party will light their candles from the Christ Candle. Two light-bearers will bring the light down the center aisle; the persons sitting on the center aisle will pass the light down their row as we sing Silent Night.

The Post-Communion Hymn:

Silent Night (sung by all) *Stille Nacht*



The Post-Communion Prayer

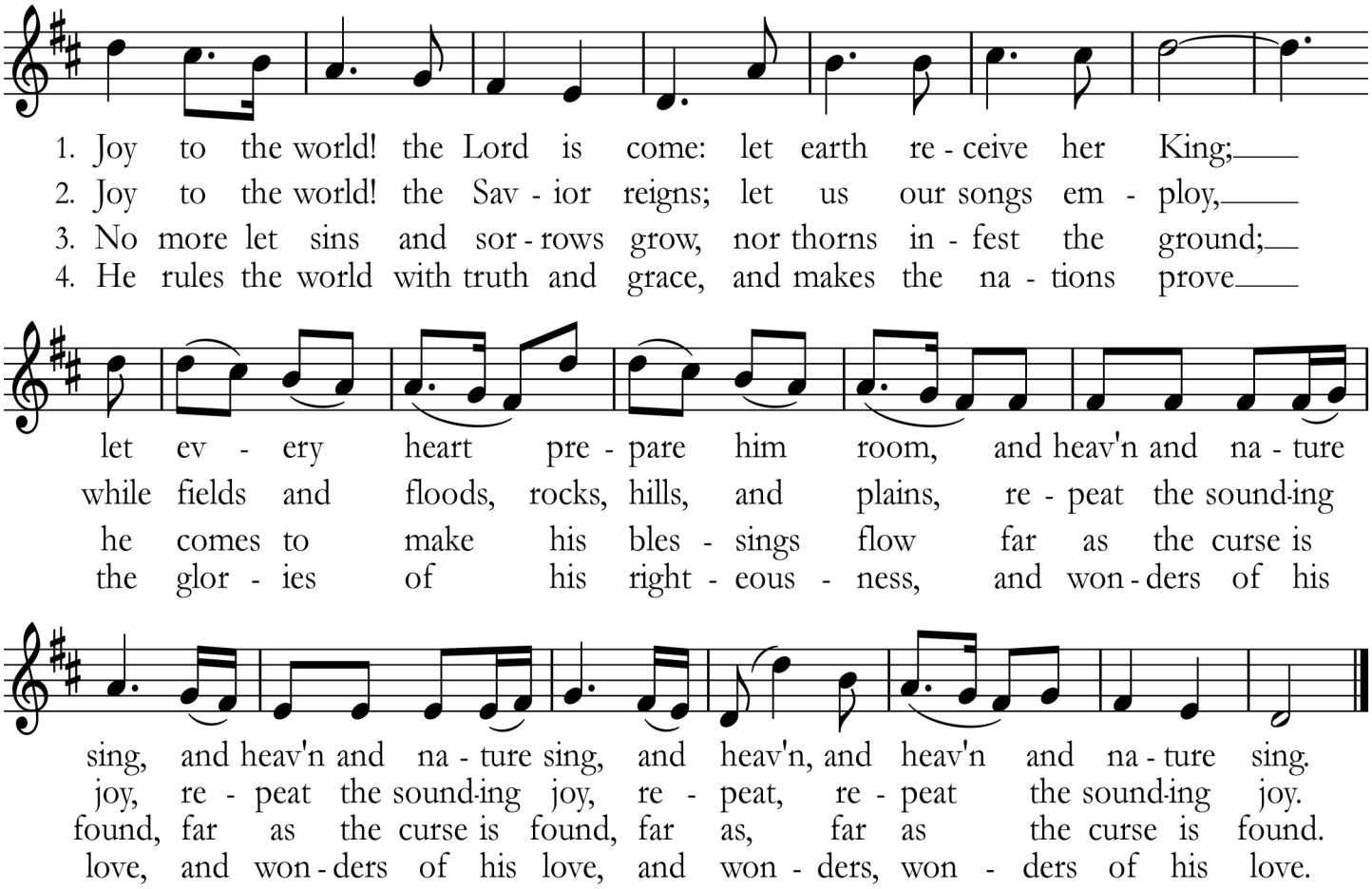
Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Processional Hymn:

Joy to the world (sung by all) *Antioch*



The Dismissal

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, and the People respond:

Thanks be to God. Alleluja.

The Voluntary:

La Réjouissance & Joy to the World — George Frederich Handel

Quick Links

Scan this QR code for online donations, current signups, quick info, and more.

We thank the following for their participation in this evening's service:

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Grey Maggiano
Assisting Priest	The Rev. Dr. Jim Melnyk
Lectors	Emily Jividen, Scott Beaver
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Kate Krouse, Davis Dutton
Organist and Choirmaster	Christian Schoen
Vocal Soloist	Julia Cavalier
Cello	Megan Douglas
Crucifer	Jeremy Clos
Torches	Arjun Pant, Vance Dutton
Altar Guild	The Nativity Altar Guild
Flowers	The Nativity Flower Guild
Vestry Representative	Dave McKinnon

Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Grey Maggiano	Rector
The Rev. George Black	Curate
The Rev. Ryan Parker	Priest Associate
Jeremy Clos	Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Christian Schoen	Organist and Choirmaster
Josh Anderson	Lay Associate for Communications and Administration
Kate Mohan	Diaconate Discernment Intern
Monique Holmes	Business Manager
Eva Warren	Nursery Attendant
Robert Krahel	Sexton