



Celebration of Worship

December 24, 2024

11:00 PM Service

Celebration of Worship

December 24, 2024

11:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Prelude

Portraits of Bethlehem

Robert Lau

1. Cradle Song (Luke 2:7)
2. Shepherd's Dance (Luke 2:20)
3. Alleluias (Luke 2: 13-14)

Christopher Shaw, organ

Call to Worship

Dr. Robu

*Processional Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

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*Responsive Reading

Dr. Robu

One: Let us come together to behold!

All: Into the heart of struggle, a new hope is born.

One: This miracle of love is threatened by state violence.

All: Turned away by the arrogant.

One: Made vulnerable to hunger and despair.

All: Let all the earth be a shelter.

One: Let solidarity be our praise.

**All: Blessed are those who perceive, who protect,
who nurture Christ among us.**

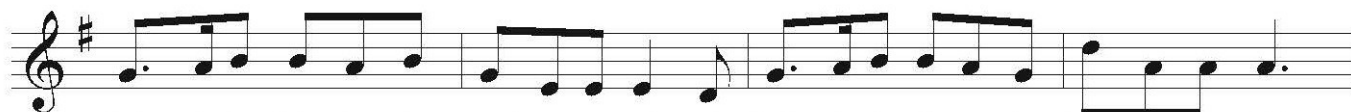
Adapted from Enfleshed.com

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Emily Son and Alexis Raya

*Light the Candle

Christ is the Candle



Christ is the light that the proph-ets a-wait-ed, Christ is the li-on, the lamb, and the child.



Christ is the love and the mys-tery and laugh-ter cand-les, make way! Christ is the day.

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Prayer

Dr. Robu

Prayer Response

Invitation of Offering

Offertory

Night Song

Craig Phillips

Peter Buller, oboe; Christopher Shaw, organ

Invitation to Offering

FIRST LESSON Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Robu

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose
Jennifer King, solo

Craig Hella Johnson

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Reynolds

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.

Anthem

Away in a Manger
Joel Boettger, flute and Peter Buller, oboe

Molly Ijames

THIRD LESSON Luke 2: 8-14

Dr. Robu

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!'

Carol*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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FOURTH LESSON Luke 2: 15-19

Rev. Reynolds

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.

CarolGo Tell it on the Mountain*

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FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

Dr. Robu

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol

What Child Is This / Helpless and Hungry

Page 8 & 9

SIXTH LESSON John 1:1-5, 9-14

Rev. Reynolds

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Anthem

Deep Peace

Elaine Hagenberg

Christmas Blessing

Dr. Robu

***Closing Carol/Candle Lighting** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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***Benediction**

Please exit in silence following the benediction

***Please rise in body or in spirit**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

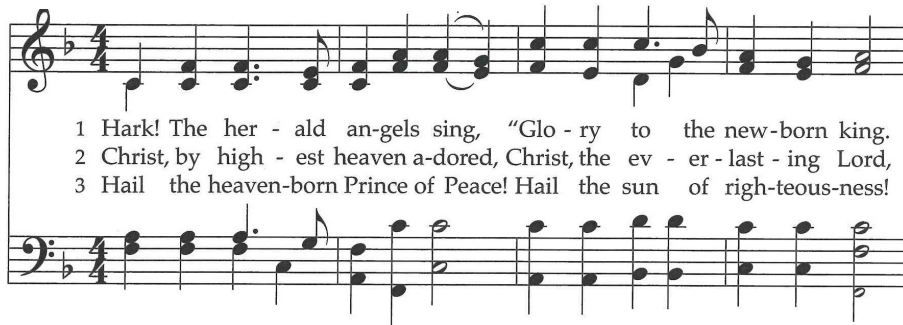
Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

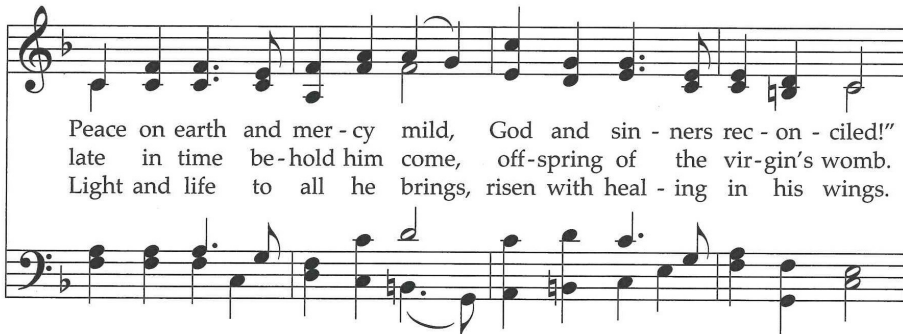
us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Words: John Francis Wade, 1743, trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, public domain: Music: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, 1743, public domain.

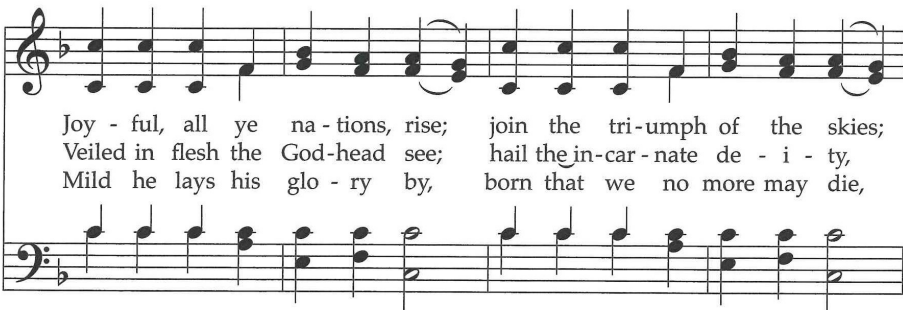
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



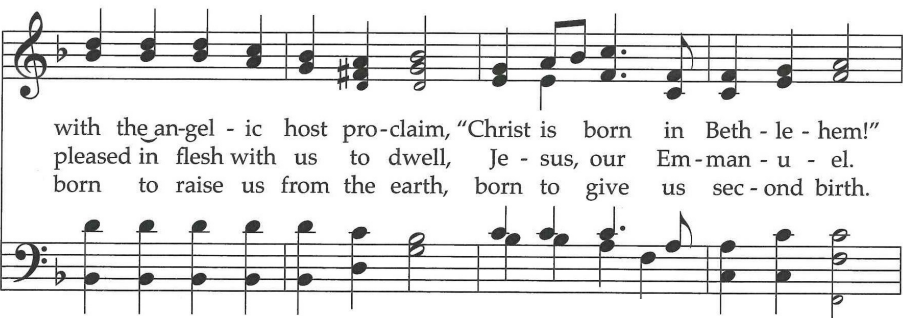
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen 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 the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, public domain: Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856, public domain.

Helpless and Hungry

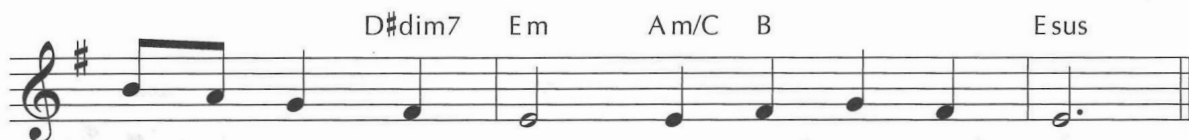
“Helpless and Hungry,” verse 1, followed by “What Child Is This,” verse 1;
 “Helpless and Hungry,” verse 2, followed by “What Child Is This,” verse 2;
 Both sung simultaneously on verse 3,
 Northside sing “Helpless and Hungry” Southside sing “What Child Is This”



1 Help - less and hun - gry, low - ly, a - fraid, wrapped in the
 2 Who is the strang - er here in our midst, look - ing for
 3 Bring all the thirst - y, all who seek peace; bring those with



chill of mid - win - ter; comes now a - mong us, born in - to
 shel - ter a - mong us? Who is the out - cast? Who do we
 noth - ing to of - fer. Strength - en the fee - ble, say to the



pov - er - ty's em - brace, new life for the world.
 see a - mid the poor, the chil - dren of God?
 fright - ened heart: "Fear not: here is your God!"



Who is this who lives with the low - ly, shar - ing their sor - rows,



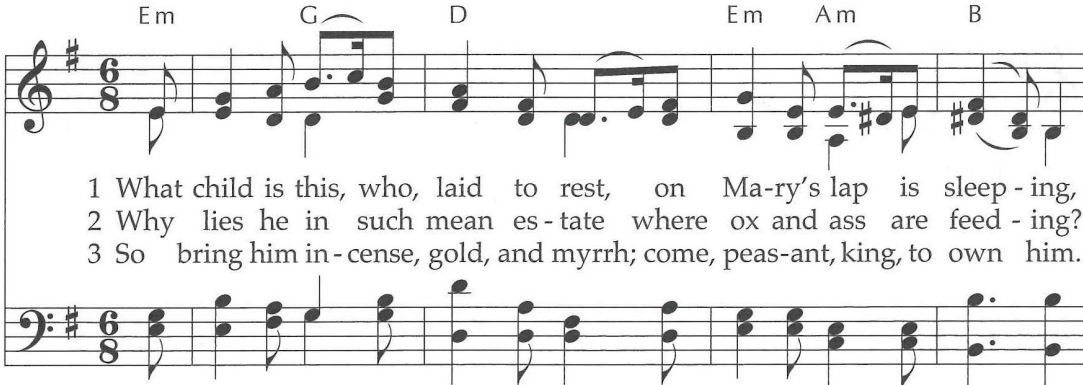
know - ing their hun - ger? This is Christ, re - vealed to the world in the



eyes of a child, a child of the poor.

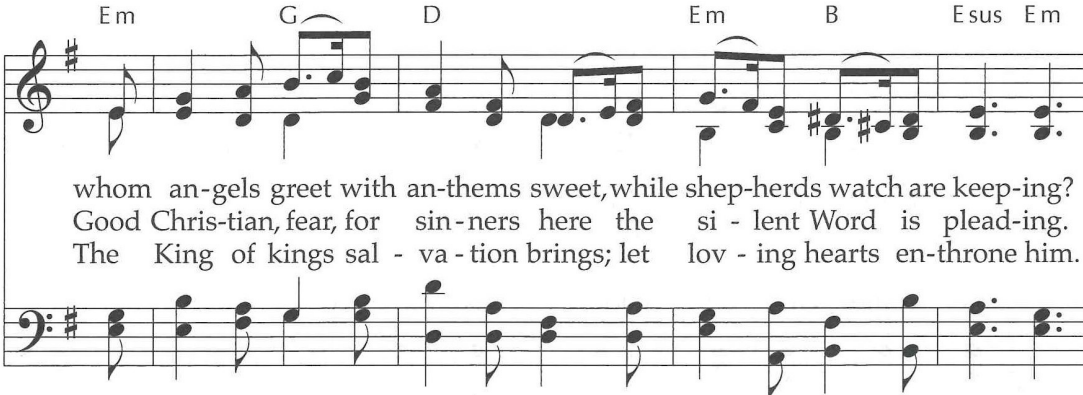
What Child Is This (sung in unison)

Em G D Em Am B



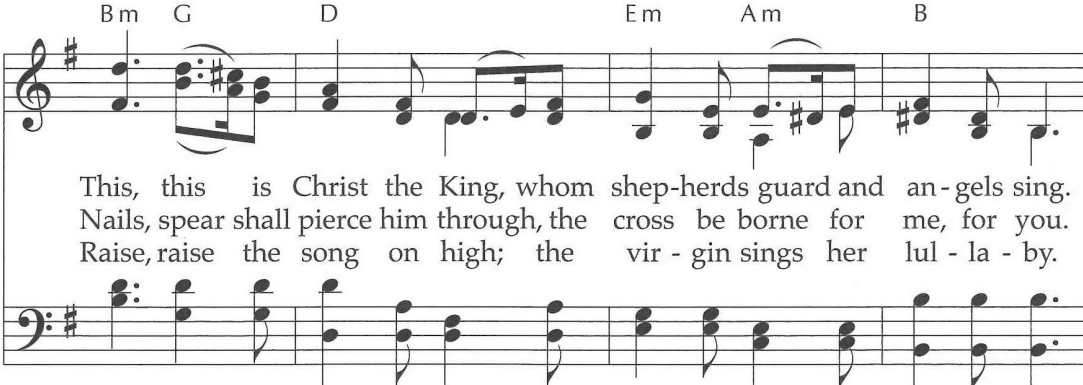
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing,
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Esus Em




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.

Bm G D Em Am B



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.

Bm G D Em B Esus Em



Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma-ry!
Hail, hail the Word-made-flesh, the babe, the son of Ma-ry!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma-ry!

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN 7.6.7.6 with refrain

Swing: $\text{♪♪} = \text{♪}^3$

Refrain

G Em D7 G

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

Em G/D D7 G

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

D7 G

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,

A D7 To refrain

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.

Words: John W. Work, public domain; Music: GO TELL IT, African-American spiritual, public domain.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

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.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, public domain; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1818, public domain.

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.

Some say love, it is a river
that drowns the tender reed;
Some say love, it is a razor
that leaves your soul to bleed;

It came, a Flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Some say love, it is a hunger,
an endless aching need;
I say love, it is a flower,
and you, its only seed.

It's the heart afraid of breaking
that never learns to dance;
It's the dream afraid of waking
that never takes the chance;

It's the one who won't be taken
who cannot seem to give;
And the soul afraid of dying
that never learns to live.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.

When the night has been too lonely
and the road has been too long;
And you think that love is only for the
lucky and the strong;
Just remember in the winter far
beneath the bitter snow;
Lies the seed that with the sun's
love, in the spring becomes the rose.

True Man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

Deep Peace

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on
you.
Deep peace of Christ,
the light of the world to you.

(A Gaelic Blessing)

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Senior Minister
Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music
Christopher Shaw, Organist
Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher
Robert Safley, Youth Group Leader
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us heaven to live with Thee there. Amen.

Cover image: Pastel and charcoal drawing
by Wichita artist, Wade Hampton