

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
December 24th, 2024

Prelude *“Swiss Noël, with Variations”* by Louis Claude Daquin **Larry Deming**

Welcome

Rev. Abby Gackenheimer

Call to Worship *Adapted from Luke 2:1-14*

In those days,
in the beginning,
Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
He was to be registered,
and she was expecting a child.
The time came for Mary to give birth,
so, she delivered her child,
wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger.

And the angels sang,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors.”

Let us worship our with-us God.

Let us sing songs of praise!

***Carol**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Pilgrim Hymnal #132

Lighting of the Advent and Christmas Candles **The Gackenheimer Family**

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Abby Gackenheimer

Loving God, we have heard this story before— the story of a star in the sky and a baby who was laid in a manger. We have heard this story before— passed down in hopeful whispers through the generations. So, this night, as we lean our hearts and our ears closer to you, we ask that you would make room in our souls to hear this story again. Make room in us for awe. Make room in us for wonder. Make room for heartache and compassion. Make room in our hearts for you. Pull us into the narrative, that we might hear the truths in this ancient Word as if it were the first time. For we know that you are still speaking. So, speak to us again this night. We are listening. We are already making room. Amen.

Christmas Affirmation

We believe that on a night like this one,
a baby was born and placed in a manger.

**We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,
 who grew up to love the outcast and change the world.
 We believe that Jesus' love was so big and so personal
 that the world will never be the same.
 So despite the mystery of this holy night,
 we believe that a star shone,
 that the shepherds ran,
 that the angels sang,
 and that love was born.
 Yes, we believe it when the prophets say
 that unto you,
 unto us, a savior is born.
 Glory to God in the highest heaven!
 We believe.**

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1st Lesson - The Prophecy: | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Bill Harvey |
| * Carol | <i>"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"</i> | <i>Pilgrim Hymnal #129</i> |
| 2nd Lesson - The story of Mary: | Luke 1:26-35 | Heather Detrick |
| Carol | <i>"O Little town of Bethlehem"</i> | <i>Pilgrim Hymnal #134</i> |
| 3rd Lesson - The Story of Joseph: | Matthew 1:18-23 | Alan Smith |
| *Carol | <i>"Joy to the World!"</i> | <i>Pilgrim Hymnal #130</i> |
| 4th Lesson - The Story of a Birth: | Luke 2:1-7 | Candy Smith |
| Carol | <i>"What Child Is This?"</i> | <i>Pilgrim Hymnal #140</i> |
| 5th Lesson - The Story of the Shepherds: | Luke 2:8-20 | Chris Smith |
| * Carol | <i>"Angels We Have Heard on High"</i> | <i>Pilgrim Hymnal #116</i> |
| 6th Lesson - The Story of the Magi: | Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11 | Ted Anson |
| Carol | <i>"Angels, From the Realms of Glory "</i> | <i>Pilgrim Hymnal #117</i> |

Christmas Offering and Blessing

Rev. Abby Gackenhaimer

Donations can also be made online at bwucc.org - QR Code in bulletin. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of Bridgewater Congregational!

7th Lesson - The story of Home: John 1:1-5

Rev. Abby & Keadyn Gackenhaimer

Sharing the Light

Please gather your warm clothes and candles. We will sing “Silent Night” outside the doors of the church, in the round. If stairs are difficult to maneuver, please stand/or set in the area of the open doors so you can be a part of this sacred time.

Carol **“Silent Night” (words in bulletin)** *Pilgrim Hymnal #138*

***Benediction**

Postlude

Larry Deming

****Please stand in Body or Spirit.***

Liturgy: Words for the Beginning: Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed; Prayer for Illumination and Affirmation of Faith.
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***Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this service!
A special thank you to...***

Our Board of Deacons: Alan Smith – Head Deacon, Jane Bernstein, Heather Detrick,
Sharon Harvey, Jean Jusko, Carol Hacker, Chris Smith, Jeanne Papparazzo, Cheryl
Nelson,

Our Technology Ministry Team: John Kivela, Dan Storrs, Alan Smith, Jim Crosskey,
Heather Detrick, Dick Jones

Our Music Ministry Team:
Maggi Heilweil, Choir Director
Members of the Choir
Larry Demming, Organ
Chris Smith, Piano

Rev. Abby Gackenheimer, Minister
Ashli Feather, Office Administrator
Corey Price and Amy Blackman, Caretakers



O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES *Irregular*
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

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

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

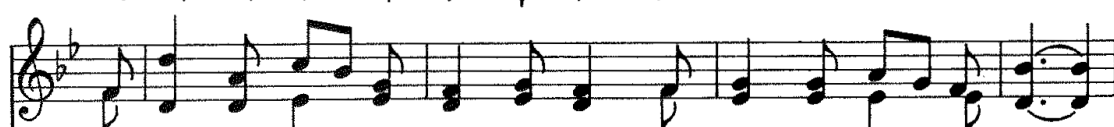
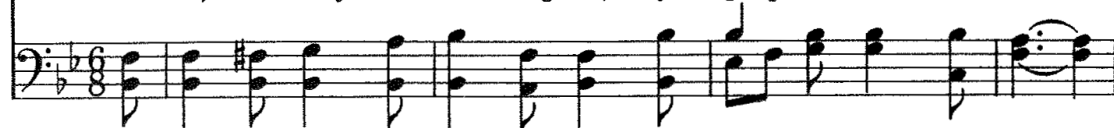
129

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.

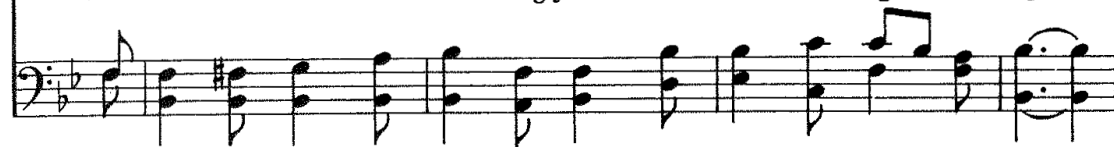
CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900



1 It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un - furled,
3 And ye, be - neath life's crush-ing load Whose forms are bend-ing low,
4 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, By proph-et bards fore-told,



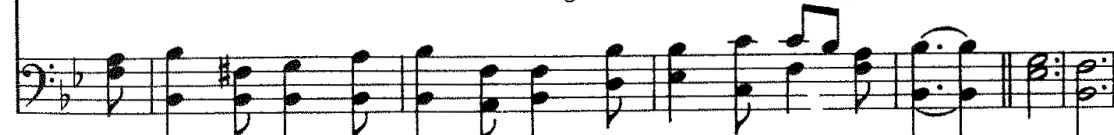
From an - gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
And still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
Who toil a - long the climb-ing way, With pain - ful steps and slow,
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra - cious King."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hover-ing wing,
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;
When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - belsounds The bless-ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A men.



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.
Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heaven.
Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el! A - men.

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Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.

Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3 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
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love. A - men.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

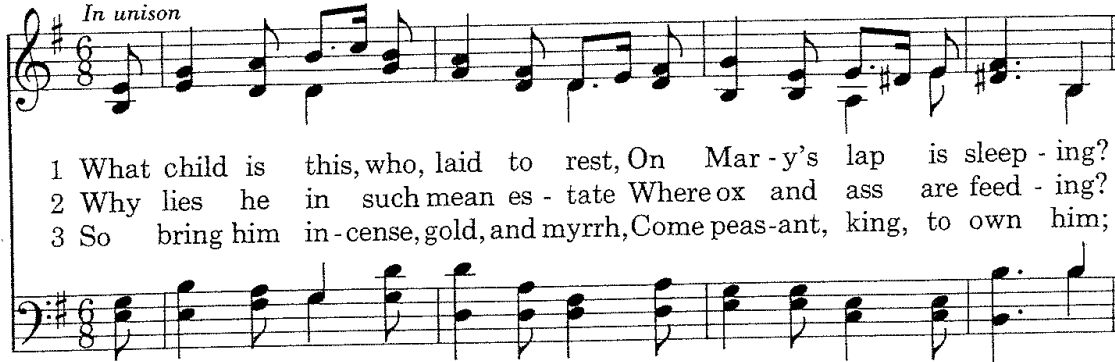
What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

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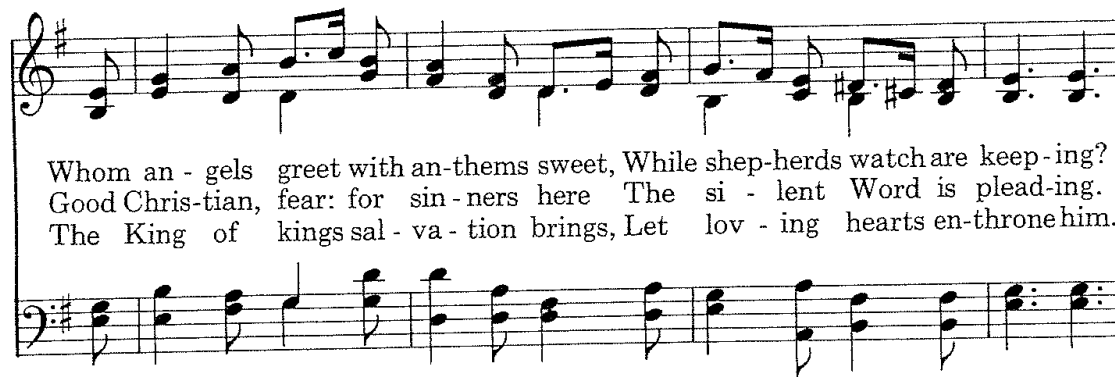
William C. Dix, 1837-1898

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7. with Refrain
Traditional English Melody

In unison

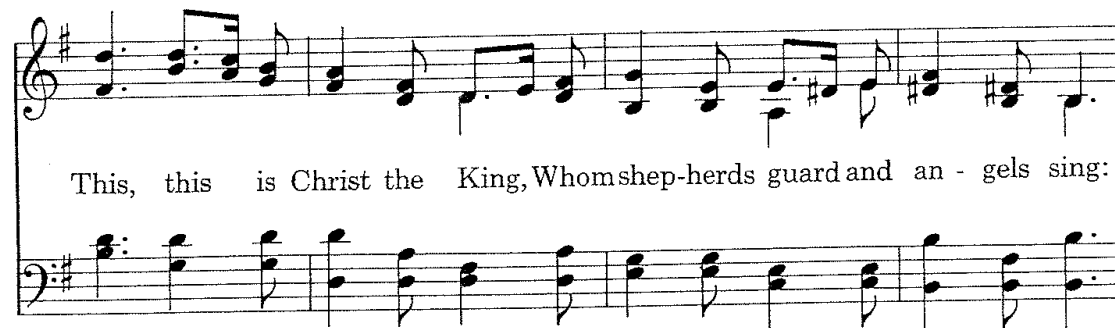


1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to own him;

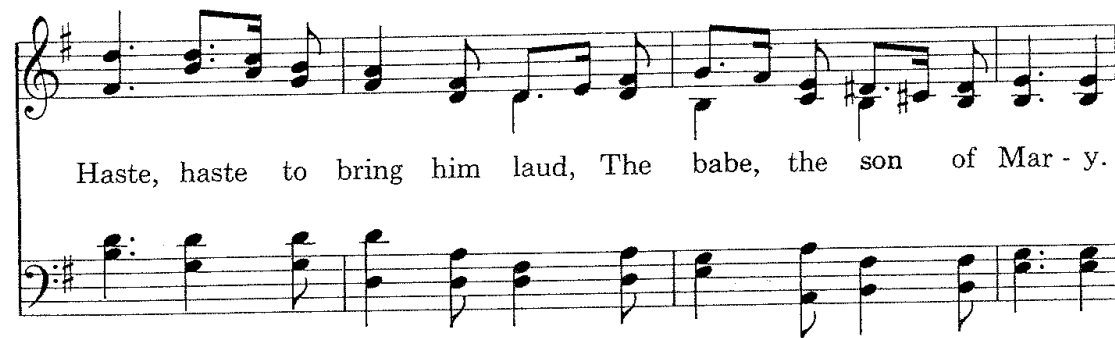


Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

REFRAIN



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with Refrain
French Carol Melody

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 back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the 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.

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

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James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

BIRTH

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Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848
Tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

STILLE NACHT Irregular
Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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

Round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

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.

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Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

STILLE NACHT Irregular
Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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!</p> | <p>2 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Hirten erst kundgemacht Durch der Engel Halleluja, Tönt es laut von fern und nah: Christ der Retter ist da, Christ der Retter ist da!</p> |
| <p>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!</p> | |