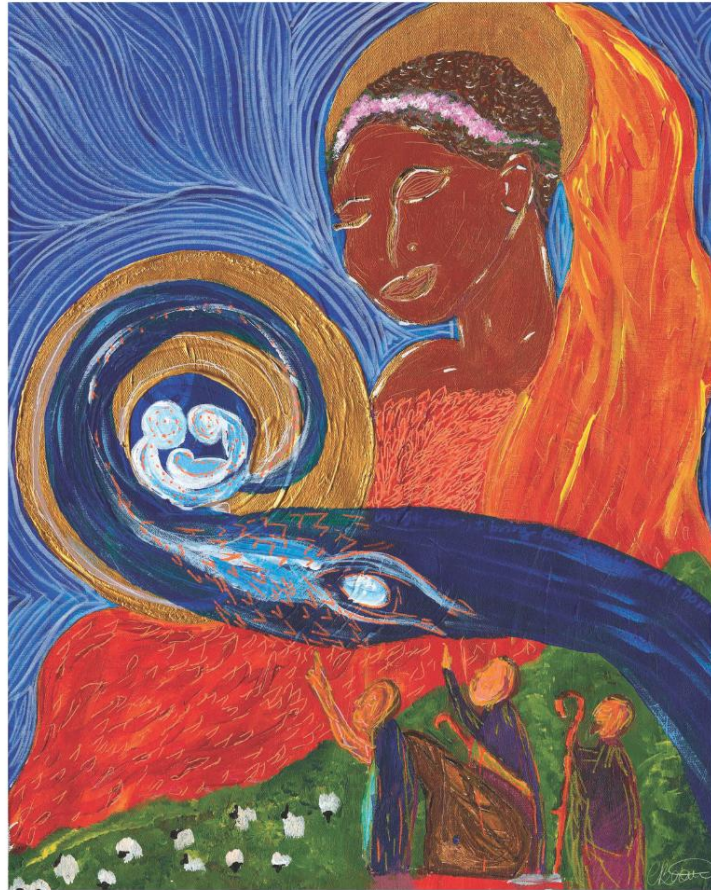


PAXTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Good, New by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell | A Sanctified Art LLC

Good News is Louder Than Fear

December 24, 2025

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

5:00 p.m.

PRELUDE "Partita On Adeste Fideles"

-C. Callahan

WORSHIP PREPARATION

**In preparing for our worship together please quiet yourself
and allow God's Spirit to ready your heart, mind, and soul.**

During this time, we invite you to sign the **guest book**, pass it down your row and back again and note friends and guests worshipping next to you. Please also complete a **prayer request card** at this time if you have a joy or concern for which you would like special prayers during the service. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.

GREETINGS AND NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

MUSIC INTERLUDE

"Away in the Manger"

-Murray

"Joy to the World"

-Handel

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP – Lighting the Christ Candle (by Joel Raney)

Tonight, we celebrate hope fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

Joy to the world! The Lord has come.

Tonight, we celebrate the promise of peace on earth.

Let earth receive her King.

Tonight, we celebrate the joy of knowing a Savior has come.

Let every heart prepare Him room.

Tonight, we celebrate the love of God, through Jesus Christ.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

* CANDLELIGHTING SONG – "Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

-see music on page 3

***Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our sins and fears release; let us find our rest in thee.***

* PRAYER OF PRAISE (written by Joel Raney)

***Gracious God, as we celebrate tonight we join with the angel choir in proclaiming your glory.
We thank you for giving us the perfect gift this Christmas Eve, the gift of eternal life through
Christ. We ask that you guide our feet, direct our minds, hear our prayers, and fill our hearts
with the hope, peace, joy, and love of this Christmas season. We ask these things in the name
of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

* HYMN - 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

THE WORD PROCLAIMS TO US

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN - 115

"Away In a Manger"

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

HYMN - 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ANTHEM - AGAPE SINGERS "Mary Did You Know?" -arr. by Craig Adams
CHRISTMAS MEDITATION FOR GOD'S CHILDREN
* HYMN - 147 "The First Nowell" v.1-2,6

THE WORD INVITES US

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Invitation to the Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer
Prayer After Communion

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation for the Offering

* Response of Praise - No. 606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

ANTHEM - DUET "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" - arr. by Cliff Guy Duran and Laura Mixen Story

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN - 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* HYMN - 134 "Joy to the World"

* POSTLUDE "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

-arr. R. Lau

The () indicates that those who are able may stand.
The words printed in ***bold face italics type*** are said by all.

CCLI#2707192

Please use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Directing our worship today: Preacher, Pastor Margaret Poteet;
Worship Assistant, Geoffrey Vinton;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce;
Director of Youth Music, Andrew Vinton, Pianists, Lydia and Nino Giambrone;
Vocalists, Tara Frank, Andrew Vinton

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND The Session recently voted to start a Good Samaritan Fund in order to keep a few grocery gift cards on hand in the office for those who might reach out to us needing immediate food or personal supplies. The offering we collect on Christmas Eve will go to supporting this fund for the coming year. We are grateful for your generous love of our neighbors in need.

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor	x105	Margaret Poteet	pastor@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	office@paxtonchurch.org
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Tara Frank '25	Moderator	Merideth Staudenmaier '25	Secretary
Sally Appleby '25		Rich Lengler '26	
Jim Bruce '26		Diana Robertson '25	
Linette Burd '26		Deb Trephan '27	
Judy Frankford '27		Brenda Vinton '27	
Cheryl Holtzman '26		Bev Ziebell '27	

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders	Gary Myers	Jane Sanford
Stephen Ministers	Karen Cirillo	Karen Herrold
	Cheryl Holtzman	Janice Hutchison
	Annette Kilpatrick	Nancy Lengler
	Steve Miller	Kathy Woodbridge

For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.

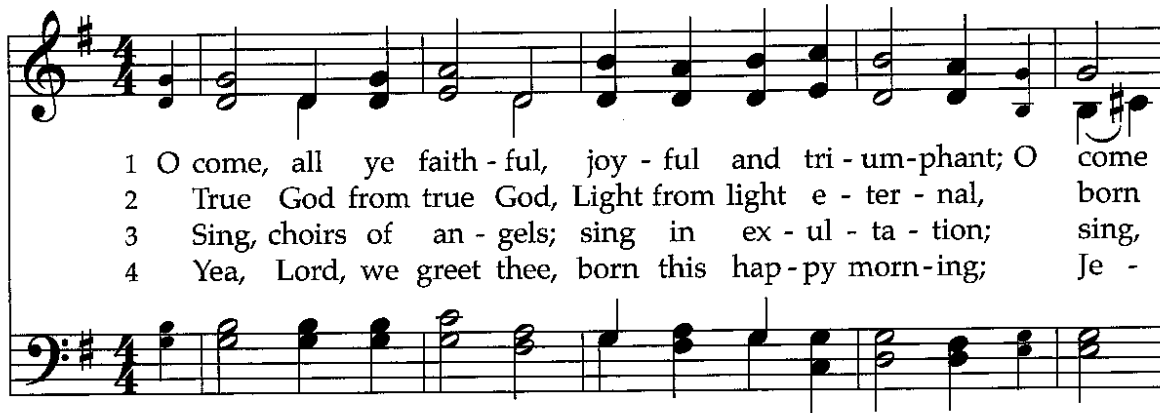
Session *Chair

Margaret Poteet		Moderator
Kitti Taylor		Clerk of Session
Karen Herrold '25*		Christian Education
Janice Hutchison '25*		Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*	Craig Staudenmaier	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*	Jan Gough '25	Mission
Gary Myers '26*	Janice Hutchison	Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Gary Myers	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Geoffrey Vinton '27*	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '25*		Stewardship
Sharon Webb '26*		Technology
Anita Laughery '27*	Bob Frank '25	Worship and Music

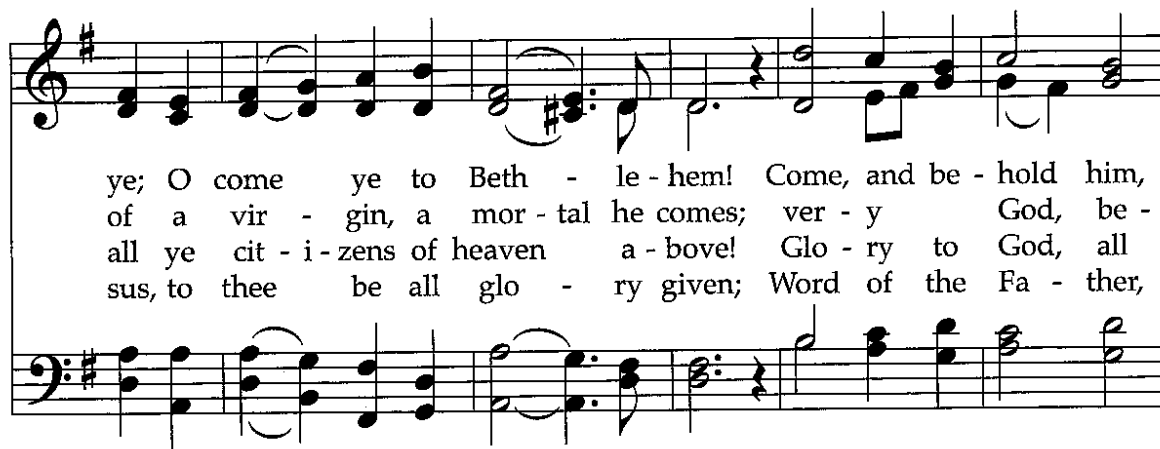
At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, or religious background.



O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

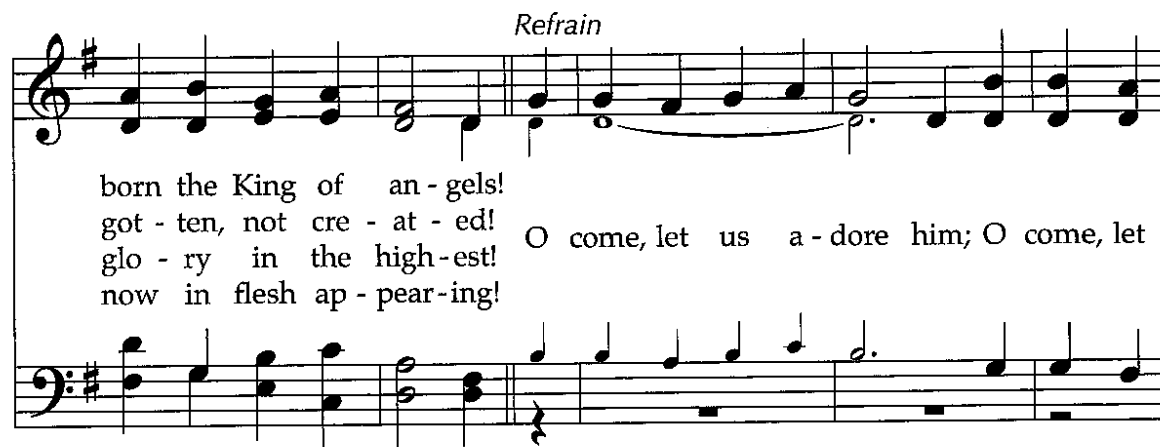


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



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! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



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

115

Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B $\flat$ (D) F



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B $\flat$ (D) F



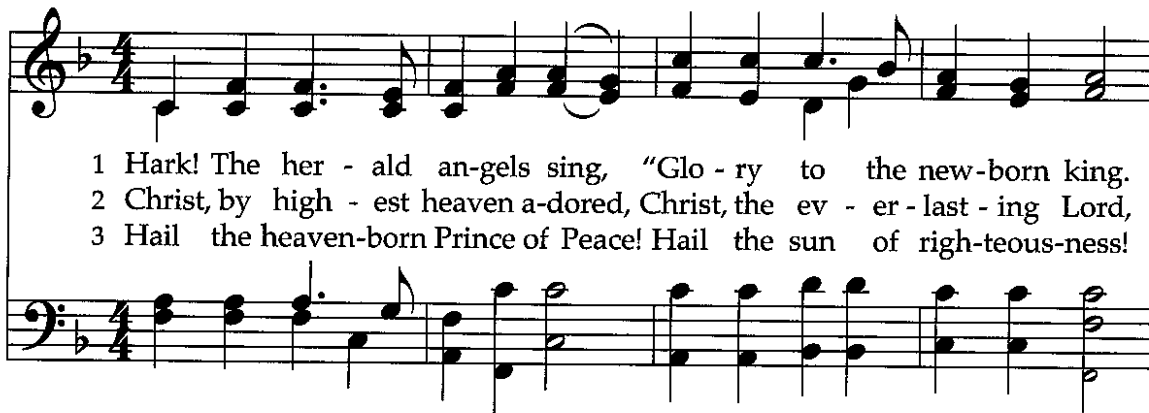
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

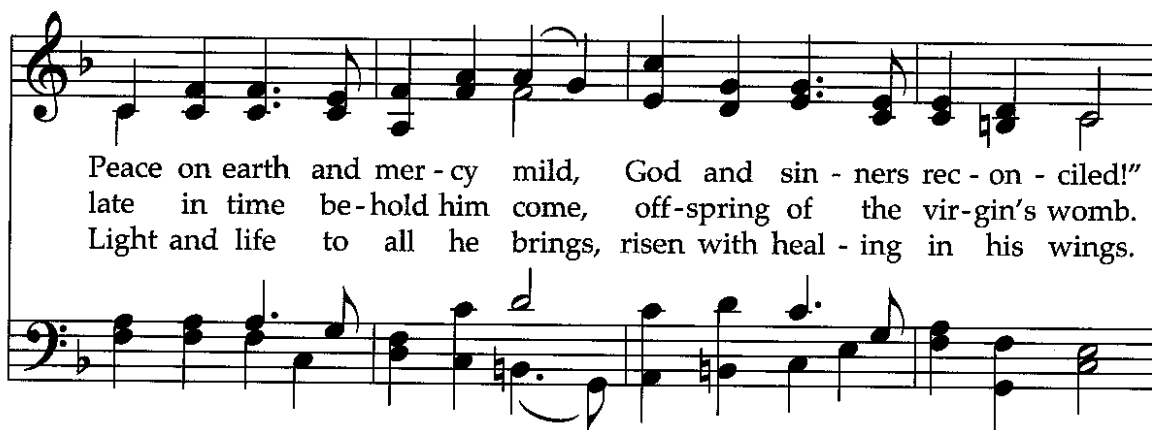


the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

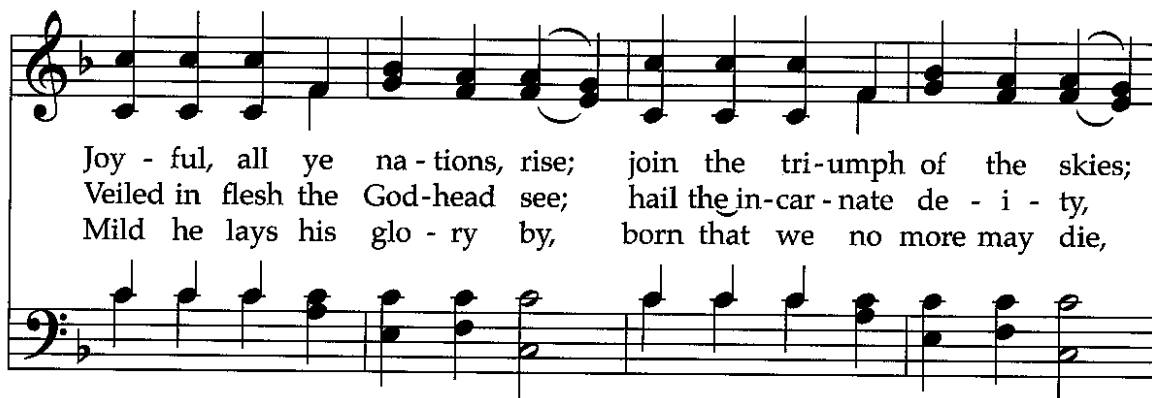
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



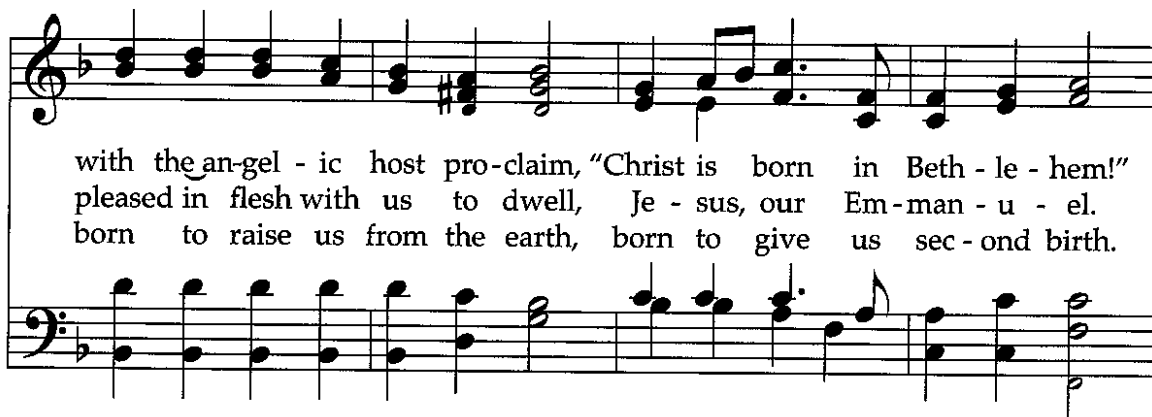
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

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

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the hymn "Hark! The herald angels sing." The score is written on two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major, indicated by two flat symbols (B-flat and E-flat) at the beginning of each staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

147

The First Nowell

v. 1-2, 6

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 -

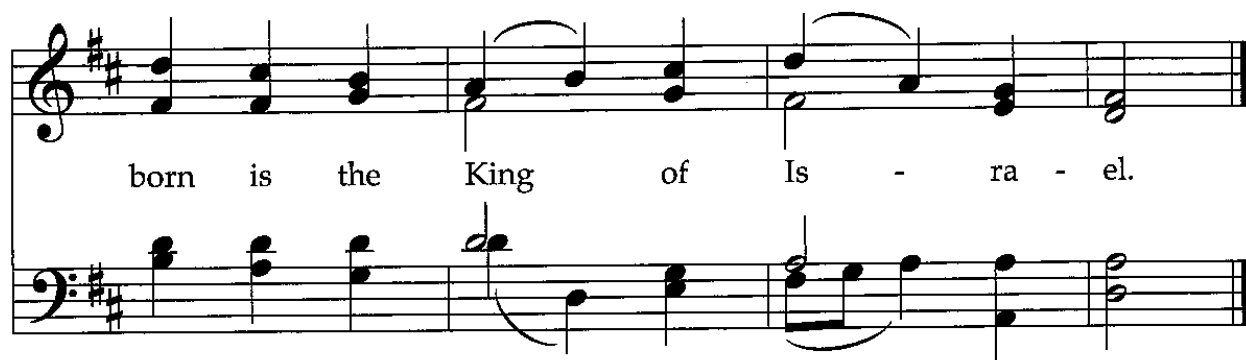
shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

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,

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



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

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.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 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,