

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge and Celebrant
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

Celebrant: We honor the Indigenous people everywhere, particularly the Wabanaki Nations, acknowledging that the land we now occupy is their ancestral home. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth.
Congregation: **May we find the courage to acknowledge the brutality and violence of our forebears who seized these lands, and may we be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, and for all creation.**

The service begins with the ringing of the bell three times

Prelude

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell

Celebrant: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Congregation: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
Celebrant: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined.
Congregation: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
Celebrant: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
Congregation: **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Christ Candle is lit

Celebrant: We light this candle for the newborn Christ, reawakening hope and faith – the Word embodied for our time.
Congregation: **God, as we receive your promise, you are light, you are hope.**

Opening Hymn 83 *O Come all Ye Faithful (verses 1, 3 and 6, in back of bulletin)*

Collect of the Day
Celebrant: God everlasting and ever-near, the coming of your light into our world brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us by the Spirit of your incarnate love to bear witness to the light of Christ in word and in deed. Make of our hearts a manger for the Christ child, and make of our lives a sign of your presence in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Choir: *There stood in heaven a linden tree* German Carol

Scripture reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.
In the former time he brought into contempt
the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea,
the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
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.

Hymn 82 *Of the Father's love begotten (verses 1-3, back of bulletin)*

Poem: *"If you want"*

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road
pregnant with the Holy and say,
"I need shelter for the night.
Please take me inside your heart, my time is so close."
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
Yes, there, under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us is His beloved servant never far.
If you want, the virgin will come walking down the street,
pregnant with Light and sing!

-- St. John of the Cross

Sequence Hymn 79 *O little town of Bethlehem (verses 1-3, back of bulletin)*

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-7
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.

Hymn 101 *Away in a Manger (back of bulletin)*

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2: 8-20
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.

Choir: *In the Bleak Midwinter* Gustav Holst

The congregation is invited to sing verse 4, Hymn 112 *(back of bulletin)*

Sermon Pastor Elaine Hewes

Hymn 115 *What child is this (back of bulletin)*

Affirmation Anonymous Latin American writer

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the
power of the gospel, born in Bethlehem.
I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village,
of whose coming shepherds saw the sign,
and for whom there was no room at the inn.
I believe in the one whose life changed
the course of history, over whom the

rulers of the earth had no power,
and who was not understood by the proud.
I believe in the one to whom the oppressed,
the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind,
the injured gave welcome and thanksgiving.
I believe in the one who – with love –
changed the heart of the proud and
with his life showed that it is better to
serve than to be served.
I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war,
but justice among all people and nations
and love among all.
I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel.
I believe that Christmas is strength and power,
and that this world can change if with
humility and faith we kneel before the manger.
I pray for the courage to do so. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace:
Celebrant: Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**

Prayers of the People:
Joining our voices with the songs of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

The Shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is everlasting.

Heaven and nature sing "Joy to the World!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of the nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of the world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is everlasting.

The angels sing, "Peace on Earth." Ignite us with passion on behalf of your kingdom of justice and peace. Help us to hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to heal divisions and to care for the most vulnerable among us. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is everlasting.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Expand our hearts to make room for those without a place to lay their head. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. With your healing presence, strengthen those who are ill in mind, body and spirit. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is everlasting.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless parents as they seek to create a safe and nurturing home for their children. Enhance our resolve to work for policies that value families of every shape and size, and help us to see in every family the Holy Family in whose love we rejoice this night. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is everlasting.

Leader: Please add your own prayers and thanksgivings.

Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

Leader: Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

The heavenly chorus sings "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and in deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise for your love which is both everlasting and ever-with-us. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is everlasting.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn 111 *Silent Night (back of bulletin)*

Candles are lit. Those on Zoom, please light a candle in your home.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

Sending Hymn 100 *Joy to the World (back of bulletin)*
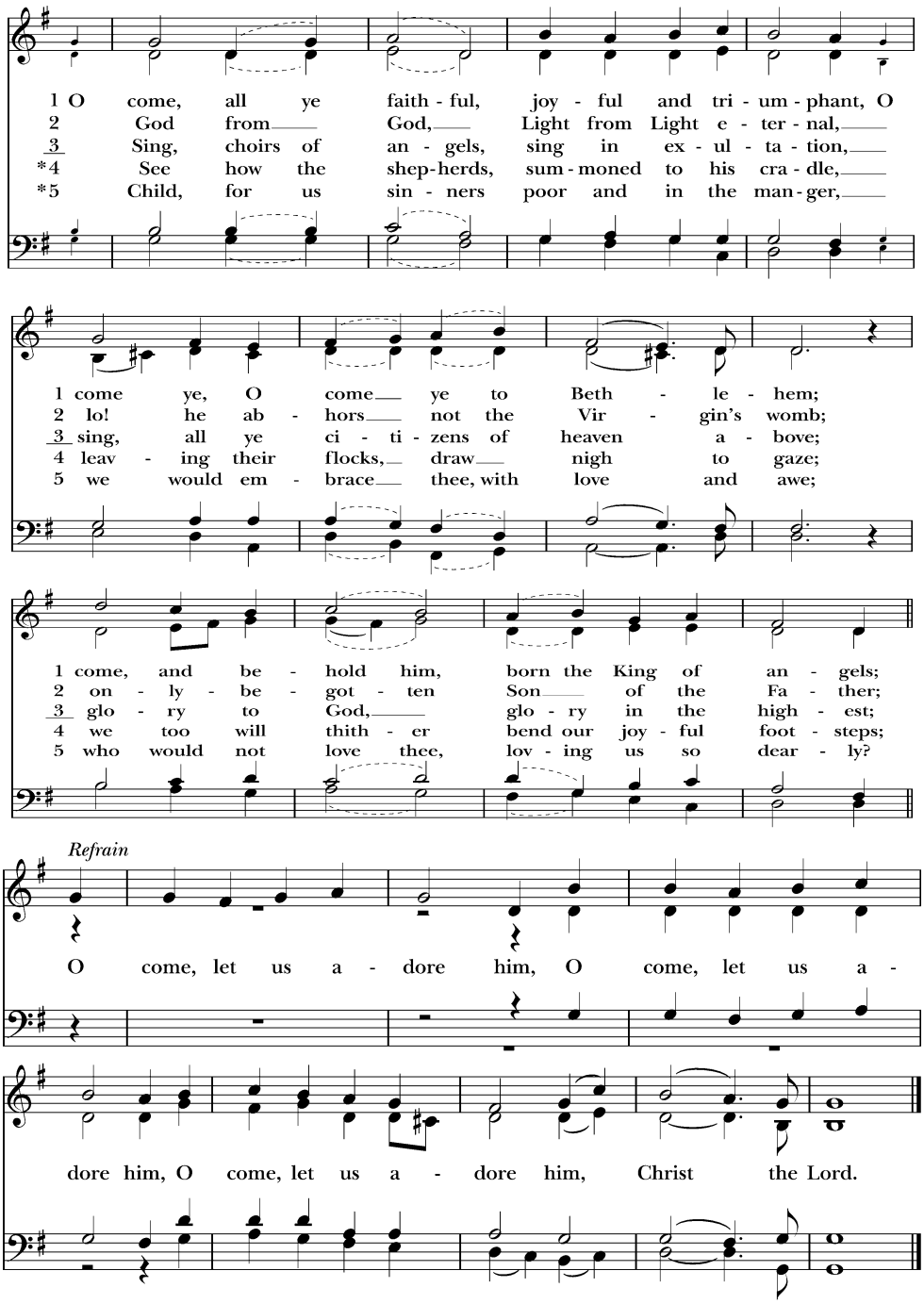
Cover Art by Elaine Hewes

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 25	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at St. Francis by the Sea
Sunday, December 29	10:00 a.m. Healing Service, Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist (In-person and Zoom)

O come, all ye faithful *The Hymnal 1982,* #83
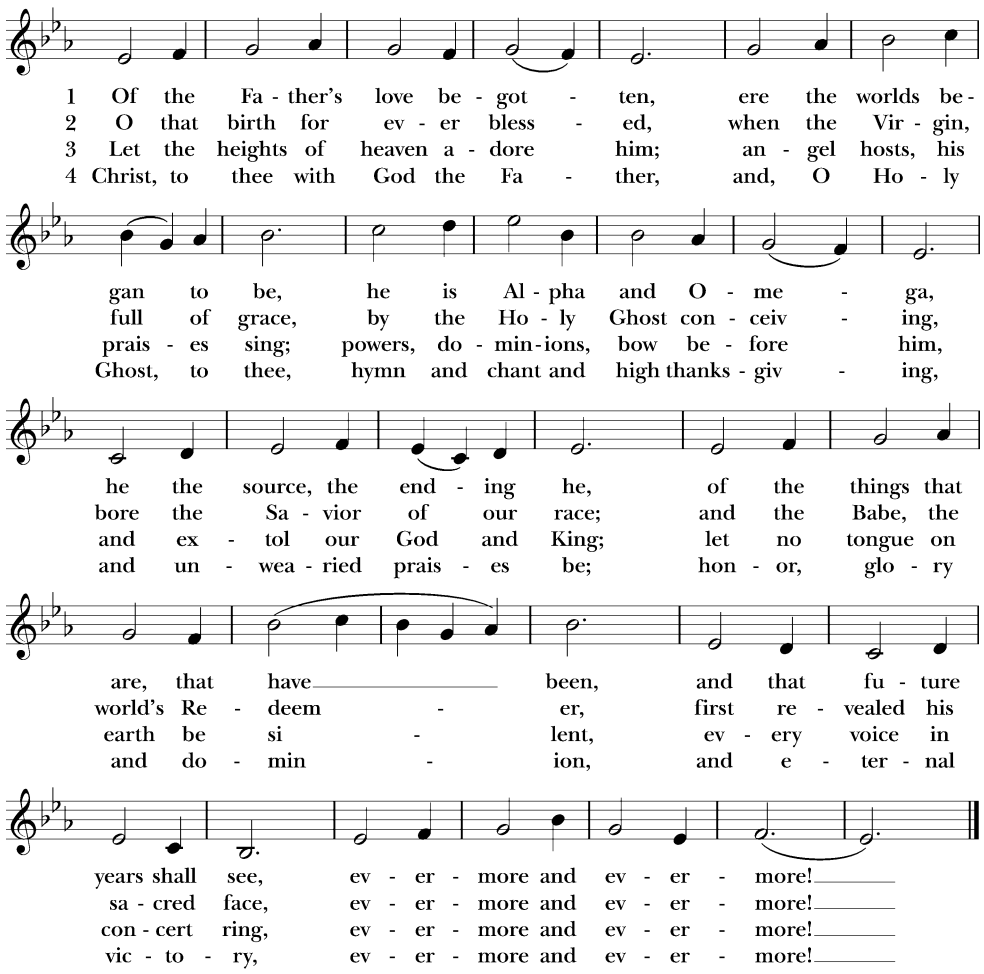


6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.
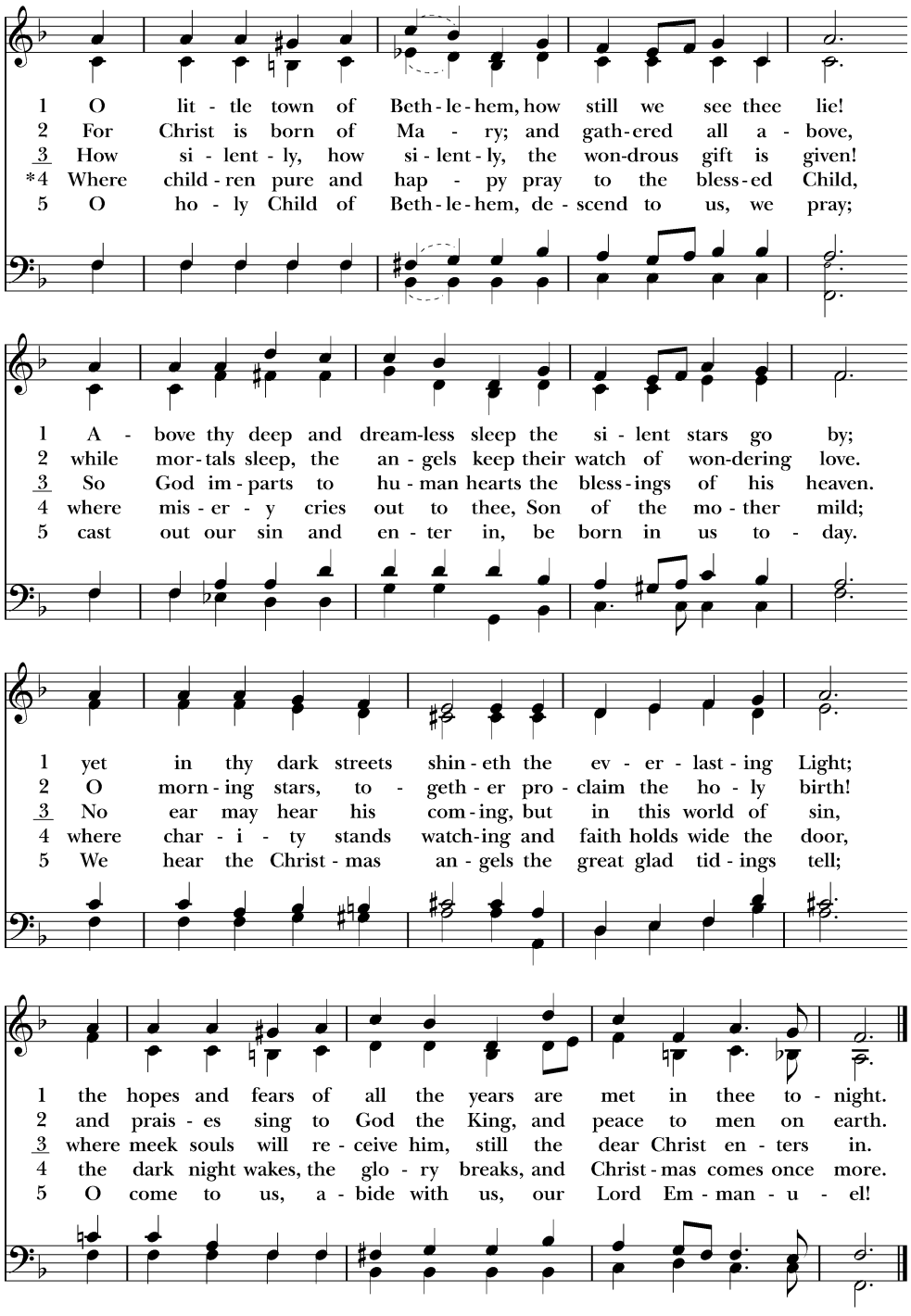
Of the Father's love begotten *The Hymnal 1982,* #82



This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

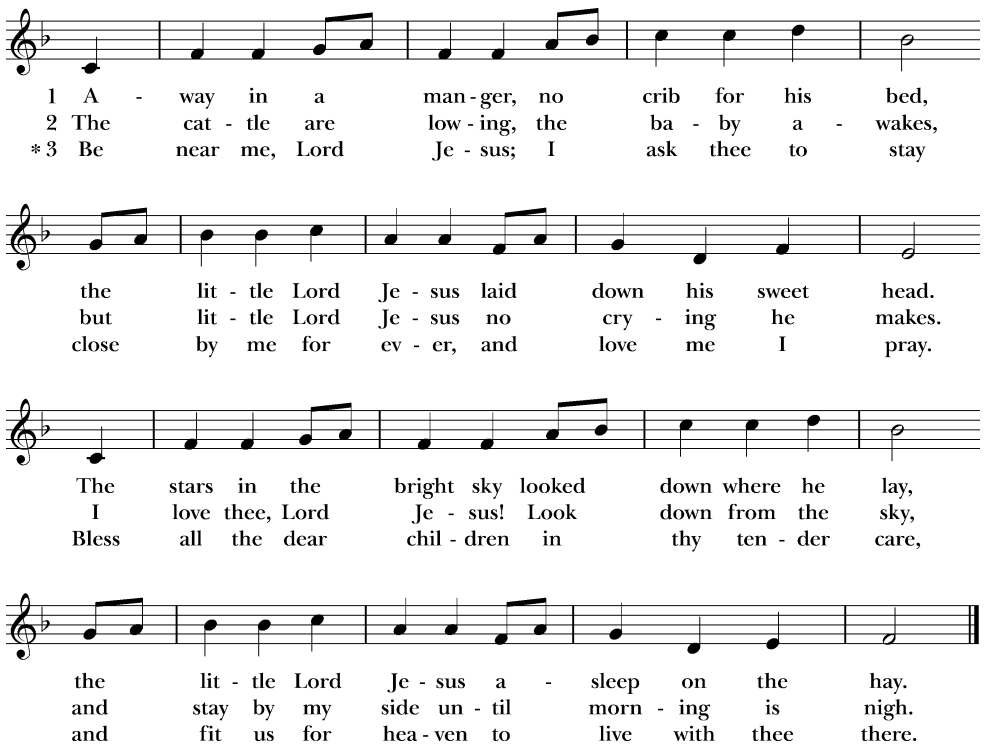
Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

O little town of Bethlehem *The Hymnal 1982, #79*
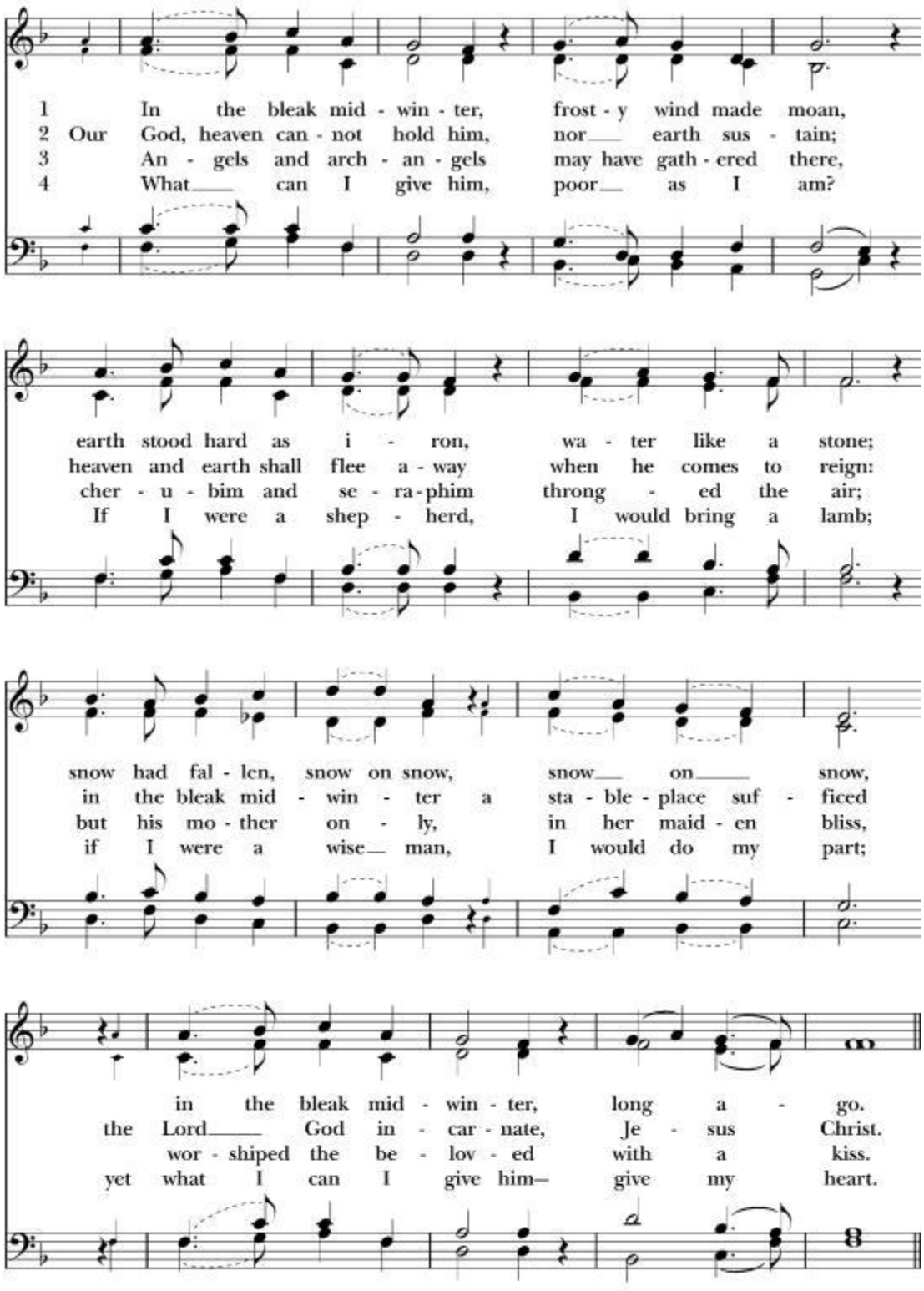


Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed *The Hymnal 1982,* #101
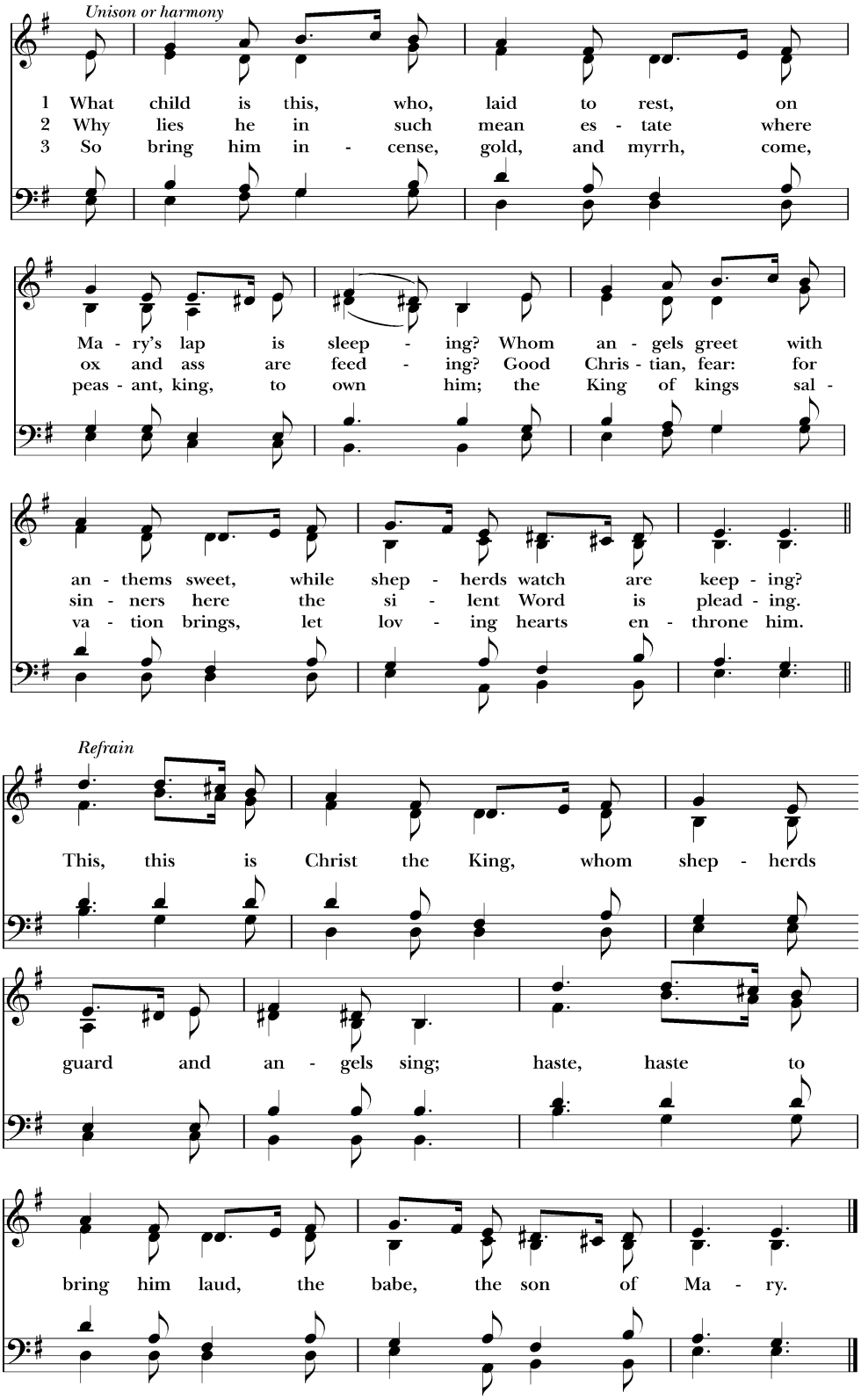


Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

In the bleak midwinter *The Hymnal 1982,* #112
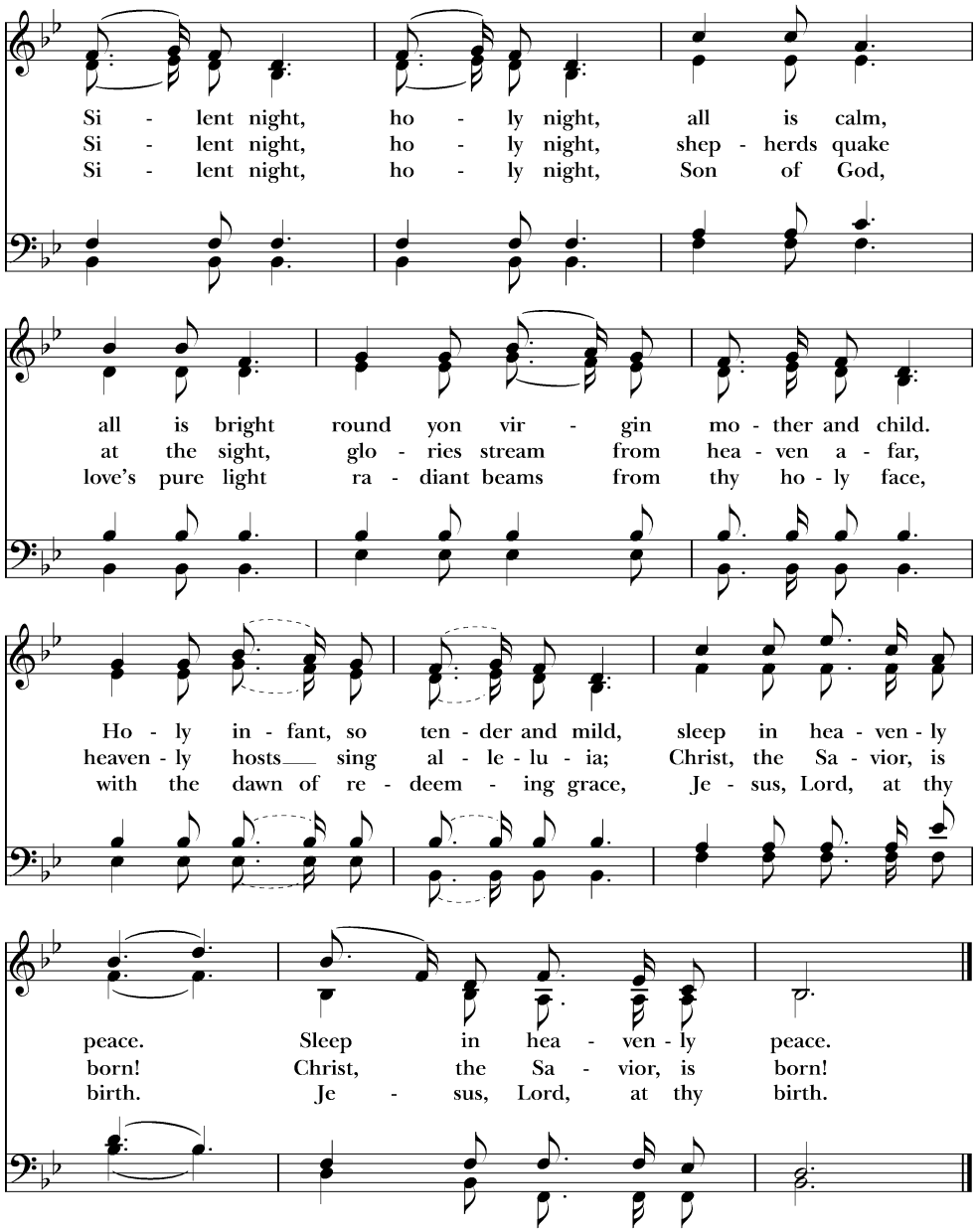


What child is this, who, laid to rest *The Hymnal 1982*, #115
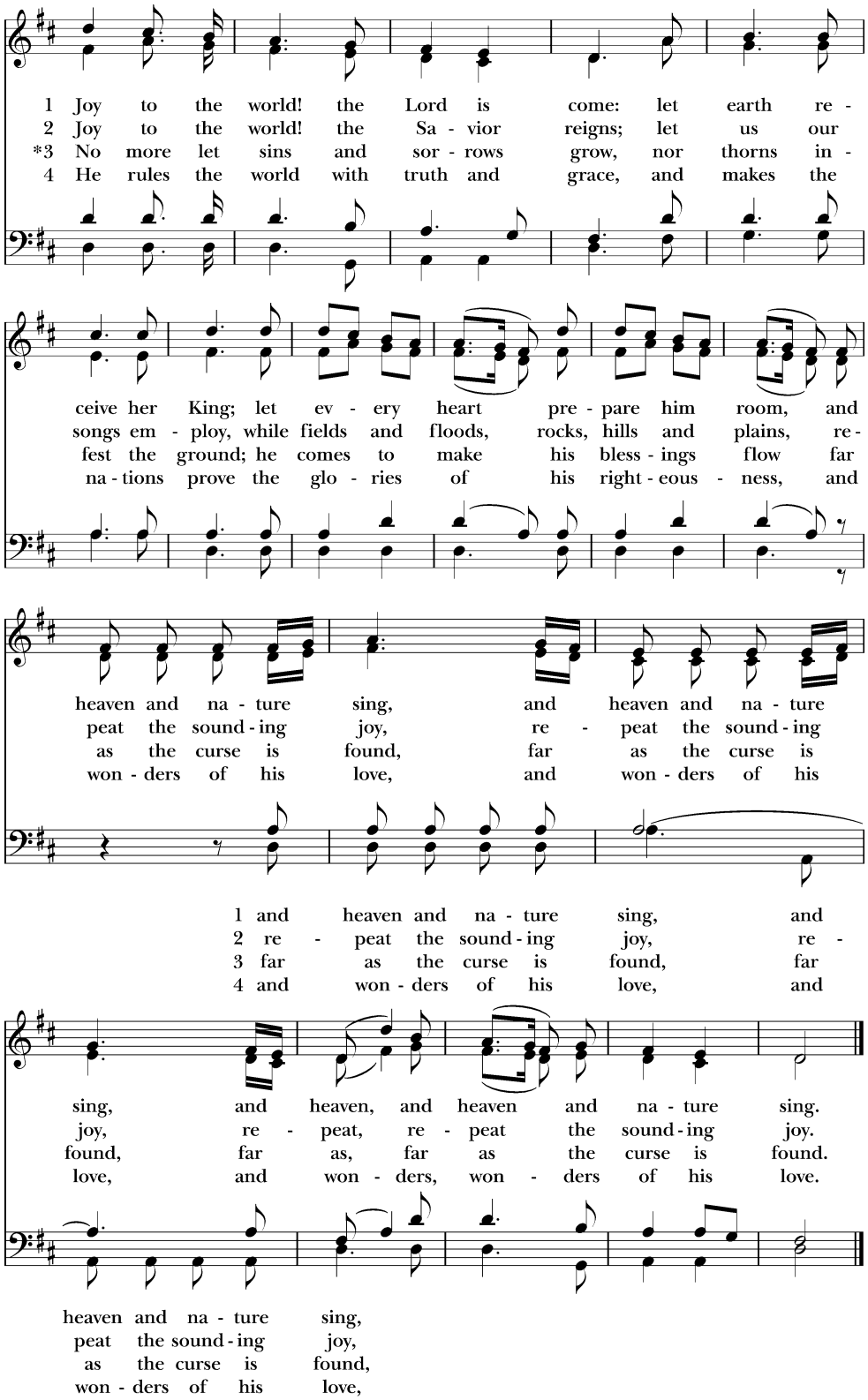


Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

Silent night, holy night *The Hymnal 1982,* #111



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Joy to the world! the Lord is come *The Hymnal 1982,* #100



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).