



December 21, 2025
4th Sunday in Advent
Christmas Joy Offering

Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Yates
Advent Candle: John & Linda Hood

Liturgist: John Hood

Psalmist: Bill Wehner

Greeters: Leah & Pat Gerlach

Ushers: Velina Chavez, Sharon Glass, Ginger Wall, Karen Williams

Flowers: Our Congregation's Christmas Poinsettias

Early Morning Security: Dave Sternberg

December Sanctuary Stewards: Birgitta Gustafson and Camise Kettner

Director of Music: Nancy Leffler

Accompanist: Nathan Secrest

Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church

Gathering Music *O Come, Little Children* - by David Paxton

Welcome & Announcements, including prayer concerns

Moment for Mission – Capital Campaign Leah & Denise

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share Christ's peace with each other.

Introit *An Advent Invitation – Love* Chancel Choir

Advent Candle Lighting – Love

Prelude *Angels, We Have Heard On High*
- by JuBELLation Ringers

***Hymn #100** *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

Call to Confession John Hood

Prayer of Confession (unison):

**All: God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.**

From the Psalter **Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19** Bill Wehner

(This can be found on p. 529-530 of your pew Bible.)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *I Too Shall Walk to Bethlehem* Chancel Choir

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 1: 26-38

(This can be found on p. 931-932 of your pew Bible.)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon That's Just Impossible! Rev. Frank Yates

***Hymn #97** *Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night*

Choral Call to Prayer *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

(Please join the choir as we sing this together.)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Call for the Offering John Hood

Offertory *Caroler's Hoedown* - by JuBELLation Ringers

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

John Hood

***Sending Song #118:** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Charge and Benediction

Choral Benediction: *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

Postlude Hark! the Herald Angels Sing - by Robert Thygerson

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Wishing that this season of Advent fills your heart
and home with hope, peace, joy, and love!

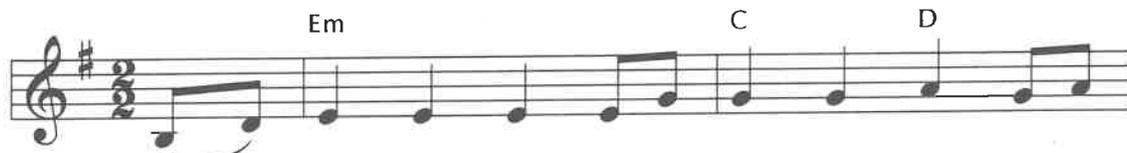
Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church
1004 24th Street SE, Rio Rancho
info@rrpchurch.org | (505) 892.6664

*Please stand as you are comfortable

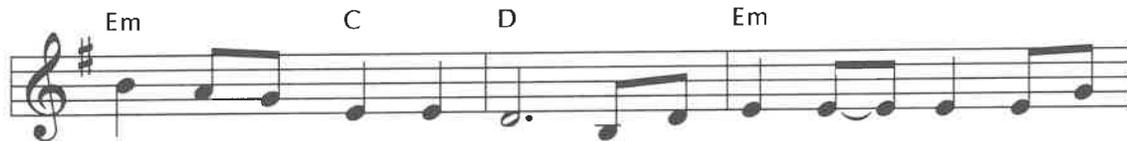
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100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

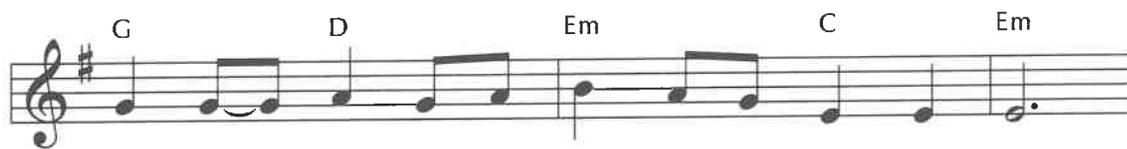
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

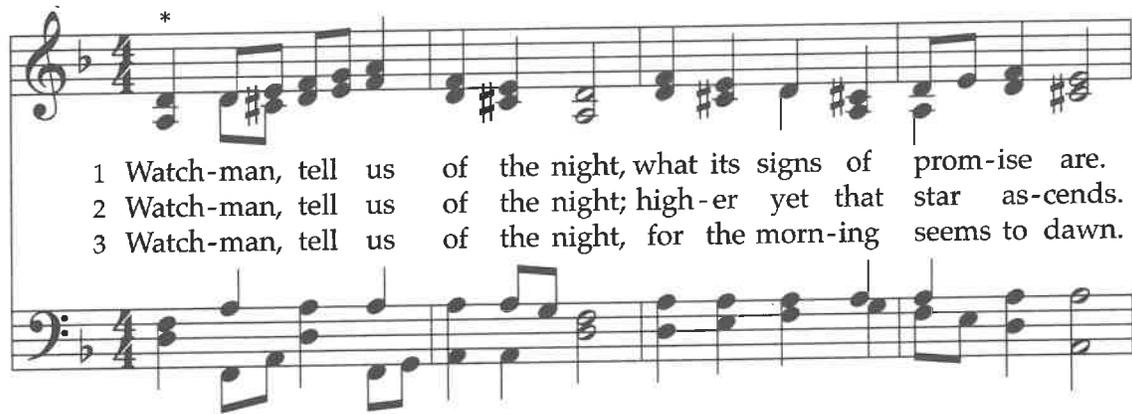
Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

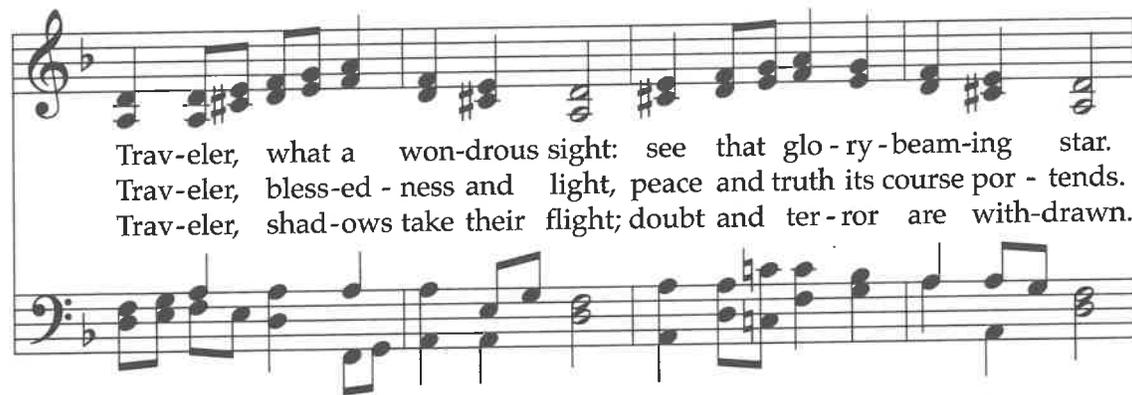
C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

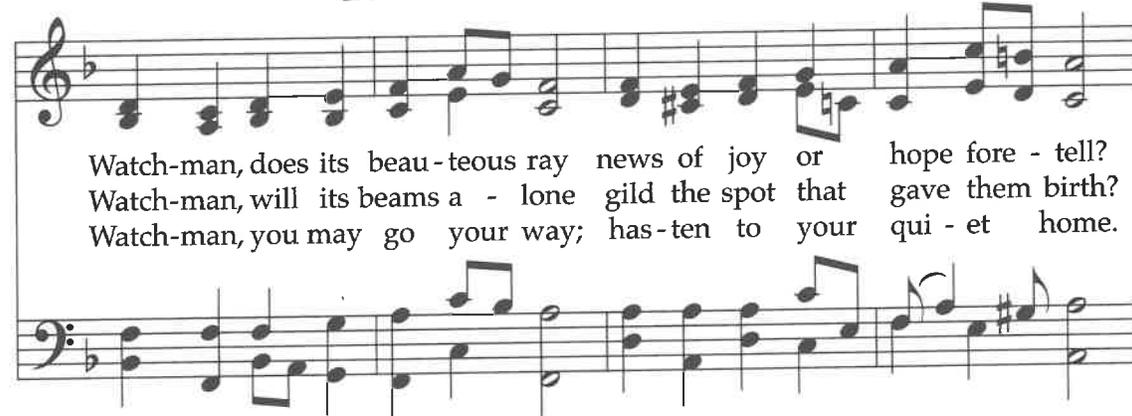
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

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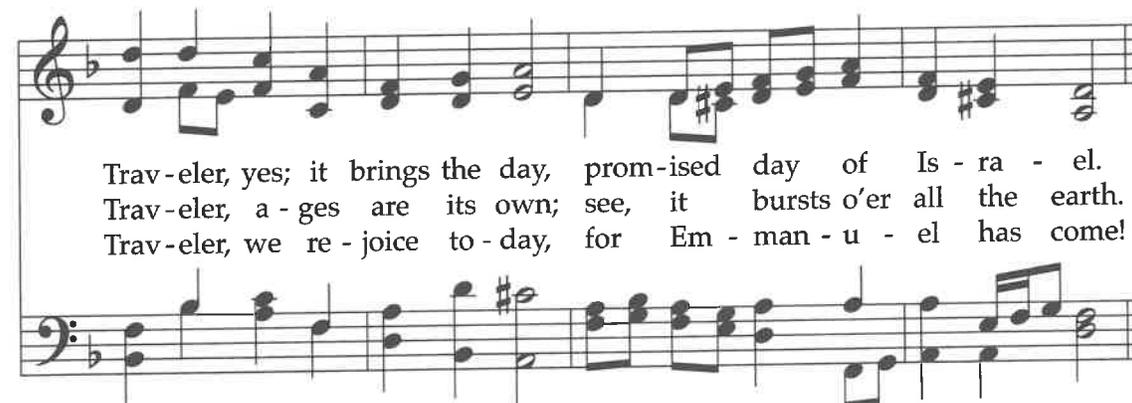
1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

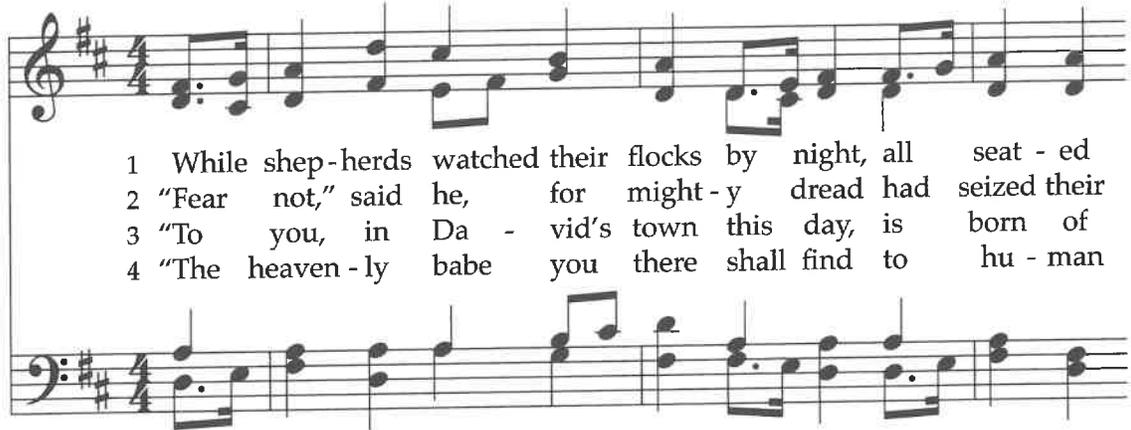


Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

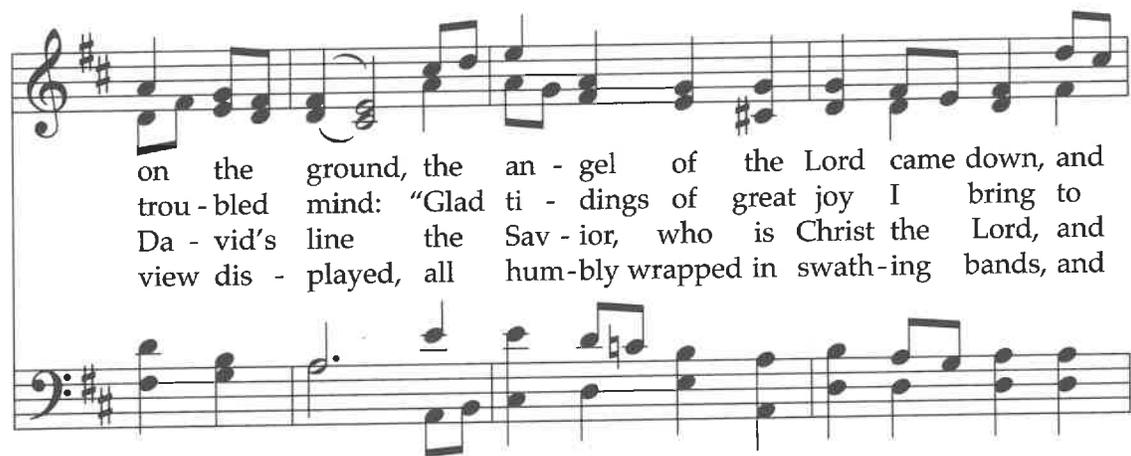
*May be sung antiphonally.

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

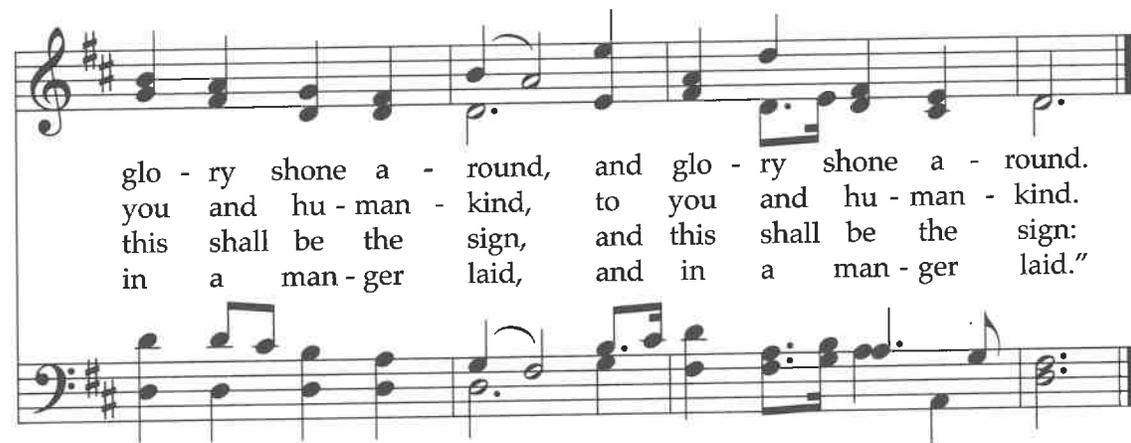
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118



1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their
 3 "To you, in Da-vid's town this day, is born of
 4 "The heaven-ly babe you there shall find to hu-man



on the ground, the an-gel of the Lord came down, and
 trou-bled mind: "Glad ti-dings of great joy I bring to
 Da-vid's line the Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord, and
 view dis-played, all hum-bly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and



glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round.
 you and hu-man-kind, to you and hu-man-kind.
 this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid."

- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song,
 addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will to all from highest heaven
 begin and never cease,
 begin and never cease!"

The publication of this text in the late 17th century marked an important moment in the transition from the older practice of psalm-singing to the newer style of hymn-singing. This tune was not originally written for church use but was derived from an operatic aria.