



Christmas

EVE *worship*

DEC 24
5 PM
2017

 **East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

Living out radical hospitality to all

116 South Highland Avenue 
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412.441.3800

www.ELPC.church



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God – the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

DECEMBER 24, 2017 — 5:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

TIME OF PREPARATION

“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I’d give him a lamb.

If I were a wise one I’d do my part. What can I give him? I’ll give him my heart.”

— *“What Can I Give Him” by Christina Rossetti*

PRELUDE

“Prelude on Greensleeves”

“O Holy Night”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

Richard Purvis

Cody Conley, *violin*

Adolphe Adam

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dominic and Josh Odom

Leader: **We gather tonight to hear an ancient story of God’s promises fulfilled:**

People: For unto us a Savior is born this day in Bethlehem – a Savior, who is Christ our Lord!

Leader: We gather tonight to celebrate the good news at the heart of our faith:

People: That the babe who lay in a manger is Emmanuel, God with us, the Prince of Peace.

Leader: So with angels and shepherds let us sing:

People: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

Leader: Let us pray:

All: **Gracious God, as we hear once more the story of Christ’s birth, fill our hearts with such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King; our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* HYMN (*music printed in bulletin*)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake
Charlotte and Samantha Brake-Hoffman

Leader: Why did Jesus come?

People: Because we were in need of a Savior.

Leader: Why did we need a savior?

People: Because we, like all people, have sinned. At times we forget to love God. At times we forget to love our neighbors as ourselves. We turn from God and end up getting stuck in our sin, doubt and fear.

Leader: Then why do we celebrate tonight?

People: Because God came to us in Jesus – and he came to offer us peace, to fill us with hope, **and to show us God’s love.**

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Service

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, you came to us in a baby born in Bethlehem, even when humanity had turned from you – and today, you come to us once more, even when we run from your promises or doubt your good news. You promise us peace, even when we choose violence. You promise us healing, even when we feel broken. You promise us love, even when we choose hate. In Jesus Christ you came among us as a light shining in darkness and assure us that the darkness will not overcome the light. Help us to trust this good news. Forgive us of our sins and renew our hope, that we might not only believe the good news we profess, but that we might live lives transformed by your grace.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Sara and Brianna Hackett

Leader 1: **The light of God's love has come to us in a precious baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem.**

Leader 2: This light – the light of Christ Jesus – was a light to all. No darkness in our lives or in this world can overcome it.

Leader 1: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE *(music printed in bulletin; please remain seated; stanzas 1 and 4 only)*

ST. LOUIS

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray:
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Isaiah 9:2, 6
Luke 1:31, 2:10-14

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Sara and Brianna Hackett

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

* HYMN *(music printed in bulletin)*

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

HOMILY

"I Love to Tell the Story"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION

Damon and Lora Bethea

Leader 1: Tonight we receive the most precious gift.

Leader 2: **Through the baby born in a manger, God came to us to show us God's love and offer us God's peace. What more could we ask for?**

Leader 1: So we offer our gifts, as the shepherds and wise people did all those years ago: as an act of grateful worship and praise.

Leader 2: **With joyful hearts, let us now receive this evening's offering.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"What Child Is This"

Cody Conley, *violin*
GREENSLEEVES

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* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION *(music printed in bulletin)*

ANTIOCH

“Joy to the World”

The communion bread is being presented by Andy, Bernadette, Zaida, Suraya and Nasim Collins.

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

The Lord be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

Lift up your hearts.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. The congregation is invited to come forward to one of the four stations by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may partake of the bread and the cup, placing the used cup in the basket provided, then returning to seats via the side aisles. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION *(music printed in bulletin)*

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Doris Dick, Sharon and Dylan Geibel

Leader: God, we thank you for the stable, safe and strong.

People: **We thank you for Mary, Joseph, and the angels’ song.**

Leader: Thank you for the animals gathered there.

People: **Thank you for the Wise People and the shepherd’s prayer.**

Leader: Thank you for the star above.

People: Thank you for Baby Jesus, your perfect gift of love.

* LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND PASSING OF THE LIGHT

John 1:1-5

The Rev. Schoenewolf

* HYMN *(music printed in bulletin)*

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729”

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship.
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.*

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Participants: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Damon and Lora Bethea
Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake
Charlotte and Samantha Brake-Hoffman
Andy, Bernadette, Zaida,
Suraya and Nasim Collins
Doris Dick, Sharon and Dylan Geibel
Sara and Brianna Hackett
Dominic and Josh Odom
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist and
Music Director*
Cody Conley, *violin*
Cantors: David Jennings-Smith, Michael Painter
Mary Randolph, Kalyn Stevwing
Beadles: Michele Bossers and Matthew Stufft
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

11 pm.....Candlelight Service. Prelude music
begins at 10:30 pm. The Rev. Dr. Randall
K. Bush preaching.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
A 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward;
an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.
Mondays, 7 am to 1 pm
Wednesdays, 9 am to 9 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer
Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after
the Taizé community in France.
Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (*Room 135, in Highland Ave hallway*)
Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience
the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is
ELPC. Open everyday

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

There will be no Journey service on Sunday, Dec 31.

11 amSanctuary Worship. Our largest service,
with music from the Chancel Choir and an
organ prelude prior to the service.
*Dec 31 — Kalyn Stevwing, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary intern, preaching.*

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving
memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr.
and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.



WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate
this season with us at ELPC. We invite you to stop
by the *Visitor's Table* in the Highland Lobby or the
Narthex for a small welcoming gift, a sweet treat
and perhaps some other information about ELPC's
programs and ministries.

*To learn more about our programs, church
activities and volunteer services, we invite you to:*

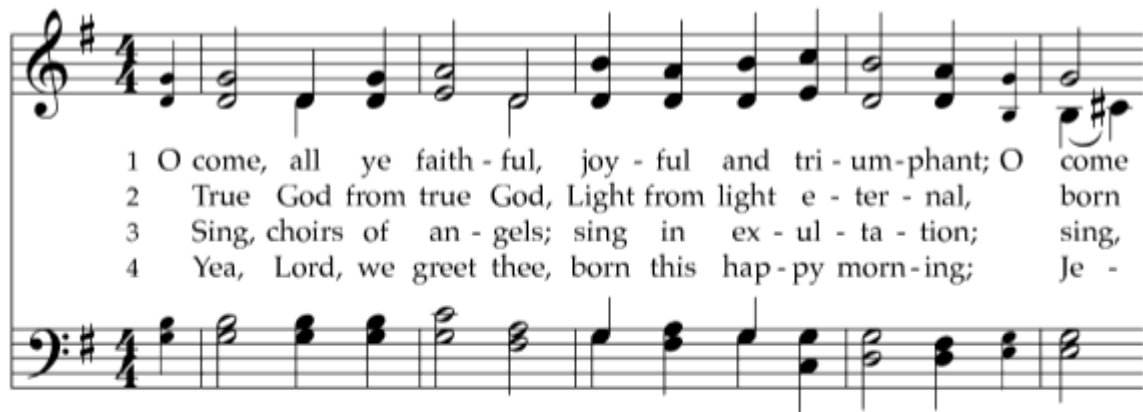
Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*,
either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk
near the Highland Avenue doors.

Attend an Inquirers' Class on February 4 and 11
for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC
and Presbyterian theology. Lunch will be
provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more
info or to register for future classes
(GloriaK@coh.net).


Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the
ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.



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! 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!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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;

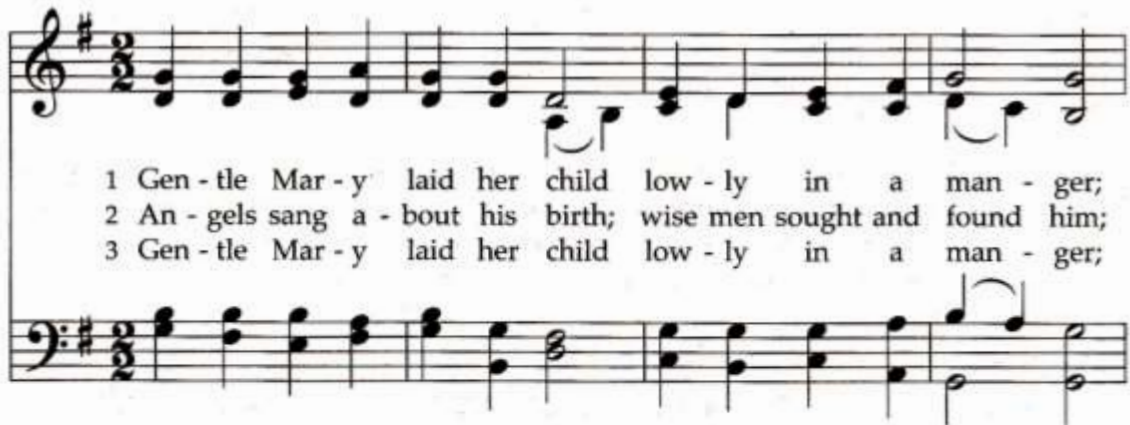
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

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 all 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!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

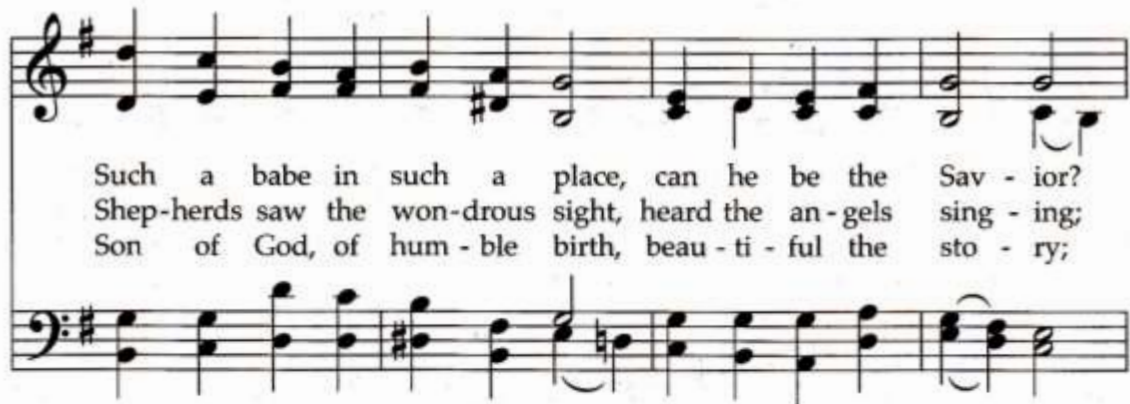
GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD



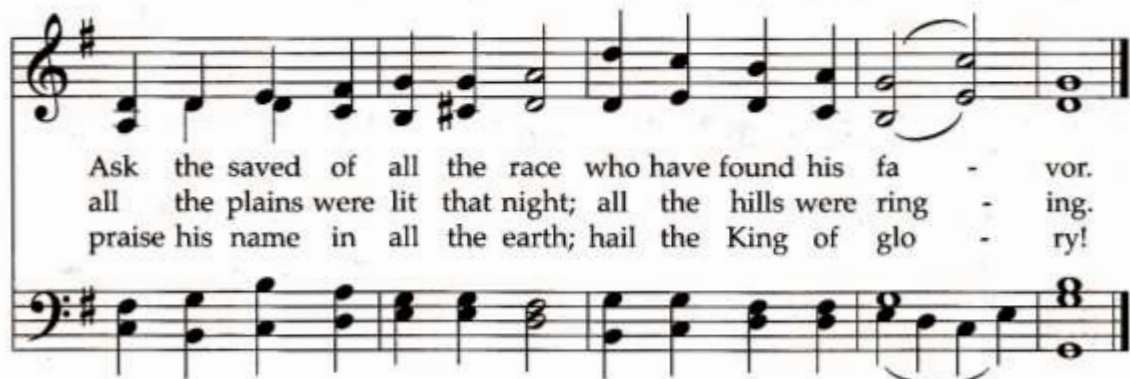
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

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,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Capo 5: (C) F (Am) Dm (C) F (Dm) Gm

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

(F) B \flat (G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (F) B \flat (G) C

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.

(C) F (Dm) Gm

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,

(G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (G) C (C) 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.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;
 stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
 MUSIC: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895

Public domain

CRADLE SONG
 11.11.11.11
 (alternate tune: MUELLER, 115)

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain 

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

Fine

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

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,

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.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

SILENT 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
 Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
 Public domain.

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular