



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

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)

Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24, 2021 — 10:00 PM

PRELUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729”	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude on “Greensleeves”	Richard Purvis
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	arr. Bob McNally, Jr.
“The Secret of Christmas”	James Van Heusen Adrianna Cleveland, <i>soloist</i>
“The Jesus Gift”	Gilbert Martin David Jennings-Smith, <i>soloist</i>
“Behold That Star”	H.T. Burleigh Denise Sheffey-Powell, <i>soloist</i>
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	John Prindle Scott Todd Farwell, <i>soloist</i>
“In Dulci Jubilo”	Marcel Dupré
“O Holy Night”	Adolphe Adam Robin Schneider, <i>soloist</i>

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Tiffany Sudar and David Carl

Leader: Welcome to our Christmas Eve service here at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Against the darkness of injustice and despair, tonight we light the candle of hope.

First candle is lit.

Leader: Against the powers of violence and the swords refusing to be beaten into plowshares, we light the candle of peace.

Second candle is lit.

Leader: Against the weight of loss, grief, and depression, we light the candle of joy.

Third candle is lit.

Leader: Against the false authority of hatred and in response to all who are suffering, we light the candle of love.

Fourth candle is lit.

Leader: God has come to us this evening as a child and Savior. Christ is present in our midst. Walking in the light of faith, let us be people of hope, peace, joy and love!

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

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN #119** (*music printed in bulletin*)

MENDELSSOHN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Leader: Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and lived among us that we might become your people.**

Leader: Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives.

People: **Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.***** HYMN #109** (*music printed in bulletin*)

“Blest Be The God of Israel”

MERLE’S TUNE

READINGS FOR THE SEASON — PART 1

The Rev. Dr. Bush

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Beth Bush, Adrianna Cleveland, Matt Stuftt

CHORAL ANTHEM

“On Christmas Night”

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

READINGS FOR THE SEASON — PART 2

The Rev. Dr. Bush

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Beth Bush, Adrianna Cleveland, Matt Stuftt

ANTHEM

“Gesù Bambino”

Pietro Yon

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 2:1-7, Isaiah 9:2-7

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“A Child Born for Us”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**HYMN #113** (*music printed in bulletin*)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The First Nowell”

arr. Howard Cable

*** DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea - tures
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty ...

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

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Hymn #124 (music printed in bulletin)

“Still, Still, Still”

STILL, STILL, STILL

Hymn #128 (music printed in bulletin)

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Hymn #146 (music printed in bulletin)

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Gracious God, as Christmas Eve draws to an end, may all the weary world rest now in peace, confident that your love will overcome the darkness as surely as the sun rises each new morning. We entrust ourselves and those we love to your care as we go forth to spread the light of Christmas joy. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

John 1:1-5, 14

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* HYMN #122 (music printed in bulletin)

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #134 (music printed in bulletin)

ANTIOCH

“Joy to the World”

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on Joy to the World”

Craig Phillips



As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors. Please turn off all electronic devices before the service begins.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Beth Bush
David Carl
Adrianna Cleveland
Tiffany Sudar
Matt Stufft
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist and Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Soloists: Adrianna Cleveland
Todd Farwell
David Jennings-Smith
Robin Schneider
Denise Sheffey-Powell
Brass Roots: Samuel Eisenhandler, *Trumpet*
Matthew McCormack, *Trumpet*
Rana Jurjus, *Horn*
Taylor Jones, *Trombone*
John Caughman, *Tuba*
Beadles: Liz Hopkins
Mario Seneca
Crucifer: Mark Statler
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

♦ 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.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

There will be no Journey service on Sunday, Dec 26 and Jan 2.

11 am **Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Dec 26 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Taizé Sung Prayer

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France. Rev. BJ Woodworth leads this service in the Chapel.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

No service on Wednesday, Dec 29

Prayer Room (*in Highland Ave hallway*)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness.

Available everyday

♦ SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERINGS

Contemplative Prayer

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

Mondays, 7:30 am to 8 am

Meeting ID #959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Yoga Retreat

Join Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a yoga retreat at ELPC. We will begin the day with yoga, followed by moments for movement, reflection, meditation, and lunch. We hope also to offer the experience of *kirtan* (sacred call and response chanting in Sanskrit). Register by Jan 23 to Norma (412.441.3800 x111). *Suggested donation: \$35-60.*

Saturday, Jan 29, 9 am to 5 pm

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

WELCOME VISITORS!

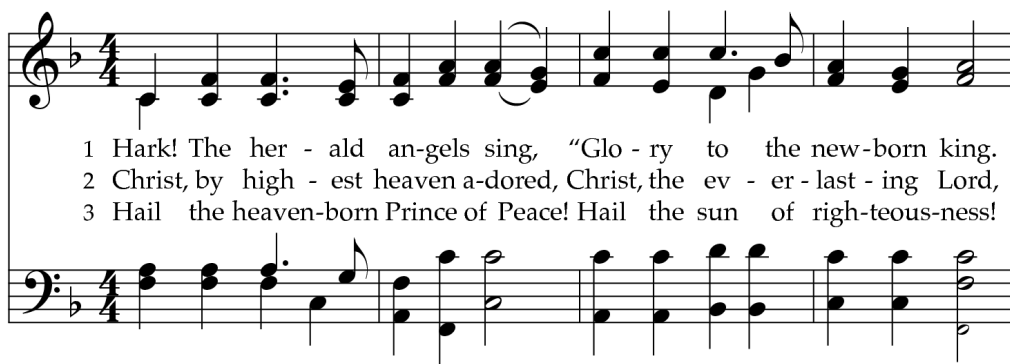
We are grateful to have you join us for worship and ask you to **register your name in our red Friendship Books.**

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

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

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

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



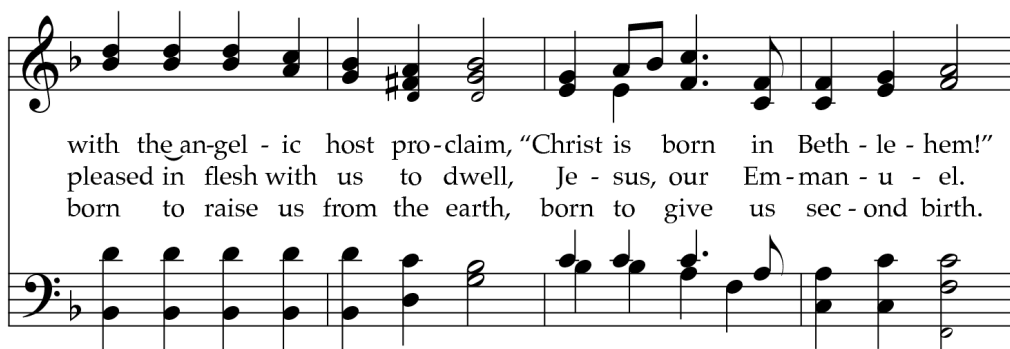
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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,

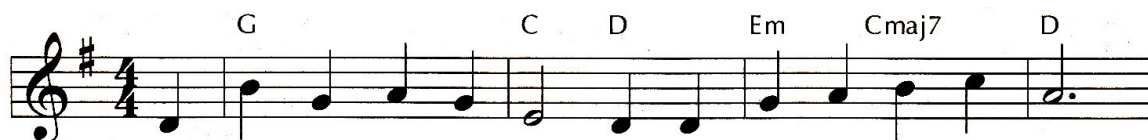


with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL



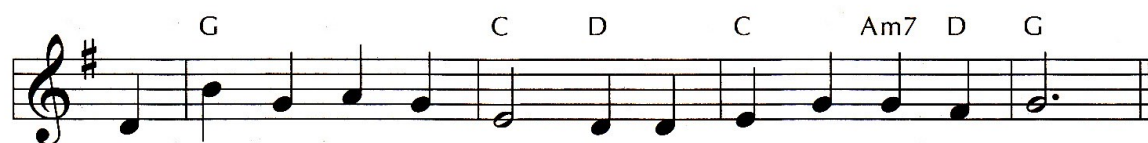
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Michael Perry, 1973, alt.

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Text © 1973 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

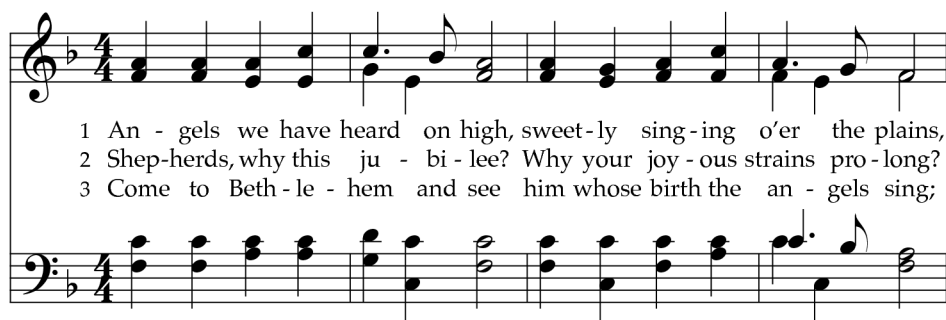
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

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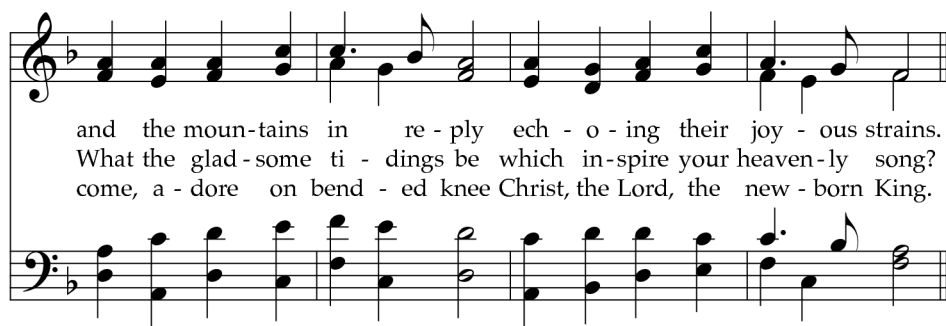
MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



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 - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some 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 - -



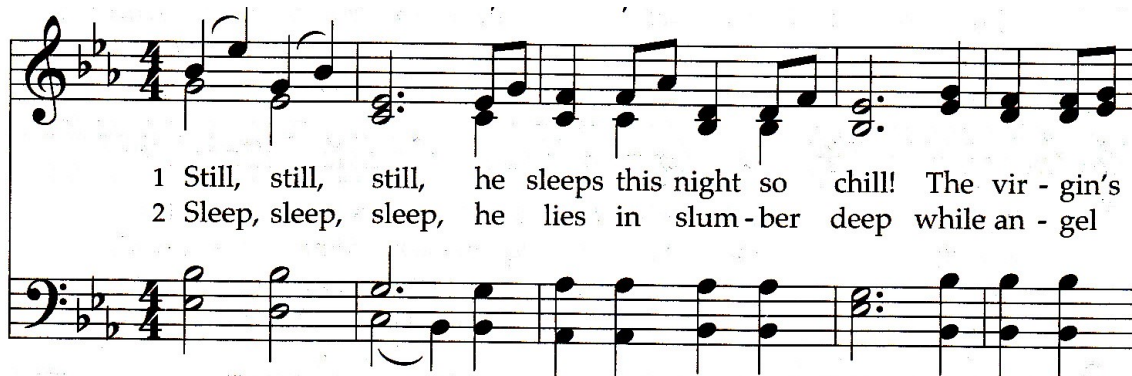
- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
 Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.

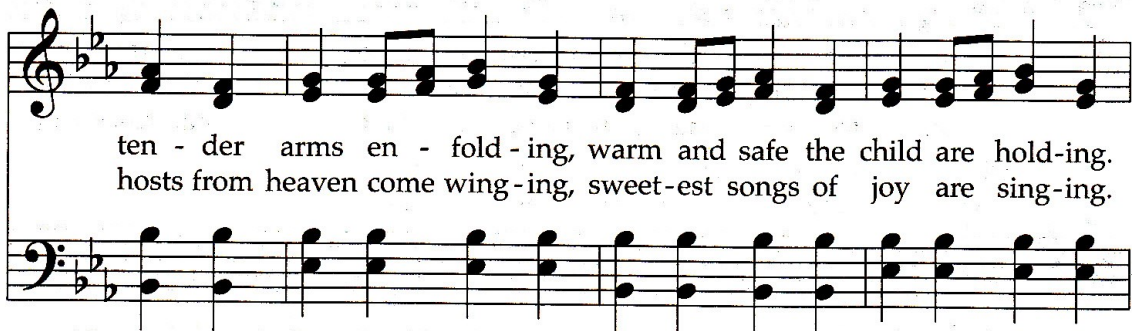
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GLORIA
 7.7.7.7 with refrain

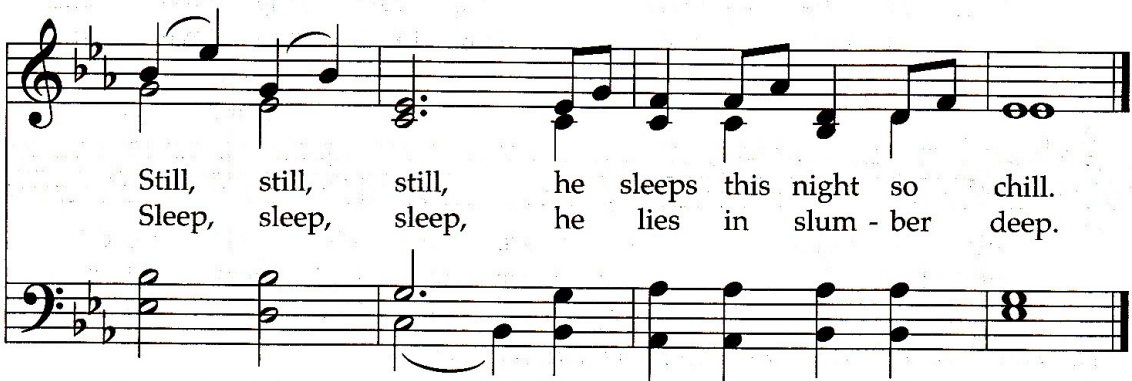
STILL, STILL, STILL



1 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The vir - gin's
2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep while an - gel



ten - der arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the child are hold - ing.
hosts from heaven come wing - ing, sweet - est songs of joy are sing - ing.



Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep.

The great virtue of this Austrian carol is its sheer simplicity, which is reinforced by the re-use of the first two lines as the last two. This narrow scope makes the text into the verbal equivalent of a close-up photograph or painting, so that the sleeping child seems very near.

TEXT: Austrian carol; trans. George K. Evans, 1963

MUSIC: Austrian carol; arr. Walter Ehret, 1963

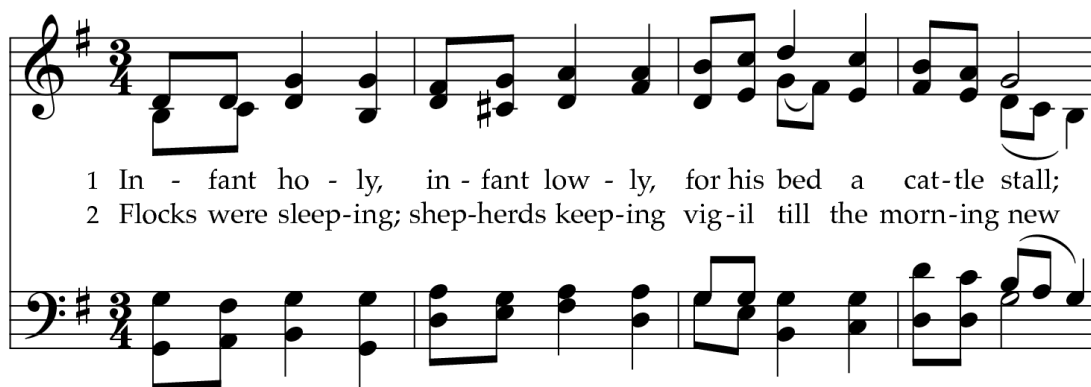
Text and Music © 1963, 1980 Walter Ehret and George K. Evans (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

STILL, STILL, STILL

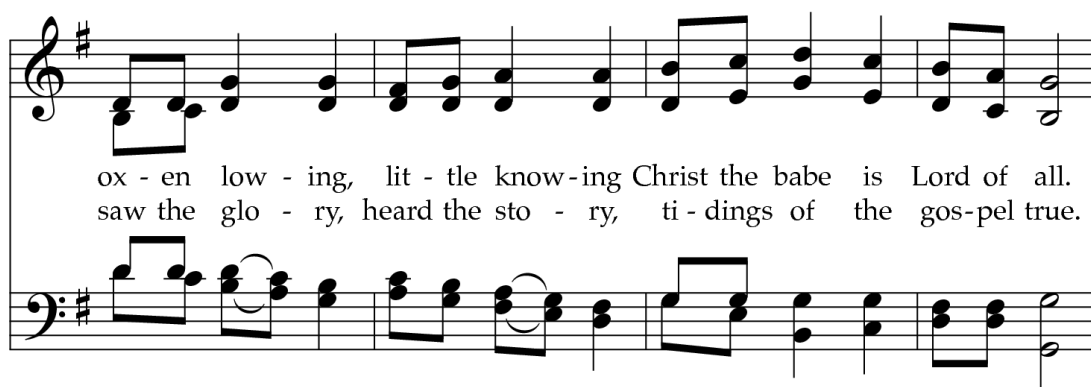
3.6.9.8.3.6

CCLI #689547

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.



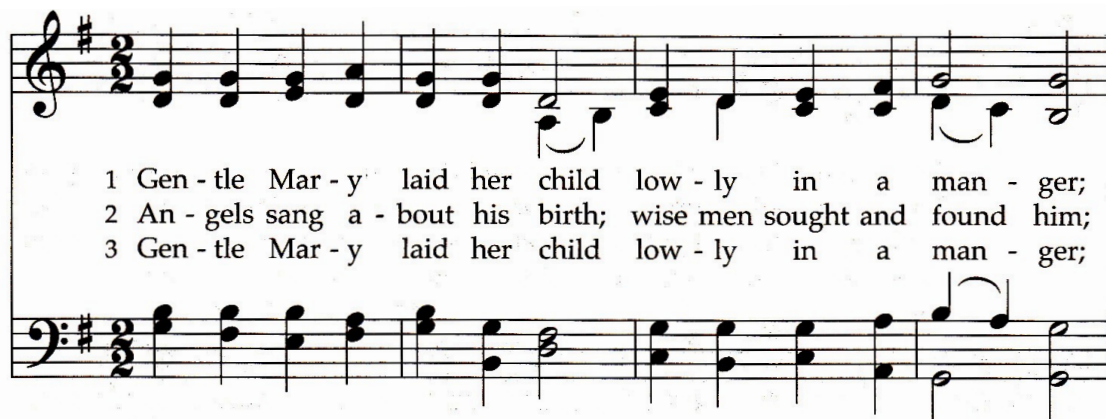
Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6-20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

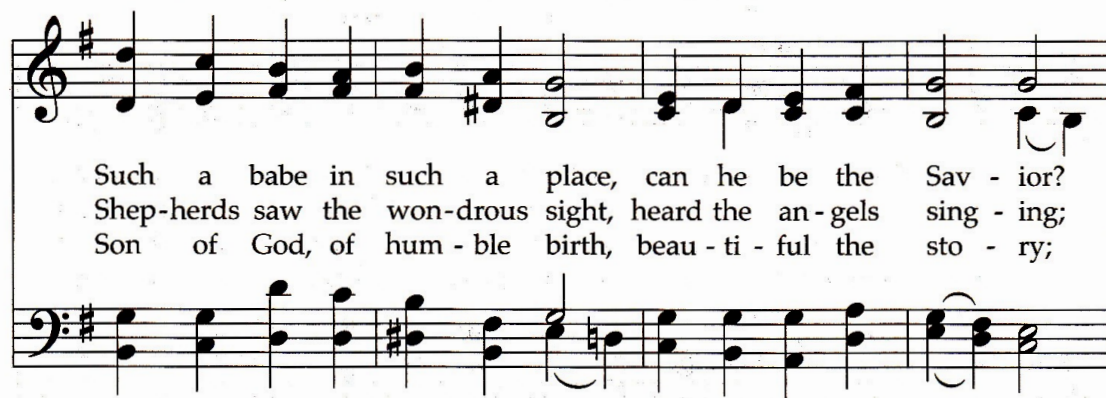
GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD



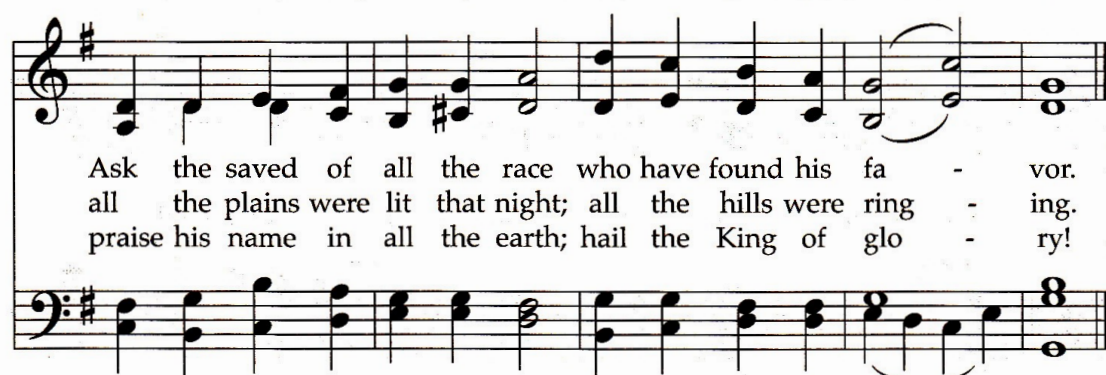
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



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.")

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.

GERMAN

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!

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤*
어둠에 묻힌밤
주의부모 앓아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

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.