



WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org

Christmas Eve ♦ December 24, 2023 ♦ 9:30 a.m.

Our Mission:
We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people,
and joyfully serve God.



As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE

"The Little Jesus"
Ely Ringers

Jason Krug

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

✦ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Betty, Emily, and Tripp Essen

L: We light this candle in hope.

L: We light this candle for peace.

L: We light this candle in joy.

L: We light this candle with love.

L: God of hope,

God of peace,

God of joy,

God of love,

you are love,

and those who abide in love abide in you.

Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

P: God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.

✦ OPENING HYMN #88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(see music in back of bulletin)

VENI EMMANUEL

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Let us confess our sins to the One

whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray:

**P: Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you
and discover that our human agendas
can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.
We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.
Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.**

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

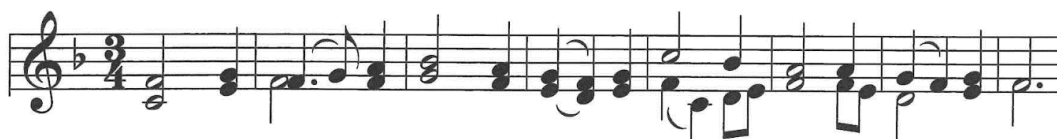
✦ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
P: And also with you.

✦ RESPONSE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sherry Moschner

L: Let us pray:

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us
as we await the coming of your Son.

Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth
and glorify you according to your Word;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Pew Bible pgs. 56-57
Sherry Moschner

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴"I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."

¹⁹Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

²¹my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible pgs. 56-57

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. *Continued >>*

³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

Responding to God’s Word

OFFERING INVITATION

Sherry Moschner

L: Let us magnify the Lord, rejoicing in the one
who scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly,
and fills the hungry with good things.

OFFERTORY

*(For those not using the offering plate, your offering can be made
by texting ALMS to 73256 or using the QR code to the right)*



ANTHEM

Prelude and Harmonizations on a 16th Century German Carol
"Quem Pastores" ("He Whom the Shepherds Praised")
Shawn Portell, organ

Paul Fey

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: A child is born for us in Bethlehem,
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;

**P: and he will be our Shepherd,
feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: The lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise. *Continued >>*

L: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image
and called us to love and serve you.

When we were unfaithful
and turned from your ways,
you did not forsake us,
your love relentlessly returned.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and sent prophets to call us back to your way.

In the fullness of time
you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.

In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity,
became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,
and we beheld your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

PICARDY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, you are - Ho - ly. God of pow - er, God of -
might. Sing Ho - san - na in the - high - est. Heav'n and Earth are
full of God's light. Bless - ed is the one who's com -
ing in the Lord's most ho - ly - name.

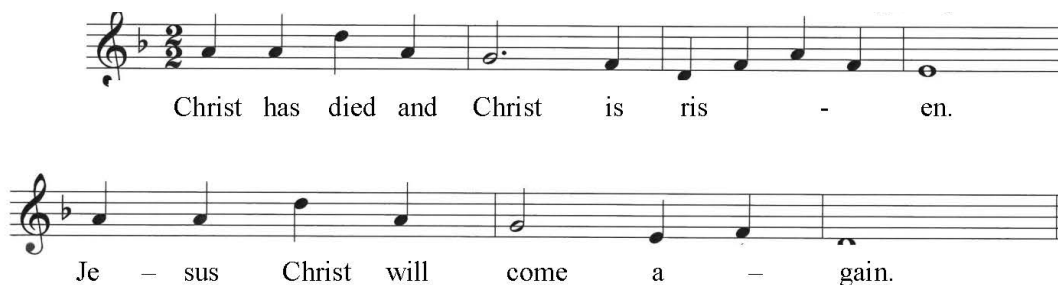
L: You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Born in humility,
he came to rule over all.
Helpless as an infant,
he showed the power of your love.
Poor in things of the world,
he brought the wealth of your grace.
Rejected by many,
he welcomed all who sought him.
In his dying and rising,
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

PICARDY



L: Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place. *Continued >>*

L: As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

(JOYS AND CONCERNS)

Empower us by your Spirit, O God,
to be Christ's presence in the world
even as Jesus was God-with-us.

Give us courage
to speak his truth, to seek his justice,
and to love with his love.

Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

AMEN



PICARDY

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

L: When Jesus was at table with his disciples
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup,
saying: Take and drink.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table,
we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Meditation on "In the Bleak Midwinter"
Meditation on "The First Noel"
Shawn Portell, organ

Paul Fey
Paul Fey

CONCLUDING PRAYER

L: Holy and astounding God,
at this table, in this meal,
we have been met by Christ—
the reflection of your glory,
the imprint of your being.
May our lives be a joyful song,
proclaiming the good news
of your righteousness and peace
for all the world. **Amen.**

Bearers of the Light

*Please light your candle from your neighbor's lit candle,
then pass the light to the person sitting next to you.*

✠ HYMN #122

"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, 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 start, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

✠ CLOSING HYMN #119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
(see music in back of bulletin)

MENDELSSOHN

Sending

✠ CHARGE

L: Do not be afraid –
the light still shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Bear the light of Christ into the world
with hope and great joy!

✠ BENEDICTION

L: The love of God,
the light of Christ,
and the joy of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this holy night
and forever.

POSTLUDE

Concerto-Prelude on "Joy to the World"
Shawn Portell, organ

Paul Fey

*You are welcome to stay for the postlude, especially when we have musical guests.
If you would like to respond at the end, please do so with an "Amen."*

Welcome to WGPC

- **FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.
- **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP:** The nursery (designed for children from newborn through three) is open from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. But if you need to step out of the Sanctuary, the new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) will be open with a comfy place to relax with toys, books, coffee, and a live-stream of the worship service.
- **COMMUNION:** Everyone is invited to participate in Communion including children and the unbaptized.
- **ASSISTIVE DEVICES:** Hearing devices, large print hymnals, and cushions are available. One of our ushers will be happy to assist you.
- **WELCOME BAGS:** If you are a visitor or know someone who might be interested in WGPC, please pick up a red welcome bag at our Welcome Station in the main hallway or at the church entrances.

Those Who Serve Today

Liturgist: Sherry Moschner

Greeters: Ruth Clynes, Diana Likely

Ushers: Marilyn Kuhn, Sam Stoll, Bob and Judy Weng

Tech Team: Lia Fairbanks, Tom McNeely, Rob Meyer, Spencer Roudebush, Joey Stokes, Dennis Wacker

Nursery Caregiving Team: Anna Stokes, Debbie Goss, Tammy Graning, Carrie Rao

Office Assistance: Leigh Porter



Online Worship: Our worship services are live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website (wgpc.org) and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Resources: Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by: Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012; Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2014; Westminster John Knox Press from Book of Common Worship © 2018.

Ministry Staff

314-962-9210

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Nursery Caregiver: Anna Stokes

Custodians: (ext. 3212)

Pete Brennan (Supervisor) pjb@wgpc.org
Pierre Campbell
Ken Kastner

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Art Webster,
chq2@fairpoint.net

2023 Christmas Poinsettias



Donor	Dedication
Kristyn Anderson	
Donna Bellows*	
Mike Bohannon*	In memory of Bette Bohannon and in memory of J.T. Breece
Mary Kay Bohn	In memory of Jim Murphy from Mary, Mike and Mary Kay, Chris, Kathleen, and Charlotte
Julie Burchett*	In memory of Dr. Byron A. Barnes and in honor of Enid C. Barnes
Amy Castagno	
Sue Davis*	In memory of Gene and Jane Davis and in memory of Gordon, Barbara, and Peter Melberg
Deni Fuller	In memory of Christopher Thomas Fuller
Mary Kinsley	In memory of Eleanor Joy Booth from Mary and Amanda Joy Kinsely
Vicki Lane	
Vickie Miller*	Celebrating the blessings of family!
Kathy Norvell	In memory of Dororthy and Price Reed
Lynne Rapp	In memory of family members
Julia Ringkamp*	In memory of Charles Eubanks and Joyce Ringkamp
Matt Robinson*	In memory of Noble Robinson and Tom and Mickey Nash
Jamie Scott	
Anna Stokes*	In memory of Clarke Stokes; in honor of MaryJane and Harold Clifton; and in honor of caregivers
Betty Tocco	In memory of Philip Tocco
Kin Watkins*	In memory of Howard and Winnie Watkins and in memory of Bill and Betty Raack

*Indications donation of multiple plants

December 24, 2023 Announcements



The Nursery is closed

for both Christmas Eve services, but the Gathering Spot (former front office) offers a comfy place to step out with children and enjoy a live-stream of the worship service.



The WGPC offices will be closed December 25 and 26 and January 1 and 2 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

FELLOWSHIP

Epiphany Pot Luck Breakfast

Sunday, January 7, 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Start 2024 off right! Join in the fun of an Epiphany Celebration potluck breakfast on Sunday, January 7, before Worship. After enjoying food and fellowship, head to the Sanctuary to celebrate the Magi visiting baby Jesus. Just like the Magi who brought gifts to Jesus, please consider bringing a gift (or donation) for our mission partner Home Sweet Home. New or gently-used utensils are perfect. Your gifts will be our table centerpieces. You can sign up to bring a potluck item by visiting wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links.

MISSION

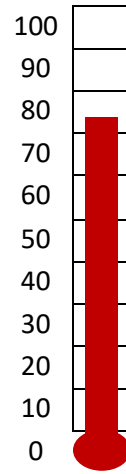
Your Kindness to our Neighbors in Need is Appreciated!



Thank you so much to all who have contributed to the Giving Tree this year! The gifts have all been delivered, and our partner agencies and their clients are very grateful for our support during these challenging times.

If you would still like to make a financial donation, you can do so by check (indicating "Giving Tree" in the memo) or via the church website by **Friday, December 29**. Thank you!

Rooted in Love, Generosity – and Gifts! – Abound



2023 Campaign Goal: \$1,326,793
Raised Thus Far: \$984,753 (74%)
Remaining to Goal: \$342,040



As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, the WGPC Stewardship Commission asks our generous church members to remember Jesus' call for all Christians to use our God-given gifts to help those in need. So far, **our pledges for next year total \$984,753. That's 74 percent of our goal of \$1,326,793.** Church leaders are already at work crafting a budget for 2024 to pay for our staff, our activities, and our missions in line with Jesus' message. We thank all members who have generously pledged and ask those who have yet to pledge to prayerfully consider doing so by year end. Any amount is welcome. You can pledge by mail, by dropping off your pledge card at church, or online.

Thank You for Your Help as We Close our Year-End Records

WGPC is blessed by the generosity of our congregation! Your response and cooperation in submitting gifts and requests for reimbursement quickly, especially at this busy time of the year, is much appreciated and will be invaluable in closing 2023 in the best way possible and getting 2024 off to a wonderful start! May your holidays be blessed.

Give-A-Meal-A-Month December Menu

Help those served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries by purchasing a bag of menu items and dropping it off in the Mission Hub. The GAMAM December menu is: canned beef stew, canned peas (low or no salt), canned mixed fruit (lite or in juice), box of au gratin potatoes, and hot chocolate. Additional needs: baby food.

Christmas Joy Offering Collection



During December 24 Worship or via online giving

During our Christmas Eve services, we will collect the **Christmas Joy Offering**, a special collection that provides much-needed assistance to PC(USA) church workers and their families. The collection also supports Presbyterian-affiliated schools and colleges serving racial/ethnic groups to help students develop their gifts and find their calling. Envelopes can be found in the pews. Donations can be made by check or online by visiting wgpc.org/give, selecting "PCUSA Special Offering" in the drop-down box, and indicating "Joy Offering" in the memo. Thank you for your generosity!

Calling all Unwanted 2024 Calendars

If you've received a surplus of calendars for the new year that you do not need, bring them the Gathering Spot to share with church members who may need one. There is a place marked on the counter where you can leave them (or help yourself to one)!



Holiday Light Recycling

Now through January 8

There is a bin outside of the Hale Entrance where you can drop your burnt-out bulbs! Let neighbors and friends know and help keep these items out of our landfills.

Help Agape Keep St. Louisans Warm!

Donations of Gloves, Hats, and Scarves

Needed by Friday, January 12

This year's Martin Luther King Day of Service project for our Agape youth is called "Keep St. Louis Warm" and involves collecting gloves, hats, and scarves for people who are unhoused to stay comfortable during our cold winter weather. Agape members will leave these items tied to posts and railings with a note stating: "I am not lost. If you are in need, please take me to keep warm." You can help with this project by donating adult-size mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. Just place your donation in the bin marked for this purpose in the Mission Hub by Friday, January 12, at the latest. They will be distributed on Sunday, January 14. Thank you for helping our young people serve the community!

DWARP Update



The Dismantling Racism and White Privilege Committee (DRAWP) of the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy hosted a gathering at WGPC on December 9 to share what our congregations in the presbytery are doing to address the Matthew 25 precepts of congregational vitality, racial justice, and the elimination of poverty. An inspiring presentation was made by Rev. Dr. Jessica Williams of the Kairos Center, and each of the eleven churches represented shared how they are supporting these precepts in work ranging from scholarships to educate young Kenyan students to partnerships with many local organizations to address community needs. DRAWP provides opportunities to make friends while identifying and redressing harms done to the predominantly African American churches within our presbytery. More events are being planned. We give thanksgiving for this opportunity and our foundational faith that makes all things possible in Christ Jesus.

FAITH FORMATION

There are no Faith Formation events for adults or youth through January 2, 2023.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

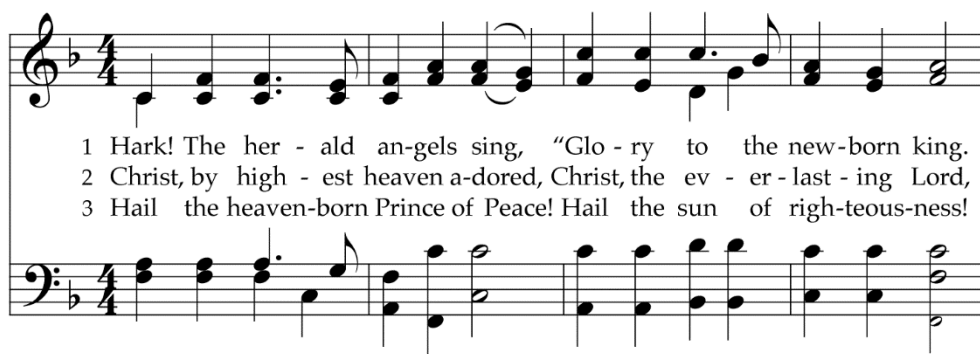


Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
 Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with refrain

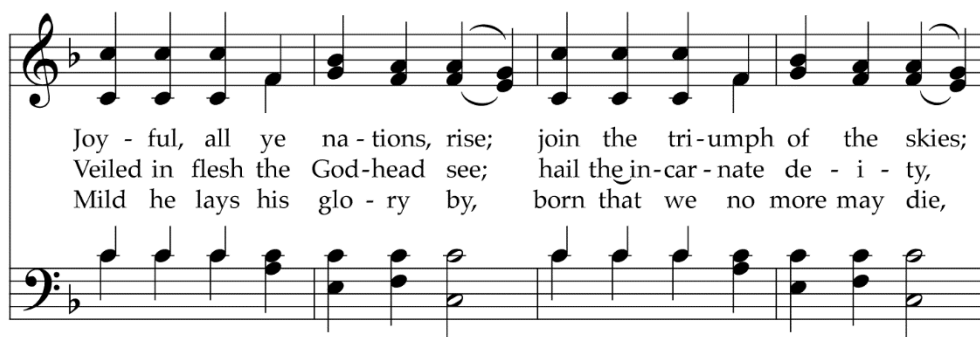
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



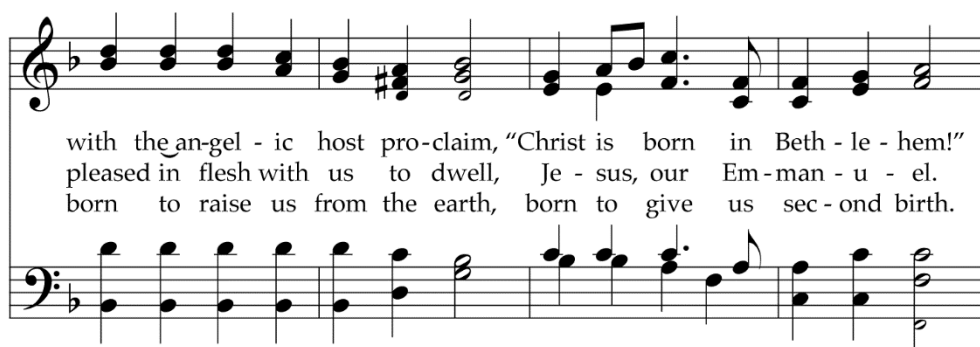
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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.



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

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
 7.7.7.7.D with refrain



Merry
CHRISTMAS