

January 1, 2023

Poetry, Singing, and Celebrating the New Year!



H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs "There's a Star in the East" & "Feliz Navidad"

There's a Star in the East



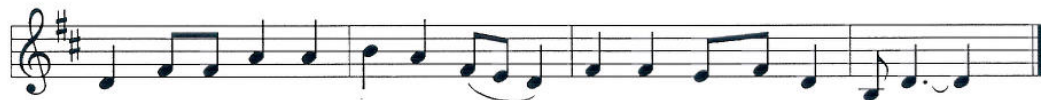
- 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: RISE UP, SHEPHERD, African American spiritual

*Feliz Navidad,
(fuh-leese Nah-vee-dahd)
Prospero Ano y
(Pro-sparrow onyo ee)
Felicidad. (fuh-leese see-dahd)*

Feliz Navidad

By Jose Feliciano

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart;

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart.

Welcome

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.

Not celebrate? by Ann Weems

Not celebrate?

Your burden is too great to bear?

Your loneliness is intensified during this Christmas season?

Your tears have no end?

Not celebrate?

You should lead the celebration!

You should run through the streets

to ring the bells and sing the loudest!

You should fling the tinsel on the tree,

and open your house to your neighbors, and call them in to dance!

For it is you above all others who know the joy of Advent.

It is unto you that a Savior is born this day,

One who comes to lift your burden from your shoulders,

One who comes to wipe the tears from your eyes.

You are not alone,

for He is born this day to you.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.
Merciful God,

you sent a star to guide the men from the East
to the place where the baby lay.
You helped them understand the significance of what they saw
and allowed them to decide wisely
on the best road to take home.
We are sorry for those times
when we turn a blind eye to the guidance you give us
as we seek to follow our own path of faith.
We are sorry for being slow to be moved
by the miracles of your goodness
that are made known to us day by day.
We are sorry for sometimes taking the wrong paths,
for being led by others when their advice or ideas are wrong,
for those times we have been diverted,
choosing instead a lesser code to live by.
Lord help us.
Have mercy on us.
Lead us by a brighter star.
In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

God, whose faithfulness never fails us, loves and forgives us.
God forgives all our sins – what a wonderful gift! --
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Greet Someone New

Music to bring us back together: (Feliz Navidad)

Reprise of "Feliz Navidad" to gather everyone back together

Children's Time

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
also with you.

And

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims. By your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Poem

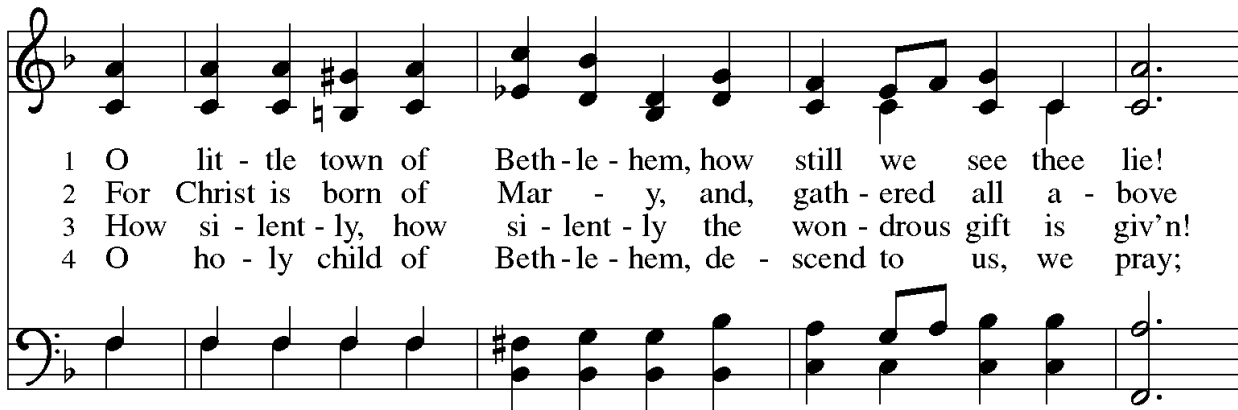
The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

One voice: When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

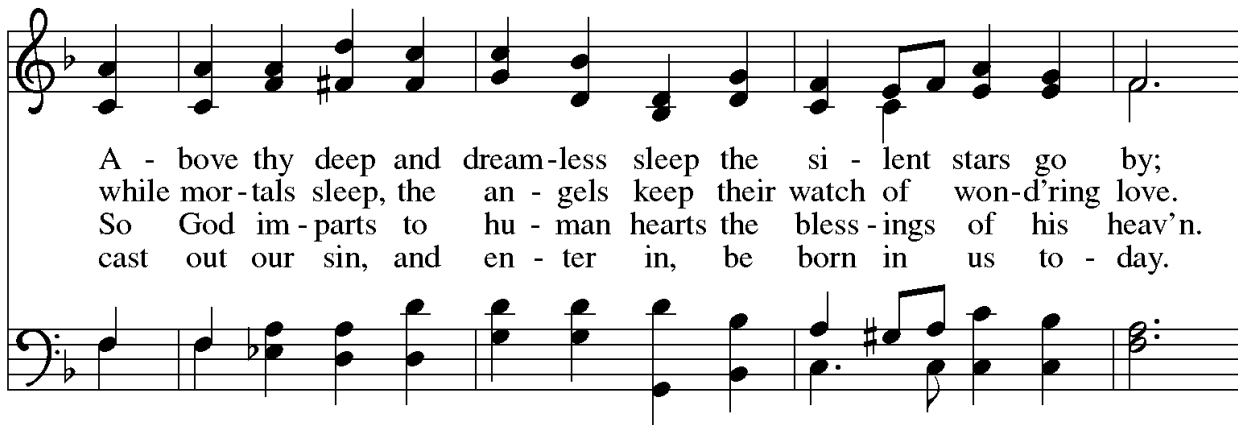
All: **To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.**

Carol – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

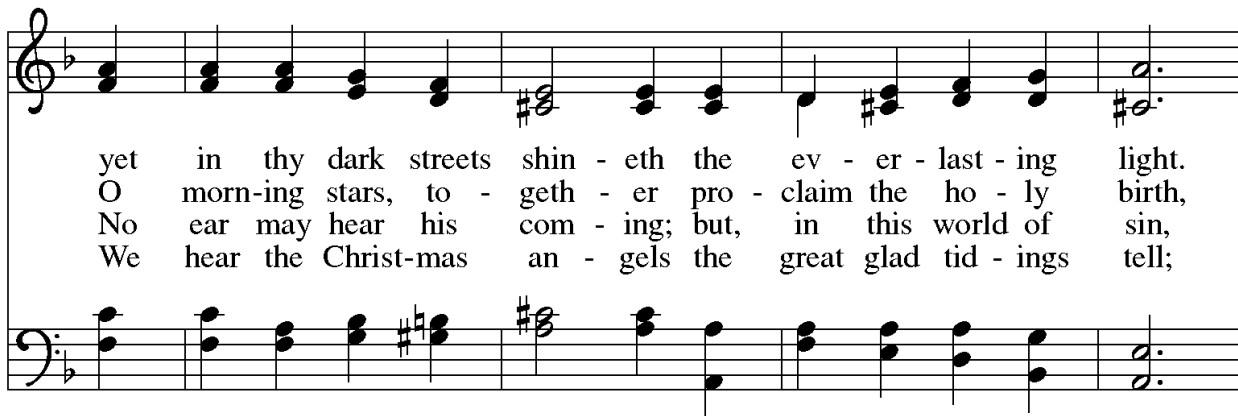
O Little Town of Bethlehem



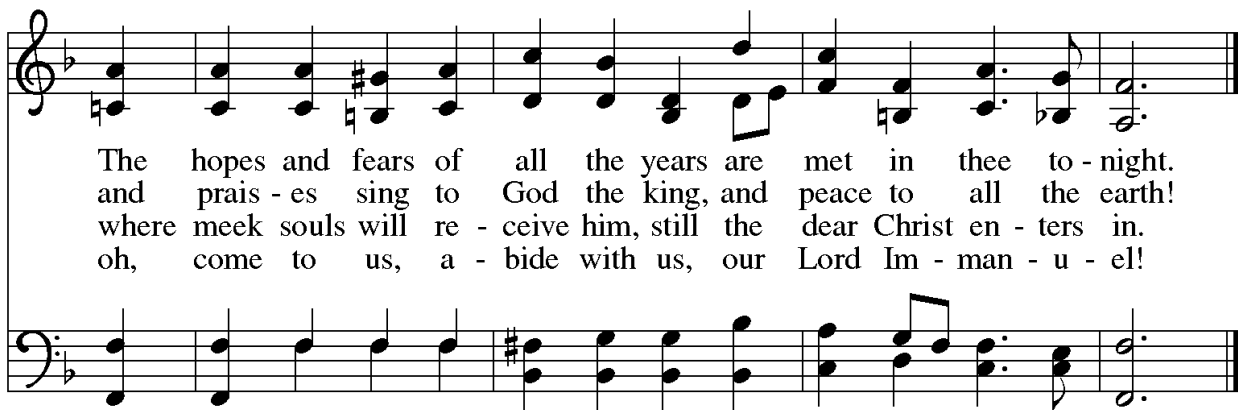
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 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 tid - ings 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 the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

The Word

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today, on this first day of a new year, in the book of Matthew the second chapter, verses 13-18.

(Reader): Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

(Side 1): "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

(Reader): Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,

(Side 2): "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

(Reader): When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

**(Side 1): "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,**

**(Side 2): Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."**

(Reader): Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

Reflection – Hans Peterson

Carol – “Jesus Entered Egypt”

Text: Adam Tice

JESUS ENTERED EGYPT

Music: Hans Peterson

Em D Am Bm

Je - sus en - tered E - gypt flee - ing Her - od's hand,
Je - sus was a mi - grant liv - ing as a guest
Je - sus cross - es bor - ders with the wan - d'ring poor,

C Em Am7 Bm7 Em

Liv - ing as an a - lien in a for - eign land.
with the friends and stran - gers who could of - fer rest.
search - ing for a ref - uge, for an o - pen door.

G D C B7

Far from home and coun - try with his fam - i - ly,
Do we hold wealth and light - ly so that we can share
Do our words and ac - tions an - swer Je - sus' plea:

C Em Am7 Bm7 Em

was there room and wel - come for this ref - u - gee?
shel - ter with the home - less, and a - bun - dant care?
“Give the low - ly wel - come, and you wel - come me”?

D C D Last time Fine - Em

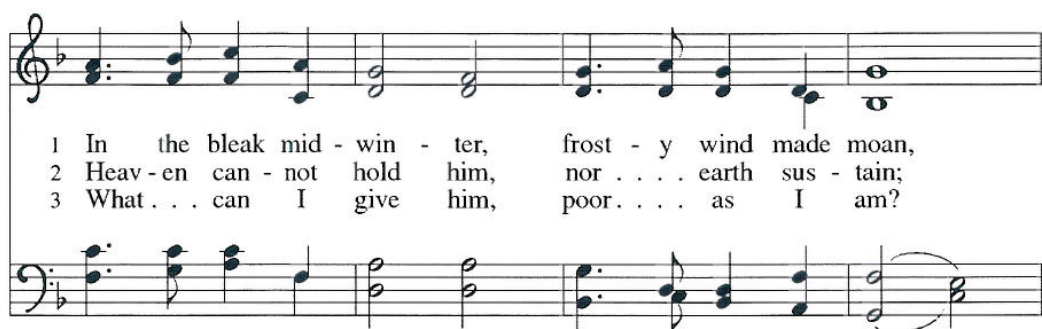
Poem

Noel by JRR Tolkien

Grim was the world and grey last night:
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead.
The wind in the trees was like to the sea,
And over the mountains' teeth
It whistled bitter-cold and free,
As a sword leapt from its sheath.
The lord of snows upreared his head;
His mantle long and pale
Upon the bitter blast was spread
And hung o'er hill and dale.
The world was blind, the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child.
The ancient dome of heaven sheer
Was pricked with distant light;
A star came shining white and clear
Alone above the night.
In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
One voice on a sudden sang:
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
Together at midnight rang.
Mary sang in this world below:
They heard her song arise
O'er mist and over mountain snow
To the walls of Paradise,
And the tongue of many bells was stirred
in Heaven's towers to ring
When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
That was mother of Heaven's King.
Glad is the world and fair this night
With stars about its head,
And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
And fires are burning red.
The bells of Paradise now ring
With bells of Christendom,
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
That God on earth is come.

Carol – "In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the Bleak Midwinter




1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Poem

Who Wouldn't Go? (Up on the Housetop)

by Matthew D. Meyer

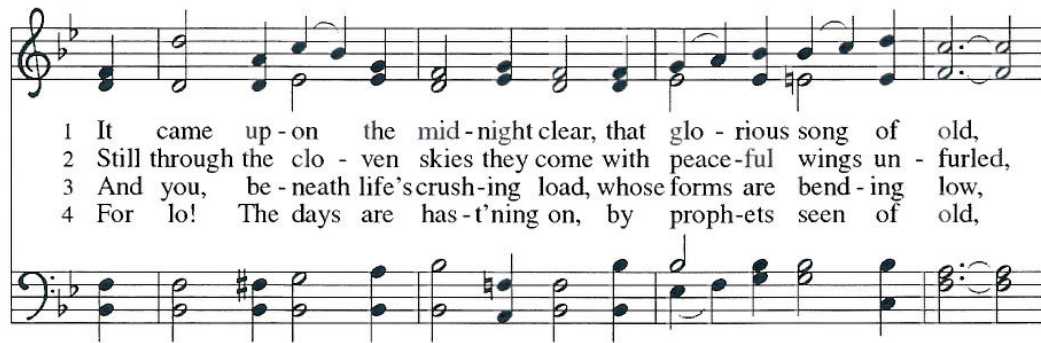
Like a thief in the night, o Lord, descend,
down through the chimney with lots of toys
with a click and a trump and a ho, ho, ho!

Then, o Lord, what Christmas joys--
all of creation like a stocking filled
(oh, just see what a glorious fill!)
with new heav'n and earth,
with gold and pearl and precious stone.

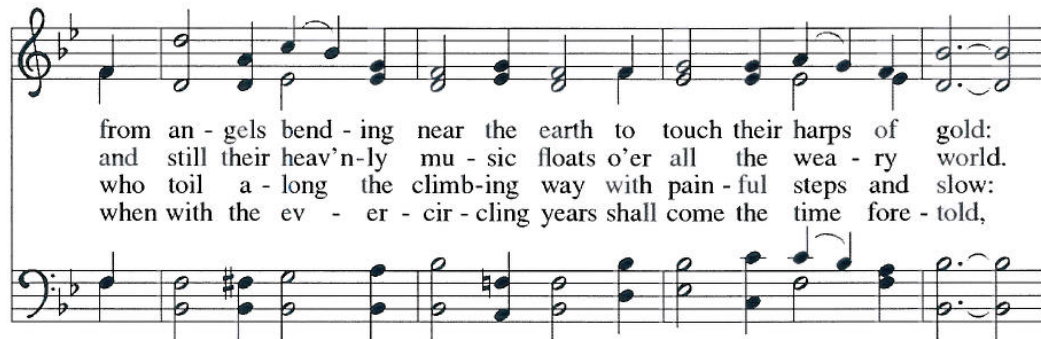
Thy kingdom come, o Lord,
wrapped in ribbon, swaddling cloths--
all for the little ones: Christmas joys.
Virgin by Sam Gutierrez
It seems everyone wants at least 3-5 years experience.
Except God, that is.
He looks for the one willing to try something new.

Carol – "It Came upon A Midnight Clear"

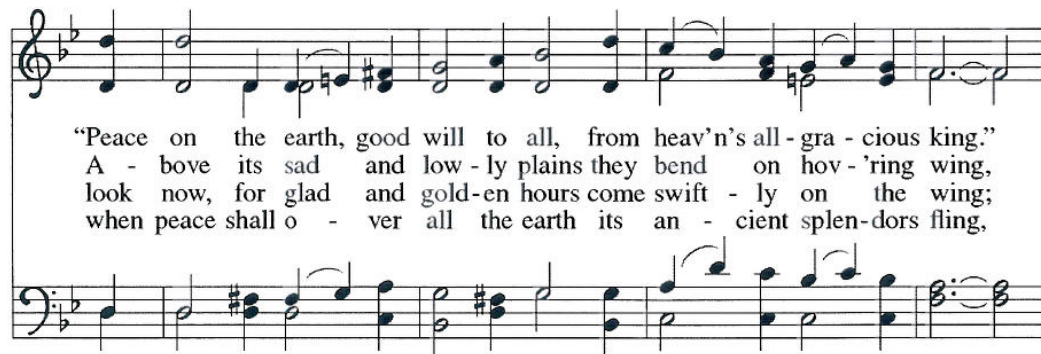
It Came upon the Midnight Clear



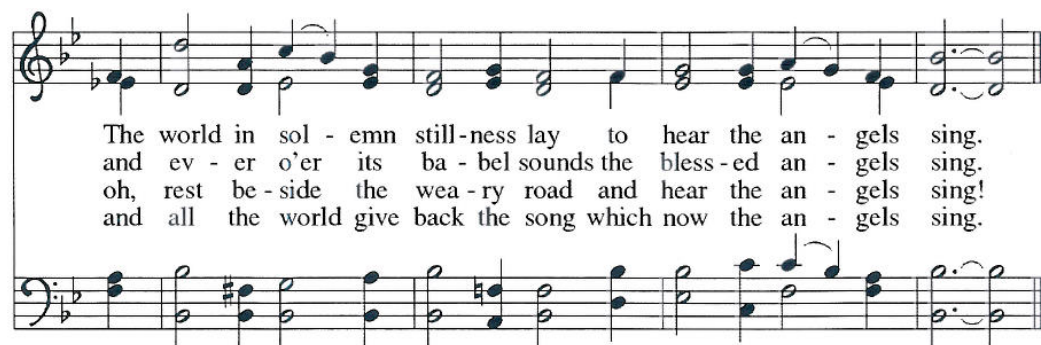
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Poem

Yesterday's Pain

by Ann Weems

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life,
there is a deafening alleluia
rising from the souls of those who weep,
and of those who weep with those who weep.
If you watch, you will see
the hand of God
putting the stars back in their skies
one by one
Yesterday's Pain
Some of us walk in Advent
tethered to our unresolved yesterdays
the pain still stabbing
the hurt still throbbing.
It's not that we don't know better;
it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves.
On the way of Bethlehem, will you give us a hand?

Carol – "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

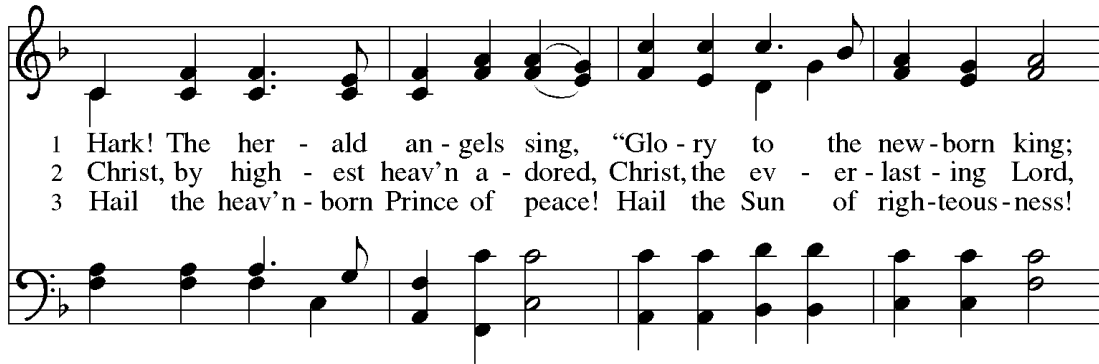
The Feast

Offering

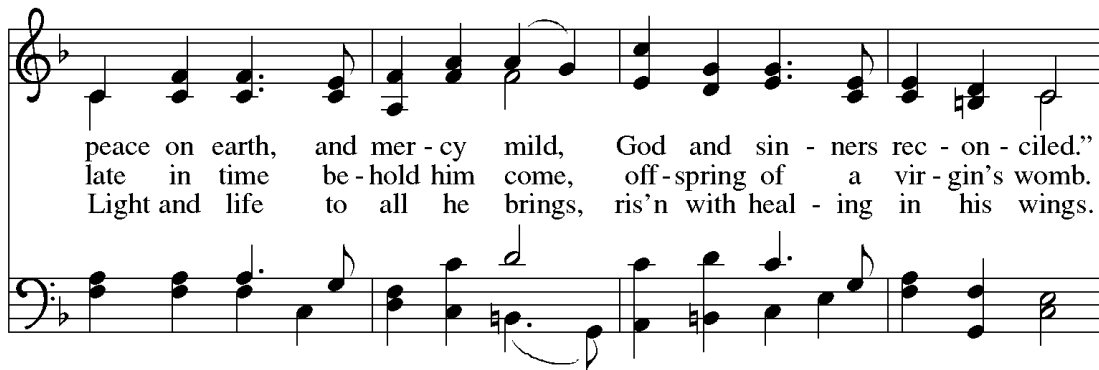
Worship Leader: *Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office.*

Offering Song – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



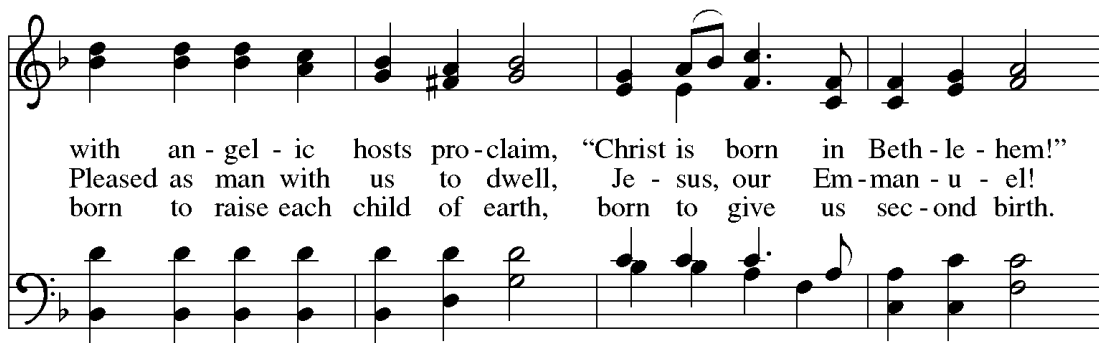
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

The Feast

Setting the Table *the children lead us as we sing together:*
Gloria – In Excelsis Deo (2X)

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

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

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth.

So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing.

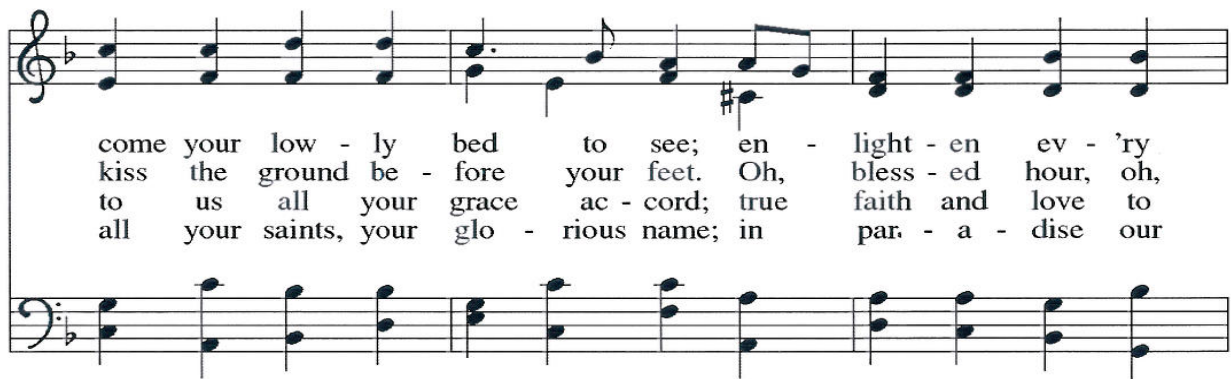
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Carols "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" & "Love Has Come"

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

God of the abundant table,

you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

MILESTONES! – “Auld Lang Syne”

It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.

Milestones!

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld ac-quaint-ance be for-got, and nev-er brought to mind? Should auld ac-quaint-ance
be for-got and days of Auld Lang Syne? For Auld Lang Syne, my dear, for
Auld Lang Syne, We'll tak' a cup o' kind-ness yet, for Auld Lang Syne.

Chords: F, C, F, F7, Bb, F, C7, A/C#, Dm, Gm7, C7, F, C7, F, C7, F, F, Bb, F, C7, A/C#, Dm, Gm7, C7, F.

Blessing for the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023

Let us bid 2022 farewell. With gratitude, we step into this new year, shaped by the events of this past year, both good and hard. Let us ask God to help us let go of the things that need to be let go of. Let us ask God to teach us and prepare our hearts, our minds, our lives for today, the beginning of 2023. And now may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Carol - “Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Go in peace – serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Music to Send You Out

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