



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 5, 2025

Preparation for Worship

*God of endless light, you sent a star – rising from darkness,
guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy.
Let the splendor of your dawning light
grow in us and in all the world
until the whole creation shines with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Voluntary

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Introit

Arise, Shine; for Your Light Has Come

arr. Hal Hopson

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Alleluia.
- Isaiah 60:1*

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 152 ([see page 9](#))

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

✠ Prayer of Confession

**God-with-us,
we confess that we have not embraced your love.
Christ has come into the world,
and yet we do not know him.
Christ has called us to be his own,
and yet we do not accept him.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Show us your mercy and truth until we know in fullness
your good news of great joy.**

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the Good News. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response

Jacques Berthier

Canon—4 voices

1. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 2. in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 4. al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

O Send Out Your Light

Charles Callahn
(1951-2023)

O send out your light,
O send out your light and your truth,
That they may lead me
And bring me unto your holy hill and to your dwelling.
O send out your light.

- Psalm 43:3, adapt. Charles Callahan

Second Reading

John 1:1-18

N.T. pgs. 91-92

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

First of All

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

✦ Hymn 145 [\(see page 10\)](#)

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Offering**Offertory***A Simple Song*Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

Sing God a simple song:
 Lauda, Laude...
 Make it up as you go along:
 Lauda, Laude...
 Sing like you like to sing.
 God loves all simple things,
 For God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song
 To praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord.
 I will sing His praises while I live.
 All of my days.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
 Blessed is the man who praises Him.
 Lauda, Lauda, Laude...
 And walks His ways.

I will lift up my eyes
 To the hills from whence comes my help.
 I will lift up my voice to the Lord
 Singing Lauda, Laude.

For the Lord is my shade,
 Is the shade up on my right hand,
 And the sun shall not smite me by day
 Nor the moon by night.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord
 Lauda, Lauda, Laude...
 And walks His ways.
 Lauda, Lauda, Laude, Lauda, Lauda, di da di day...
 All of my days.

- Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Schwartz (1971)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**Invitation to the Lord's Table****Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

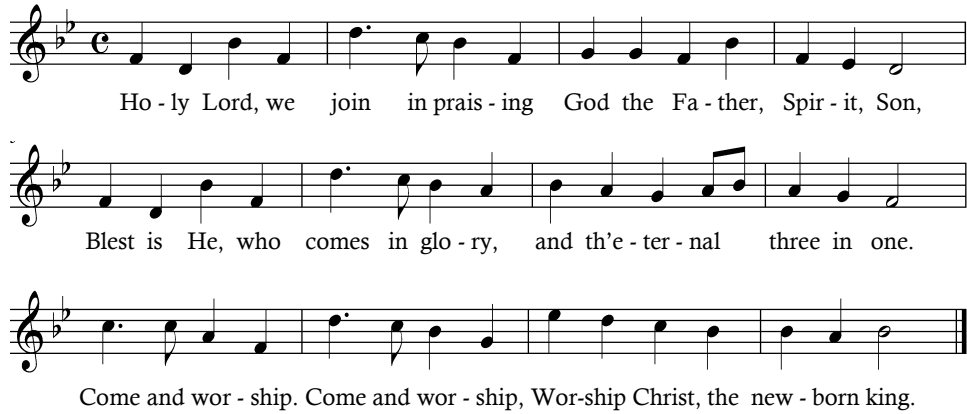
Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God . . . Therefore we join the faithful of every time and place
in singing the endless hymn of praise:



Ho - ly Lord, we join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,
Blest is He, who comes in glo - ry, and th'e - ter - nal three in one.
Come and wor - ship. Come and wor - ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new - born king.

Jesus lived for you. . . We pray, even as we affirm the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ the Lord will come a - gain.

As the children of God, let us pray together:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Music Two Settings of *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

✦ Prayer after Communion

God of all the nations,
we thank you for the wideness of your table,
where there is room enough and food enough
for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
**As we have met the living Christ in this meal,
transform our lives that we may become
the body of Christ in the world. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 134 ([see page 11](#))

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

✦ Charge and Blessing

Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary

In dir ist Freude
BWV 615

J.S. Bach

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Suzanne Kerr

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Elizabeth Duerr, Jane Malczewskyj, & Collen Nelson, handbells
Cecilia Duarte, soloist | Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle and receive a piece of bread. Gluten-free bread is also available. You may dip the bread in the chalice of grape juice and receive communion by intinction or you may take from the tray a small cup of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Those who have difficulty coming forward may receive communion in their seats by signaling the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. Gifts will benefit the Montreat Conference Center a private, non-profit conference center with roots in the PC(USA) located in western North Carolina, where people gather to experience God's transforming power and inspire love for the world.

- Cultivate an abiding faith in Jesus Christ through personal and congregational spiritual renewal and growth;
- Nurture and preserve relationships;
- Demonstrate intentional hospitality;
- Care for the natural treasure that is Montreat;
- Foster a safe place; and
- Honor continuing ties to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Gifts may be brought to the front basket during the final hymn. You may also make a secure contribution through [MyStPhilip](#) and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line.

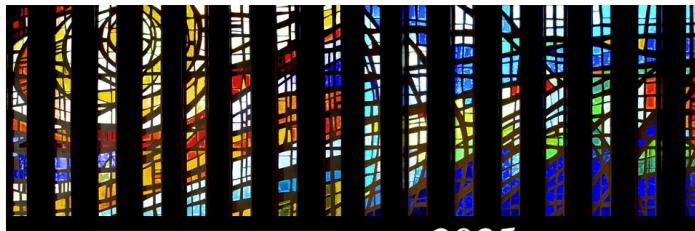
Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 31:7-14 – *God will gather the scattered people and turn their mourning into joy.*
- Psalm 147:12-20 – *Praise the Lord! God protects, blesses, and gives guidance.*
- Ephesians 1:3-14 – *God adopted us, making us heirs through Christ Jesus.*
- John 1:(1-9) 10-18 – *The Word became flesh and lived among us.*

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Lorrie Castle in celebration of her 13 years of marriage to David Castle.

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*



2025

Mark your calendars for

Dr. Brian K. Blount

President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA
Scholar, Author, Pastor

Speaker for the 28th Annual Duerr Lecture Series,
February 23, 24, and 25, 2025



MUSIC NOTES

Dieterich Buxtehude's setting of *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* uses this familiar Epiphany chorale ("O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright") as the basis for multiple variations. Each is premised on distinct rhythmic figuration that grows steadily more joyous throughout, and the tune migrates from voice to voice, sometimes sounding through the texture in long notes and at other times decorated fancifully. The custom of a connecting series of organ versets on the same hymn melody was well established by Buxtehude's day, having been invented by Italian organists who wrote their own contrapuntal elaborations on Gregorian hymns. Johann Pachelbel and J. S. Bach treated the same chorale in a similarly contrapuntal fashion, with the melody in long notes against busier accompanying lines. Bach's exuberant setting of the Epiphany hymn tune *In dir ist Freude* ("In Thee is Gladness") offers an equally joyful take on the new year.

On this epiphany Sunday, may we renew our focus on the light we follow and the light we shine in the world, displayed respectively in today's choral selections. Our **introit** and **anthem**, both short pieces from larger collections, offer musically condensed passages from scripture presented in contrasting style and instrumentation. The first highlights a joyous handbell ostinato

(continuous pattern of pitch and rhythm) and the second is written in a slower, more delicate choral texture in dialogue with a melodic organ accompaniment.

Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* was a product of his time. With rock and blues bands, choirs of adults and children, and a sizable group of singer/dance "street people," saying this take on the traditional liturgical Latin mass was unconventional for its time would be dramatically understated. The work was also a reflection of horrific world events in 1971, such as an escalating Vietnam war, a five-day prison riot in New York, increasing violence in Northern Ireland, inflation rising under Nixon, and the end of artistic era with the passing of Igor Stravinsky, Louis Armstrong, Coco Chanel, and others.

At the peak of disorder, the central character called "the Celebrant," whose journey of faith is challenged and developed over the course of the mass, sings **A Simple Song**, and suddenly transforms the chaos into reverent, albeit temporary peace. With war and tragedy once again in the news, may the music and words of this simple song bring peace now, and help us be beacons of peace to the world.

—Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss

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Preparation for Worship from *Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA). Prayer of Confession and Prayer after Communion from *Call to Worship*, 50.1, Presbyterian Church (USA).

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families — Dan Cleveland: Robin Willis; Janet Davis; Dick Howard; Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldarraji; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Roderick James; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jacqui — cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Raquel Calhoun —sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Jerry Isbell — son-in-law of Bill & Karen Morris; Terese Murphy— cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children — sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore — mother of Chuck Johnson; Paige Everhart — sister of Nancy E. Johnson; Ann Perenyi — mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud —cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound — Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians — Brenda Paulk — friend of Bonnie Moore; Janet Rowlands — friend of Mary McGuire; Pete & Gloria Benevides, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash — friend of Jane Cooper; Annette Covey — friend of Guy & Melissa Aldrich; Stephen Wedemeyer and Mary Watters — friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden — friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton — friends of William Rowe; Tom Barnett — friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach— friends of Stephen Paine; Betsy Shear Lewis — friend of Laney Miller; and Shirley Stubblefield — friend of Barbara Runge.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY – Ages 3 – Kindergarten – Room 104

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-5 – Room 205 – **God's Family At Worship - Today - February 2** – The Education Committee is offering an intergenerational workshop for our elementary Sunday School students, their families, and the entire congregation. The workshop, "God's Family at Worship," is a series of five classes. The classes will be co-led by pastors, staff, and highlight the practices, rituals, and routines of worship in our community

YOUTH – Grades 6-12 – Dining Room – Kids Against Hunger

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – We are studying Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Join us from **9:30 – 10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. January 12 - The State of St. Philip Presbyterian Church - presented by Rev. Dr. John Wurster, Pastor and Head of Staff St. Philip Presbyterian Church - The State of the Denomination - presented by Rev. Lynn Hargrove General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process - Presbytery of New Covenant. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_sphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL – We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing, and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

LAMBETH STUDY – Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP – This group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 PM to read and discuss our faith responses to social justice issues. The current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America*. Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

sj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Jan. 9** at 7:00 PM. We will discuss *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at:

nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP – Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to:

john@saintphilip.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women.

Thursday Evening Circle – Feb. 6

meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room. Sarah Victorian sarah.m.0617@gmail.com

Monday Morning Saints – Jan. 13

meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle - Jan. 15

meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm - contact Sue Shirley-Howard sue@fluencyhouston.com for location

Sunday Circle - Jan. 19

meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone – Jan. 26

Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library Lee Ardell leardell@gmail.com



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.net.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,
we seek to be an inclusive,
grace-filled community,
engaging the world with open minds,
willing hands and generous hearts.

WE LONG
for deeper faith,
vibrant hope
and boundless love
for everyone, every day, everywhere.

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A Hearing Loop is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your “T switch” to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY’S BULLETINS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

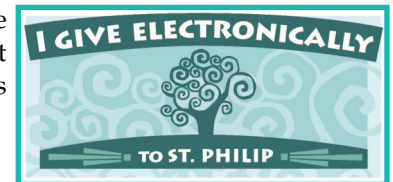
If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.

Lost & Found – did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

I Give Electronically – in response to parents’ hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers.



Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -



love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let



sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the



ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

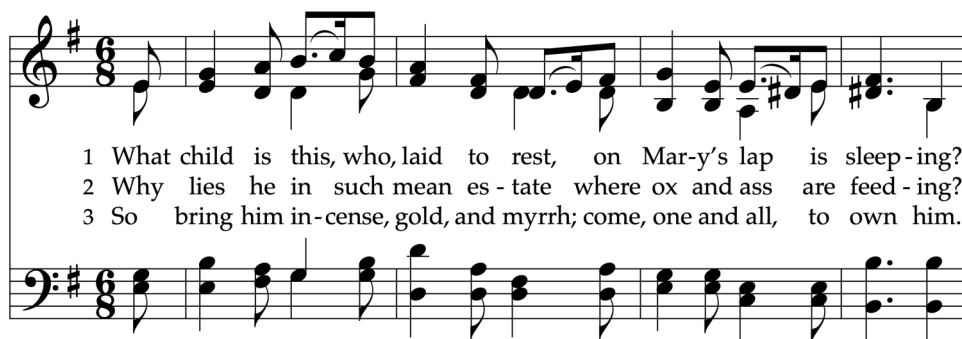
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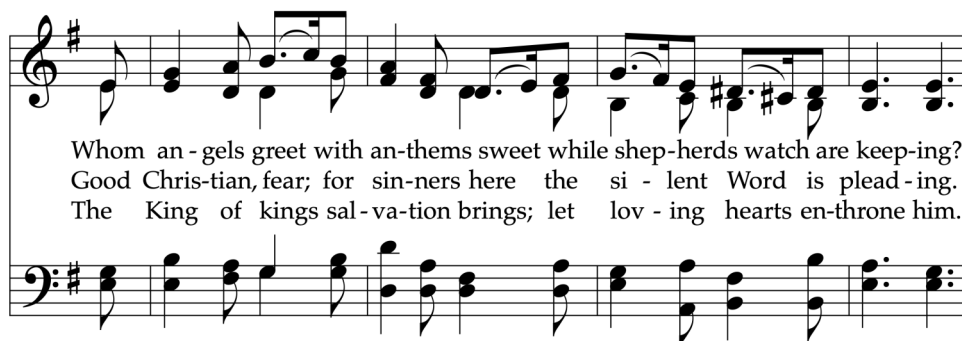
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Hymn 145

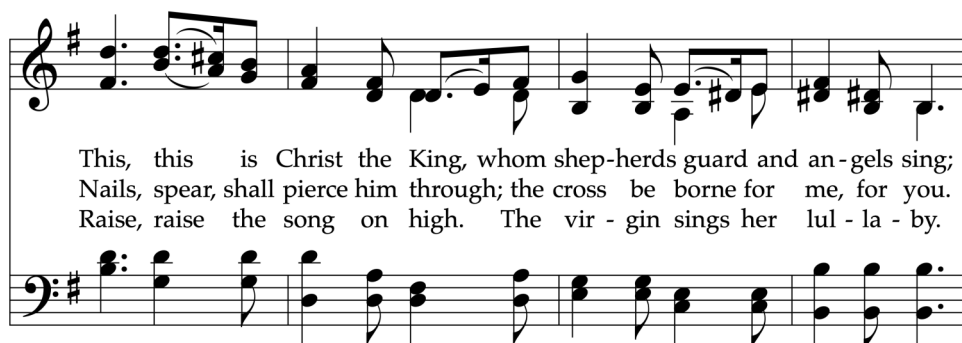
What Child Is This



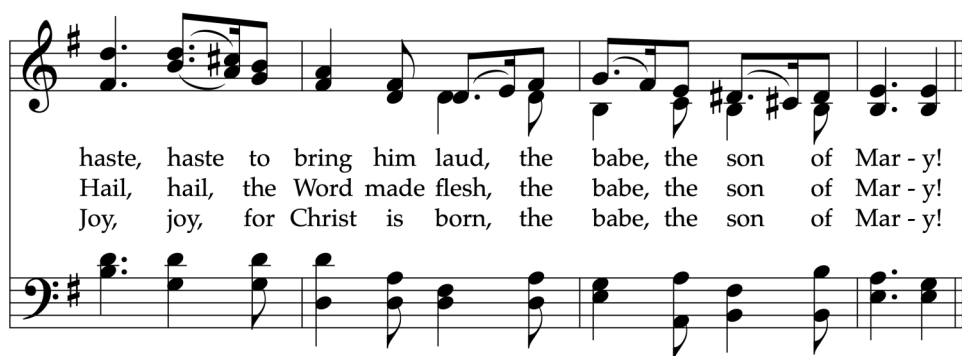
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
 MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

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Hymn 134

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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH
 CM with repeat

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