



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2024

Preparation for Worship

*Almighty God,
you wonderfully created,
and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature.
In your mercy,
let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ
who came to share our humanity,
and who now lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Voluntary

Manger Medley

arr. Mark Hayes
(b. 1953)

Greeting

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

Opening Sentences

There is good news of great joy for all!
Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord has come.
O come let us adore him.
Let us worship the Lord!

✠ Hymn 133 ([see page 9](#))

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

✠ Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth,
 in Jesus Christ you came among us
 as light shining in darkness.
 We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
 or trusted good news to be good.
 We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
 expecting little, and hoping for less.
 Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
 so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
 and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

silent prayer

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✠ Hymn 119 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

✠ 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

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

N.T. pg. 59

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten
 (1913-1976)

Here we bring new water from the well so clear
 For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
 Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
 The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
 Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
 Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
 Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
 Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

- Anonymous

Sermon

Now What?
silence and stillness

Omar Rouchon

✦ Hymn 138 ([see page 11](#))*Who Would Think That What Was Needed*

WHITE ROSETTES

✦ Affirmation of Faith

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
 the firstborn of all creation;
 in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
 things visible and invisible.
 All things have been created through him and for him.
 He himself is before all things,
 and in him all things hold together.
 He is head of the body, the church;
 he is the beginning,
 the firstborn of the dead,
 so that he might come to have first place in everything.
 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
 and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
 whether on earth or in heaven,
 by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

Offertory

*Noel: Une Vierge Pucelle*Nicolas Le Begue
(1630-1702)✦ Hymn 123 ([see page 13](#))*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

✦ Hymn 136 ([see page 14](#))*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

*Christmas Morn*George Frideric Handel
(1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Selena Brinegar

Musicians

Jane Malczewskyj, guest pianist | Colleen Nelson, soloist | Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 – *Ministering before the Lord, Samuel grows in stature and favor.*
- Psalm 148 – *Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth.*
- Colossians 3:12–17 – *As God's chosen ones, clothe yourselves in love; be thankful.*
- Luke 2:41–52 – *Three days after Passover, young Jesus is found in his Father's house.*

MUSIC NOTES

This morning's opening voluntary was arranged by Mark Hayes, an American composer, arranger, conductor, and concert pianist who was educated at Baylor University and has written over 1,000 publications predominantly sacred and gospel. **Manger Medley** is an example of his creative style of combining two well-known manger melodies, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and "Away in a Manger". Hayes' self-proclaimed mission in life is "to create beautiful music for the world".

English composer Benjamin Britten has a broad catalog of carols varying in style and scale. "Levy-Dew", also known as **A New Year Carol**, is a traditional British folk song of Welsh origin traditionally sung during New Year celebrations. Britten's version, featuring a simple melody and harmonic structure, was published in *Friday Afternoons*, a collection of songs for weekly singing at the Welsh school where his brother was headmaster. The simplicity of Britten's

version harkens back to a ceremony in Wales where children would draw fresh water from a well and sprinkling water over neighboring houses for the next year's good fortune, all the while singing the "Levy-Dew" carol.

Nicolas Le Begue was an outstanding French composer, organist, and harpsichordist who is most noted for his keyboard music. Today's **offertory** is one of nine noel's in this collection of variations on Christmas carols.

Christmas Morn was composed by George Frideric Handel, a German-British Baroque composer well known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos. The Closing Voluntary demonstrates Handel's typical baroque style of simplicity, thereby creating greatness from simple themes using repetition and dramatic effects.

–Notes by Jane Malczewskyj & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

Congratulations to Jared, Amanda, and Pamela who welcomed daughter and sister Gwendolyn McCelvey Ewing to their family on December 20.

St. Philipians 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. Philipians – 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

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*Duerr
Lecture
Series*



NEXT YEAR 2025

Mark your calendars for next year's event



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—ROOM 103

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4—Room 105

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—DINING ROOM—On recess until January.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—We 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 AM—10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Jan. 5, 2025**—"My Summer Internship with Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center" - The Ford Foundation grant to the Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center states the purpose of the center "To protect the rights of children and juveniles through policy research, legal aid services, and the training of a nationwide network of public interest lawyers. St. Philipian Lily Frautschi will tell the story of her summer internship as a William and Mary Law student by serving at the Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center. Lily participated in the center's work to conduct empirical research to facilitate justice for children and migrants, in addition to working more generally in the area of public interest law. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing 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. The Children's Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

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:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible Study with John Wurster is on recess until **Jan. 8, 2025**.

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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at:

nln@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—**on recess until Jan. 10, 2025**. 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.



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 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

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

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

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Hymn 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!"

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

Hymn 138

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

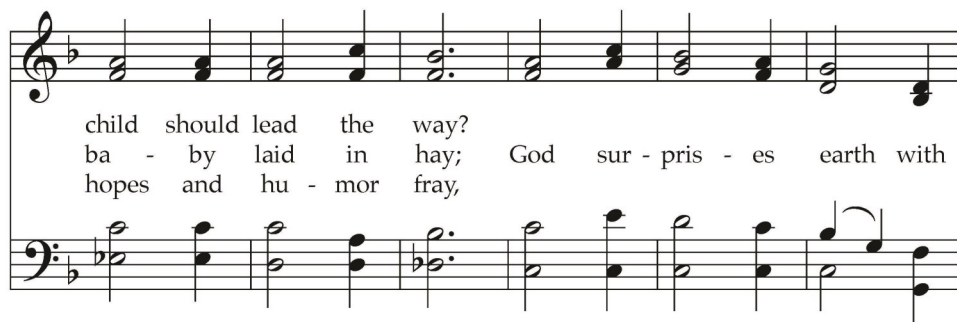
1 Who would think that what was need - ed to trans -
 2 Shep - herds watch and wise men won - der; mon - archs
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci - ence span the

form and save the earth might not be a
 scorn and an - gels sing; such a place as
 past from which we move, yet ex - pe - rience

plan or ar - my, proud in pur - pose, proved in
 none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly help - less
 ques - tions wheth - er, with such prog - ress, we im -

worth? Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a
 thing. Sta - ble beasts and by - passed strang - ers watch a
 prove. While the hu - man lot we pon - der, lest our

Hindsight is nearly always clearer than foresight, and with gentle good humor this Christmas hymn points out how great was the gap between human expectation and God's actual way of providing a means of salvation for us. God's ways continually exceed our claims to comprehend them.



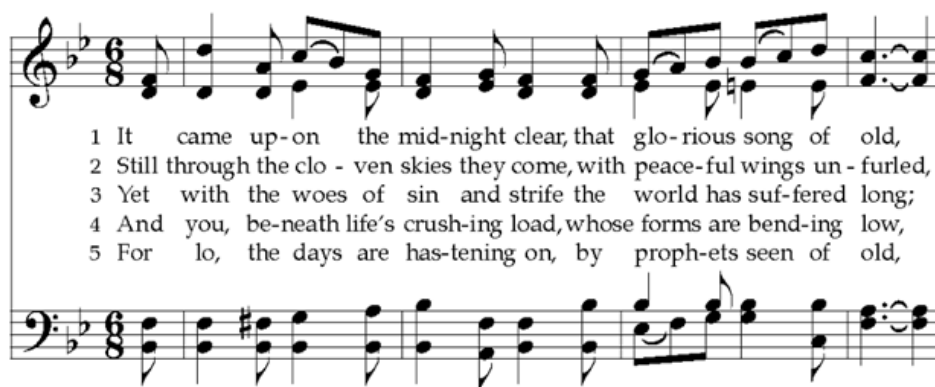
child should lead the way?
ba - by laid in hay; God sur - pris - es earth with
hopes and hu - mor fray,



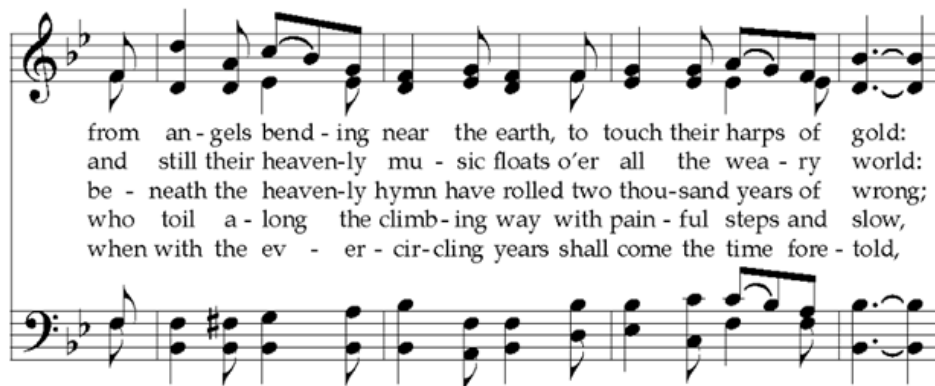
heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

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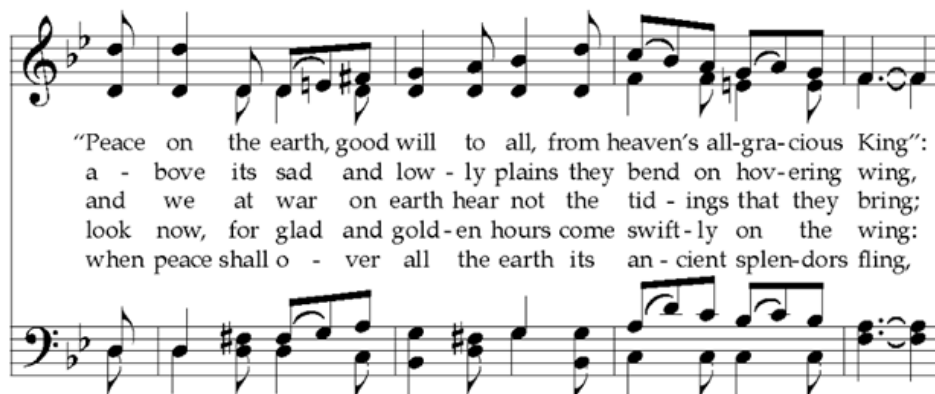
Hymn 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear


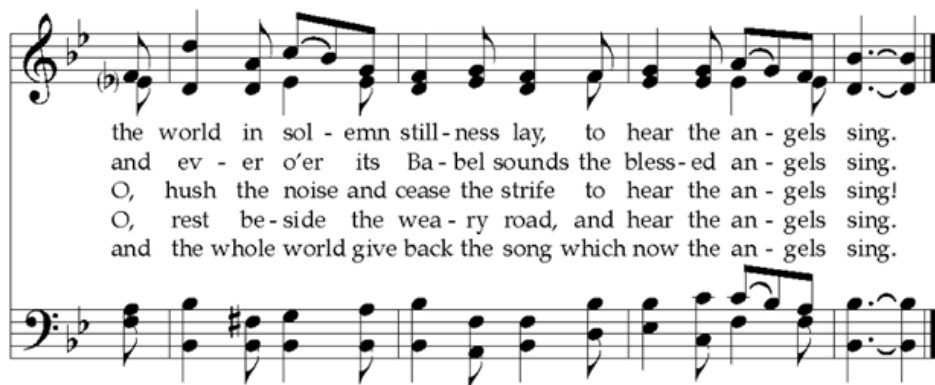
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an-gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 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 heaven’s all-gracious King”:
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 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.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

Hymn 136

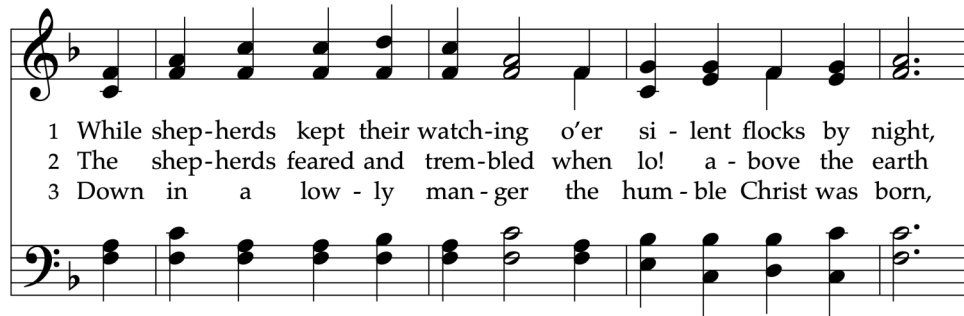
Go Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain 

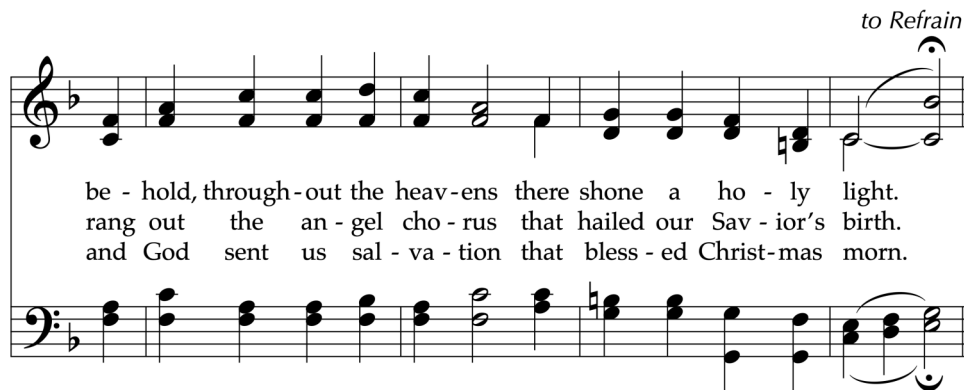

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



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



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

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

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain

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