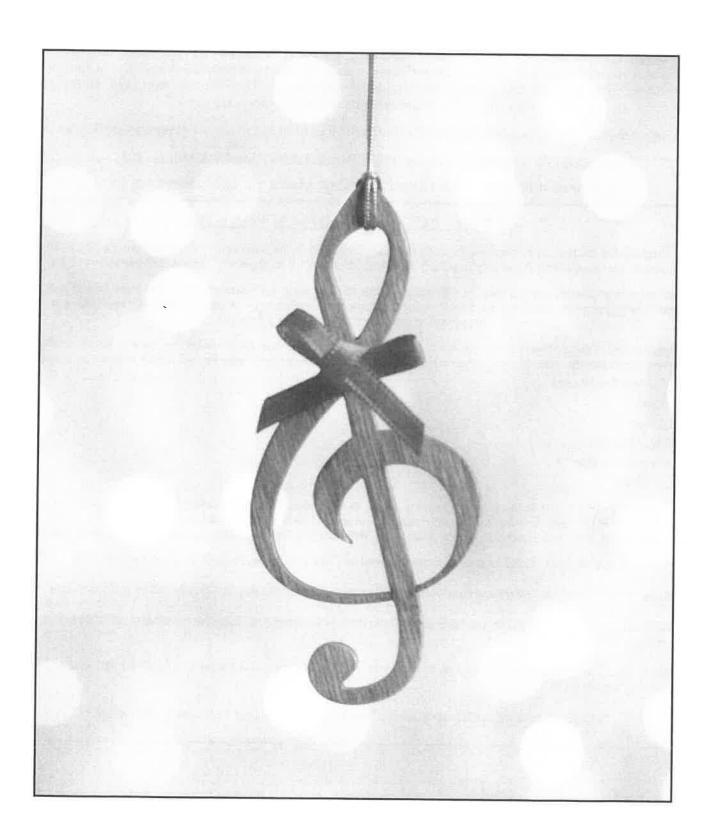
Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Christmas Lessons & Carols December 29, 2024





WELCOME to Valley of Peace. We are glad you are here.

We give thanks to God for all people and want all people to feel comfortable participating in worship. If you need any assistance please let our Ushers know. We are happy to offer hearing assistance devices, move chairs to make worship feel more accessible for you, and offer any other support that would be meaningful for you in this space.

All ages are welcome to worship at Valley of Peace and we give thanks for the voices of our littlest ones. If you feel that your little one is wiggly, you are welcome to go with them to stretch their legs in the narthex where there is a small area with books and toys and you can hear the worship service. There are also bags available for you to put toys and books in and bring them into the sanctuary space.

And again, welcome to worship this day. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Interested in becoming a Member? Let Pastor Ashley know by March 10, 2025.

Our next New Member Class is: Sunday, March 16, 2025 after worship.

SENSORY ACTIVITES AND SPACES AT VOP

Sensory integration is the process by which individuals receive information through our senses, (Vision, Hearing, Smell, Taste, Touch, Vestibular/Movement, and Proprioception/Body Position), organize this information, and use it to participate in activities.

Each person reacts to sensory information differently. People of all ages can have sensory issues that make it more difficult to participate depending on the environment. Sensory issues are very complex because a person's sensory system could be a mixture of over reactive, under reactive, or actively éngaged.

After assessing need, Emilie Moravec has been working with a few community members to make our space more welcoming for those with sensory needs. The following items are now available at the Welcome Center for individuals with sensory needs:

- Ear defender headphones
- Earplugs
- Sunglasses
- Weighted lap pads
- Battery powered fans
- Fidget blanket

Please speak with a usher or volunteer at the Welcome Center to find these items. Additional fidget supplies are available near the "busy bag" tree in the narthex outside of the sanctuary. These sensory tools are intended to promote regulation, improve focus, increase participation, and make our space more accessible and welcoming to children, teens, and adults with sensory processing needs.

If you are in need of change of environment while at Valley of Peace, the following areas are available:

- Narthex- provides space for movement right outside of the sanctuary. The worship service can still be seen and heard.
- <u>Fireside Room</u> Near the top of the staircase, on the same level as the sanctuary. This space provides comfortable seating where the worship service can still be heard.
- Youth Room The Youth room is located on the lowest level of the church and will contain a "quiet corner" with soft lighting and no worship sounds.

Sources: Mailloux Z & Smith Roley S. Sensory Integration Development and Early Signs of Difficulties. July 2013

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church December 29, 2024 10:15 am

GATHERING MUSIC

Impromptu on "Gloria"

Terry Kirkland

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

That First Christmas Night

Ron Loree

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother. Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.

Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing;

Glory to God in the highest!

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

+ Please stand in body or spirit.

We invite you
to
participate in
worship by
reading the
BOLD print

+OPENING HYMN

#283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

+GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your goodwill and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FAITH MOMENT

Ernom Dri A DING	Luke 2:1-7
FTRST KEADING	

REFLECTION: LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. . . . What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! . . . Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. . . . You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.

#276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

SECOND READING.....Luke 2:8-16

REFLECTION: LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE SHEPHERDS & ANGELS

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. . . . This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, "Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?" I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: "Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition." But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, "Could not God have saved the world some other way?"

CAROL

#282 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

REFLECTION: LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON HEROD & THE WISE MEN

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them.

Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. . . . Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word.

But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king "was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? He had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. . . . Now Herod had a crafty plan. "The Jews," thought he, "will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape." So he called the scribes to him and said, "Where is Christ to be born?" Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem.

CAROL

#300 The First Noel

FOURTH READING......John 1:1-5, 14-18

REFLECTION: LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD MADE FLESH

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should con sole and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault.

CAROL

#289 Angels We Have Heard on High

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response-Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

+SHARING OF THE PEOPLE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know
Soloist: Paul Mikelson

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all good gifts, you have given us the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whose birth we celebrate and honor. In response to this gift, may the gifts that we offer you this season continue to share your hope, peace, joy and love with all people, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.
Bless this meal
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

#275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

All are welcome to receive communion at Valley of Peace.

We serve communion every Sunday by intinction. After the pastor speaks the words of distribution to online worshippers, the ushers will then invite worshippers physically present to receive communion.

If you are receiving communion by intinction, there will be bread and gluten-free wafers available. As you come forward to receive communion, a communion server will serve you your preference. Please take the bread or wafer and dip it into our preference of either wine or juice. The first chalice will contain wine and the second chalice will contain grape juice.

If you prefer to not receive communion by intinction there are pre-packaged communion kits with a gluten-free wafer and grape juice. You may pick this up on your way to communion.

If you prefer not to receive communion at all, please come forward with your hands across your chest and you will receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

+COMMUNION BLESSING

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms Enfold you with love and strength.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

And the blessing of almighty God,

Creator, +Redeemer, and Sustainer,

Be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

#267 Joy to the World

+DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

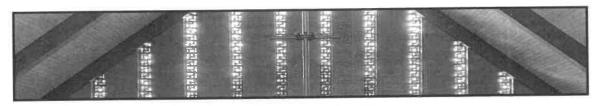
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Donna Williams



In Worship Today

Presider/Preacher	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Pianist/Organist	Leslie Gilyard
Director of Music	Hsu-hui Wang
Opener/Closer	Jım Jasper
Greeters	Laurie Eaton & Jim Jasper
Welcome Center	
Ushers Juc	dy Greeninger, Casey Balint, Dee Kendall & Alex Balint
Worship Assistant	Sara Blood
Communion Servers	Melissa Dellwo, Mary Hovden, Kari Roll & OPEN
Readers	Paul Mikelson & Pace Warfield
Music Provided By	Paul Mikelson
Coffee Cart	
Tech	Matt Dellwo
Altar Care	Linda Franz
Bell Table Set Up	Barb Mikelson & Paul Mikelson

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In Worship on Sunday, January 5 at 10:15 am

Presider/Preacher	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Pianist/Organist	Beth Brandt
Director of Music	Hsu-hu1 Wang
Opener/Closer	Ruth Larson & Jon Larson
Greeter	Diane Hinderlie
Welcome Center	Diane Hinderlie
Ushers	Pam Syverson, Wes Syverson, OPEN & OPEN
Worship Assistant	Darcie Rodman
Communion Servers	Ruth Larson & Jon Larson
Reader	Dan Johnson
Music Provided By	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Coffee Cart	Nancy Rogness
Tech	Melissa Deliwo
Altar Care	
Bell Table Set Up	

Valley of Peace Staff

Pastor

Ashley Osborn (she/her/hers) aosborn@valleyofpeace.org

Organist/Pianist/Accompanist
Beth Brandt
(she/her/hers)

(she/her/hers)
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Coordinator
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(she/her/hers)
office@valleyofpeace.org

Director of Children, Youth and
Family
Pace Warfield
(they/them/theirs)

cyf@valleyofpeace.org

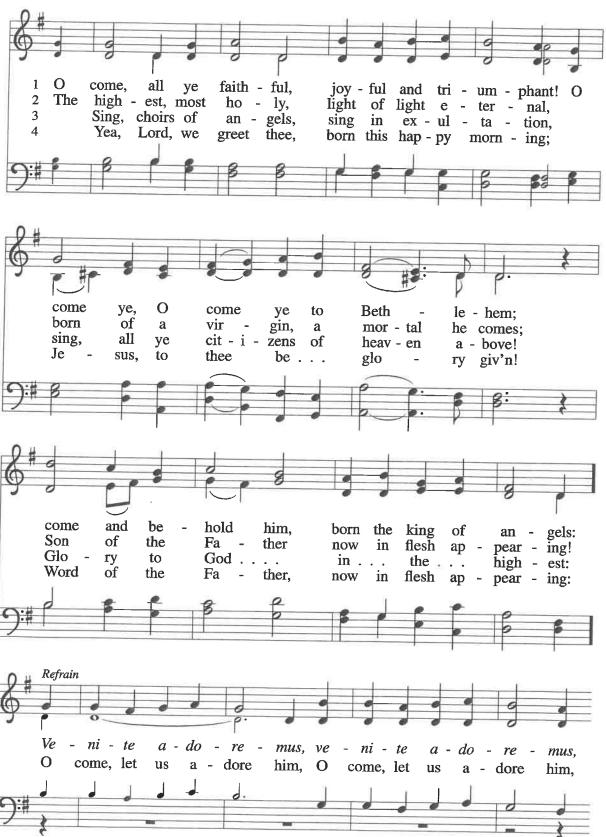
Reconciling In Christ Statement

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.



283

O Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: attr. John Francis Wade

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular



'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

284

that



- 1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled,
- 2 With in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found; a
- The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be - rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en-wrapped his beau - ty round; but was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you.

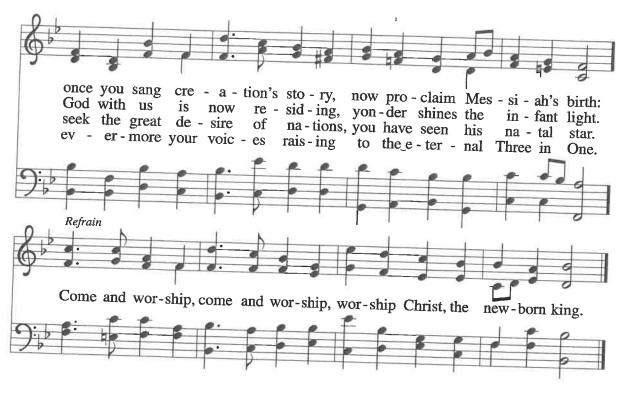


fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn: as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high: chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt. kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri-a!

^{*} original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"





276



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



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



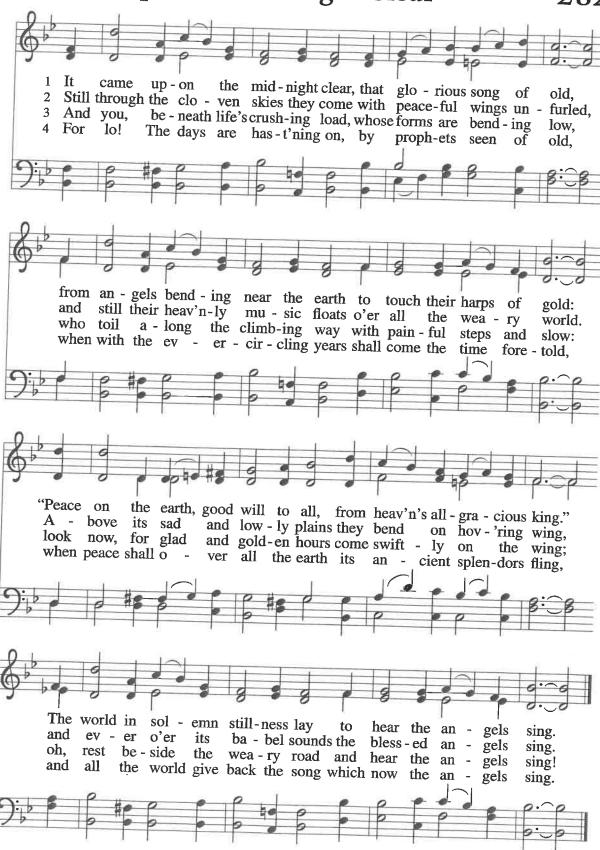
Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



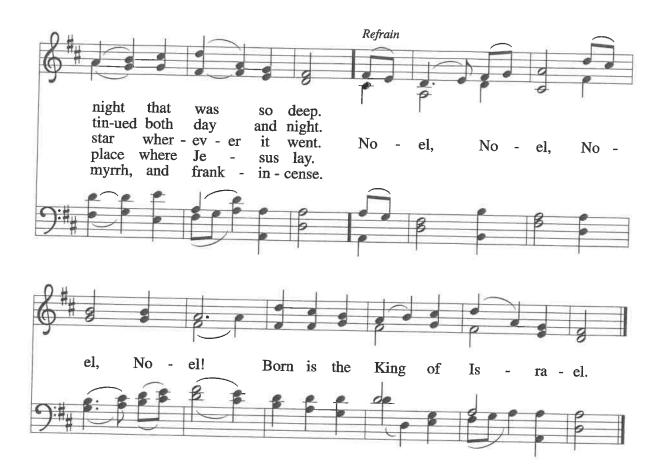
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

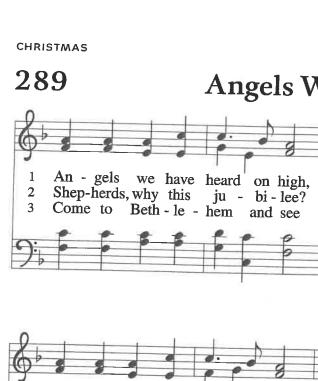
It Came upon the Midnight Clear

282

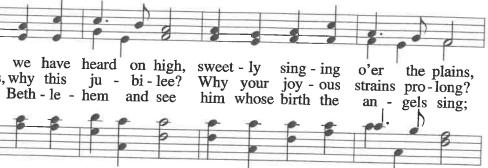


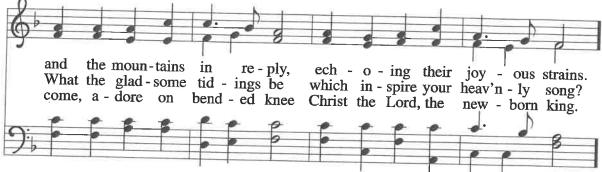


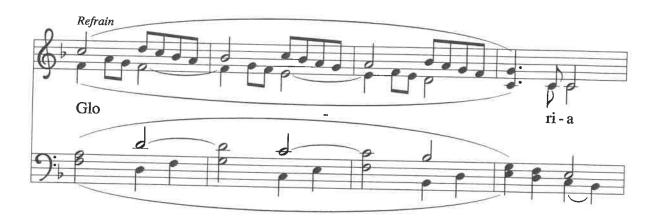


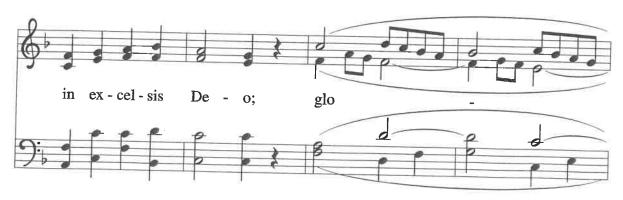


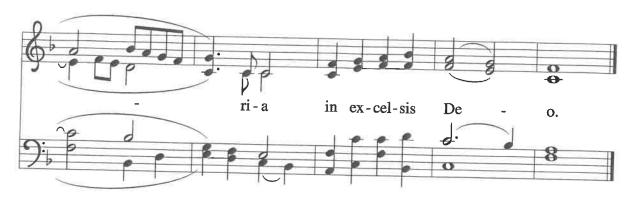
Angels We Have Heard on High

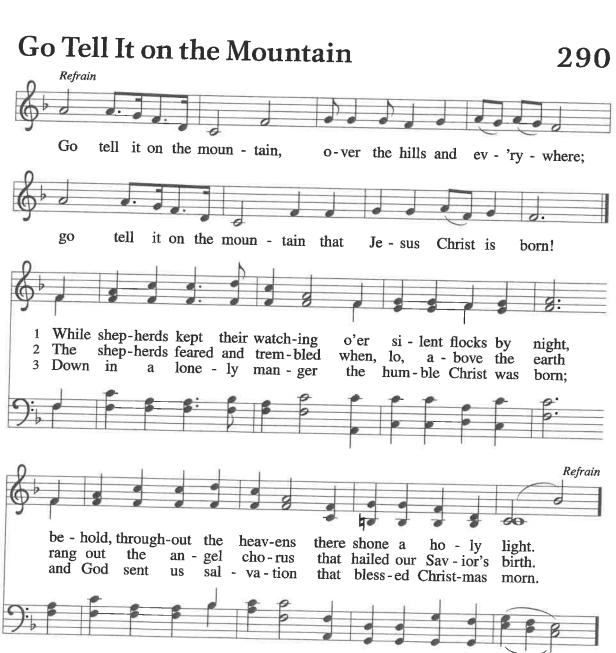












Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual

274

On Christmas Night



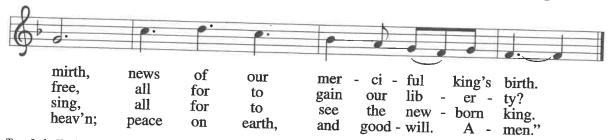
- 1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad since our re-deem or
- When sin de parts be fore his face, then life and health come dark ness we have light, which made the an gels



gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since place. its When sin de - parts fore be his face. then sing this night. All out dark - ness of we have light, which



hear the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of re - deem - er made us glad, great when from our sin us and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and made the an gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est

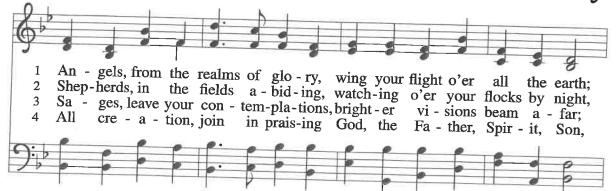


Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: English traditional

SUSSEX CAROL 88888

275

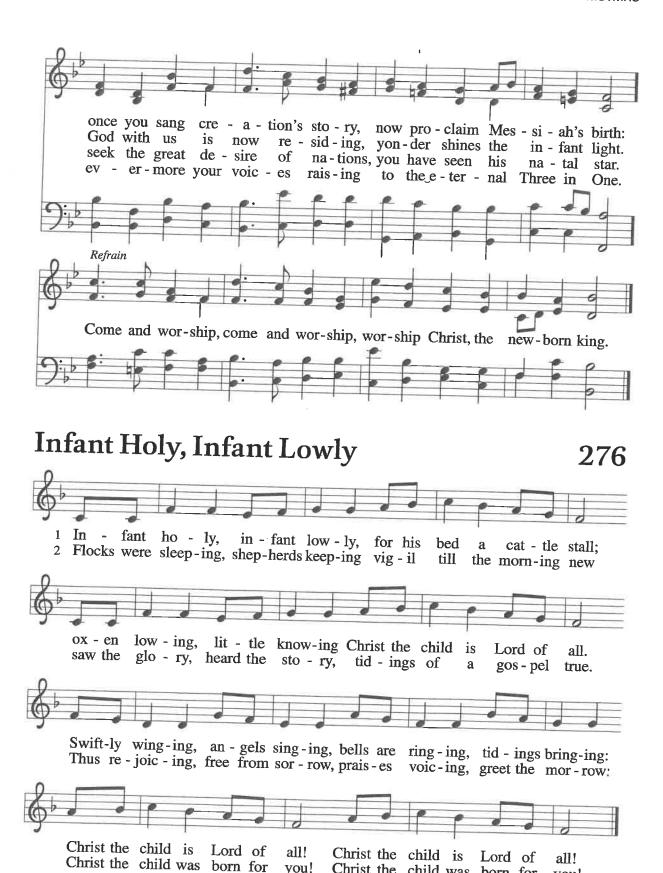
Angels, from the Realms of Glory



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

RECENT SQUARE 878787

R



you!

Christ the child was born for

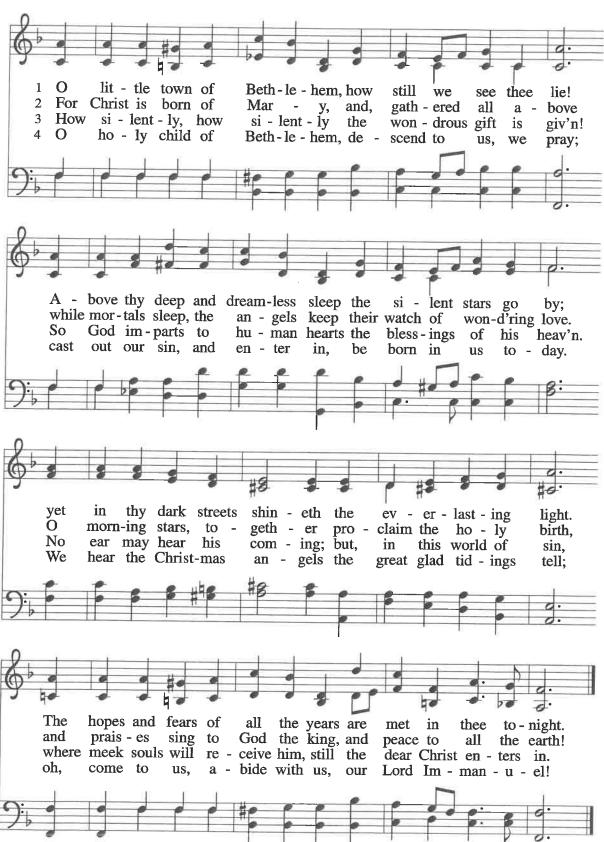
Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol

you!

	*		

279

O Little Town of Bethlehem



Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872