



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020, 4:00 p.m.



Holy Family

Margret Hofheinz-Döring, 1973

Christmas is the festival during which Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. This vulnerable infant, long-awaited and yet still a surprise, is the incarnation of God on earth. We recognize the absolute joy and incredible gift of God choosing to be with humankind forever. In this year when traditions are being broken for the safety of family and friends, we nevertheless remember the Christ who came not with fanfare and glory but into the mundane realities of a broken and hurting world. Jesus came as a gift into a world of struggle and need, and he comes even now as a gift into our times of hardship. As we worship together in this service, we joyfully worship the Christ who comes regardless of grand crowds or festive flair. Bless the Lord because Jesus Christ has come to dwell among us as the Son of God, our Savior.

Gathering

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on “Whence is that goodly fragrance?”

Harrison Oxley
(1933–2009)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | In unison.

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide the magi to the holy child Jesus: we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son’s birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*Greeting of Peace | All exchange signs and words of God’s peace.

Minister: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2–7

Choral Anthem (Virtual)

The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow

Zebulon M. Highben

The Lord shall come and not be slow;
his light is soon appearing.

Prepare, you children here below
who are these tidings hearing:

*All rise as able

Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps!
Their flames, so swiftly burning,
reveal the path to hope and peace —
the dawn for which you're yearning.

Come forth, you weary, meek, and poor!
Forget your strife and labor.
Messiah comes to those who toil,
bestowing God's own favor.

Your King eternal, Lord on high,
in humble form and lowly,
transforms a simple oxen stall
into a throne most holy.

For Christ shall come and not be slow;
his light is now appearing.
Rejoice, you saints on earth below!
His reign of love is nearing.

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 2:1–20

Choral Anthem (Virtual)

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Trevor Manor

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly swinging o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King!

Reflection

A Place for Them

Response

*Carol | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People (Virtual) | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Offertory

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 8 (Christmas Concerto)

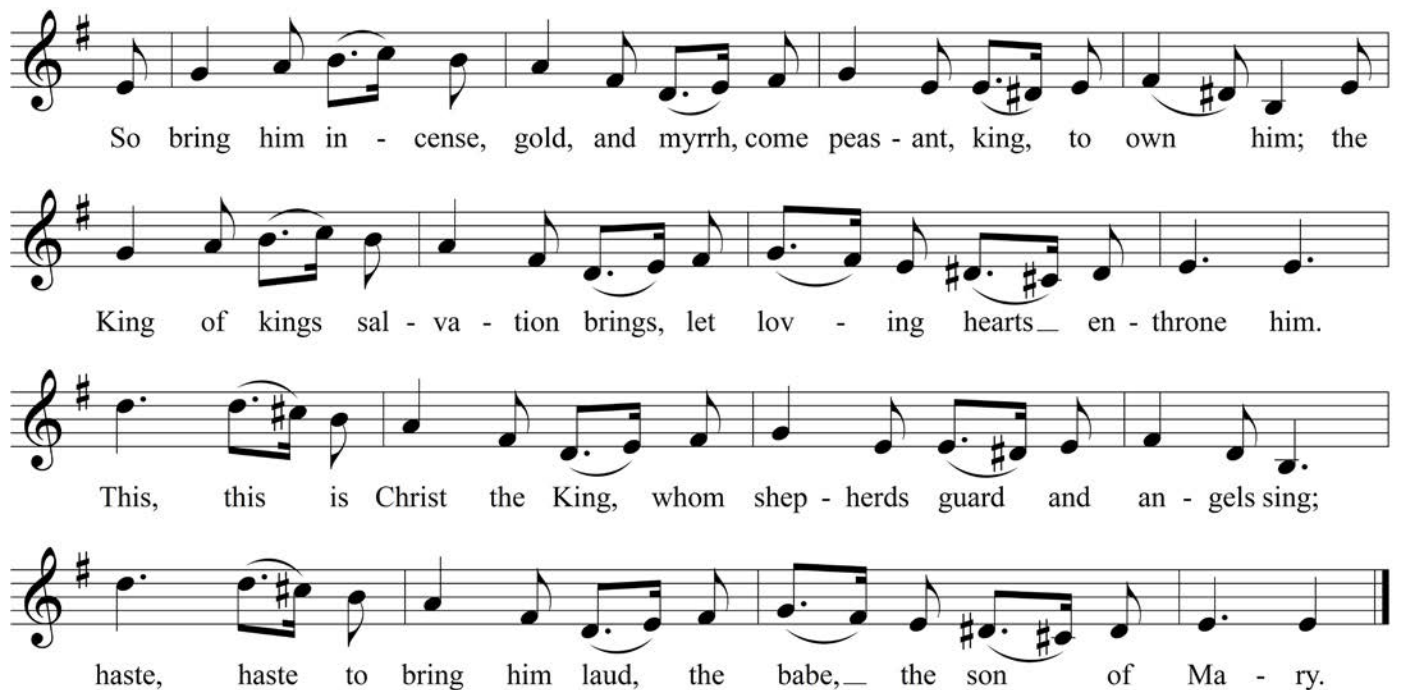
Arcangelo Corelli
(1643–1713)

I. Allegro

II. Pastorale

*Doxology

GREENSLEEVES



So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas - ant, king, to own him; 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;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, — the son of Ma - ry.

Thanksgiving and Communion

*The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

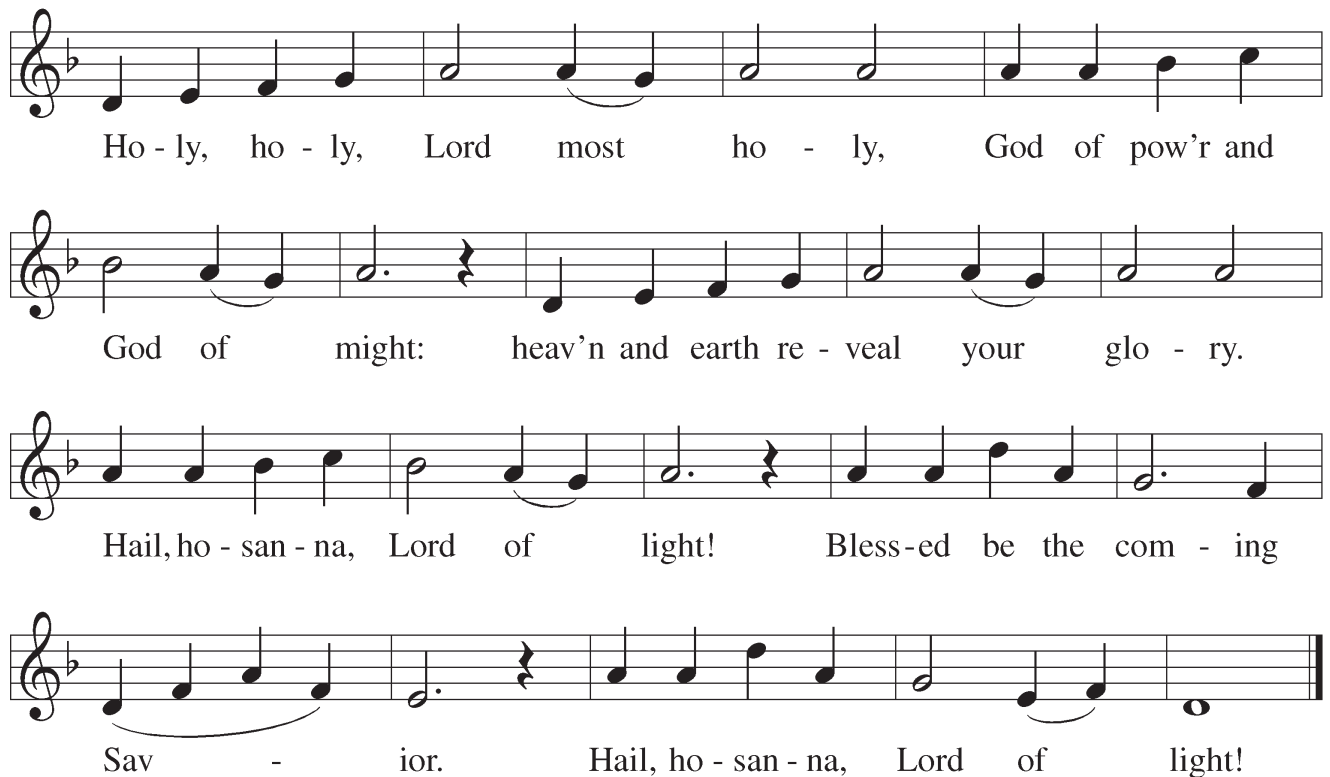
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The leader gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and
God of might: heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry.
Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light! Bless-ed be the com - ing
Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

The leader continues, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit, and recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper. The leader concludes:

...Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The leader praises the Trinity, concluding:

...through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

*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 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. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Wine | All who love Christ, earnestly repent of their sins, and seek to be at peace with God and neighbor are invited to receive communion. Please see the instructions in the 'Today in Worship' section.

Communion Anthem (Virtual)

Tantum Ergo

Déodat de Séverac
(1872–1921)

Tantum ergo sacramentum veneremur cernui,
et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui;
praestet fides supplementum sensuum defectui.

Genitori Genitoque laus et iubilatio,
salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio;
procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.

*Such a great sacrament, then, let us bow down and adore,
and let the old covenant give way to the new:
let faith provide for the weakness of the senses.*

*To the Father and the Son let there be praise and jubilation,
salvation, honor, strength and blessing;
and to the Spirit proceeding from both let there be equal glory. Amen.*

*Post-Communion Prayer

Sending Forth

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Chorale Fantasia: Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her

Johann Pachelbel
(1653–1706)

TODAY IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Bruce Puckett.....*Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg.....*Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery.....*Dean, Duke University Chapel*

LECTORS

Mr. Kennedy Godette.....*Worshiper at Duke University Chapel*
Ms. Mini H’Kpa.....*Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Mr. Steve Harper.....*Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Dr. Soren Palmer.....*Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Ms. Patience Sowa.....*Worshiper at Duke University Chapel*
Mr. Levi Todd.....*Worshiper at Duke University Chapel*

MUSICIANS

Duke Chapel Choir.....*Virtual Choir*
Durham Children’s Choir.....*Virtual Choir*
Evensong Singers.....*Virtual Choir*
Vespers Ensemble.....*Virtual Choir*
Dr. Zebulon Highben.....*Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Mr. Eric Pritchard.....*Violinist; Professor of Music, Duke University*
Ms. Jennifer Curtis.....*Violinist, Instructor of Music, Duke University*
Mr. Christopher Jacobson.....*Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
Mr. Tom Gurin.....*Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*

TODAY'S FLOWERS | The interior decorations and the wreaths on either side of the front entrance of the Chapel are given to the glory of God in celebration of the Christmas season by Dr. and Mrs. James G. Ferguson, Jr.

TODAY'S OFFERING | This year’s Christmas Eve offering will go to support families in need. As part of the Chapel’s ongoing commitment to partnership with the people of Haiti, the offerings for this service will go to Family Health Ministries (FHM). FHM is a nonprofit agency, founded by Dr. David and Mrs. Kathy Walmer, which provides medical care and support to the people of Haiti. Since 2004, the Chapel’s work with FHM has included building the Blanchard Health Clinic and the Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse, named in honor of the former Congregation pastor. To learn more about FHM visit: familyhm.org. You are invited to give online at gifts.duke.edu/chapel. Please send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNION TODAY | All worshipers are invited to provide their own communion elements at home and to watch the service online. During the service, the minister will prompt you when to partake of communion. If you would like to participate, please prepare your own bread and cup and have it ready for the service.

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | *The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow* by Zebulon M. Highben, © 2011, admin. Augsburg Fortress. *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Trevor Manor, © 2016 Choristers Guild.

ENGAGE

'THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT' AVAILABLE ONLINE | *The Marvel of This Night: Christmas at Duke University Chapel* is an hour-long special, produced in 2019 by the Chapel and campus partners, that features beloved Christmas carols accompanied by three of the Chapel's organs as well as traditional scripture readings. In it, all of the Chapel's choirs and a sixteen-piece orchestra perform music from around the world. It is available for viewing online this Christmas season through January 6. You are invited to watch this service online and participate from home by joining in the prayers and singing along to beloved hymns, carols, and spirituals, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and "Go Tell It on the Mountain." [Watch it here.](#)

WATCH A RECORDING OF THIS YEAR'S 'MESSIAH' | This year's online presentation of G.F. Handel's masterpiece *Messiah* was a creative blend of live solos and instrumental parts with recordings of last year's choruses that include musical scores to encourage participation from home. A recording of the concert is now available online through Epiphany, January 6, at chapel.duke.edu/messiah.

ONLINE AND BROADCAST CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS | The Chapel is celebrating Christmas this year with a series of online services, as well as television broadcasts. See a listing of online events at chapel.duke.edu/christmas.

PATHWAYS FELLOWSHIP FOR GRADUATING SENIORS | Graduating Duke seniors, and recent graduates, are invited to apply to become a PathWays Fellow. The fellowship gives participants the tools they need to discern their vocational and spiritual direction as well as opportunities for exploration, leadership, mentorship, service, and formation deeply rooted in the local community and their Christian traditions. Learn more at chapel.duke.edu/pathways.

STUDENT PREACHER APPLICATIONS | On Sunday, March 21, 2021, we will continue the Chapel tradition of having a student preach for our 11:00 a.m. worship service. Maybe you are a student, or know a student, who has never thought about preaching at the Chapel, but you feel strangely compelled to give voice to what the Spirit of God is stirring in you? Perhaps you have considered what it would be like to preach in the pulpit at Duke Chapel? Or maybe you are just curious what it feels like to write a sermon? Regardless of what motivates you to consider this opportunity, we hope you will consider applying to be the student preacher for this year. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

ONLINE EPIPHANY SERVICE | You are invited to participate online in an Epiphany worship service, which will be posted on the Chapel website on January 6 at 8:00 p.m. This prerecorded service will include prayers and scripture readings for the day as well as anthems and hymns from past services. Find it at chapel.duke.edu.

ONLINE RESOURCE CURATES DUKE CHAPEL PREACHING TRADITION | The Living Tradition online resource presents insights into the rich and deep tradition of preaching at Duke University Chapel through the expertise of Duke Divinity School faculty, research by Duke students, and the reflections of renowned preachers. The Living Tradition webpages serve as an introduction to, and a pedagogical tool for, the Duke Chapel Recordings digital archive, hosted on the Duke Libraries

ENGAGE

website, which contains more than 3,000 videos, audio recordings, and manuscripts of sermons given at Duke Chapel from 1946 to 2002. Visit Living Tradition at chapel.duke.edu/livingtradition.

SACRED ON SATURDAY RECORDINGS | This semester the Chapel's Dr. Philip Cave, associate conductor for Chapel Music, gave a series on three online presentations on notable pieces of sacred music by theme. Each session included musical examples with commentary. [Watch recordings of Sacred on Saturday here](#).

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS | The Chapel is recognizing two community leaders this year with its Humanitarian Service Award: the Rev. Annette Currie Love and Susan McSwain. Rev. Love founded and leads the Faith Based Service Network ministry, which educates, encourages, and supports people who have suffered abuse. McSwain is the executive director of Reality Ministries, a Christian community organization that creates opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging and kinship. McSwain and Rev. Love will be presented their awards during a virtual ceremony, open to the public, on Sunday, January 24, at 2:00 p.m. Join the event online [via this Zoom link](#).

CONNECT IN A SMALL GROUP | Life Together, the Congregation's small group discipleship ministry, has had a good start this fall. Nearly 30 people are meeting every two weeks in four groups to share their lives and prayers with one another. Space is available in each of these groups and a new group is forming. [Please sign up here](#) to join a Life Together group starting the week of January 3. All groups will meet virtually until further notice. University students and adults of all ages are welcome to participate.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO MOURN | Growing thru Grief, a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations, including the Congregation, offers year-round support to people who have lost a loved one. Participants are meeting on zoom each week on Tuesdays from 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a presentation followed by small group discussion. Please send a request by 8:00 a.m. on Monday to admin@growingthrugrief.org for the Zoom link. For more information, see the [Growing thru Grief website](#).

PRACTICING TRUST | The Congregation is sponsoring a half-day New Year's retreat on the topic of "Practicing Trust in Time of Transition" on Saturday, January 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon. Author and teacher Dr. Marilyn McEntyre will lead the retreat. [Please register online](#) or contact congregation@duke.edu for more information.

GRADUATE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The next gatherings will be January 11 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact matthew.r.wright@duke.edu for the Zoom link and additional information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE | The Congregation provides weekly Sunday morning Christian education from 9:45–10:45 a.m. for all ages. Classes, which are held virtually, are open to the public and new participants are welcome at any time.

Wee Praise: Music and movement for children ages 03– with parents or caregivers

Godly Play: Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade

Youth Confirmation Class: An exploration of Christian faith for students in 6th-12th grades.

Adult Forum: On Sunday, January 3, Michael Larbi, Pastoral Assistant for the Congregation, will lead a discussion on Life Together groups.

HYMNS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2020

Opening Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;
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 - dering love.
so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
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 on earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
86.86.76.86

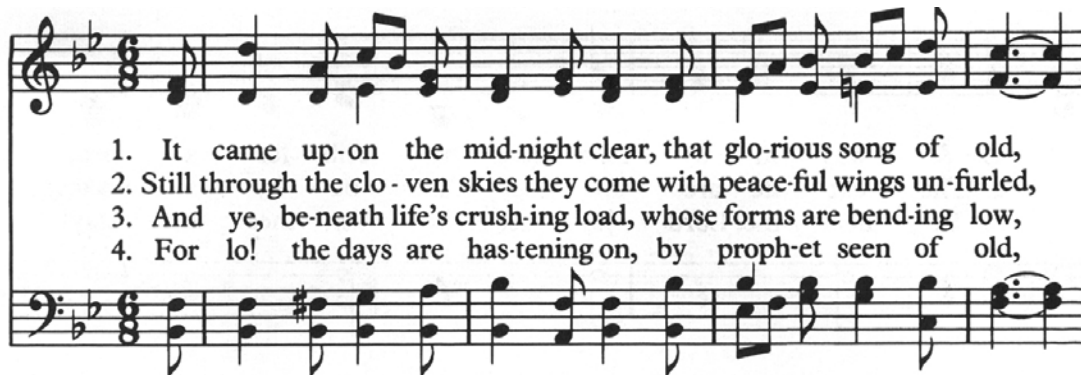
Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

HYMNS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2020

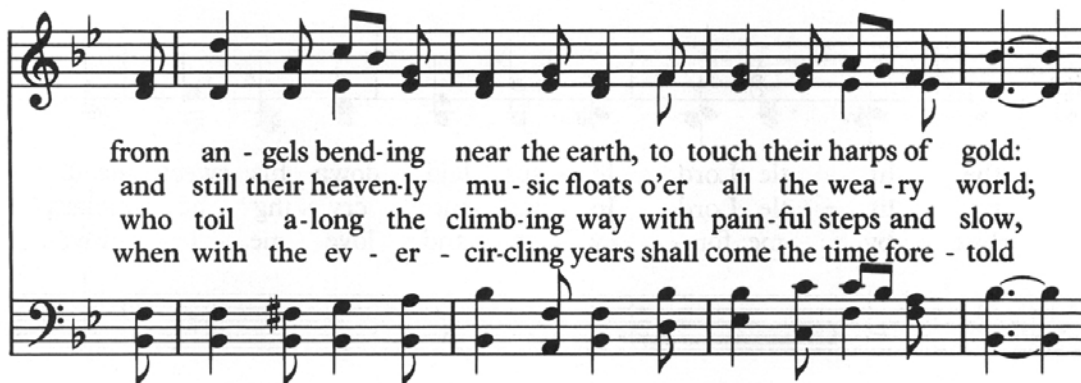
Response Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

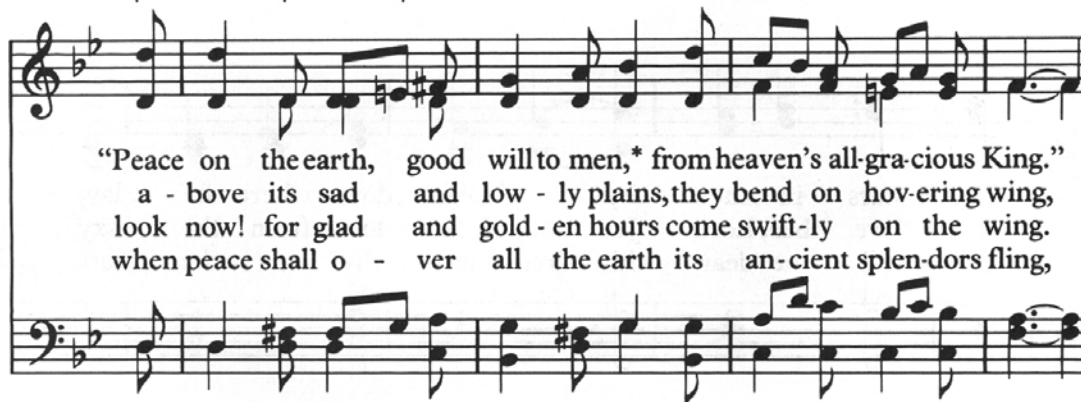
CAROL



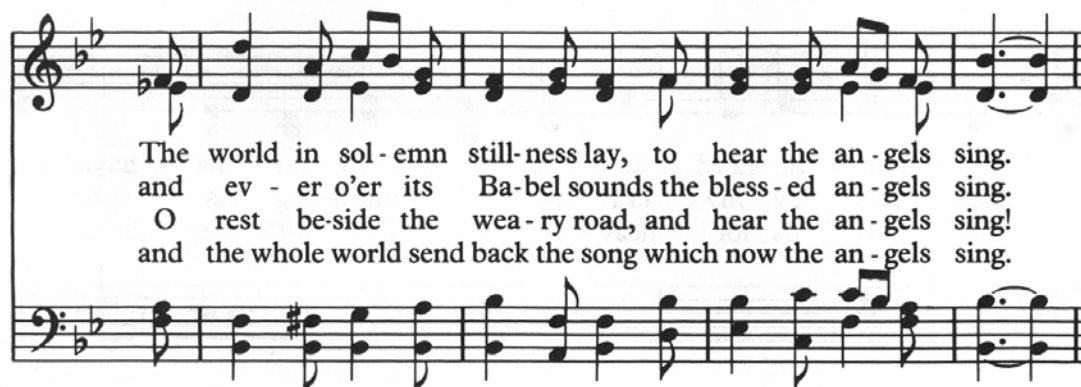
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



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;
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 men,* from heaven’s all-gra-cious King.”
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering 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.
O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*“all” may be substituted

HYMNS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2020

Closing Hymn

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.