

New Life Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve 2023



Welcome to New Life Presbyterian Church

Dear Visitor,

Welcome! It is a joy and privilege to gather this evening to worship God together. Here at New Life, we are a small part of the worldwide, multi-ethnic, multi-generational, multi-cultural body of Christ. Although we are Presbyterian and Reformed, our identity is found not in what makes us distinct, but in what makes us united: we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only our Maker; He is our Savior. If you have put your hope and trust in Him, we welcome you as a brother or sister. It is in Him that we have New Life!

If you are here this evening and do not know what you think about Jesus, or about the claims of the Bible, we are delighted that you have chosen to join us for the evening. We hope and trust that you will experience a warm welcome, regardless of your religious convictions. We are a community of those who have experienced the embrace of God, through Jesus Christ. It is our goal to show that love to all who are around us. Please know that I personally would welcome your thoughts and perspectives on anything you observe this evening.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all!

Joyfully,

Pastor Erik Swanson

cover art by Joy Swanson

Worshiping God

Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2023

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor Erik Swanson

Minister: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Bidding and Prayer of Adoration

Minister: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

People: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: Lord God,
we praise you for creating man,
and still more for restoring him in Christ.
Your Son shared our weakness:
may we share his glory,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God
for ever and ever.**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

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

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Second Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8-17

Roxanne Malik

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



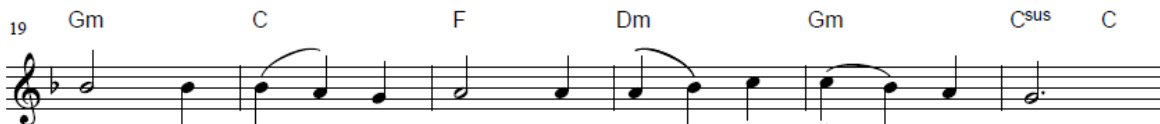
1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and



peo - ple free; From our fears ___ and sins re - lease ___ us,
 yet ___ a King; Born to reign ___ in us for - ev - er,



let us find our rest ___ in Thee. Is - rael's strength ___ and
 now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own ___ e -



con - so - la - tion, hope of all ___ the earth ___ Thou art;
 - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all ___ our hearts ___ a - lone;



Dear ___ de - sire ___ of ev' - ry na - tion,
 By ___ Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,



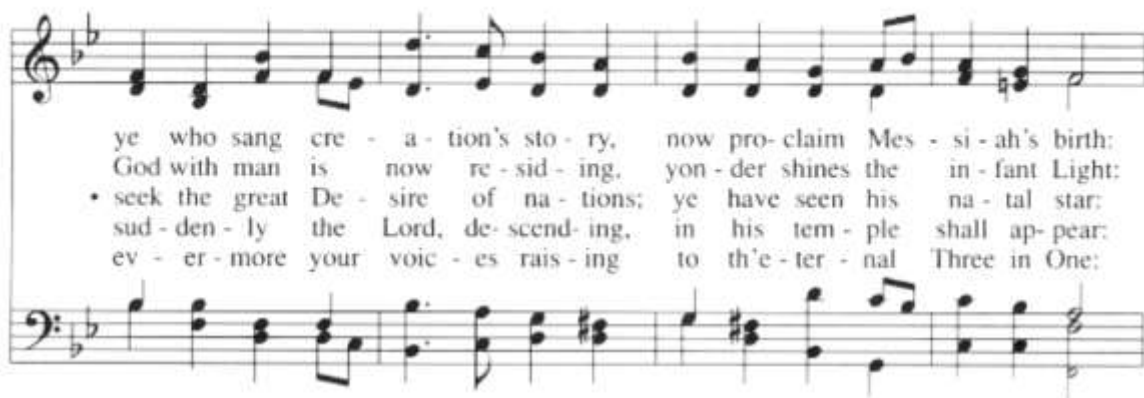
joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.
 raise us to ___ Thy glo - rious throne.

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
³“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”
⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
⁶“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”
⁷I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”
¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
¹²Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

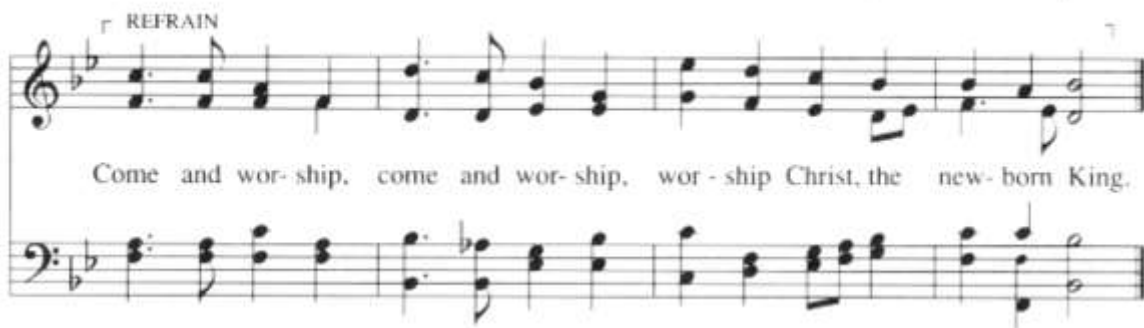
Angels from the Realms of Glory



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



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:



REFRAIN

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

*Reader: Let the just rejoice,
for their justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their savior is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.
Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Scripture: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Congregational Prayer:

Eternal God, this joyful night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. We are thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son. Amen.

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

Verse 1

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the
darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows
to flight

Verse 2

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for
Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my
story
God You entered in and became one of
us

Chorus

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 3

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He
paid

Verse 4

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His
own
Through clouds He will lead us straight
into glory
And there He shall reign forevermore
forevermore

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)” words and music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
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Music

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This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Special Music: Joseph's Song

Chris Wirt

Verse 1

How could it be this baby in my arms
Sleeping now so peacefully
The Son of God the angel said
How could it be

How can a man be a father to
The Son of God
Lord for all my life
I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a King
How can I raise a King

Verse 2

Lord I know He's not my own
Not of my flesh not of my bones
Still Father let this baby be
The Son of my love

Verse 3

He looks so small His face and hands so fair
And when He cries
The sun just seems to disappear
But when He laughs it shines again
How could it be

Bridge

Father show me where I fit
Into this plan of Yours

"Joseph's Song" words and music by Michael Card
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O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

The first system of musical notation features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It includes a vocal line with lyrics and a bass line accompaniment. The lyrics are: "1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove, 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n! 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray:"

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love,
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n,
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

The second system continues the musical notation with the same clef, key signature, and time signature. The lyrics are: "a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by: while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love, So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n, cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day."

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The third system continues the musical notation. The lyrics are: "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 men on earth,
where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

The fourth system concludes the musical notation. The lyrics are: "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 men on earth, where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in. O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el."

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Special Music: Mary, Did You Know?

Jim Spark and Jenn Ryan

Verse 1

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you

Verse 2

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Oh Mary did you know

Interlude

Ooh Mary did you know ooh ooh

Bridge

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Verse 3

Oh Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations
Did you know
That your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am
Oh Mary oh

"Mary Did You Know" words and music by Buddy Greene,
Mark Lowry
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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

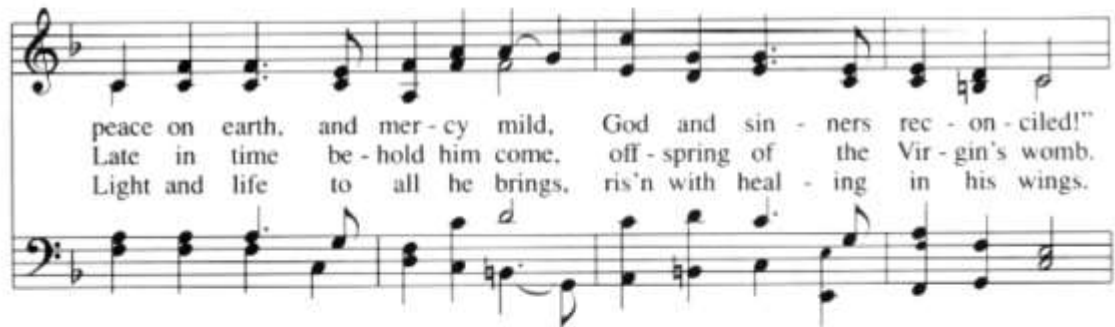
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

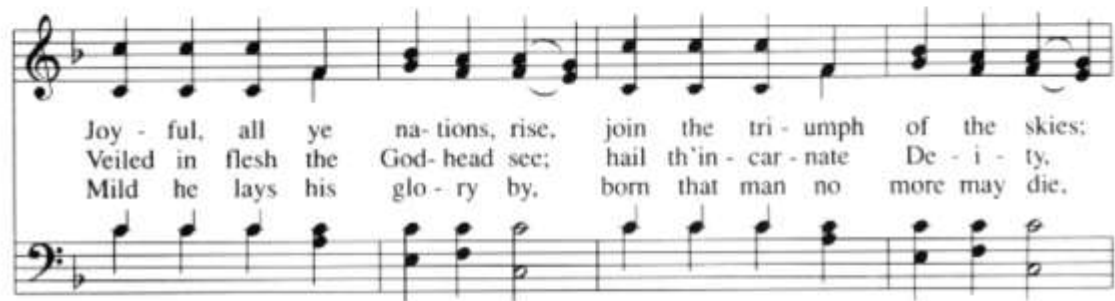
Hark the Herald Angels Sing



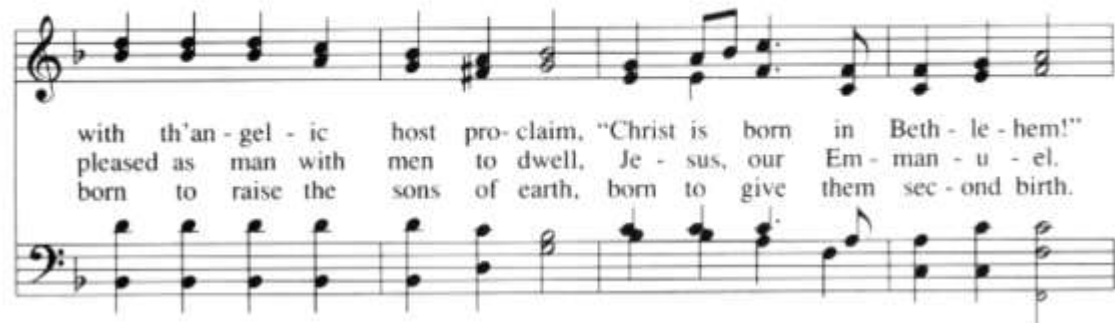
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - teous - ness!



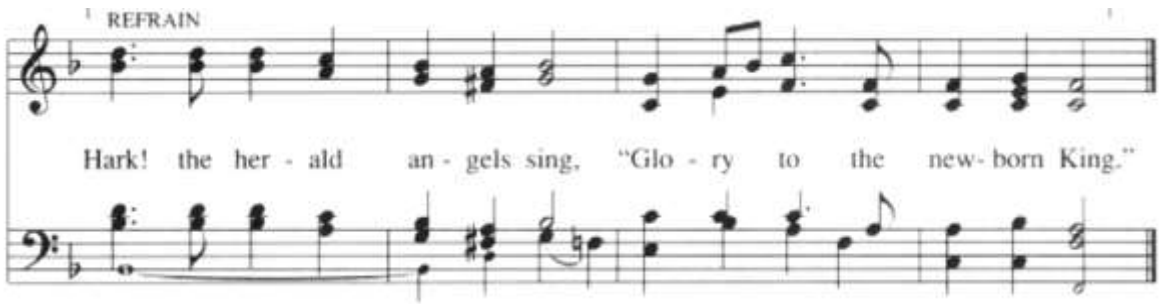
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Eighth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Tyler Zeller

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

A Christmas Alleluia

Alleluia alleluia
Christ the Savior of the world
He has come
Alleluia alleluia
To the highest name of all
Alleluia

"A Christmas Alleluia" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jonas Myrin
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Silent Night

Capo 1: ♭ B(A) 1 F⁷(E⁷) B(A) E(D)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

B(A) E(D) B(A)

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F⁷(E⁷) B(A) ♯ F⁷(E⁷) B(A) 1

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Benediction

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room.
play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n 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 heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,