

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Splendor of starlight high on the hillside,
faint is the far light burning below;
kneeling before him, shepherds adore him,
Christ in the stable long, long ago.*



*Glory of daybreak! Sorrows and shadows,
suddenly they break forth into morn;
Sing out and tell now all shall be well now;
for in the stable Jesus is born!*

~Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1980

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

of

LESSONS AND CAROLS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Four beds had Christ, and those not soft nor brave:
The Virgin's womb, the manger, cross, and grave.
The angels sing this day, and so will I
That have more reason to be glad than they.*

~ Rowland Watkyns (17th c.)

The Prelude Nowell, The Nativity According to St. Luke (R. Thompson)

Take a moment to prepare in silence for worship and to pray for God's assistance to worship him rightly.

The Greeting

† The Call to Worship

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is not ourselves we proclaim, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For the same God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has caused his light to shine in our hearts to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

† The Hymn, p. 6

Once in David's Royal City

† Please Stand (if able)

†The Prayer of Adoration

Glory be to you, O Father everlasting, who sent your only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Glory be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ, who has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Glory be to you, O Holy Spirit, who makes us alive together with Christ, and sheds abroad his love into our hearts.

Heavenly Father, receive our worship in this hour, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God now and forever and ever, and who taught us to pray together, saying:

†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.

The Homily Text

Philippians 2:5-8

The Christmas Eve Meditation

WHY DID GOD BECOME MAN?

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

The first promise of the Gospel

The Carol, p.7

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 and 7

The Prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior

†The Carol, p.8

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The Third Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem

The Carol, p.9

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

The Carol, p.10

See Amid the Winter's Snow

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Angels appear to the shepherds

†The Carol, p. 11

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to Bethlehem

The Carol, p. 12

Chill of the Nightfall

Invitation to the Meal and Fencing of the Table

†The Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

John unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation

†The Hymn, p. 13

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The Serving of the Supper

The Spreading of the Light

The Carol

Silent Night

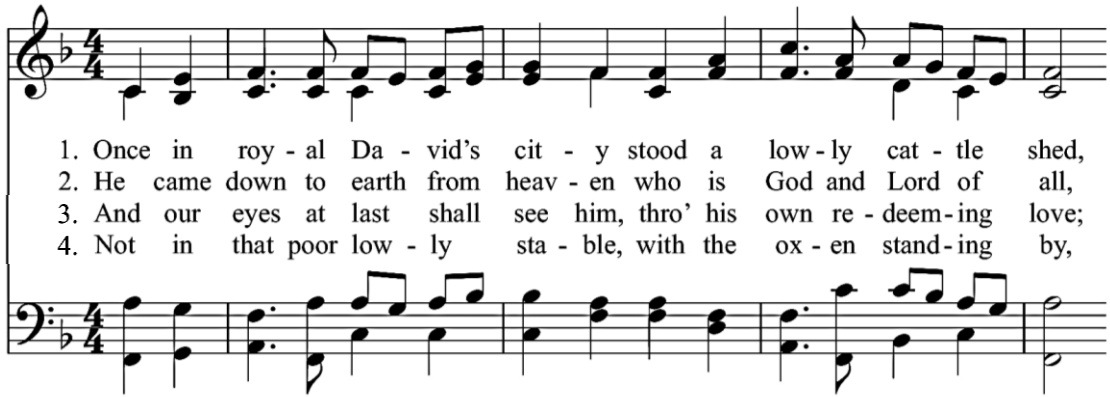
1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light, ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! won - drous star, lend thy light;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

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 - ias to our King;

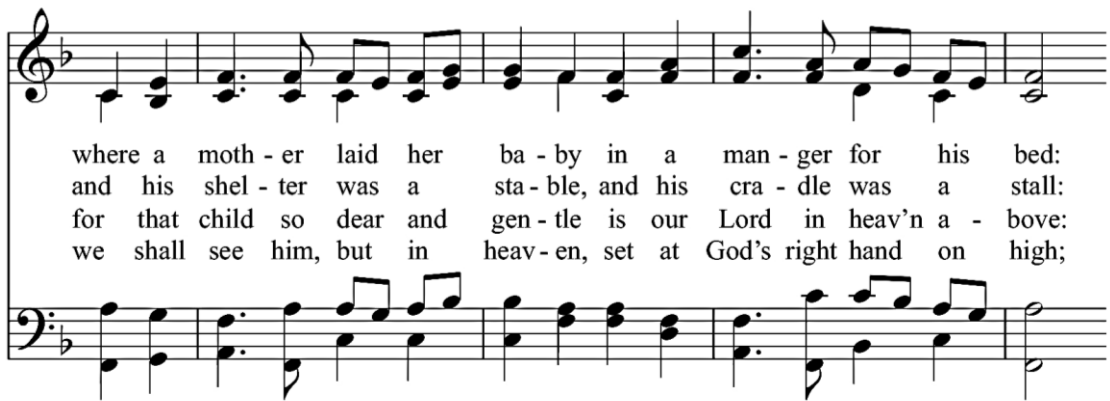
sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

†The Benediction and the People's Amen

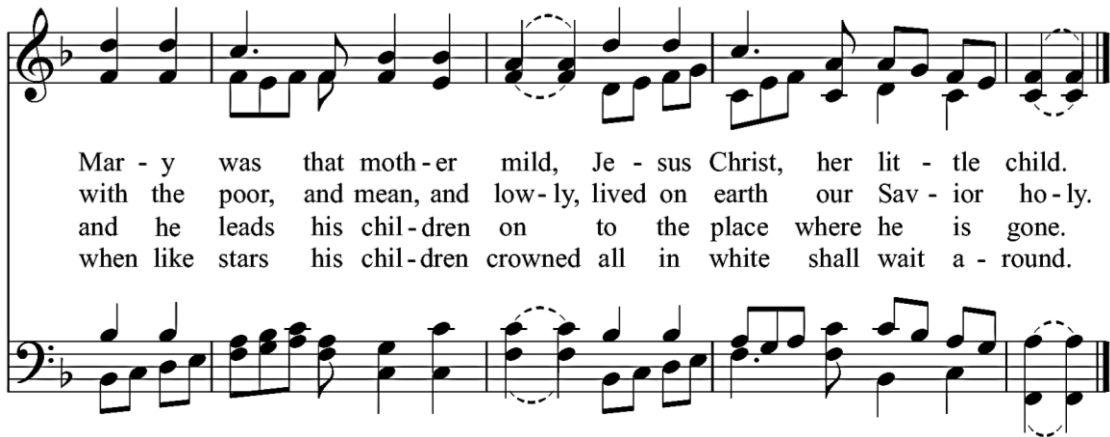
Once In Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3. And our eyes at last shall see him, thro' his own re - deem - ing love;
4. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove:
we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

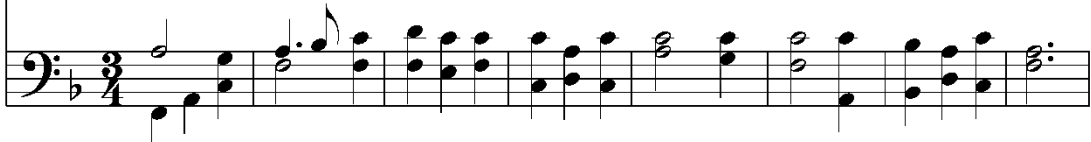


Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



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



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in Thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gracious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain

The third system includes a double bar line and the word "Refrain" above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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;

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 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 - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

See Amid the Winter's Snow



1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies:
3. Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was Thine,



see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim!
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!



Hail, thou ev - er bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."



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 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, 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.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Chill of the Nightfall

1. Chill of the night - fall, Lamps in the win - dows, Let - ting their
 2. Si - lence of mid - night, Voic - es of an - gels, Sing - ing to
 3. Splen - dor of star - light High on the hill - side, Faint is the
 4. Glo - ry of day - break! Sor - rows and shad - ows, Sud - den - ly

light fall Clear on the snow; Bit - ter De - cem - ber Bids us re -
 bid night Yield to the dawn; Dark - ness is end - ed, Sin - ners be -
 far light Burn - ing be - low; Kneel - ing be - fore Him Shep - herds a -
 they break Forth in - to morn; Sing out and tell now All shall be

mem - ber Christ in the sta - ble Long, long a - go.
 friend - ed, Where in the sta - ble Je - sus is born.
 bore Him, Christ in the sta - ble Long, long a - go.
 well now, For in the sta - ble Je - sus is born!

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

*We are God's people.
We proclaim Christ,
who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
In him we are
Taught by the Truth and
Liberated by the Life to
Walk in the Way.
The goal of our instruction is love
for God and neighbor
that flows from a pure heart and
a clear conscience and
a sincere faith.*



GRACE
Presbyterian Church
Watertown, New York



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

968 Bradley Street, PMB #105
Watertown, NY 13601

CCLI License #21810043