

WELCOME



PEACE
LUTHERAN

come grow with us

Peace Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

For unto us a Savior is given.

To use a Son is born.

And the burdens of this world shall be upon him.

And his name shall be called...

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Let us worship the newborn King!

With great love and mercy, the angel said,

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

On the cross, Jesus carried our sin and shame, and in rising again he defeated the enemy.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Let us worship the newborn King!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Let us pray together.

God of all joy, let our worship this Christmas season be filled with joy and reverence, just as the angels glorified you on the night of Jesus' birth. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Amen.

A Celebration Of Our Favorite Hymns With Prayer And Scripture

A reading from John 1:14

⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

THE HYMN *O Holy Night*

Verse 1: O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
 It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
 'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
 O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Verse 2: Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
 With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
 Here come the wise men from Orient land.
 The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
 In all our trials born to be our friend.
 He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
 Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
 Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Verse 3: Truly He taught us to love one another;
 His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of promise, the night of his birth brings joy to our world. May we live into your promise and proclaim to our world that our King has come. **Amen.**

O HOLY NIGHT

In 1843 or 1847 in the small French town of Roquemaure, a local poet named Placide Cappeau was asked by the priest to write a Christmas poem to commemorate the renovation of the church organ. After composing the poem, Cappeau asked Adolphe Adam, a popular composer, to set the lines to music. History claims the song titled “Cantique de Noel” debuted in 1847 at a midnight mass and became a favorite among French congregations. “Cantique de Noel” became popular in France and was sung in many Christmas services. But when Placide Cappeau completely left the church to join a socialist movement and it was discovered that Adolphe Adams was a Jew, the French Catholic church leaders decided “Cantique de Noel” was unfit for church services because of its lack of musical taste and “total absence of the spirit of religion.” But even though the church no longer allowed the song in their services, the French people continued to sing it. A decade later, an American writer, John Sullivan Dwight, saw something in the song that moved him beyond the story of the birth of Christ. An abolitionist, Dwight strongly identified with the lines of the third verse: “Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother; and in his name all oppression shall cease.” He published his English translation of “O Holy Night” in his magazine, and the song quickly found favor in America, especially in the North during the Civil War.

A Reading from Isaiah 9:6

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

THE HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (ELW 276)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



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!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of joy, may our hearts be the manger for Christ Jesus, our souls be the voice for our singing, and our lives be the source of our rejoicing as we give thanks for the blessings in our lives. **Amen.**

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

This Polish carol first surfaced in English hymnody in 1877. Its origins are unknown. Some have presumed it comes from the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries. It was translated by Edith M. G. Reed and published in 1925. Its Polish tune derives from the rhythm of the mazurka, a Polish country dance in the region of Warsaw. The native rhythm of the piece is hardy and folk-like. The inclination highlights the first part of the text, which suggests slow and sleeping, but the hymn quickly moves to swiftly winging, bells ringing, and rejoicing - which fit the more native character of the tune.

A Reading from Luke 1:35

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

THE HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)

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 a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of hope, we pray for reconciliation for all people as we proclaim the words of the angels, “*Glory to the newborn king, peace on earth, and mercy mild.*” **Amen.**

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Charles Wesley began this hymn, "Hark! How all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of kings," The archaic English word for "welkin" was translated as "sky" or "vault of heaven." It was published that way in Hymns and Sacred Poems in 1739 under the heading "Hymn for Christmas Day." In 1753 it reappeared in a shortened form in George Whitefield's A Collection of Hymns for Social Worship with the first lines as we know them.

The tune is named for the composer Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) though he had nothing to do with making it a hymn tune. It comes from a piece Mendelssohn wrote in 1840 for men's chorus and brass as part of a cantata called Festgesang an die Kunster for a Gutenberg festival to celebrate the 400th anniversary of printing. The tune was used later and subsequently published in Chope's Congregational Hymn and Tune Book in 1857.

A Reading from Luke 2:7

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN

What Child Is This (ELW 296)

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
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;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of faith, as we greet the child Jesus, we pray for your blessing upon our journey in life. Guide us as we walk our paths into the unknown, trusting in you and your Son, our Lord Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

The gospel for Epiphany in Matthew 2:1-12 about King Herod's devious intentions gave William, C. Dix (1837-1898) the fodder for this hymn. The proleptic nails, spear, and cross therefore are not unexpected. The hymn first appeared in Bramley's and Stainer's Christmas Carols Old and New (1871) with the tune Greensleeves. Dix was a prolific writer with considerable hymnic contributions. In addition to Christmas and Easter carols, Dix wrote other religious verses, devotional books, and instructions for children. The tune Greensleeves came on the scene in 1580. It is considered a haunting minor melody with ambivalent sixth and seventh degrees. Its syntactic musical details make an apt setting for the proleptic character of the text.

A Reading from John 1:4-5

⁴What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The lights shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

HYMN

Love Has Come (ELW 292)

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of love, you have blessed us with your most precious gift, your Son, our Lord. May we always know the truth and see that true love will overcome any darkness.
Amen.

LOVE HAS COME

The text in this hymn, written by Ken Bible (1950), highlights "Love" in relation to Christmas. The word "Love" appears 22 times, partly by itself as a refrain that fits this tune, but it is also refracted through a variety of interpretive prisms, which collectively help to define it: coming, shining, proclaimed, born, peace, Jesus' name, life, gift, free, with us, and ultimately God.

The tune, Un Flambeau, rolls along until it momentarily stops, as if to reflect. It is associated with the text "Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella," from Provencal, France, where torches are important for Christmas festivities.

THE CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

A Reading from Luke 2:10

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of truth, we rejoice in the promise of his coming into our world. Erase our fears so we may share this gift of heart, and soul, and voice. **Amen.**

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE

This is the oldest German "mixed language" hymn we know about. It is derived from a German dialect found in the areas of Worms and Mainz, combined with some Latin. The earliest source for both text and tune is circa 1400 in a manuscript at Leipzig University. Its English version is by John Mason Neale from his Carols for Christmas-tide (London, 1853) which is slightly modified to make it more inclusive.

The tune tied to this text may bear some relation to dance. That it has been used with dancing is clear, but whether it began that way is not. This is a catchy melody that bounces along in rhythms and repetitions, easily sung and danced.

A Reading from Luke 2:20

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

This hymn is a French "mixed language" hymn whose author is unknown. Both text and tune are usually assumed to be from the 18th century. The usual English version can be found in Henri Frederick Hemy's Crown of Jesus Music, Part II (1862). Hemy was a Roman Catholic organist. The hymn is built from the Christmas story in Luke 2:8-15. Luke 2:14 provides the refrain, namely "heavenly host."

The tune Gloria is a sprightly French folk tune that is exclusive to "Angels We Have Heard on High" and it was used in the Hemy's Crown of Jesus Music. The harmonization is by Edward Barnes (1887-1958) the organist and choir master at the Church of the Incarnation and Rutgers Presbyterian church in New York.

PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

As we collect our offerings this morning, may we sit in silence as we enjoy the music played by Bryan.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

A Reading from 1 Peter 1:8-9

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279 – v. 1,4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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 all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275 – v. 1, 2)

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 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



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

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

James Montgomery (1771-1854) published this hymn on Christmas Eve, 1816, under the title "Nativity" in a paper he edited called The Sheffield Iris. He then included it with minor changes in his Christ Psalmist (Glasgow and London 1825) with the title "Good Tidings of Great Joy to All People." It has 5 stanzas; the ELW version, not unlike other hymnals, uses the first three and adds to them a doxology from the Salisbury Hymn Book (1857).

The tune, Regent Square, is a vigorous tune, named for St. Philip's Regent Square Church, the "Presbyterian cathedral" of London.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283 – v. 1-3)

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



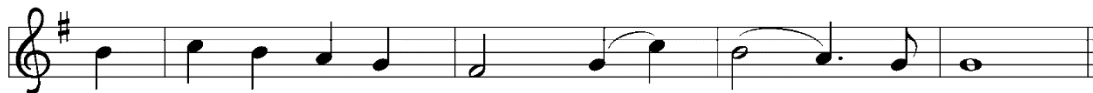
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Often used as the opening procession at Christmas, this is one of the best known Christmas hymns. The first stanza is often even known in its original Latin. The hymn greets the Word made flesh with adoration and in the second stanza reflect the Nicene Creed at "light of light eternal."

The Latin text is found in manuscripts by John Francis Wade (1710-1786), beginning perhaps as early as 1743. Both the text and tune are attributed to Wade. Wade was an English Roman Catholic lay person who lived most of his life in France at the monastery at Douay, where there was an English college. He was a copyist who taught Latin and church music, and where he prepared beautiful manuscripts for use at worship. The tune, Adeste Fideles, is considered "quite remarkable" for the middle of the 18th century. It appeared in the form of a Gregorian chant.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING.

Sisters and brothers, may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A Reading from Luke 2:17-19

¹⁷”When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.”

HYMN

The First Noel (ELW 300 – v. 1-3)

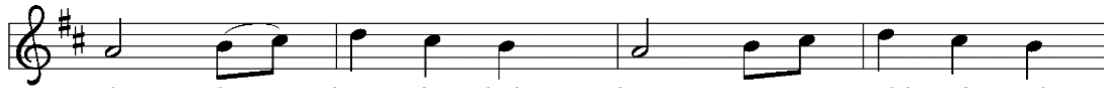
The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

FIRST NOEL

*For the last hymn in the Christmas section we have a traditional English text and tune whose origins are obscure and leave us with as many questions as answers. The 1st publication known is Davies Gilbert's *Some Ancient Christmas Carols* (1823). The five stanzas retain the essential features of the 9 stanzas given there, with the shepherds in Luke 2 and the wise men in Matthew 2 all linked together in one narrative to which the refrain "Noel" is repeated in a kind of birthday cheer. (Noel denoting birth or birthday, from the Latin word "natalis".) The tune, *The First Nowell*, appeared in William Sandy's *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern* (1833). It was harmonized and edited, republished in 1871.*

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, our eyes have seen your promise, 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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

PASTOR'S BLESSING

Sisters and brothers, this completes our journey; we have received the promise; and we feel his presence within our souls. I pray we proclaim the truth behind our journey of hope, peace, joy, faith, and love –for God has sent us our Savior, who is Jesus the Christ.

Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - 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 lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

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.

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

TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The traditional stanzas of this African American spiritual begin "When I was a seeker." John H. Work Jr. (1872-1925) wrote the Christmas stanzas around 1925. They were published in American Negro Songs and Spirituals in 1940. He, along with his brother, collected and arranged spirituals and slave songs, later publishing his works. The tune, Go Tell It, is considered a tradition melody dating back to the 19th century. It first appeared in Dett's Religious Folk Songs of the Negro in 1927. Like many African American spirituals, it can have rhythmic drive and can "swing freely."

BLESSING

May you see the light that shines in your life; may you hear his voice within your soul; may you feel his touch when your heart is troubled, and may the God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go tell it on your mountain, over your hills and everywhere; go tell it on your mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS