

***Processional Hymn #121    O Little Town of Bethlehem***

*O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given  
as love imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of God's heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.*

***Gradual Hymn #137     What Child Is This***

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*Refrain:*

*This, this is Christ, the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.*

*[Refrain]*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*[Refrain]*

***Offertory Hymn #136***  
***While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks***

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.*

*"Fear not," said he for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind.*

*To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:*

*the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid."*

*Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:*

*"All glory be to God on high,  
and to the world be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin, and never cease."*

***Communion Hymn #146***  
***'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime***

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.*

*Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round.  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.*

*The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.*

*O children of the forest free,  
beloved of Manitou,  
the holy child of earth and heaven  
is born today for you.*

*Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace and joy:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.*

***Recessional Hymn #139 The First Nowell***

*The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Refrain:*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.*

*[Refrain]*

*And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.*

*[Refrain]*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.*

*[Refrain]*

*Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.*

*[Refrain]*

*Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought.*

*[Refrain]*