

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



CHRISTMAS

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

First Sunday of Christmas
December 27 and 28, 2025
5:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m.

We welcome you on this First Sunday of Christmas! May the birth of Christ fill you with joy today. Please fill out the blue worship card and place it in the offering plate later in the service.

GATHERING



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Gracious, generous God; We celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Your Self in human form. We are transfixed by the story of Jesus. We looked for a warrior;

You sent a baby.

We looked for royalty;

You were born to peasants.

We looked for power;

You showed us meekness.

We looked among rulers and politicians;

You were found among cattle and shepherds.

We looked for riches;

You gave us selflessness.

We looked for a king;

You gave us a servant.

As we gather this Christmas morning, continue to meet us and overturn our expectations, that we may experience you in your truest form. **Amen**

GATHERING CAROL

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

ELW 275 1, 3, 4 (See Page 7)

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sisters and brothers in Christ, grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray

God of rough hands and hardened feet, giving light to the daughters and sons of earth: in agony of birth and gentleness of newborn skin, may we discover your ordinary beauty in the heart of our longing world; through Jesus Christ, the Icon of the Unseen God.

Amen.

WORD

READING

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

HYMN

"Love Has Come"

ELW 292 (See Page 8)

READING

Exodus 13:17-22

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness towards the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, 'God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.' They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

HYMN

"Bright and Glorious is the Sky"

ELW 301 vs. 1, 2, 6 (See Page 9)

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

ELW 269 v. 1-3 (See Page 10)

READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW 270 v. 1, 3 (See Page 11)

READING

Matthew 5:14-16

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

HYMN

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

ELW 284 v.1, 2, 4 (See Page 12)

READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
'Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'

HYMN

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

ELW 452 v. 1-3 (See Page 13)

READING

1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

HYMN

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW 815 v. 1-2 (See Page 14)

READING

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so

that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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.

HYMN

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

ELW 295 v. 1 & 2 (See Page 15)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition of the prayer:

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Mary Lou Moore

Jeffrey Hartmann

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

<i>"The First Noel"</i>	ELW 300 (See Page 16)
<i>"Peace Came to Earth"</i>	ELW 285 (See Page 17)
<i>"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"</i>	ELW 288 (See Page 18)

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

ELW 290 (See Page 19)

SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SATURDAY PRESIDERS	Pastor Todd Hawkins
SUNDAY PRESIDERS	Pastor Ann Hultquist
SUNDAY COUNCIL HOSTS	Andrew Howell and John Gaddis, Sr.
SATURDAY USHERS	
SUNDAY USHERS	Todd Gould and Holly Keenan
SATURDAY READERS	Sally Campbell
SUNDAY READERS	Char Lemkee
SATURDAY COMMUNION ASSISTANT	
SUNDAY COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Sally Campbell and Dwight Tilford
SATURDAY PIANIST/ORGANIST	Mary Lou Moore
SUNDAY PIANIST/ORGANIST	Jeffrey Hartmann

*WELCOME to worship! For hymns, refer to the **Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book**.*

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

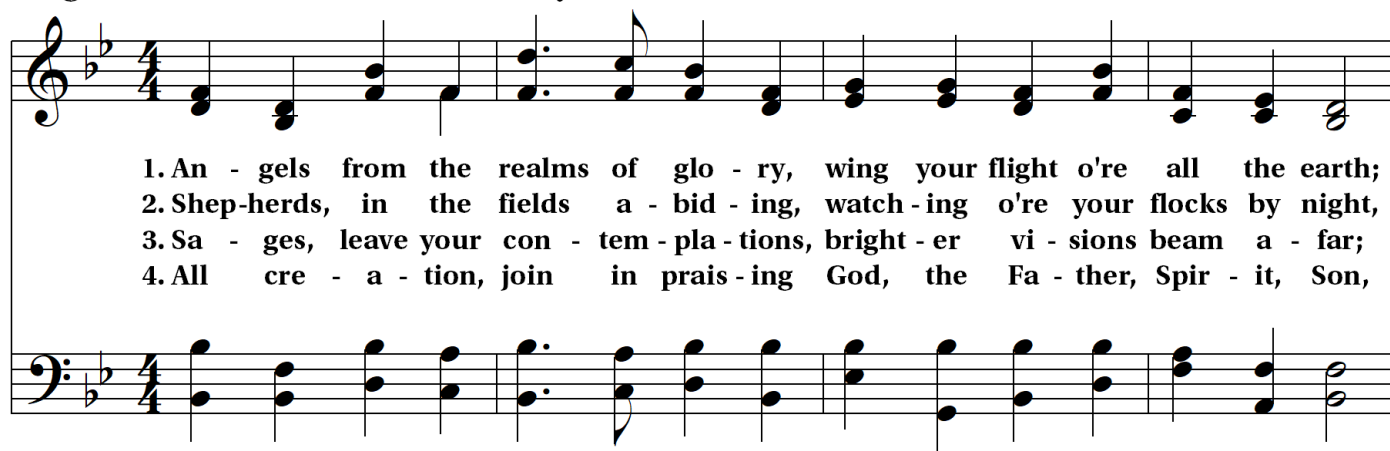
RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.



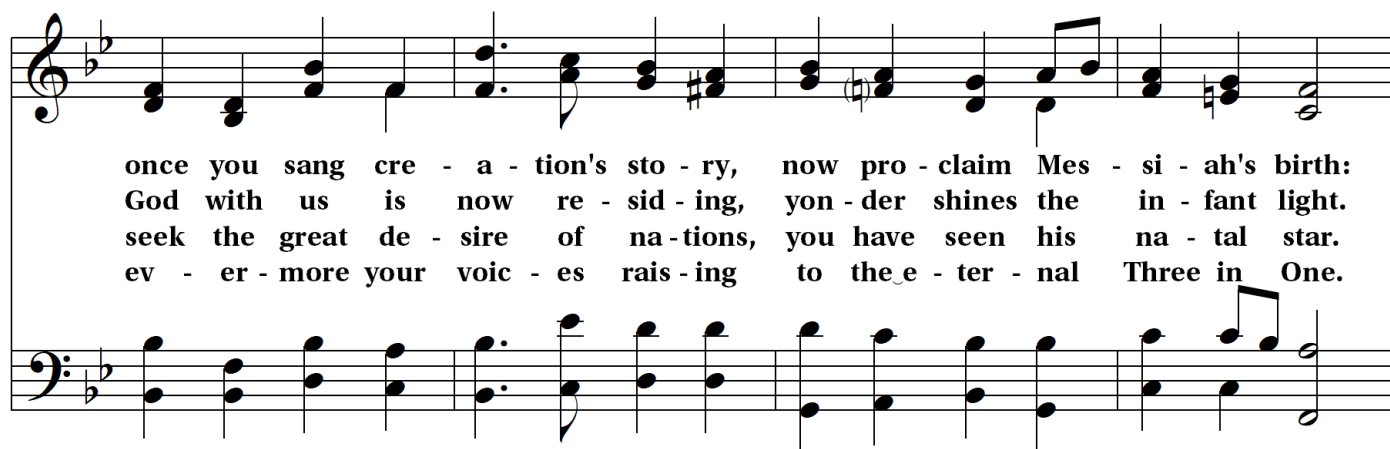
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Angels, from the Realms of Glory


ELW 275



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o're all the earth;
 2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o're 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.



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

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

REGENT SQUARE
 8 7 8 7 8 7

Love Has Come

ELW 292



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 now 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: F Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

UN FLAMBEAU

9 9 10 9 9 8

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

ELW 301

1. Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2. On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3. Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4. Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he worn no

beav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing.
 won - drous star, went to fin the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their pure ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with and in - fant and ho - ly rest - ing in her

heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew night, as the won - drous star drew night.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt. DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLA
 Music: Danish, 19th cent

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

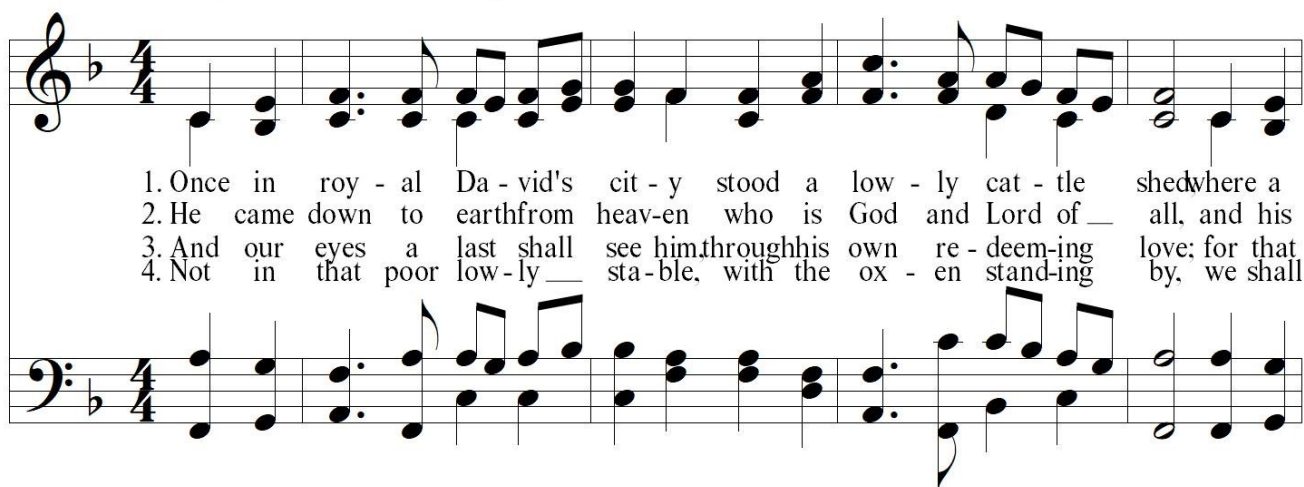
77 88 77

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Once in Royal David's City

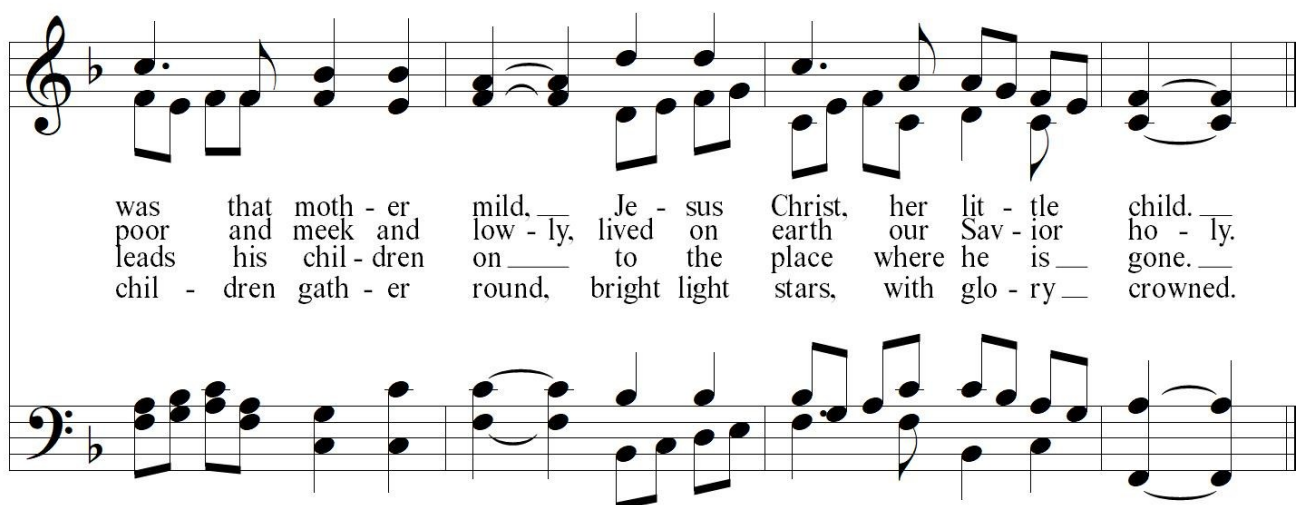
ELW 269



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



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



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 chil - dren gath - er round, bright light stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
 Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

IRBY
 8 7 8 7 7

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 Son 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, —

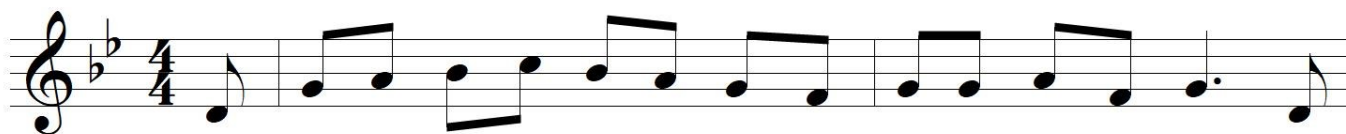
with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

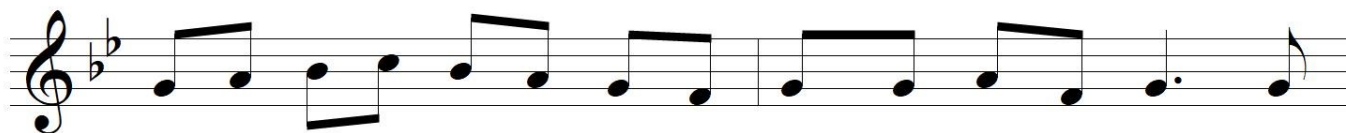
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born king!"

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

ELW #284



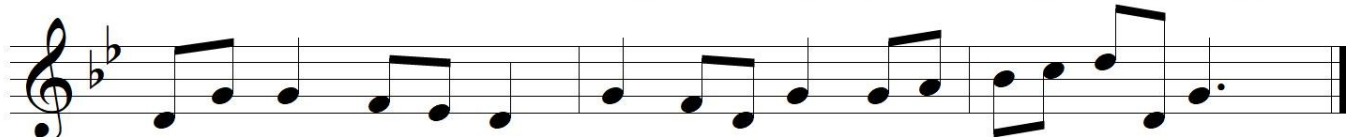
1. 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
 2. With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
 3. The ear - lest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
 4. O Chil - dre of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
 rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
 was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
 ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hun - ters heard the hymn:
 as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
 chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
 kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

**original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"*

Text: Jean de Brebeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.

Music: French fold tune, c. 16th cent.

Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

86 86 88 and refrain

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

ELW 452

1. A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light: so
 2. To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease, to
 3. There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spi - rit and one call, one
 4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save; with
 5. For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife. A -

learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House

AZMON

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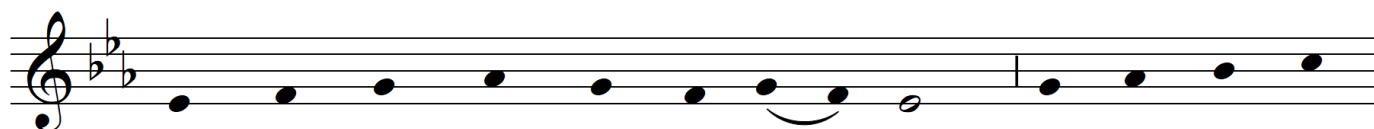
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

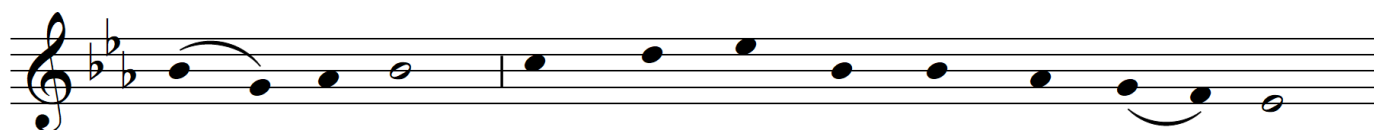
1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2. I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3. I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ. I want to

fol-low Je-sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je-sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness,
 be with Je-sus. When we have run with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je-sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je-sus.



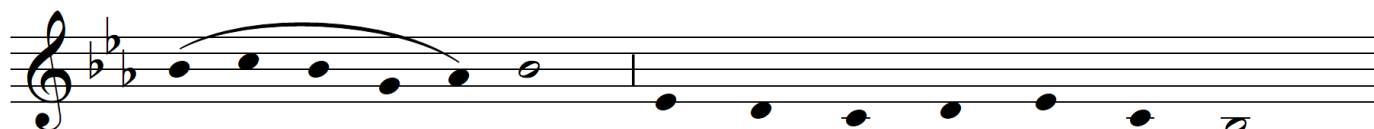
1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 4. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan__ to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore__ him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have__ been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.____
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.____
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!____ A - men.____

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite
 Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
 8 7 8 7 8 7 7

The First Noel

ELW 300



1. The first No - el the an-gels did say was to certain poor shepherds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the east be-
 3. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from
 4. This star drew near to the north-west, o'er Beth - le hem it
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full rev - 'rent ly up -



fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keep-ing their
 yond them far; and to the earth it gave great
 count try far; to seek for a king was their in -
 took its rest; and there it did both stop and
 on their knee, and of - fered there in his pres -

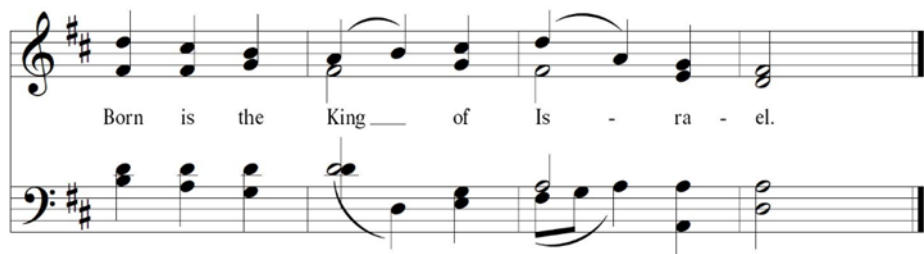


sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 ence their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el!



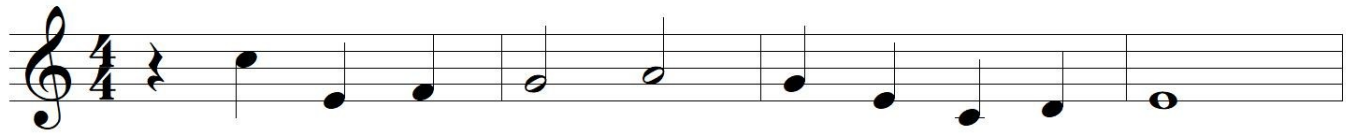
Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

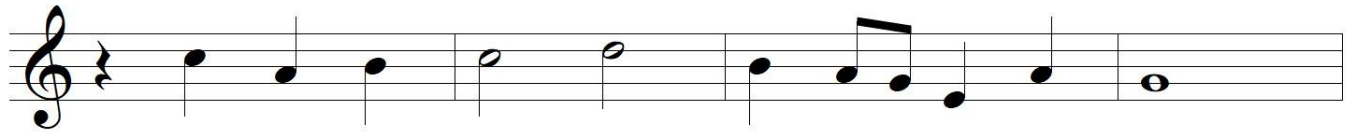
THE FIRST NOWELL
 Irregular

Peace Came to Earth

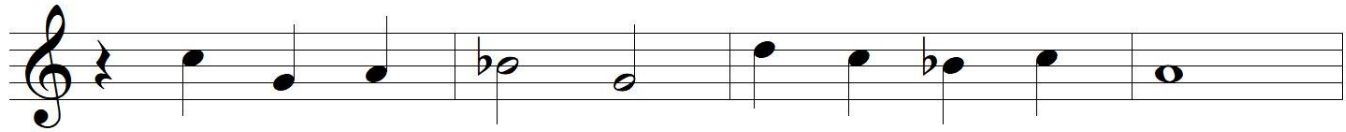
ELW 285



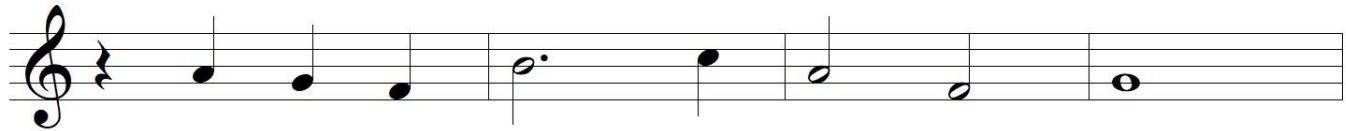
1. Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
 2. And who could be the same for hav - ing held
 3. You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
 4. How else could I have known you, O my God!



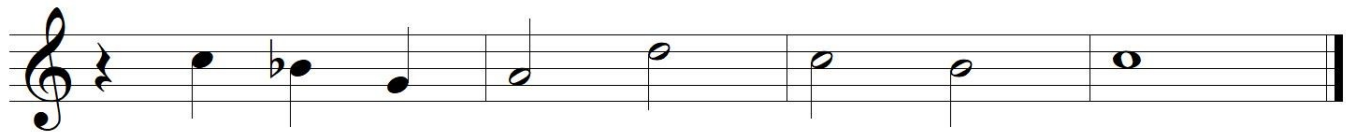
when an - gels clove the sky with song and light
 the in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
 in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,
 How else could I have loved you, O my God!



and God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might -
 the wound - ed hadns and side, all doughts his dis - pelled
 in bread and wind you vis - it us a - gain
 How else could I em - brace you, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could be see Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: Paul Manz, b. 1919

Text © 1984 Concordia Publishing House

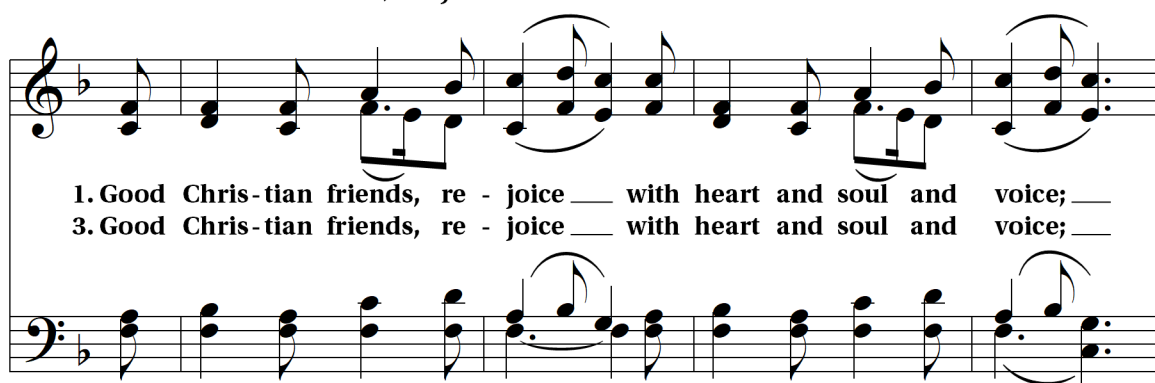
Music © 1991 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc

SCHNEIDER

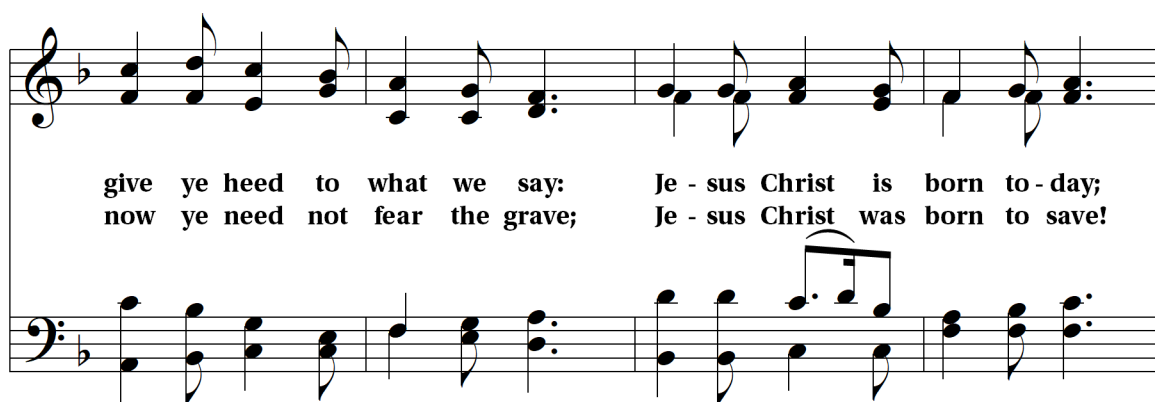
10 10 10 8 8

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

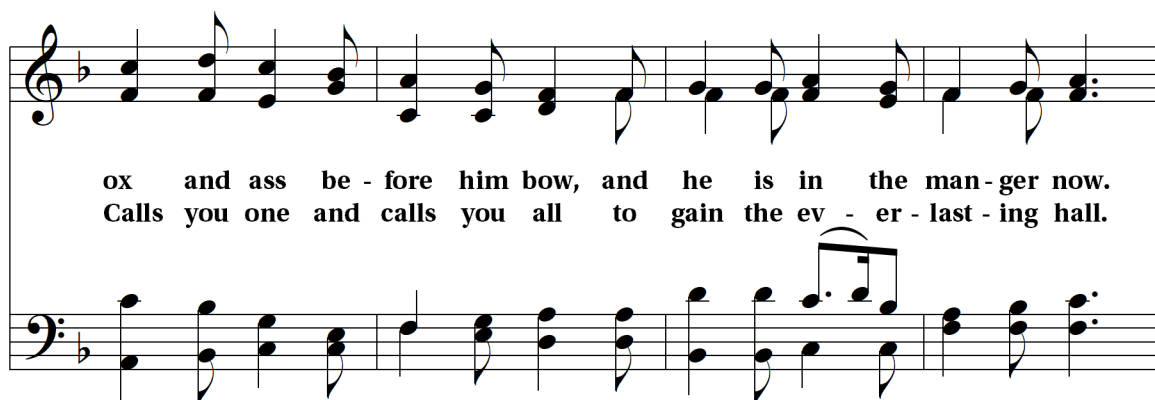
ELW 288



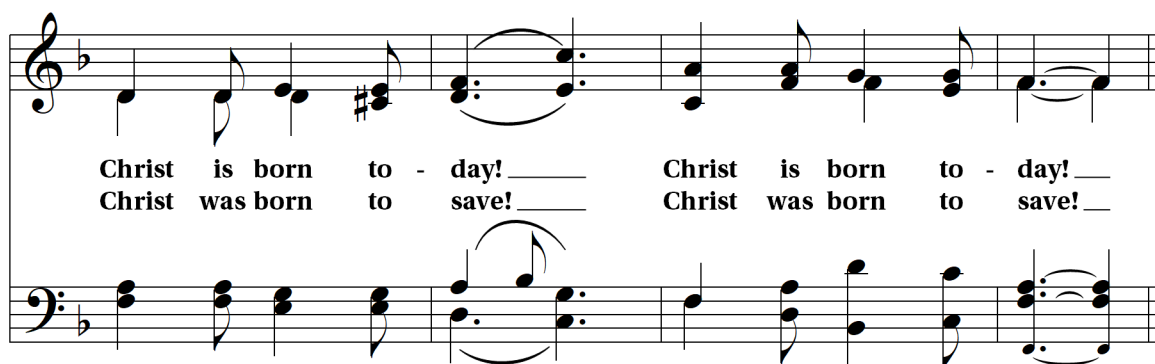
1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice — with heart and soul and voice; —
3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice — with heart and soul and voice; —



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye 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.
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 to save! — Christ was born to save! —

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
Music: German Carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

IN DULCI JUBILO
6 6 7 7 8 5 5

Go Tell it on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on teh moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1. While shep-hers kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
2. The shep-hers feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth rang
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born; and



hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light. ____
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth. ____
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn. ____



Text: African Ameriacn spiritual, refrain; John W. Work. Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: African American spiritual

GO TELL IT
78 76 76 76