

**Welcome to Christmas Eve worship! This holy night, we sing with the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward [all!]” (Luke 2:14, KJV).**

This worship service can be watched live on YouTube, as it happens, anywhere you have an internet connection. Additionally, past services will be archived so you can stay up-to-date or relive your favorite Sunday morning moments. You can find the link on our website or check it out at <https://bit.ly/FPCLive>

Worship Assistant: Anne Greenwood  
Ushers: Pam Melchior

Audio: Tracey Gill  
Video: Andy Ingram

**NOTE: Sheet music for the hymns can be found on the next page or pages.**



***Order of Worship***  
***December 24, 2025***  
***5:00 PM***

***Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus***

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***Did You Know?***

You can support the mission and ministry of our church by donating online at <https://bit.ly/39QO3dQ>. You can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the donate page on our website. We deeply appreciate your generosity and are so thankful for each of you!

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5:00 PM**

**DECEMBER 24, 2025**



THE FIRST NOTE OF THE PRELUDE begins our worship. Please use the prelude time to turn your attention to God's presence and help. Nurturing our relationships and friendships in fellowship is essential to our life as a congregation, so please continue to do so following our time of worship.

*\* Those who are able are invited to stand.*

**FOCUSING UPON GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*"Prelude"*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLE LIGHTING**

One: Joy to the world! Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

**All: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, Jesus came to us.**

**This is a time of light and resplendent joy.**

One: Let us worship our with-us God.

**All: Let us sing songs of praise!**

*Reader: Children of God, take a deep breath. We have arrived at this night: Christmas Eve. We have waited and watched for signs of hope, peace, joy, and love in this Advent season. We have prepared him room and looked for wonders of God's love. Tonight we light all five candles, so that as we worship we can repeat the sounding joy of our Savior's birth.*

He came down that we may have hope,\* he

came down that we may have hope,\* he came down that we may

have hope.\* Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

\* peace, joy, love, life

Text and music: Cameroon traditional; tr. and arr. John Bell (b. 1949)  
 © 1990, WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

*Reader: Surely, God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near.*

*Surely love knows our name.*

**All: May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born. A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

## 134 Joy to the World

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

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

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven 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 heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven 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.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY (based on Luke 2:1-20)

\*HYMN

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

## 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

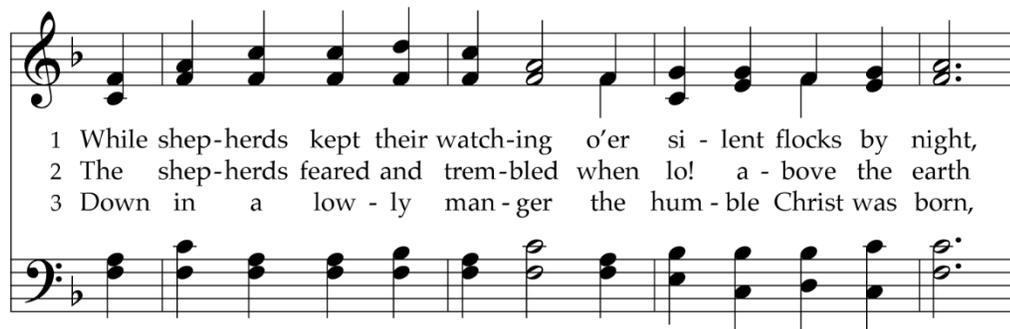
Refrain 



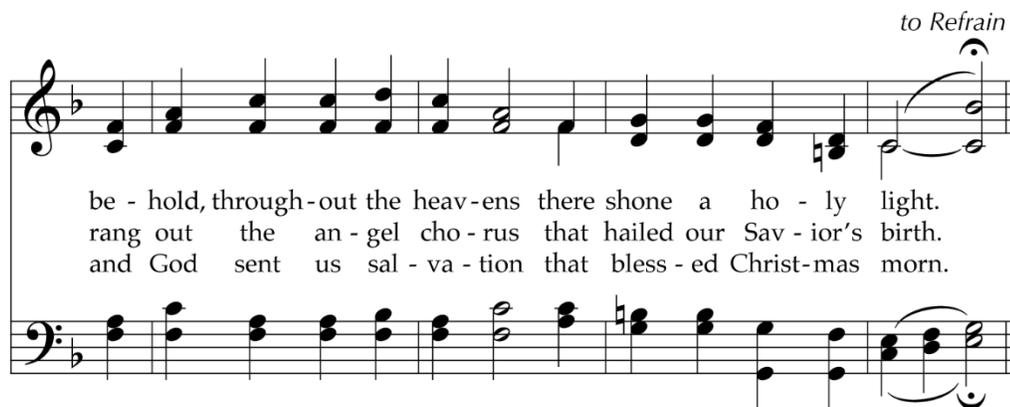
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



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 low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to 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.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

# 147 The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

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

*Refrain*

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nate*) as well to "news" (*novus / nouvelle*).

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.  
 MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irregular

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CALL FOR OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY  
Graeme Shilanskas

*"Jingle Bells"*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #147

*"The First Nowell"*

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

born is the King of  
 ls - ra - el.

SPECIAL READING & PRAYER

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING SONG

Vs. 1 ONLY

# 134

## Joy to the World

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

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

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven 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 heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven 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.

heaven and na - ture sing,

POSTLUDE

*“Son of the Father’s Love”*



Prelude William Stickles, OneLicense.net

Hymn #134 Glory to God Hymnal, Public Domain

Hymn #136 Glory to God Hymnal, CCLI

Offertory Public Domain

Hymn #147 Glory to God Hymnal, Public Domain

Hymn #134 Glory to God Hymnal, Public Domain

Postlude Marty Parks, One License.net