

CHRIST

ADVENT SEASON



SEVERN RUN

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

A Church devoted to the pursuit of Scripture, Prayer, Fellowship and Worship as an effective and ultimately victorious means of reaching our community for Christ.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, 24 December, 2025

✦ Indicates standing if able

WELCOME & GREETING

Pastor Jesse M. Crutchley

“Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES



INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:6–7

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will* be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

✦ HYMN

Nº 01

Joy to the World!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastoral Prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Luke 1:68, 69; Matt. 1:21

“Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us...And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

✦ HYMN

Nº 02

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HOPE

Luke 1:26-38

Ruling Elder Joe Mackes

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name *was* Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!” But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.*” Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.”

PEACE

Matthew 1:18–25

Ruling Elder Jeremiah Horner

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*”

which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS."

❖ HYMN

Nº 03

What Child Is This?

JOY

Luke 2:8–20

Ruling Elder Matt Ball

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."

LOVE

Matthew 2:1–12

Ruling Elder Bradley Chwastyk

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together,

he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: *"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel."* " Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way."

❖ HYMN

Nº 04

Who is He in Yonder Stall?

CHILDREN'S MEDITATION

Pastor Jesse M. Crutchley

SPECIAL OFFERING

(Given to the SREPC General Fund)

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

SREPC Choir

THE WORD PREACHED

Reading of Scripture
"Christ"

Matthew 3:13-17
Pastor Jesse M. Crutchley

PASTORAL PRAYER

❖ HYMN

Nº 05

O Come, All Ye Faithful

BENEDICTION

Candle-lighting

❖ HYMN

Nº 06

Silent Night! Holy Night!



Merry Christmas!

SERMON NOTES

"Christ"

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it* to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

SERMON NOTES cont'd

"Christ"

Matthew 3:13-17

Joy to the World!

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns;
 3. No more let sin and sor - row grow,
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace

Let earth re - ceive her King.
 Let men their songs em - ploy,
 Nor thorns in - fest the ground.
 And makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness

And heav'n and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
Far as the curse is found,
And won - ders of His love,

1. And heav'n and na -

1. And heav'n and na -

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains four measures of music, ending with a repeat sign. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures of music, starting with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note chord in the second measure, and two measures of quarter notes. The lyrics are placed between the staves, with the first line of lyrics aligned under the first measure of the top staff.

And heav'n and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
Far as the curse is found,
And won - ders of His love,

ture sing,

ture sing, And heav'n and na -

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff continues from the first system with four measures of music, ending with a repeat sign. The bottom staff continues with four measures of music, featuring a long melisma line over the first two measures. The lyrics are placed between the staves, with the first line of lyrics aligned under the first measure of the top staff.

And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing!
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy!
Far_ as, far as the curse is found!
And won - ders, won - ders of His love!

ture sing,

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff continues with four measures of music, ending with a repeat sign. The bottom staff continues with four measures of music, featuring a long melisma line over the first two measures. The lyrics are placed between the staves, with the first line of lyrics aligned under the first measure of the top staff.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer
 3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free
 4. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 our spir - its by Thine ad - vent here;
 Thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny;
 and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
 all peo - ples in one heart and mind.

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 from depths of hell Thy peo - ple save,
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 Bid Thou our sad di - vi - sions cease,

Latin antiphon, 12th cent.
Latin hymn, 1710
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851

VENI EMMANUEL
Plainsong, 13th cent.
Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
and close the path to mi - ser - y.
and be Thy - self our King of peace!

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

What Child Is This?

1. What child is this, who laid to
 2. Why lies He in such mean es -
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and

rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 state, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 myrrh; come peas - ant, king, to own Him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet,
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings,

while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

This, this is Christ the King,
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;
Raise, raise the song on high,

The first system of musical notation for the song 'Greensleeves'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing!
the cross be home for me, for you;
the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

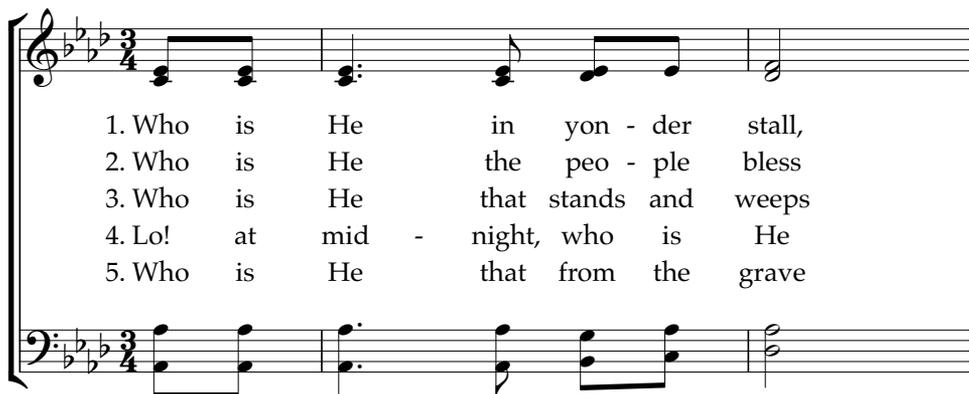
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
joy, joy for Christ is born,

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

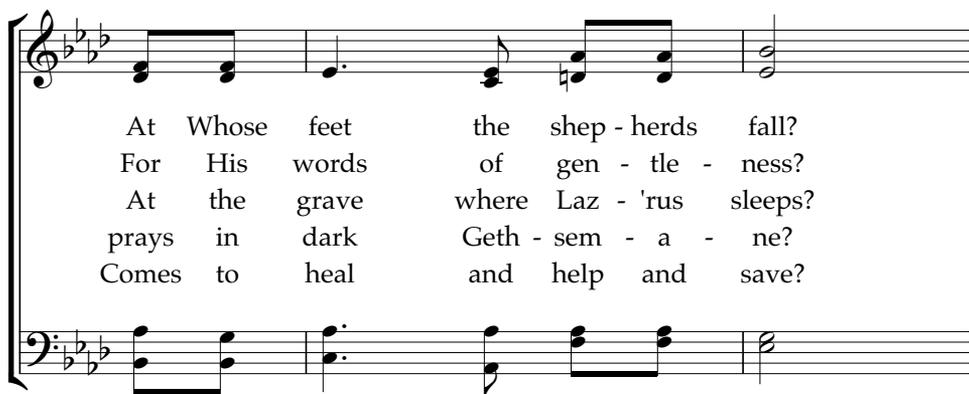
the babe, the son of Mar - y!
the babe, the son of Mar - y!
the babe, the son of Mar - y!

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the piece. It features a final cadence in the bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

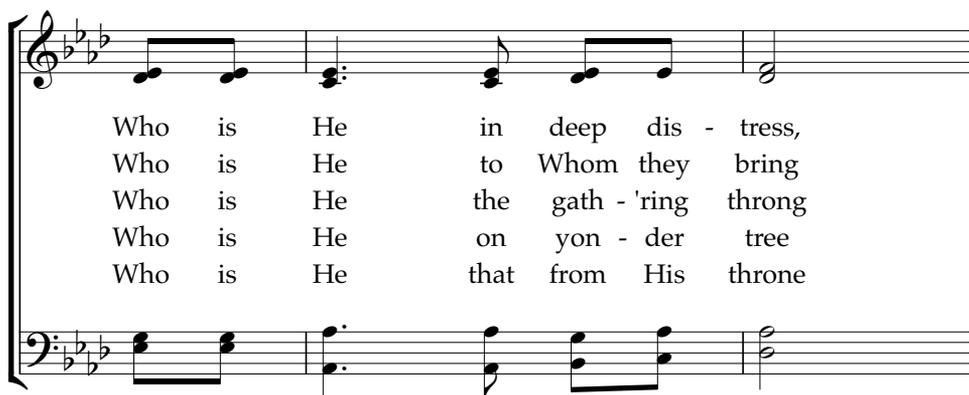
Who is He in Yonder Stall?



1. Who is He in yon - der stall,
 2. Who is He the peo - ple bless
 3. Who is He that stands and weeps
 4. Lo! at mid - night, who is He
 5. Who is He that from the grave



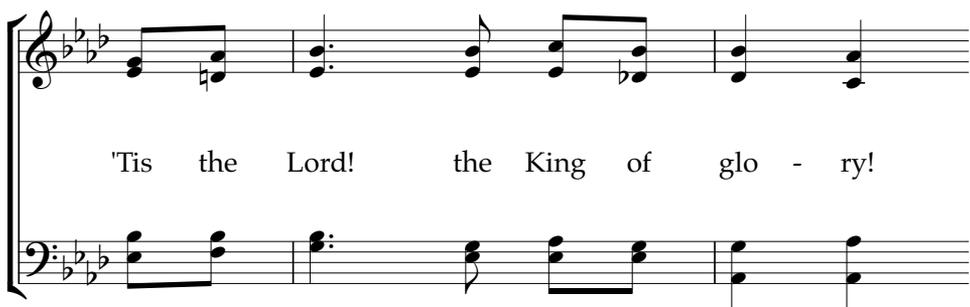
At Whose feet the shep - herds fall?
 For His words of gen - tle - ness?
 At the grave where Laz - 'rus sleeps?
 prays in dark Geth - sem - a - ne?
 Comes to heal and help and save?



Who is He in deep dis - tress,
 Who is He to Whom they bring
 Who is He the gath - 'ring throng
 Who is He on yon - der tree
 Who is He that from His throne



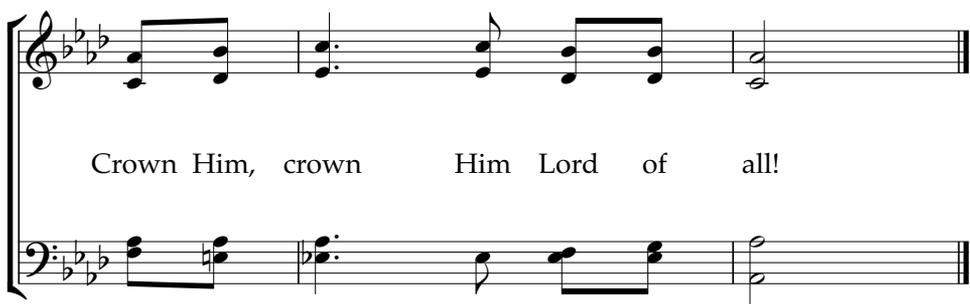
'Tis the Lord! oh won-drous sto-ry!



'Tis the Lord! the King of glo-ry!

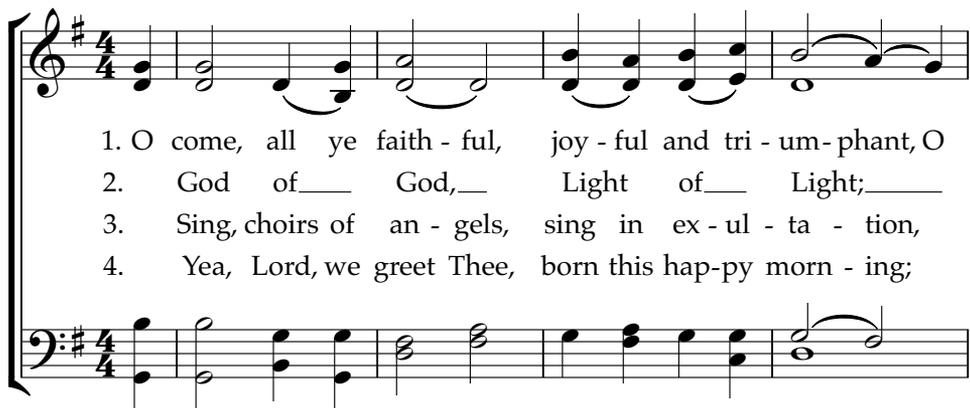


At His feet we hum-bly fall;

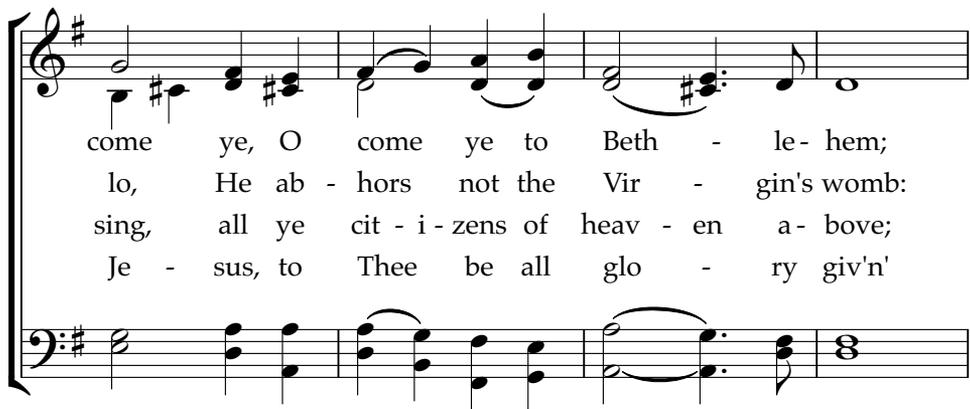


Crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

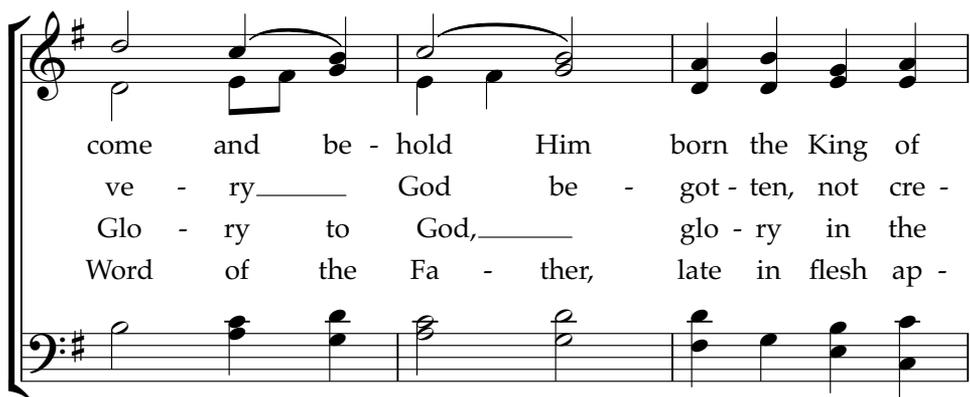
O Come, All Ye Faithful



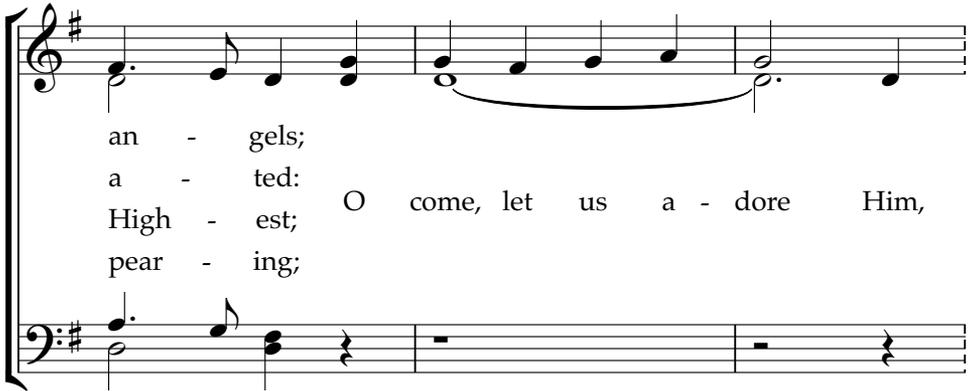
1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. God of___ God,___ Light of___ Light;___
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 lo, He ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb:
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove;
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n'

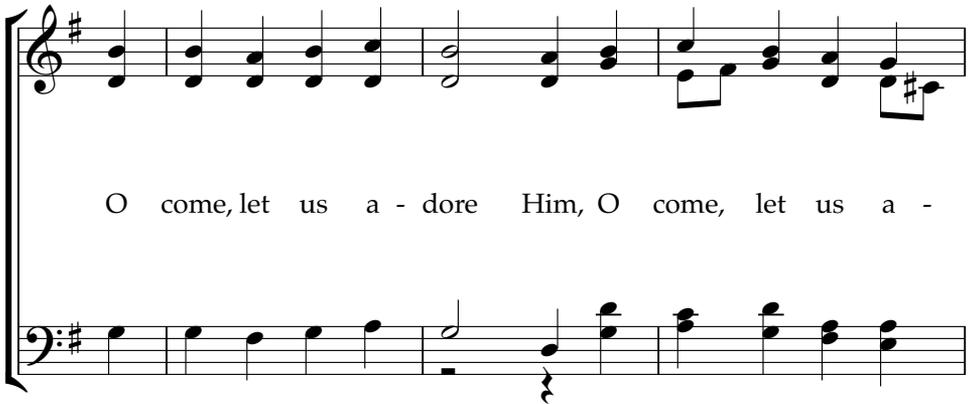


come and be - hold Him born the King of
 ve - ry___ God be - got - ten, not cre -
 Glo - ry to God,___ glo - ry in the
 Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap -



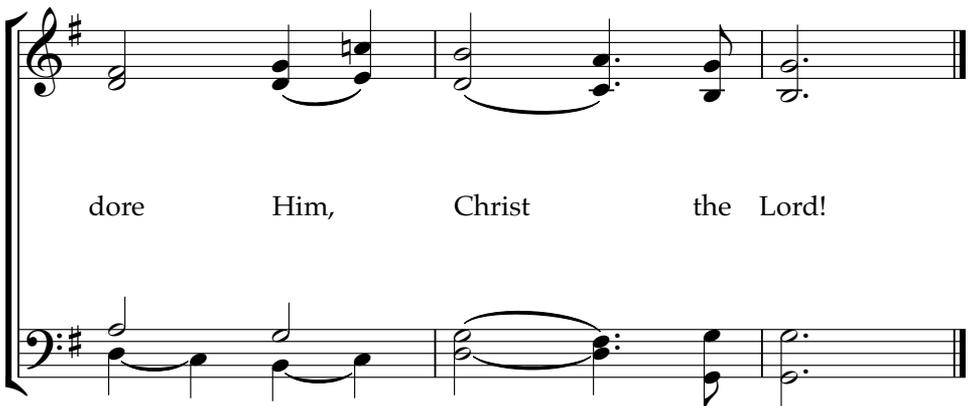
an - gels;
a - ted: O come, let us a - dore Him,
High - est;
pear - ing;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment. The lyrics are: "an - gels; a - ted: O come, let us a - dore Him, High - est; pear - ing;".



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

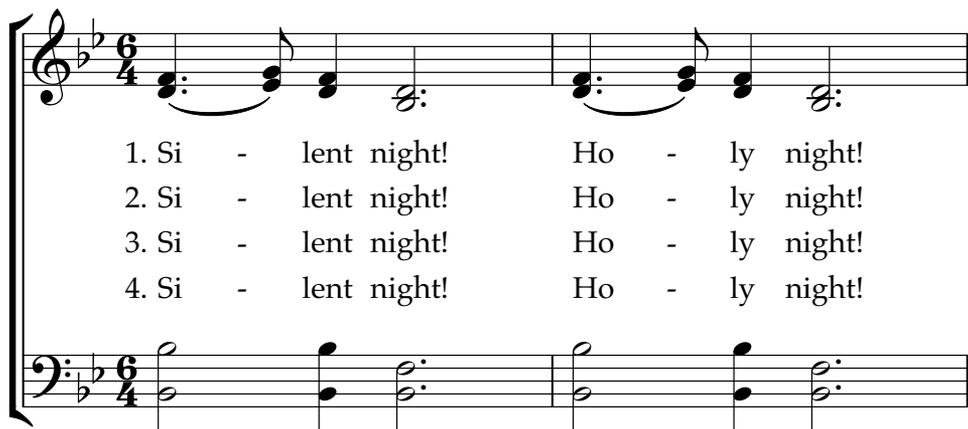
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics: "O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -". The bass staff continues with accompaniment.



dore Him, Christ the Lord!

The third system concludes the phrase. The treble staff has lyrics: "dore Him, Christ the Lord!". The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

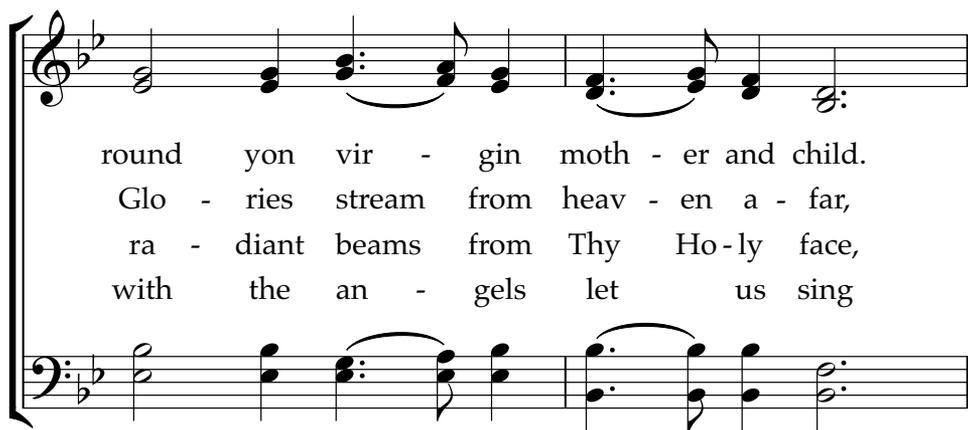
Silent Night! Holy Night!



1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!



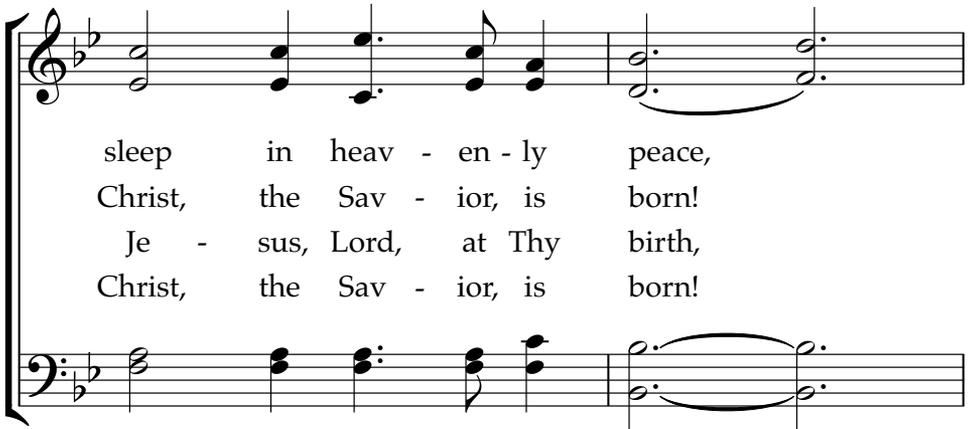
All is calm, all is bright
 Shep - herds quake at the sight!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Won - drous star, lend thy light;



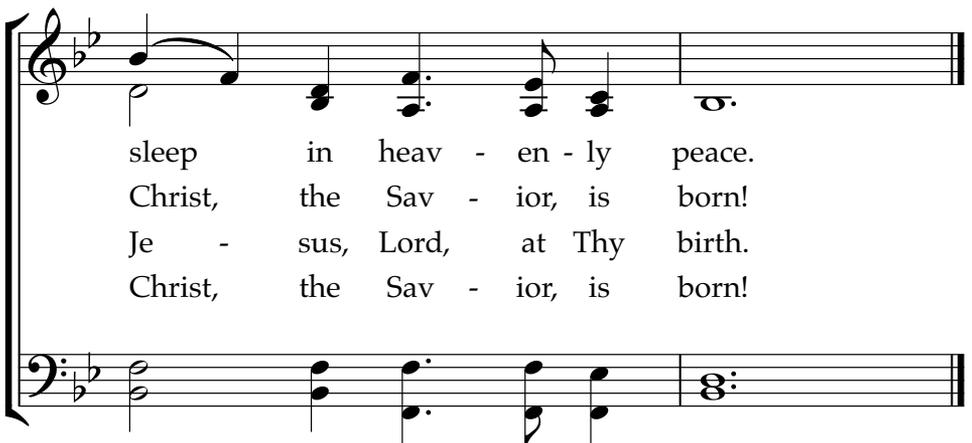
round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 ra - diant beams from Thy Ho - ly face,
 with the an - gels let us sing



Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
al - le - lu - ia to our King;



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



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

SREPC CHOIR SPECIAL

"Christmas Eve"

Christ

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree!

** Music by Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)*

Lyrics based on the poem "A Handful of Flowers for a Christian" by Richard Hutchins (1761) as found in "Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs," compiled by Joshua Smith (1784).

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel;
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm wearied with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

"Christ"

Matthew 3:13-17

S M M A K E G T W Z I L H T Y N T P E W
J I D N U O R A S I R E H T A E L A H A
S N I S P A N D T E T E B T H U A T G I
D C N O W B B W S Q N H L P H T J H N S
L A T L E B R U U T L F O D E I M S O T
I M D E H T O L C N N R A L L M S C I K
W E N E V A E H O E P R E A C H I N G W
S L J O H N L V L P O Y D W H O O W E I
R S S P O K E N I E J O R D A N R G R L
Y S E L P Q C Q D R I D L O R D X N D F
P U T N M E L A S U R E J Y G R B I N L
R G U R R R J U D E A Z W D N O A Y A E
E D N R A E Y W I E R I E G I F P R H S
P A V I A I D E E N I T N I S E T C T M
A Y G E Y Z G L N R K P T S S N I T R I
R S L H J A Z H I O E A O A E X S V Z H
E Z I T U O S P T W H B T I F D T O F G
S M M O D G N I K V U X B A N O E I J R
A N B Y E S O H T T H I S H O O N C L Q
W P C A M E Q W T H E I K Y C F O E E G

ALL
AND
AROUND
BAPTIST
BAPTIZED
BELT
BUT
CAME
CAMELS
CLOTHED
CONFESSING
CRYING
DAYS
FOOD
FOR
HAND
HEAVEN
HIM
HIMSELF
HIS

HONEY
ISAIAH
JERUSALEM
JOHN
JORDAN
JUDEA
KINGDOM
LEATHER
LOCUSTS
LORD
MAKE
NOW
OF
ONE
OUT
PATHS
PREACHING
PREPARE
PROPHET
REGION

REPENT
SAYING
SINS
SPOKEN
STRAIGHT
THE
THEIR
THEN
THIS
THOSE
TO
VOICE
WAIST
WAS
WENT
WERE
WHO
WILD
WILDERNESS
WITH

What verse in Matthew 3 contains the underlined words? _____

Write the whole verse out: _____