



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prelude

Greensleeves (What Child Is This)

arr. R. Purvis

Matthew 2:11: *On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

“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?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.”

(Words: W. Dix, 1871; music (*Greensleeves*) is from an English ballad, 1871; public domain;
This organ solo: MCA Music, a division of MCA, Inc., 1957)

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

****Bidding Carol-132, v. 1, 3** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Opening Prayer

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, the baby lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God brought to us by this holy Child.

Let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light. They are a multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forever.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

Word

First Lesson:

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.
Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-5a
Hymn-121, v. 1-2

Second Lesson:

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.
Once in Royal David's City

Matthew 1:18–25
**** Hymn-140, v. 1,2**

Third Lesson:

The magi from the East come to find Jesus.
The First Nowell

Matthew 2:1-9
Hymn-147, v. 2-4

★★ *Following Stars—Watching in the World and Sharing with Each Other* ★★

Fourth Lesson:

The wise men worship Jesus and offer gifts.
Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Matthew 2:10-11
****Hymn-143, v. 3,4**

Thanksgiving/Eucharist

Session Testimony to Thanksgiving and Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Welcome to Our World

arr. C. Rice

Luke 2: 11: *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

“Tears are falling, hearts are breaking, how we need to hear from God.

You've been promised, we've been waiting; welcome holy Child, welcome holy Child.

Hope that You don't mind our manger, how I wish we would have known;

but long-awaited holy Stranger, make Yourself at home. Please make Yourself at home.”

(Words and music by Chris Rice, 1995; This piano solo: Clumsy Fly Music/Rocketown Music/Word Music, Inc., 2001)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Prayer Introit: *Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem*

Hymn-121, v.3,4

Sending

Fifth Lesson:

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

John 1:9–14
****Hymn--119, v. 2,3**

All lessons are read from the Common English Bible (CEB)

*Blessing and Charge

Postlude

Carol Rhapsody

by R. Purvis

2 Corinthians 13:14: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

(This organ solo: MCA Music, a division of MCA, Inc., 1957)

Pastor—Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Liturgist—Allen Exner

Thank you to Neil Danzig for operating the sound board today!

Thank you to Kofi Akuoko for operating the cameras!

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**The Annual Meeting for the congregation of Christ Memorial Church
is scheduled for Sunday, January 26 following the 10:30 AM service.**

**Session Members and Team Chairs:
Please submit Annual Reports for 2024 to Office@cmppusa.org by
Sunday, January 12.**

When we allow God to be born in us, there is no telling, no telling at all, what will come out.

Barbara Brown Taylor, Mixed Blessings

132 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!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 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 - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 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 ti - dings 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 on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

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 / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

A musical score for the phrase "born is the King of Israel." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics "born is the King of Israel." are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together and some held over from the previous measure.

5 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

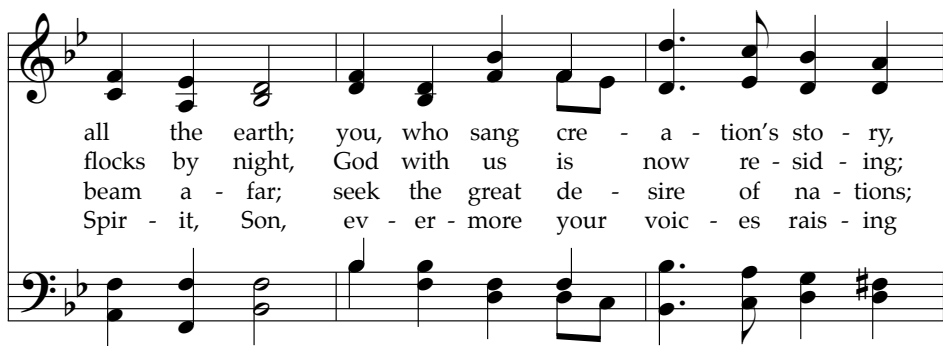
6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory



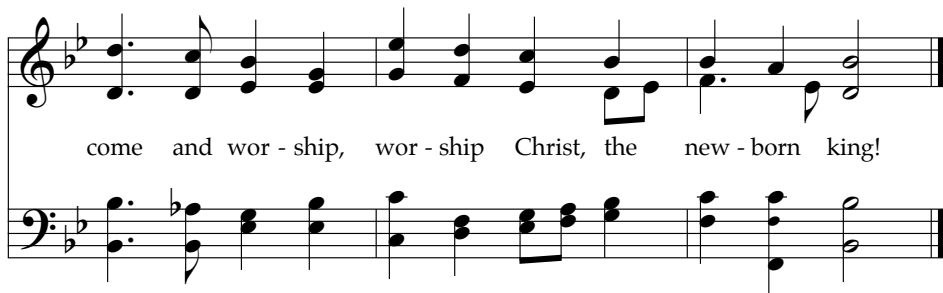
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



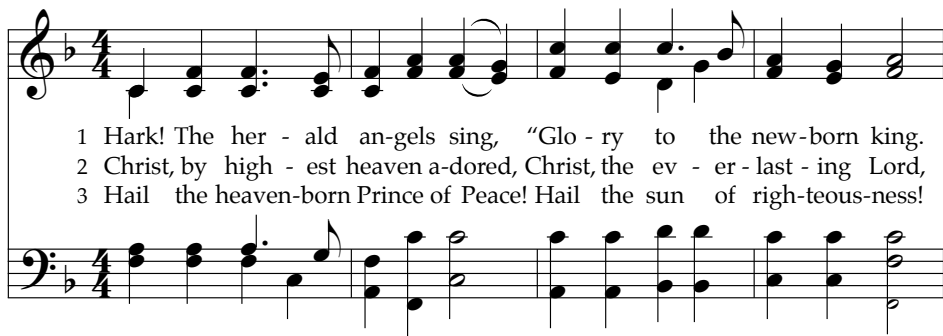
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

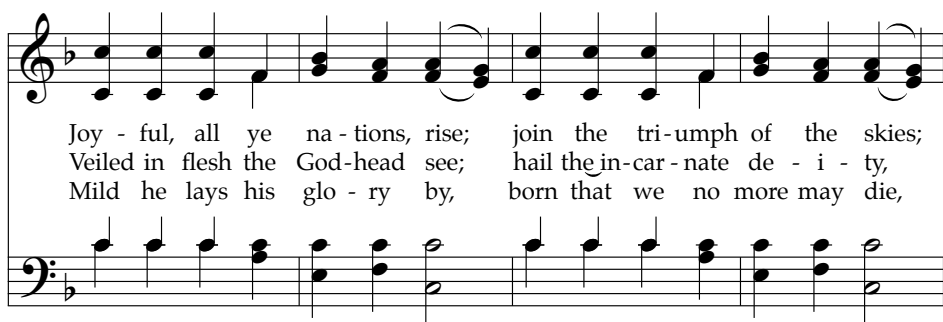
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



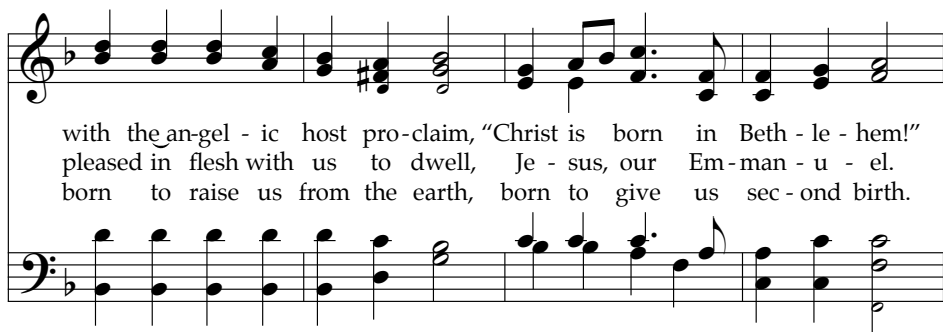
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



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



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Hark! The herald angels sing." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with a prominent use of chords in the bass line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Bible Readings for First Sunday of Christmas, 2024

First Lesson:

Pastor

Janna

Jesus' birth answers ancient prophecies.

Micah 5:2-5a

² As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
though you are the least significant of Judah's forces,
one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.
His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.

³ Therefore, he will give them up
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth.
The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock^[a] in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell secure,
because he will surely become great throughout the earth;

⁵ he will become one of peace.

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
v.1-2

Hymn-121,

Second Lesson:

Liturgist Allen

Exner

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³ *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,*

And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(*Emmanuel* means “God with us.”)

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he didn’t have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

***Once in Royal David's City*
v. 1,2

**** Hymn-140,**

Third Lesson:

Pastor

Janna

The magi from the East come to find Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-9

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,*

by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,

because from you will come one who governs,

who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was.

The First Nowell

Hymn-147, v. 2-4

Following Stars—Watching in the World and Sharing with Each Other

Fourth Lesson:

Liturgist Allen Exner

The wise men worship Jesus and offer gifts.

Matthew 2:10-11

10 When the magi saw the star, they were filled with joy. **11** They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

***Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

****Hymn-143,**

v. 3,4

Thanksgiving/Eucharist

Offering Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending

Fifth Lesson:

Liturgist Allen Exner

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

John 1:9-14

The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.

10 The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.

11 The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.

12 But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,

13 born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.

14 The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

****Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**
2,3

****Hymn--119, v.**