



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church
December 28, 2025
First Sunday of Christmas

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prelude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Cranham/J. Cook

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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:

A ruler will rise up from Bethlehem.
Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-5a

Hymn-121, v. 1-2

Second Lesson:

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

Luke 2:1-7

**** Hymn-140, v. 1-2**

Third Lesson:

The shepherds come to see Jesus.
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Luke 2:8-14

Hymn-143, v. 1-2

Fourth Lesson:

The wise men worship Jesus and offer gifts.
Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Luke 2:15-20

****Hymn-136**

Thanksgiving/Eucharist

Invitation to Offering and Discipleship

Offertory

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Arr by Sally DeFord,
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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

"He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child"

Arranged by Ross
Farnworth

Thank you to Rachael Bis and Marie Bis for operating the sound board today!

Thank you to Evangeline Bis for operating the cameras!

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**The Annual Meeting for the congregation of Christ Memorial Church
is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 following the 10:30 AM service.**

**Session Members and Team Chairs:
Please submit Annual Reports for 2025 to Office@cmpcusa.org by
Sunday, January 11.**

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.

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:
 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!

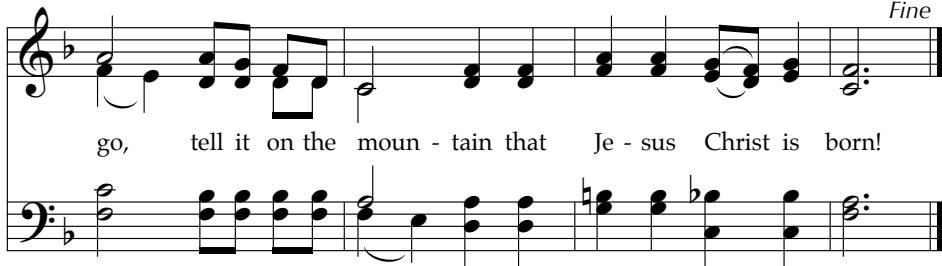
This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain  = 


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

Fine



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.

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!



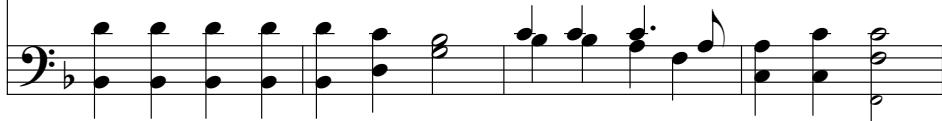
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



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-ge - 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.

(Over)

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

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