

*When the star in the sky is gone,
when the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry
to release the prisoner
to teach the nations
to bring Christ to all
to make music in the heart.
~Howard Thurman*

Gathering Music

In the Bleak Midwinter

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Christmas Greeting

Rev. Sheri Fry

Call to Worship

Liturgist Teddie McConnell

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

All: The Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy

For to you is born this day a Savior.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven,

And on earth, peace among all people..

Parts of the service in **bold** are for
everyone to speak in unison.

Hymn 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(next page)

Christmas Eve Prayer

God of mystery and might,

On this holy night you give us your Son,

Wrapped in swaddling clothes,

A savior, lying in a manger.

On this holy night,

Draw us into the mystery of your love.

Join our voices with the heavenly host

That we may sing to your glory.

Give us a place among the shepherds

That we may find the One for whom we wait.

Jesus Christ, our Messiah and our Lord.

Amen.

(continued)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Prayer for Illumination

God of light, you have revealed your very self to us in your son, Jesus Christ. Open us to your revelation, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always.

Lesson for the Day

Isaiah 9:2-6

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 Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sermon

Luminous Moments

Rev. Sheri Fry

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Special Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

German Carol

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion of the People

We invite you to join us in communion at home by taking your bread, or crackers and your juice or wine. Share these. In these common elements Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

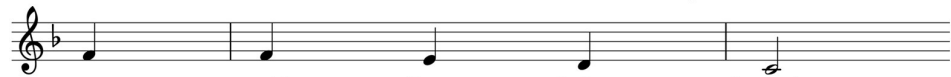
Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Gracious God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You have been faithful to us through all generations and continue to speak to us tonight. We praise You for this table of love You spread for all your people. And so, all with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name.

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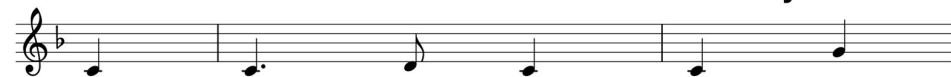
115 Away in a Manger



1. A - way in a man - ger,
2. The cat - tle are low - ing;
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus;



no crib for his bed,
the poor ba - by wakes,
I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus,
close by me for - ev - er



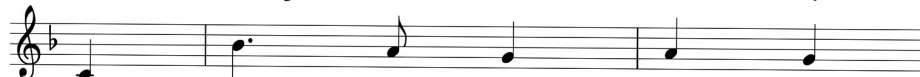
laid down his sweet head.
no cry - ing he makes.
and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky
I love thee, Lord Je - sus;
Bless all the dear chil - dren



looked down where he lay,
look down from the sky,
in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus
and stay by my side un -
and fit us for heav - en



a - sleep on the hay.
til morn - ing is nigh.
to live with thee there.

Prayers of the People

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Help us, who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be faithful disciples, so that our daily living may reflect your presence among us, and our love be your love, reaching out into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn 134

Joy to the World

(next page)

Service of Light

We invite you to light your candle at home as Pastor Sheri lights her candle and the Christ candle and then we sing Silent Night together.

Leader: Tonight we light the Christ Candle
The light of Christ comes into the world
All: It is a light that shines in the darkness
A light which the darkness cannot overcome.
Leader: May we bear this light in our hearts.
All: May we carry this light into the world.

Hymn 122

Silent Night

(page after next)

Benediction Prayer.

Child of Bethlehem – house of bread, man of Jerusalem, city of peace. You have loved us without limit or condition, in our greatness and in our misery, in our folly and in our virtue. May your hand be always upon us, and may your heart be within so that we too, may become bread and peace for one another. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward all. Amen.

Postlude

Improvisation on *Joy to the World*

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Good Shepherd Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sheri Fry
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Manager: Teddie McConnell
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

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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.

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.

