



Christmas Eve

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Communion Service

6:30 pm

December 24, 2020

Prelude

***Carol**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

See Insert

***Gathering Prayer** (*unison*) (Source- *Book of Common Worship*)

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and lived among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

***The Peace of Christ** (Source- *Edmund Hamilton Sears*)

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jennifer & Paul Miller

Throughout this season we have lived, waited, and remembered the hope, peace, joy, and love of God found in Christ. Tonight we gather together and light candles in honor of the Christ Child.

With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near. The God who ordered the chaos of the universe has come down into the chaos of our world. The Word which was with God at the beginning came down and lived with us. While we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of death, the light of new life burst forth.

We light this candle for Christ.

On this night, we remember God has come in the Christ Child.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)* (Source- *Book of Common Worship*)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Silence is observed

Assurance of God's Pardon *(responsive)* (Source- *Isaiah 40:4-5*)

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

We Listen for God's Word

The Prophecy Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
"A Christmas Voluntary" ~ Mary Ann Jones, organ

The Annunciation to Mary and Joseph Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25
"Angels We Have Heard on High" French carol, arr. Barnes ~ Choir

The Preparation for the Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-5
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Robert MacGimsey ~ Jay Bender, tenor

Jesus is Born Luke 2:6-7
"Emmanuel" Jan Reese ~ Choir

The Annunciation to the Shepherds Luke 2:8-14
"The Birthday of a King" William Harold Neidlinger
~ Rev. Thomas Wesley Moore, IV, tenor

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus Luke 2:15-20
"Maria Wiegenlied" Max Reger ~ Jennifer Miller, soprano

Meditation: "The Word Became Flesh" Rev. Thomas Wesley Moore, IV

We Respond in Faith

*Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Anthem "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Dengler
~ Mary Ann Jones & Jennifer Miller

The Ministry of the Table

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: May the Lord of silent nights be with you!

People: **May the God of herald angels be with you!**

Leader: Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

People: **May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.**

Leader: Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

People: **May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds in thanks and praise.**

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.

The Words of Institution

The Communion of the People of God

The Communion Prayer

*Carol

“Silent Night”

See Insert

*Charge and Benediction

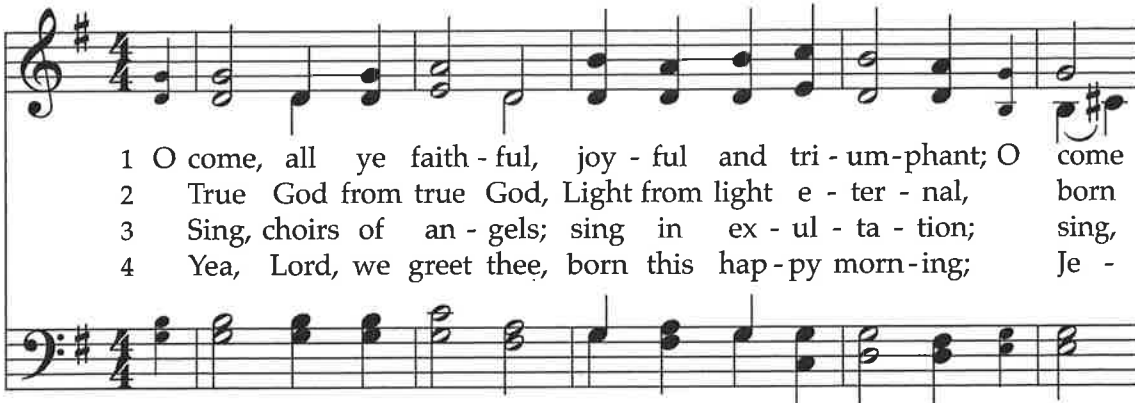
The candles have been lit – light in the depth of night. The carols have been sung – lifting hearts with angels heavenward. The story has been told – live it, now, every day:

This hope, this peace, this joy, this love, given to the world through Jesus, the Christ, God with us, Emmanuel.

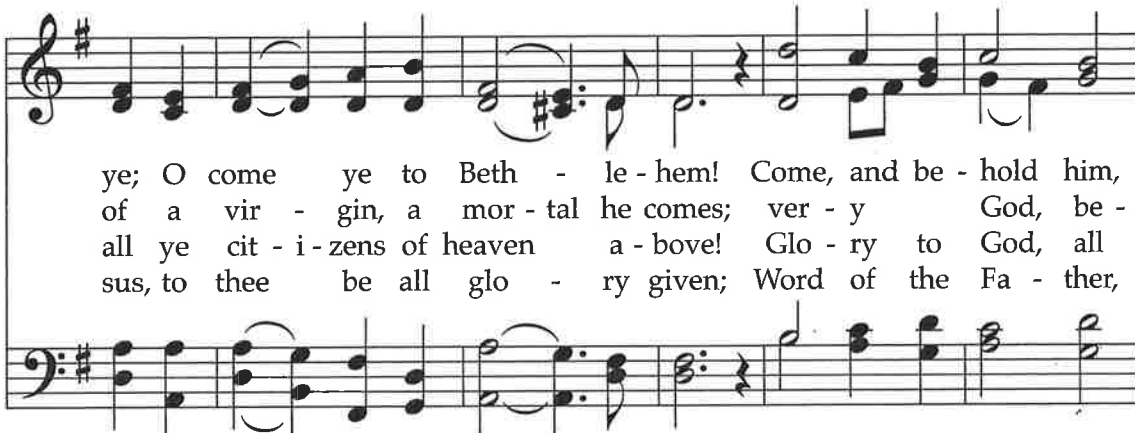


O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

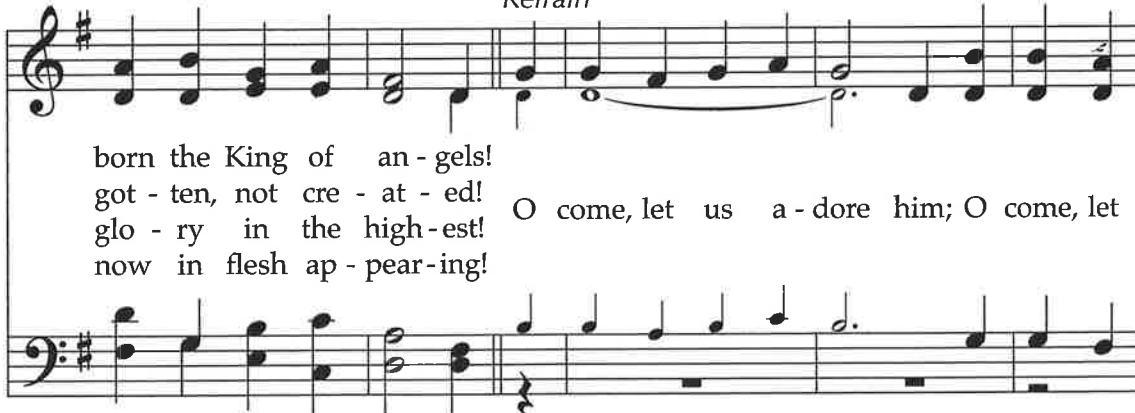


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



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.

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.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.