



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Children's Christmas Worship
4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church's Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Angela Spialek, Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.*

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing out, my soul! Sing of the holiness of God:

Many: With sing in joy!

One: God loves you!

Many: Thank you, God, for Jesus!

One: God loves them!

Many: Sing out, my soul!

One: God loves all of us!

Many: Thanks be to God!

OPENING HYMN #138

(Please join us in singing verses 1 & 6)

“Jesus Our Brother, Strong and Good”

(Video and music by John Paul Miller-Purrenhage)

GATHERING PRAYER

(Adapted with permission from Rev. Susan Blain, Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ)

One: Please join me in prayer:

Many: O God of love, help us today:

If we are afraid, help us to feel Confident.

If we are tired, offer us Rest.

If we are empty, fill us with Hope.

We have been searching for you;

Let us find you at our homes, already with us,

Changing hearts and minds,

Urging us to join your work of Love and Justice.

We pray in the name of the One who is coming,

Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

The Oatman Family and Sue Sackett

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Long Time Ago”
(Brandon Frost)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Special Guest

SUNG RESPONSE # 116 vs 4

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

OFFERING MOMENT

*Please give what you can by mail or through prayers.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com*

CHILDREN’S PAGEANT

HYMN #122

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

SCENE 1

Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 933)

Paul, Thea, Matilda, and Hilde Oatman

HYMN Vs 1&2

“Away in a Manger”

SCENE 2A

Matthew 2: 1-6 (pg. 877)

Ben, Tim, Jack, and Marcia Kent

SCENE 2B

Matthew 2:7-12 (pg. 878)

Kyler and Beth Posey

HYMN Vs 1

“We Three Kings”

SCENE 3

Luke 2: 8-14 (pg. 933)

Jackson, Mason, and Tamara Lipsey

HYMN Vs 1

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

SCENE 4

Luke 2: 15-20 NRSV (pg. 933)

Nora, Kelly and Chris Clark

CLOSING HYMN (Green booklet)

“Angels From the Realm of Glory”

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

Please join us for a short fellowship time on Zoom at 12 noon

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Special Guest ☺

Musical and Video Guest – John Paul Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

Advent Readers –Thea, Paul, Matilda, and Hildegard Oatman

Children’s Pageant Participants and Tech Crew-

Thea, Paul, Matilda and Hilde Oatman

Marcia, Ben, Tim, and Jack Kent

Kyler and Beth Posey

Tamara, Mason, and Jackson Lipsey

Chris, Kelly and Nora Clark

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- If you’re struggling to find hope amidst all of the troubles of our world right now, one source that maybe be helpful is this: <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>
 - The UCC is offering a special Advent series on faith-based justice training. Here is a link if you’re interested in signing up or learning more: <https://frontline-faith.teachable.com/p/faith-based-organizing>

CREDITS

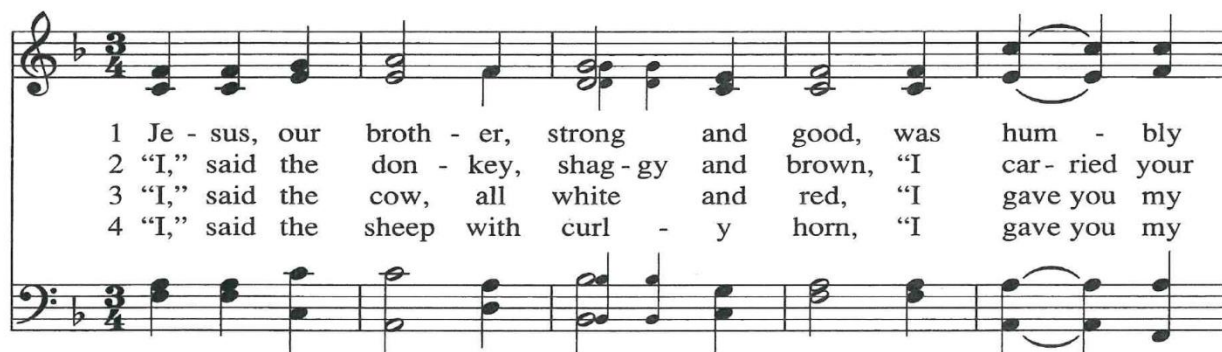
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(#51158, One License, 12th Century French Carol; Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, Contributors: harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1987)
- **Long Time Ago**
(#93550, One License, Contributors: Patsy Ford Simms, Tune: © 1992, Lorenz Publishing Text: © 1992, Lorenz Publishing)
- **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**
(#84028, One License, Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; Verses 1, 3-6, para. in Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; Verses 2, 7 tr. fr. The Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890., Contributors: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL)
- **Come, O Long Expected Jesus**
(#111481, One License, Contributors: Mark Sedio)
- **Away In a Manger**
(#94878, One License, Contributors: Public Domain, Tune: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick Text: St. 1-2, anon.; st. 3, McFarland; Public Domain)
- **We Three Kings**
(#84053, One License, Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11. Text and music: Carols, Hymns, and Songs, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt., Contributors: KINGS OF ORIENT)
- **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**
(#50-1308, One License, Arrangement copyright © 2005 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., Contributors: Charles Wesley, Hal H. Hopson)
- **Angels From the Realm of Glory**
(#125083, One License, Text: 87 87 87; verses 1-3, James Montgomery, 1771-1854; verse 4, Christmas Box, 1825; verse 5, Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857. Music: Henry Smart, 1813-1879. Contributors: Charles Thatcher, REGENT SQUARE)
- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**
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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation**
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good


138

French carol, 12th century
Transl. anon.

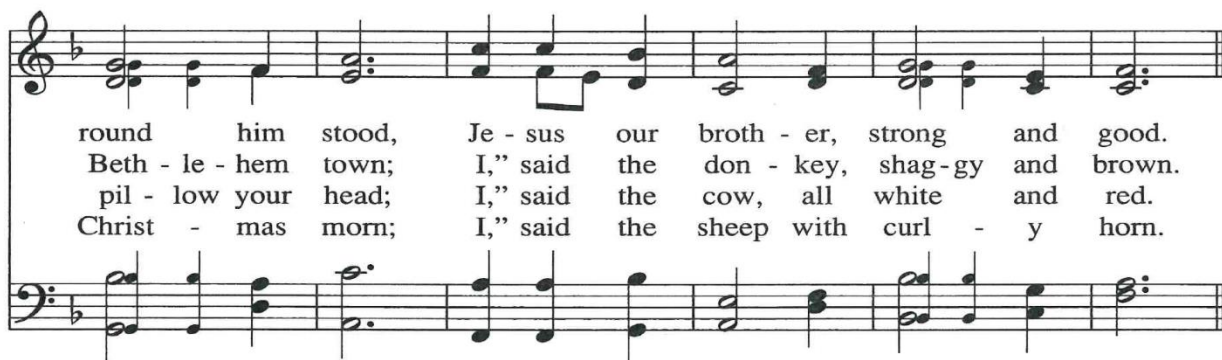
Luke 2:1-7; Matt. 1:23



1 Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good, was hum - bly
2 "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, "I car - ried your
3 "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave you my
4 "I," said the sheep with curl - y horn, "I gave you my



born in a sta - ble rude, and the friend - ly beasts a -
moth - er up - hill and down, I car - ried your moth - er to
man - ger for your bed, I gave my hay to
wool for a blan - ket warm, you wore my coat on



round him stood, Je - sus our broth - er, strong and good.
Beth - le - hem town; I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.
pil - low your head; I," said the cow, all white and red.
Christ - mas morn; I," said the sheep with curl - y horn.

- 5 "I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high,
"I cooed you to sleep that you should
not cry,
we cooed you to sleep, my love and I;
I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high.
- 6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the sta - ble dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el,
the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el.

Little is known of either the origins of this French text or its translation. The melody comes from a medieval French cathedral festival recognizing the role of the donkey in the flight into Egypt.

Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS 7.7.7.7.
French melody, early 13th century
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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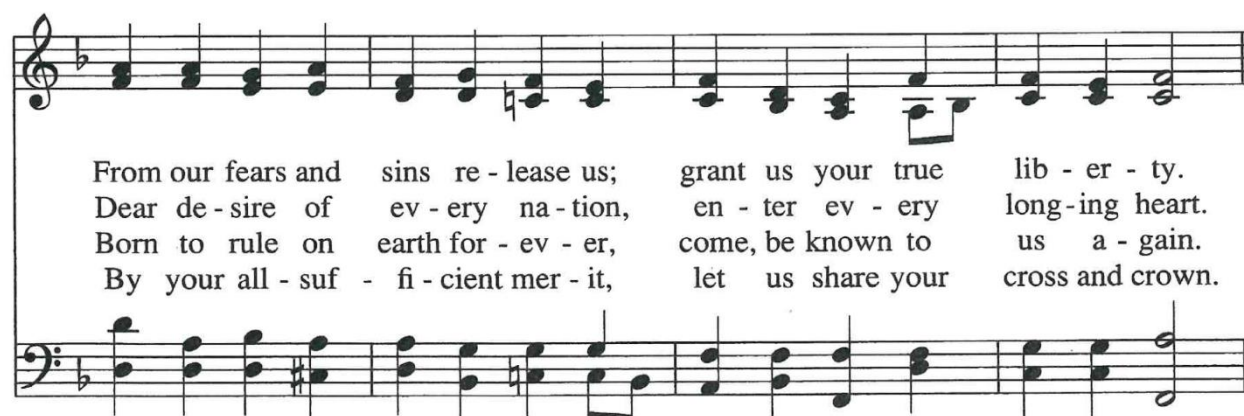
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long-ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716)
 from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715
 Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

Away in a Manger

Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.

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Luke 2:7

F B \flat F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
 by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

F B \flat F

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
 love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and
 all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

C7 F B \flat C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 stay by my side un - til night turns to day.
 fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

This anonymous United States carol is often misattributed to Luther. The poem first appeared in a Lutheran hymnal for schools and families. Though he never credited himself with it, the tune most likely was composed by Murray.

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.
 (MÜLLER)
 Attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887

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We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. with Refrain

*John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891**In unison*

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on high.
 Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.



REFRAIN



O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.



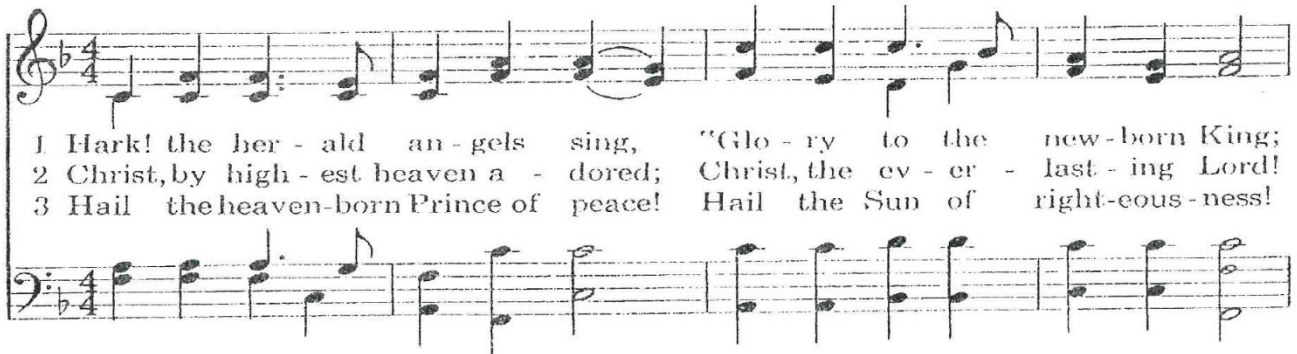
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915



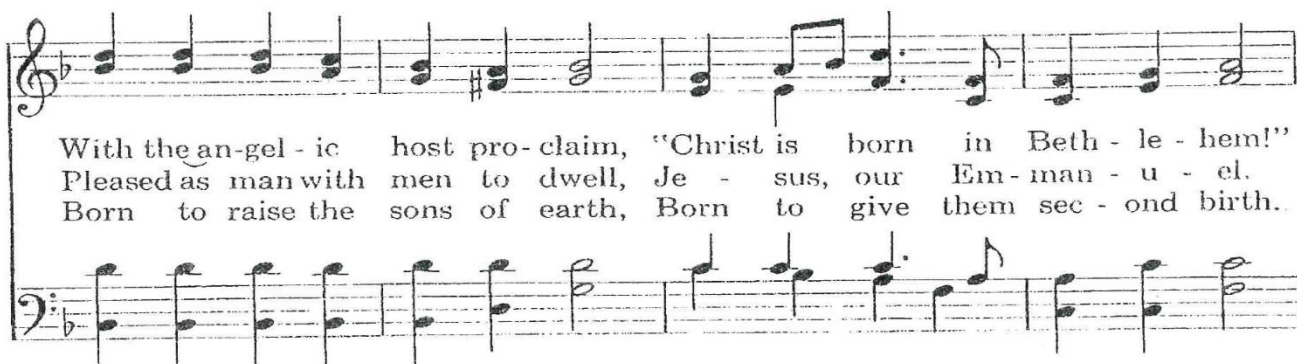
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!



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 man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A-men.

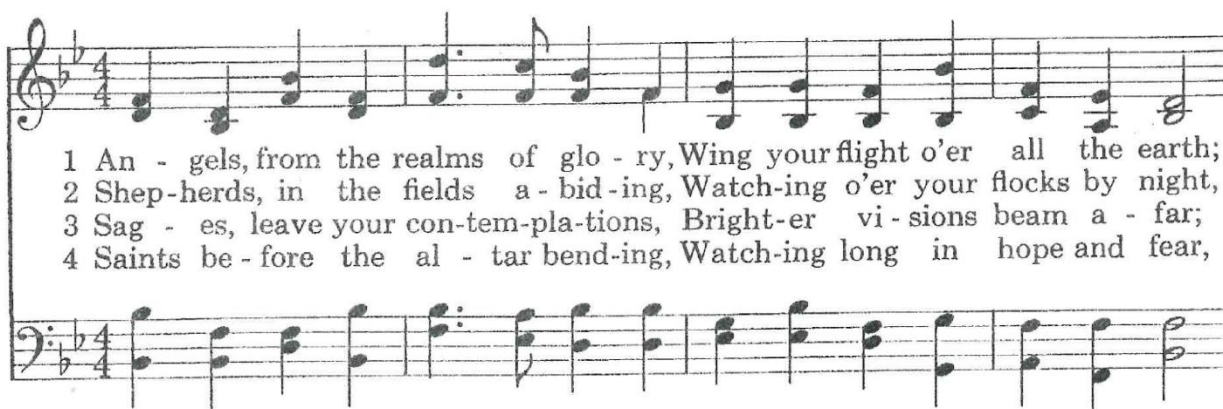
Angels, From the Realms of Glory

117

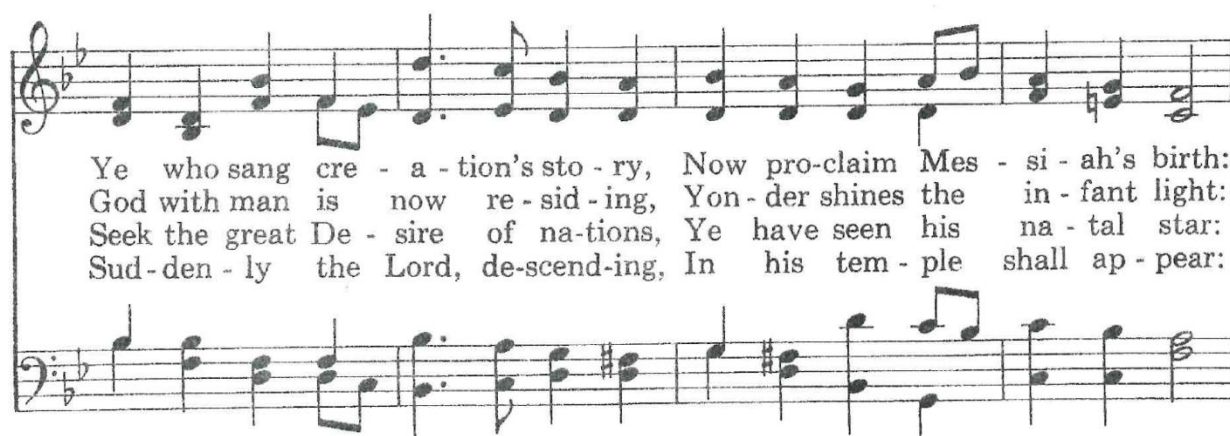
James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

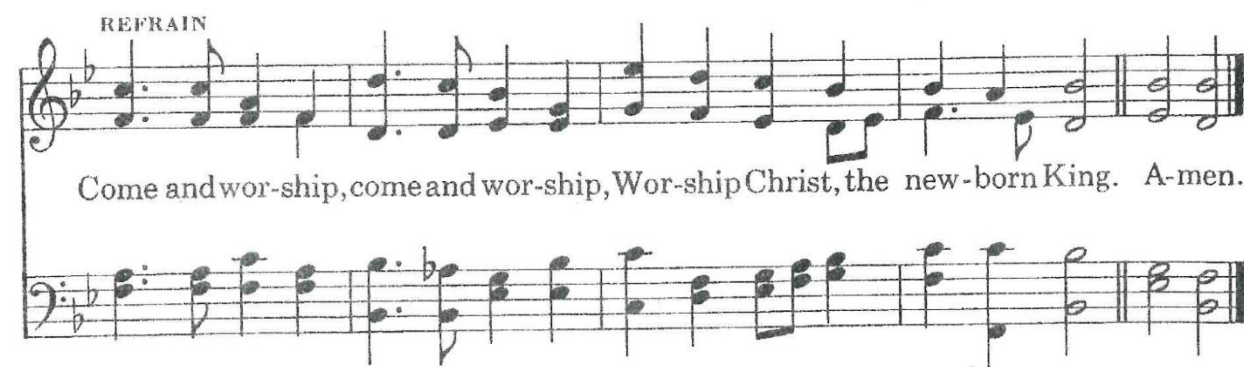


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
 Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

REFRAIN



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

- ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.