

Glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Silent Night/Still, Still, Still

Arr. by Sally De Ford

Katia Dinas

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all . . . (Titus 2:11)

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Kathleen Ferguson and Courtland & Rich Lewis

Readers & Lighters

Readers: 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. 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.

People: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Lighting of the first, second, third, fourth candles; and the Christ Candle)

Readers: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

People: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

◆ OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

GTG 133

ADESTE FIDELES

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world. Let us confess and repent of our sin.

Kathleen Ferguson, Lay Liturgist

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness, to the one who loves unconditionally and welcomes all, to the child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them, to the one who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart, Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life; into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light; into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

Christ our Savior gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his own people.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The First Nowell

GTG 147

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Words, Edmund H. Sears; Music, Heather Sorenson

Marissa Guerrero & Zachary Rohwer, soloists

*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending
near the earth to touch their harps of gold. "Peace on the earth, goodwill to all from
heaven's gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low, who toil along a dreary way with painful
steps and slow: Look up, for golden is the hour! Come swiftly on the wing, the Prince was born to bring you peace!
Of Him the angels sing: "Gloria, gloria, in excelsis, peace to all. Gloria, Gloria!"*

*For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old, when down into the circling years came
Christ as was foretold. His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring, promise bring.
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing: "Gloria, gloria."*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Luke 2:1-20

SECOND READING

Psalm 96

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

"Singing a New Song"

RESPONDING

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed, *Traditional*

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.

◆ HYMN OF MEDITATION

What Child Is This

GTG 145

GREENSLEEVES

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord,**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
It is truly right and our greatest joy, . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, . . . to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, . . . all glory and honor are yours. Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All believers of Jesus Christ, young and old, are invited to receive. Please wait and we will eat and drink together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and astounding God, at this table, in this meal, we have been met by Christ – the reflection of your glory, the imprint of your being. As we go from this place may our lives be a joyful song, proclaiming the good news of your righteousness and peace for all the world, through Christ. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Arr. Mark Hayes

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

GTG 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made – forest and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of grace that you have given – a little child, lying in a manger. Receive these offerings of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory, through Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

◆ INVITATION TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT

As Christ comes bringing the light of God's love, we light our individual candles to signify our individual and collective commitment to live as Christ's faithful in the world.

HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

(As the hymn is sung, light your candle)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

HYMN *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our song employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far flow far as the curse is found,
for as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found,**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove,
the glories of His righteous, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.**

Extinguish candles carefully at the conclusion of the hymn.

BENEDICTION & CHARGE

We will glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

Online giving is now available. Just scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone or go to our website and click the "Give Now" button. www.FaithUnited-pc.com You will have the option to set up your giving profile. This will make it easy to login anytime you are ready to give, even designated giving like Special Offerings, Building Repairs or the Garage Fund. **You can also select to donate the 2% fee so Faith United does not incur it.**



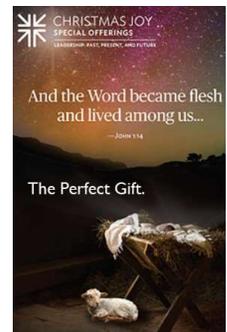
2023 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2023 are available on the counters in the Narthex. If you currently give online or have checks mailed by your financial institution, no envelope is necessary. Rest assured your gifts are logged under your giving profile. If you do not see an envelope box with your name on it and you would like a box, please contact us at the church office and a box will be reserved for you.

Christmas Joy Offering

At Christmas time, we have a wonderful opportunity to share our Christmas Joy with others. Envelopes and info on the usher's table. The **Christmas Joy Offering** affects the lives of many people outside the walls of our church home. The amounts collected (designated **Joy Offering** in memo section) during Advent and the Christmas season will be distributed equally to the following:

- ◆ PCUSA Board of Pensions for special needs of active and retired clergy
- ◆ Developing our Future Leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Presbyterian Church (USA)



Faith United Presbyterian Church extends a cordial welcome to our members, and visitors this Christmas Eve. Pastor Ken, his wife, Barbara; and the church staff pray for your safety and health as we experience the Joy of the Christ Child. They extend to all their warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas!

FUPC Choir and Music leadership

David Pierce, Director of Music

Katia Dinas, Pianist

Soprano

Marissa Guerrero
Lois Norton
Barbara Ritchie
Gerry Shotswell
Katelyn Spivey

Alto

Patti Sloey
Jessica Stottlemeyer
Renee Wensley

Tenor

Houston Burns
Kyle Feather
Jeremy Rohwer

Bass

Hawkins Burns
Rich Lewis
Zachary Rohwer

Poinsettias 2022



Given by

Lorna Acker

Brenda Burkham

Gail Crumpler

Frank Fehmel

Kathleen Ferguson (2)

Jeanne Haben (2)

Joe & Amy Hinkle

Anne Kirchmeyer

Courtland & Rich Lewis

Sharon Meurer

Kevin, Katie, & Nathan Miller

David Pierce

Richard & Diane Royer

Geraldine Shotswell

David & Patti Sloey

Nancy Smith

Dedication

- 1) In loving memory of Charlie Acker
- 2) In loving memory of Don Acker

- 1) In memory of Lynn Echols
- 2) In memory of Jeff Wallace

In remembrance of my cousin, Barbara

- 1) Jennifer Fehmel
- 2) Kathie Jo Babisak Fehmel
- 3) Grandparents

All Glory to God

In memory of Paul Haben

- 1) In memory of Bob Hinkle
- 2) In memory of Jenny and Jerry Rutland
- 3) In memory of David Rutland

- 1) In memory of parents, Jessamine & Henry Scheele IV
- 2) In memory of grandfather, Henry Scheele III

- 1) In memory of our parents
- 2) In honor of our grandchildren

- 1) In memory of John Marxer
- 2) In memory of David Youngstrum
- 3) In memory of Jack Walden

- 1) In memory of Doc & Nina Mecum
- 2) In memory of Carole Miller

- 1) In memory of John Marxer
- 2) In memory of Jane Louise McGee
- 3) In memory of Bob Hinkle

In memory of Kenny Royer

- 1) In remembrance of all my family members
- 2) Remembering my Faith United family

In loving memory of Harvey & Marian Garoutte

To the Glory of God

OPENING HYMN

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

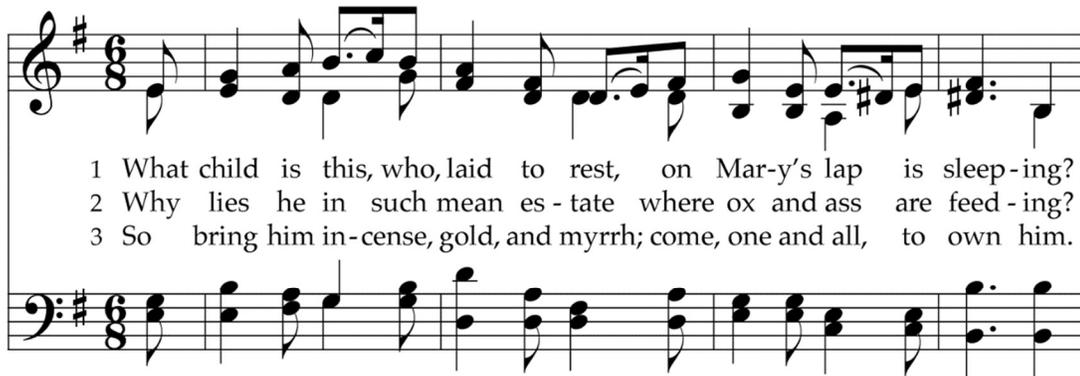
born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

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

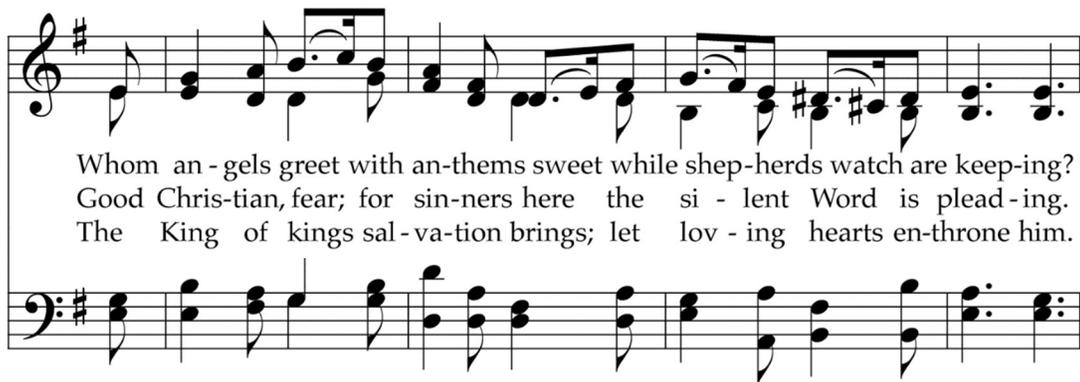
From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

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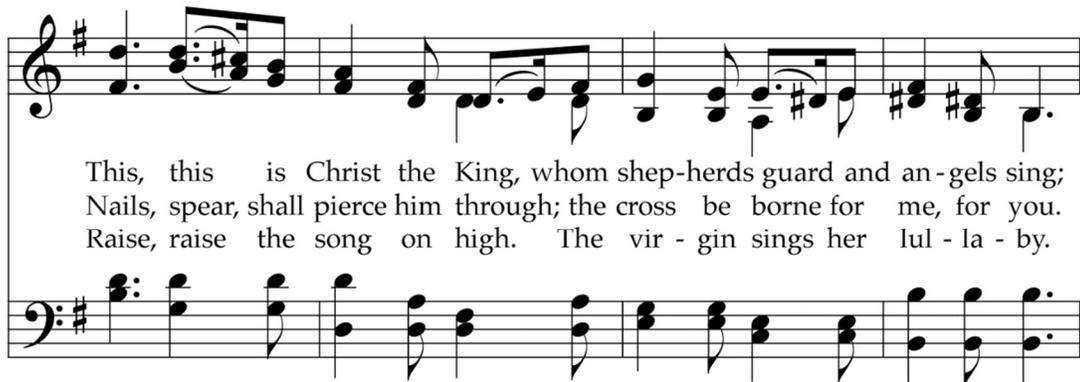
What Child Is This



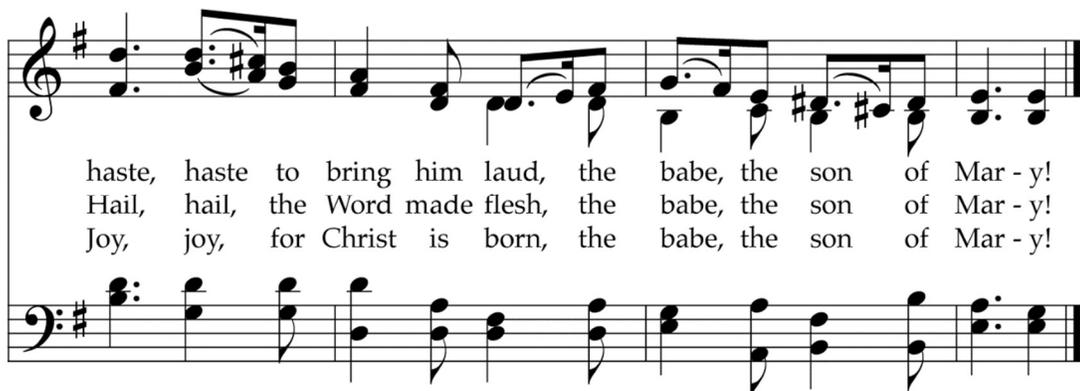
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

The Session

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie, Moderator of Session
Rich Lewis, Treasurer

Class of 2022

*Kathleen Ferguson, W&M
*Debbie Menefee, CL
*Katie Miller, CE
*Tracy Tiemann, B&G

Class of 2023

*Courtland Lewis, O&E
*Patti Sloey, Finance
Brenda Burkham, CL

Class of 2024

Kurt Booth, O&E
Frank Fehmel, Finance
Terrie Russell, CE
Nancy Smith, W&M



* denotes Committee Chair

CHOSEN TO SERVE

Disciples: The People of Faith United

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie,
Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Business Manager: Brenda Swindle,
Brenda@FaithUnited-pc.com

Director of Music: David Pierce

Pianist: Katia Dinas



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