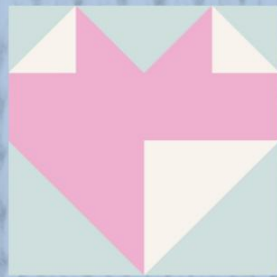




**FOR THE BEGINNING**

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2024**  
**7:00PM MUSICAL PRELUDE**  
**7:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE**



**First Presbyterian**  
*Church of Albany*

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church on Christmas Eve. We are glad that you're here. If you're a visitor, please fill out one of the yellow visitor cards and place it in one of the offering boxes at the back of the sanctuary as you leave so that we can stay in touch with you!

Tonight's Service of Lessons and Carols is based upon a traditional service that originated at Kings College Chapel in Cambridge, England, in 1918.

**Prelude**

*Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248*

J.S. Bach

Aria: Frohe, Hirten, eilt, ach eilet

Sarah Dworjan, *flute*

Joshua Gurwitz, *tenor*

Joyful shepherds, hurry, ah hurry,  
Ere you tarry too long;  
Hurry on to see the gracious child!  
Go, the joy is all too lovely;  
Seek to gain the refinement (of this child);  
Go and refresh your hearts and minds!

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

trad. Polish Carol

Fiona McKinney, *alto*

arr. Wilcox

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you;  
Christ the babe was born for you.

*Savior of the Nations, Come!*

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

arr. Douglas Wagner

First Presbyterian Handbell Choir

Trevor Kahlbaugh, *director*

*Wexford Carol*

traditional Irish

Rose Hunsberger, *soprano*

Margaret Schalit, *violin*

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon the morn there was a blest Messiah born.  
The night before that happy tide the noble virgin and her guide  
were long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things came to pass: from every door repelled, alas!

As long foretold, their refuge all was but a humble oxen stall.  
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
to whom God's angels did appear which put the shepherds in great fear.  
Prepare and go, the angels said, to Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born  
with thankful heart and joyful mind the shepherds went the babe to find,  
and as God's angel has foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid  
attending to the Lord of Life, who came on earth to end all strife.

*Cantata 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' BWV 191*

J.S. Bach

Duetto: Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto

Sarah Dworjan, *soprano*

Nathaniel Finke, *tenor*

Daniel Hoke, *string bass*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

*Hacia Belen va un Borrigo*

Bober

First Presbyterian Octet Singers

*arr. Parker/Shaw*

A donkey is going to Bethlehem  
(All day long I've been mending patches.)  
loaded with chocolate. It carries its chocolate pot,  
(All day long I've been mending patches, sew one on, take another one off.)  
its little wooden whisk, and its stove.  
Mary, Mary come running here, for somebody's eating all the chocolate!

In the Bethlehem manger, young thieves came in, while the Child was in the cradle, they took his swaddling clothes.

Mary, Mary come running here, for they're taking his swaddling clothes;

Mary, Mary come flying here, for they're taking his swaddling clothes!

Wearing a straw hat a Galician arrives at the manger.

While he was adoring the Child, the ox ate the hat.

Mary, Mary come running here, for the ox is eating the hat.

Mary, Mary come flying here, comfort the Galician who is crying here.

*Cradle Song*

Alfred Hollins

Trevor Kahlbaugh, organ

*\*indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

**Processional Carol No. 140**

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Stanza 1—Carla Fisk, *soloist*

Stanza 2—Chancel Choir



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's\_\_ cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, where a  
2. He came down to earth from\_\_ heav - en who is God and Lord of all, and his  
3. Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern; day by day like us he grew; he was  
4. And our eyes at last shall\_\_ see him, through his own re - deem - ing love; for that



moth - er laid\_\_ her\_\_ ba - by in a man - ger for\_\_ his\_\_ bed:  
shel - ter was\_\_ a\_\_ sta - ble, and his cra - dle was\_\_ a\_\_ stall;  
lit - tle, weak and\_\_ help - less; tears and smiles like us\_\_ he\_\_ knew;  
child so dear and\_\_ gen - tle is our Lord in heaven a - bove;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild;\_\_ Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle\_\_ child\_\_  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
and he feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all\_\_ our\_\_ glad - ness.  
and he leads his child - ren on\_\_ to the place where he\_\_ is\_\_ gone\_\_

*Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing stanzas 3 and 4*

**\*Call to Worship**

One: In those days, in the beginning,  
Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.  
He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child.  
The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child,  
wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

**All: And the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
And on earth, peace to all whom God favors.”**

One: Let us worship our “with-us” God!

**All: Come, let us adore him!**

**\*Carol No. 133**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

**\*Opening Prayer and Words of Welcome**

**THE STORY OF OUR SALVATION IN LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**The First Lesson**      *Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah*      Isaiah 9:2, 6–7  
Heidi Iyok

**Choral Response**      *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*      Gustav Holst  
Rose Hunsberger, Daniel Hoke, *soloists*  
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads his vanguard on the way,  
as the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six wing'd seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye veil their faces to the presence as with ceaseless

voice they cry, Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high.

**The Second Lesson**     *The Messiah will be from the House of Jesse*     Isaiah 11:1–3, 6-7  
Tony Luisi

**\*Carol No. 373**                     *O Day of Peace*                     JERUSALEM

**The Third Lesson**     *The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem*     Micah 5:2–4  
Roger Green

**\*Carol No. 121**                     *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                     ST. LOUIS

**The Fourth Lesson**                     *The Angel Gabriel visits Mary*                     Luke 1:26–35, 38  
Jessica Piacente

**Choral Response**                     *Bogoróditse Dévo*                     Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Rose Hunsberger, Maria Southworth, Fiona McKinney, Sarah Dworjan,  
Joshua Gurwitz, Nathaniel Finke Daniel Hoke, Rit Carroll  
Rejoice, virgin mother of God, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

**The Fifth Lesson**                     *The baby is born*                     Luke 2:1–7  
Miriam Lawrence Leupold

**Choral Response**                     *Still, Still, Still*                     ar. Norman Luboff  
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

**The Sixth Lesson**

*The shepherds go to the manger*  
Miriam Lawrence Leupold

Luke 2:8–20

**Choral Response***Angel's Carol*

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly,  
ringing out so clear?

Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as  
a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven  
to the humble shepherds who have waited long?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,  
like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night.  
He is come in joy, like the sun at morning,  
filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary.  
In a simple stable we have seen his birth.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth'.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,  
like a bright star shining in the skies above.  
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations,  
when he comes to reign in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice at the Savior's coming.  
Let the heavens answer with a joyful morn:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Hear the angels singing, 'Christ is born'.

**The Seventh Lesson**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*  
Glenn D. Leupold

Matthew 2:1–12

**Homily**

*Love Knows Your Name*

Glenn D. Leupold

**Christmas Prayer and 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.**

**Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts**

*Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at [firstpresalbany.org/donate](http://firstpresalbany.org/donate) or scan the QR code to the right (turn on your cell phone camera and hold it over this box/the QR code to donate online).*



**Offertory**

*All My Heart All This Night Rejoices*  
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Z. Randall Stroope

[Refrain]All my heart, all this night rejoices,  
as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices,  
"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"  
All the air, and everywhere, "Gloria!"

Come let us all both great and small sing "Gloria!"  
Hail the star where hope is burning, "Gloria!"  
Love Who with love is yearning, ever yearning, "Gloria!"

Come and dwell in glory forever and ever.  
Far on high in joy that can alter never.  
Dwell in the house of Love forever, ever and ever gloria!

**The Eighth Lesson**

*The mystery of the incarnation in poetry*

John 1:1-5



## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*The Pastors will light the candles of the ushers who will then light the candles of those at the end of the pews. Pass the light to those next to you, holding the lit candle upright and tilting the unlit candle towards it. Please extinguish your candle at the beginning of the carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

### **Carol No. 122**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

*Please rise in body or spirit at the beginning of the third stanza*

1. 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.

2. 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."

\*3. 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.

### **\*Moment of Silence**

### **\*Recessional Carol No. 119**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Carol No. 134**

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

1. 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.
  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**\*Postlude**

*Postlude on 'In Dulci Jubilo' BWV 729*

J.S. Bach

*You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.*

*For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.  
*Parts of Liturgy were written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [anctifiedart.org](http://anctifiedart.org).*

**Serving you on Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Yousaf Mathias, Sue Haney, Kate Pruzek  
& Harriet Seeley

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu & John Cheu

**Serving you on Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Margaret Leupold & Elizabeth Leupold

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

Audio Visual Specialist: John Myers

**Serving you on Sunday, December 29**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay,  
Amy Jenal

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

Scripture Reader: Carol Bullard

Prayer Reader: Betsy Hadden

Communion Servers: Chas Kite & Jon Rice

Offering Counters: Carol Green & John Myers

Audio Visual Specialist: Bruce Brynolfson

**A Christmas Greeting**

*The pastors, staff, elders and deacons of the First Presbyterian Church wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful, healthy new year. We hope that you will return to worship with us tomorrow morning, **Christmas Day, December 25, at 11:00am**. This service will contain lots of carols, prayers, and a story. Join us in the sanctuary or at First Presbyterian Church of Albany Facebook page for the service.*

The paraments (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the pastors' stoles (the cloth around their necks) are **blue**, because the liturgical color for the season of Advent is blue. Blue is the color associated with Mary the mother of Jesus. As she prepared for his birth, so do we.

## **All are Welcome in this Place!**

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



### **First Presbyterian Church**

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

**We welcome children to our worship services.** Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Odom and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

**Parking is available on Sunday mornings** in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

**We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.**

### **Christian Education on Sunday mornings will resume January 5**

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

*Godly Play* in the Preschool Class on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

*Godly Play* in The Upper Rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education is the Rose Room



**The Poinsettias in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God  
and in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones  
by Members and Friends of the Congregation**

**Given by:**

Lizzie Cayro  
Celeste Roeller Harp  
Ray & Katie Henrikson  
His siblings, nieces, nephews & grand-nieces  
Annette Johnson  
Judy & Don Mark

**Given by:**

Anonymous  
Bruce Brynolfson

Dwight & Leslie Cheu

Ellen & Eric Eisenbraun

Janice Easton-Epner (on behalf of their loving children) Al & Susan Easton

Roger, Carol & Lydia Green

David Hannay

Sue Haney

Celeste Roeller Harp

James, Rose, & Christian Jackson

**In Honor of:**

Grandma, Rachel Smith  
Louise & Brad Roeller  
Our Grandchildren  
Ron Geuther  
Marilyn Hayes  
Members & Pastors of 1<sup>st</sup> Pres.

**In Memory of:**

Joyce Bascom  
Bill Cornell  
Ethel Spinks  
Janice Krull  
Edwin Krull  
Andrew Krull  
Janey M.Y. Cheu  
Eunice & Bob Eisenbraun  
Marian & Nelson Limber  
Loved ones  
Margaret  
Mom & Dad  
Auntie & Kenny Jr.  
Howard & Doris Roeller  
Mrs. Sara E. Logan  
Mrs. Lala M. Jackson



**Given by:**

Annette Johnson  
John & Dawn Knutson

Tara Lindsley  
Jerry Nathan

Sarah Macinski & Dorothy Sperry  
Yousaf & Neelam Mathias

Harry P. Meislahn  
John & Lee Myers

Mary Rogers

Harriet B. Seeley

Rachel Smith  
Dorothy Sperry  
Sharon & Joe Steffens  
Bob & Linda Stevens

Roseline & David Takor

Their Children, Grandchildren,  
& Great Granddaughters

**In Memory of:**

Madeleine & Walter Johnson  
Our parents, John & Ethel  
Knutson and James &  
Nancy Sampson

Charlie Kite

Geraldine Nathan

Michael Davis

George & Dorothy Sperry

Lily Adiel

Claudia & Munir Mathias

Esther Mall

Meredith G. Meislahn

Jane Shaw Myers

In honor of departed loved  
ones

Avery

Bob Rogers

Dan Carroll

Mary & Jay Seeley

Dwight C. Smith, Jr.

Paul Behrens

Deborah Acker

Beatrice Bisognano

George & Dorothy Stevens

Martha Abunaw

Mami Emilia Takor

Darwin & Florence Geuther



# FOR THE **BEGINNING**

## -- **LOVES KNOWS YOUR NAME** --

**CHRISTMAS EVE- DECEMBER 24**

7:00pm Musical Prelude

7:30pm A Service of Lessons & Carols

**CHRISTMAS DAY- DECEMBER 25**

11:00am Worship Service

Come as you are to sing, pray,  
hear a story and rejoice!

## -- **DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH** --

**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 29**

10:30am Worship Service

Something a wee bit different-full of fun and joy!

11:45am Fellowship Time



### **Deacons currently serving on the Board of Deacons**

Susan Haney – Moderator  
David Hinchey – Hospitality Team  
Kathie Keck – Hospitality Team  
Ellen Kemp – Flower Team  
Sebagala Kimuli – Care Team  
Chas Kite – Care Team

### **Elders currently serving on Session**

Mirabelle Beck – Stewardship Committee Chair  
Marian Eaton – Clerk of Session  
Ellen Eisenbraun – Christian Education Committee Chair  
Kevin Fuscus – Property Committee Chair  
Annette Johnson – Anti-Racism Committee Chair  
Sarah Lansaw – Nominating Committee Chair  
Paloma Luisi – Finance Committee Chair  
Kelsey Mayo – Membership Committee Chair  
Lillie McLaughlin – Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee Chair  
Jon Rice – Outreach and Mission Committee Chair  
Amy Robinson – Administration Committee Chair  
Roseline Takor – Worship Committee Chair



**First Presbyterian**  
Church of Albany

362 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • Phone: 518.449.7332

Fax: 518.472.0449 • [info@firstpresalbany.com](mailto:info@firstpresalbany.com)

[firstpresalbany.org](http://firstpresalbany.org)

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor •  
Michael C. Lister, Director of Music Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director •  
Steven Minchin, Office Administrator*



# 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!  
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 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.

## 373

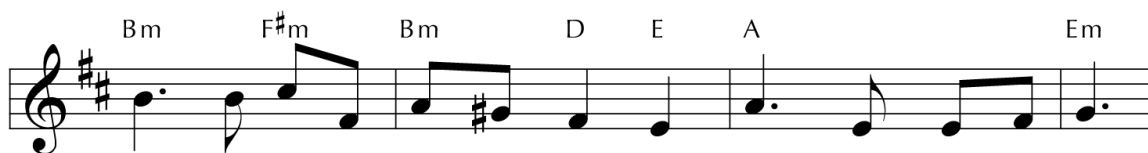
## O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



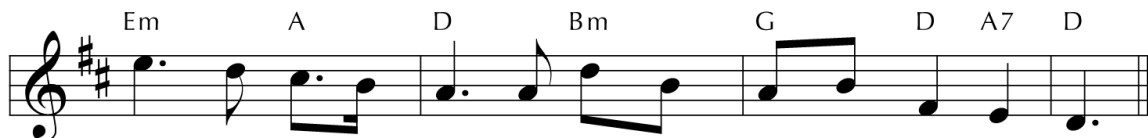
hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and  
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of hate  
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e - mies



fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease, till by God's  
shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord; the hope of



grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.  
peace shall be ful - filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on peace was created to offer non-nationalistic words for a popular British tune. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11:6–9) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual good will.

# 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.

# 145


## 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.