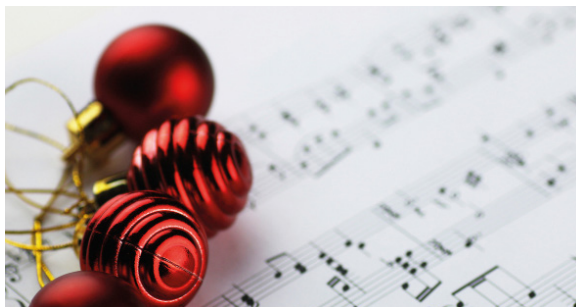




*In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create
a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!*

December 24, 2022

6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Nativity of the Lord

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter this holy space this evening, **please silence your cell phone.**
Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.*

Prelude

In dulci jubilo

James Vivian

Noël for the Love We Bear Mary

Nicolas Lebègue

Fantasia on Adeste Fideles

Bruce Neswick

Away in a Manger

Alec Wyton

Shepherds Sang Their Praises O'er Him

Helmut Walcha

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Hymn 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Emmanuel, you have given us a gift that we can never deserve. You do not ask us to be worthy. You do not ask us to earn your love. Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us. But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights, to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 28, Stanza 1

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

*The Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.

**Those who are able may stand.*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson

Psalm 96:10-13, page 539

Carol

Sussex Carol

David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing to heart the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?
When sin departs before thy grace, then life and health come in its place:
when sin departs before thy grace, then life and health come in its place:
angels above with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore, Amen."

Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7, page 935

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Guest Room

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 24

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

*Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5b-11

**We trust in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Christmas Eve Offering

Our Christmas Eve offering will support Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. We are also receiving disposable diapers to benefit the Athens Area Diaper Bank. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter

John Bertalot

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he
comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Hymn 53

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great 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...

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre - a - tion
seeks your light! Bles - sed is the one who
comes in your name. Bles-sed is the Lord most high!

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,
Christ the Lord will come a - gain.

Great Amen

A - men, a - men.
men. A - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

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.

Prayer after Communion

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

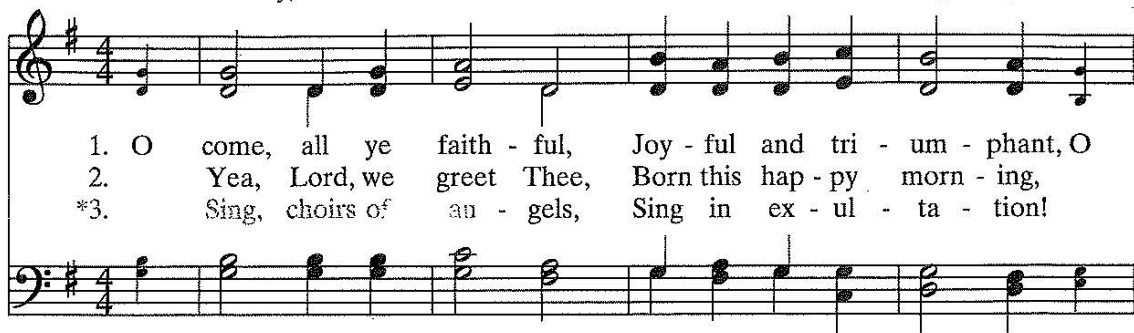
ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)

Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)

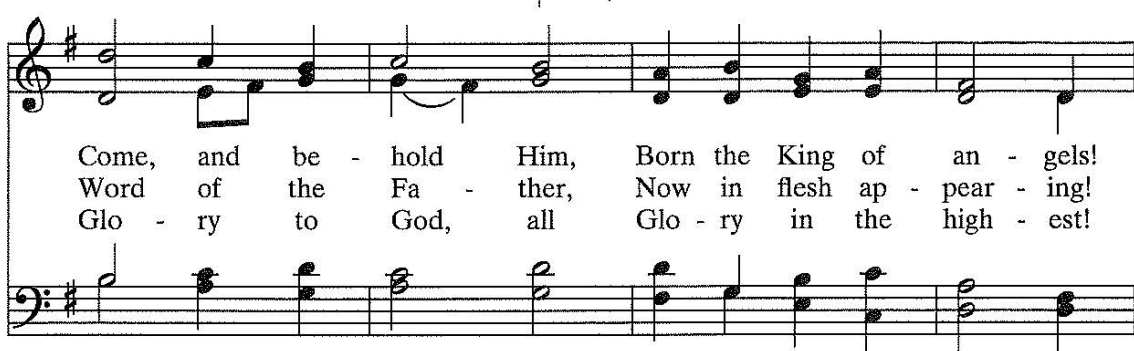
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906



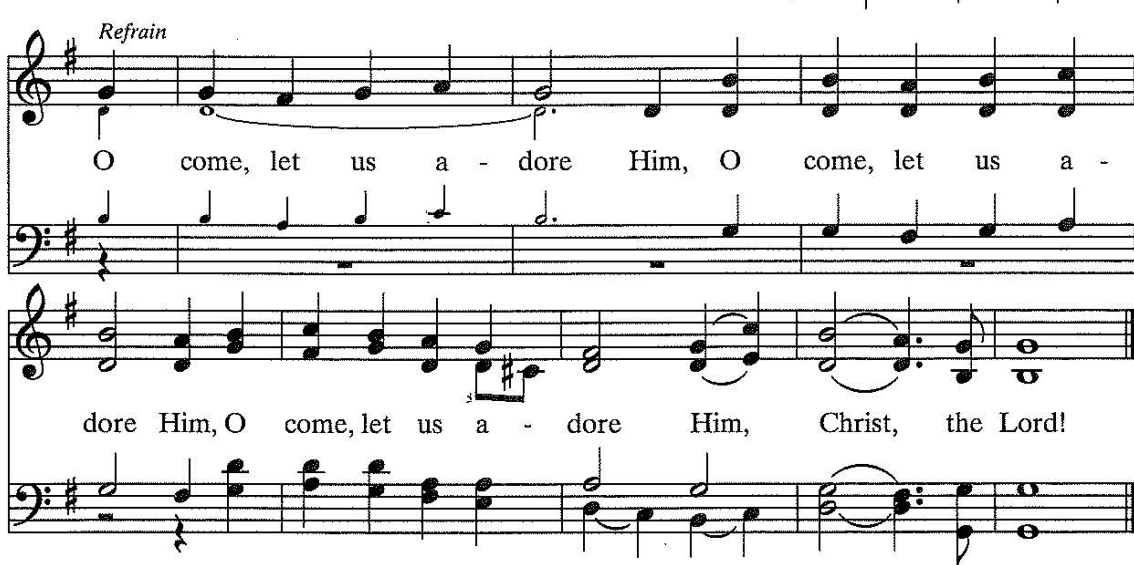
1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!



Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!



Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

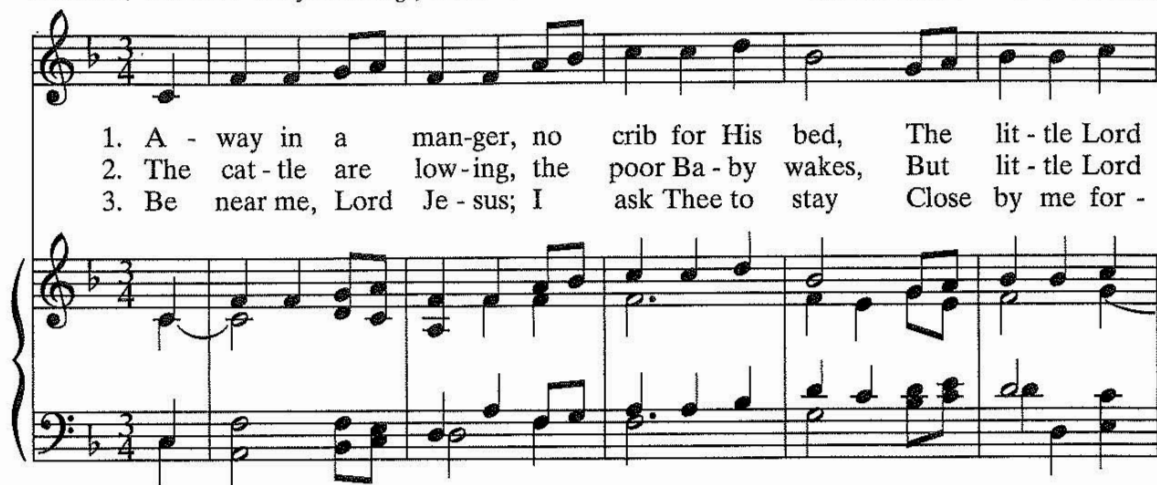
Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG 11.11.11.11

Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book*
for *Schools and Families*, c. 1885

Stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892

William James Kirkpatrick, 1895



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for His bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low-ing, the poor Ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn-ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav-en to live with Thee there.

What Child Is This

53

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain

English ballad, 16th century

William Chatterton Dix, c. 1871

Arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

Em D G D Em Am B

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry'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.

Em D G D Em Am B Em^{sus4} Em

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.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D Em Am B Em^{sus4} Em

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!

This tune can be sung in the original mode by sharpening all C's in the soprano and alto parts.

Silent Night, Holy Night

60

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',
 Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'!

2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Hirten erst kundgemacht
 Durch der Engel Alleluja,
 Tönt est laut von fern und nah:
 Christ der Retter ist da,
 Christ der Retter ist da!

3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
 Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
 Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':
 Christ, in deiner Geburt,
 Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

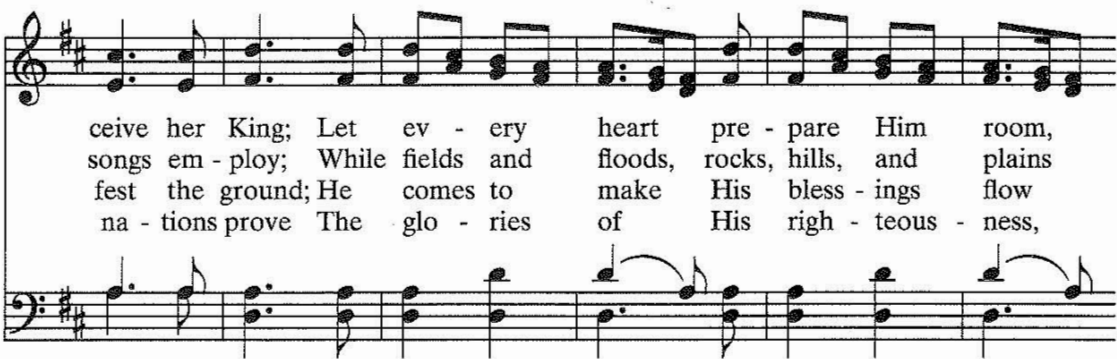
Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - 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,



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,

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Kitty Donnan
Rob Haire
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon III
Tom Landrum
Beverly Phares
Smith Wilson

CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan
Judy Burch
Kent Burel
Rod Canfield
Melinda DeMaria
Jim Dove
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Robyn McDonald
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Kemp Gaskill
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor* (lbonner@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*