



FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATHENS

DECEMBER 24, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for this service that we hope will be engaging for everyone, but designed with the youngest members of our church family in mind. Please silence your cell phones as we enter this holy space and see an usher if you need any assistance.

Prelude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

A. D. Miller

Welcome

The Rev. Leigh Bonner

Call to Worship

by Rev. Thom M. Shuman

With eyes wide open and our ears on edge,

we look for shepherds and listen for the songs of angels.

In the light of winter's moon, with the Southern Cross lighting the way,

we gather outside the door of a mystery, wondering if we dare go enter.

With folks and friends we love, with strangers we have just met,

we gather, becoming the holy family for this time and in this place.

***Opening Hymn (page 3)**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

***Opening Prayer**

by Rev. Thom M. Shuman

Now in the silence, whisper of joy which comes into every life. Now in the comfort of carols, sing of hope which takes away the despair which envelops us. Now in familiar words heard anew, speak to us of grace which is born into barren lives, of peace which is birthed in war's shadowed fears. Now leaning next to those who have always been a part of us, and those from whom we have been apart, remind us of your heart which always accepts us, always welcomes us. Now in the love which is ours forever, draw us closer to your heart, so we can be surprised by wonder, swaddled in serenity, embraced by tenderness. Now touch us once again with Christmas, God in Community, Holy in One, Amen.

The Story of Advent and the Prophets

from Godly Play Christmas Eve Liturgy and Advent Story

Lighting the Candle of Hope

We light the candle of hope.

We celebrate with the prophets who continue to give us hope and show us the way to Bethlehem.

Carol (Hymn 44)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanzas 1 and 4)

ST. LOUIS

Lighting the Candle of Peace

We light the candle of peace.

We celebrate with the Holy Family, the family of the Prince of Peace.

Carol (insert)

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

The Story of the Shepherds

Lighting the Candle of Joy

We light the candle of joy.

We celebrate with the joyful shepherds.

Carol (Hymn 29)

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

GO TELL IT

The Story of the Magi

Lighting the Candle of Love

The Magi came to worship Jesus with gifts of love. And so we light the candle of love!

We celebrate with the Magi, the wise and loving ones.

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 Carol (insert)

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

Prayer of Dedication

The Mystery of Christmas

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Spreading the Light

Jesus is the light of the world. We carry this light into the darkness. As you receive the light with your candle, tilt your unlit candle toward the flame of the upright, lit candle next to you. Watch the sanctuary glow with the light of Christ!

Carol (Hymn 60)

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

***Carol (Hymn 40)**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Benediction

As you exit the sanctuary, please place your candle in one of the baskets available outside the sanctuary doors.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second system contains the same lyrics as the first but without the numbers. The third system contains the lyrics 'Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,'. The final system contains the lyrics 'while we are wait - ing, come.' and ends with a double bar line.

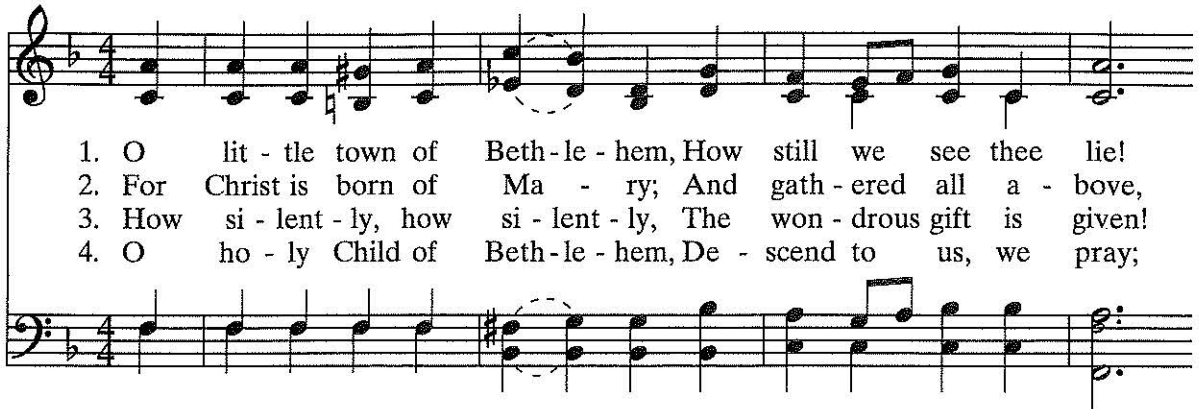
O Little Town of Bethlehem

44

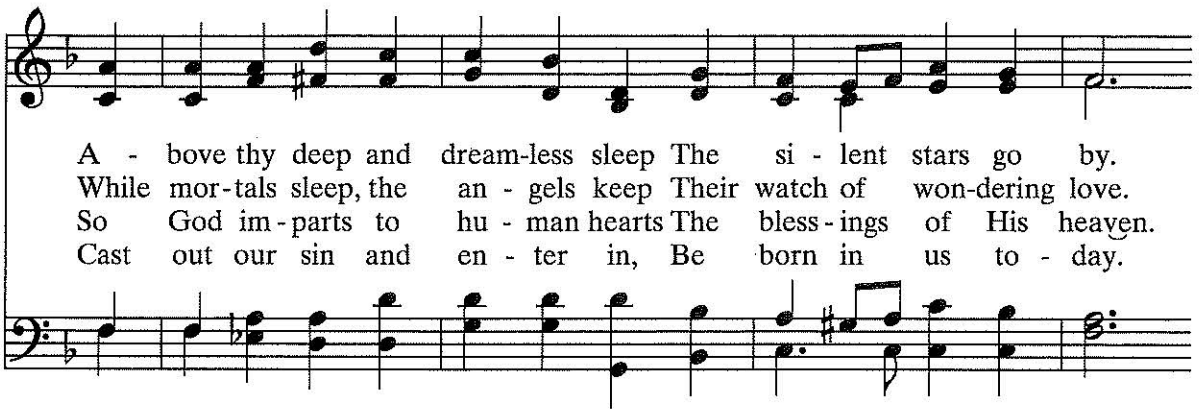
ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6

Phillips Brooks, 1868

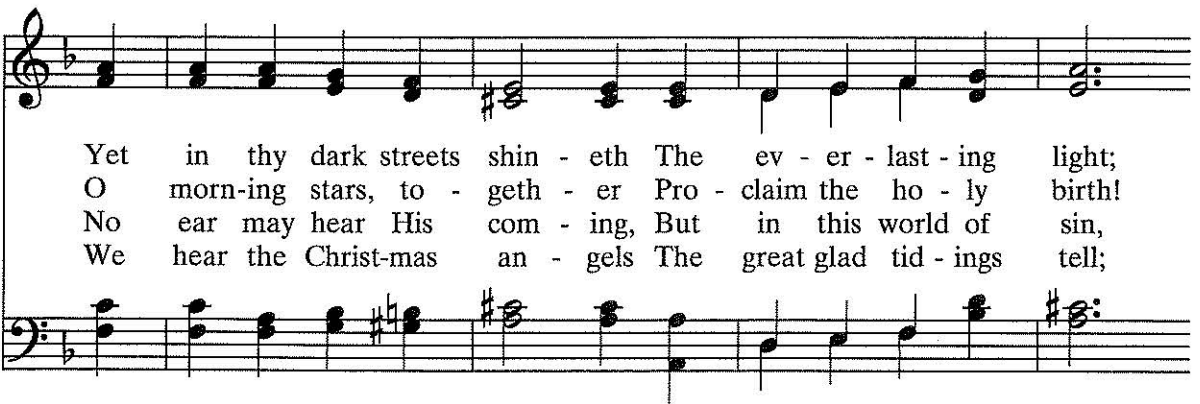
Lewis Henry Redner, 1868



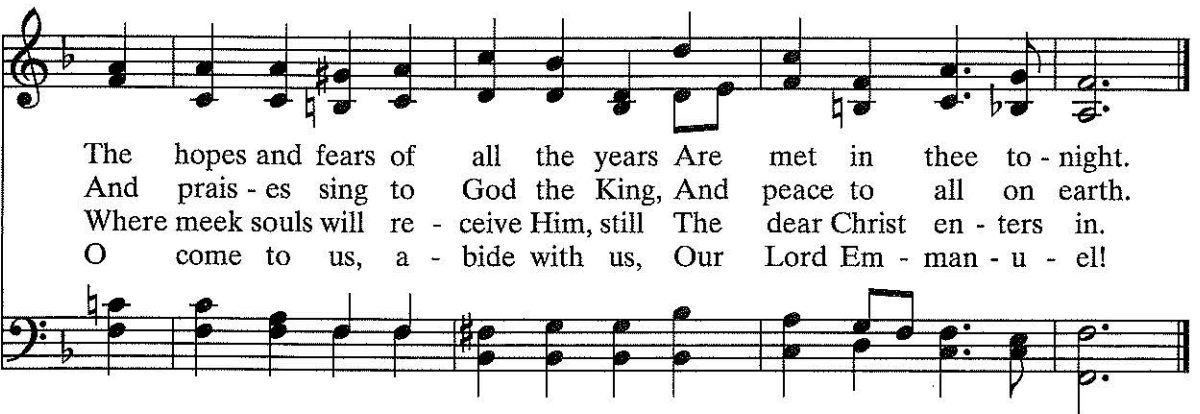
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



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 tid - ings 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!

Love Has Come



1. Love has come: a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2. Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3. Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love!
 name she whis - pers. Love! Love!
 gift of Christ - mas Love! Love!



Glo - ry to God on high.
 Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Praise to you, God on high!

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain



Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



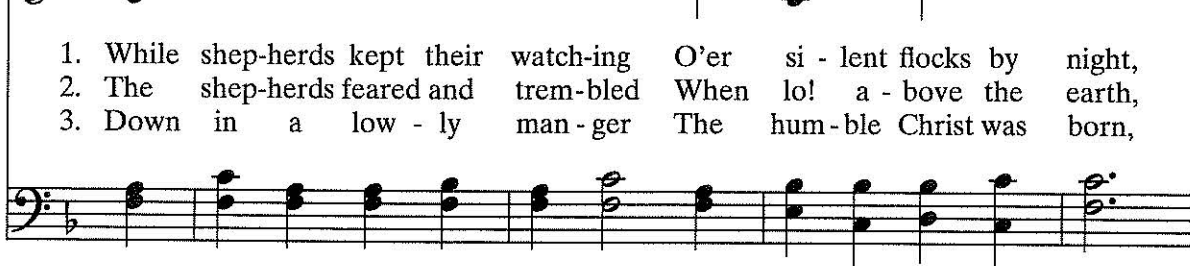

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



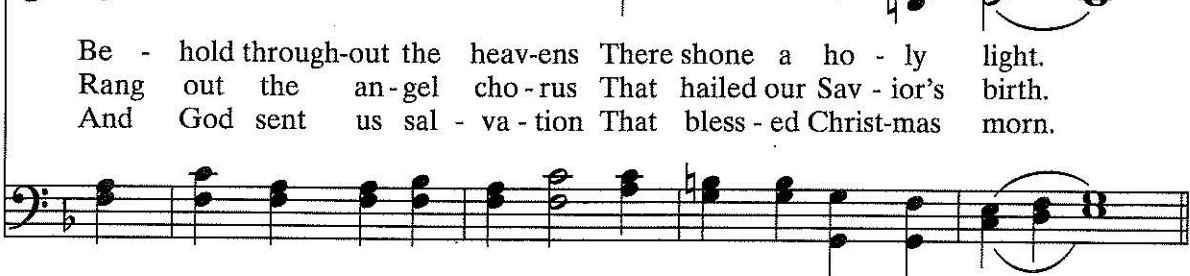
Fine



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,




Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



D.C.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Native American,
Jean de Brebeuf c. 1641

French Carol 16th century



'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, when all the birds had fled, that
With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der Babe was found; a
O chil - dren of the for - est free, O you of Man - i - tou, the



might - y Gitch - i Man - i - tou sent an - gel choirs in - stead. Be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round. The
Ho - ly Child of earth and heaven is born to - day for you. Come



fore their light the stars grew dim and won - dering hunt - ers, heard the hymn;
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt:
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus, your, King is born, Je - sus is



born. In ex - cel - sis glo - ri a.

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



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,

A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this afternoon. Please fill out the fellowship pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Cantor*

Ushers: The Seward Family

Greeter: Terry Nestor

Audiovisual Technicians: Bryan Owens, Paulo Santos

Please see firstpresathens.org for more information about the life of the church.

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)

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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*

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*