



Presbyterian Church of
Western Springs

Sunday, December 25, 2022 | 9:30 A.M.

From Generation to Generation
Christmas Day

Worshipping Together

GATHERING TOGETHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude Infant Holy, Infant Lowly & He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising setting by Paul Manz
Stephanie Coates, organ

Gathering & Greeting

The Rev. Lesley Weir

♦ Call to Worship

*Do not be afraid! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

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

♦ Opening Hymn #110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

♦ Christmas Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God
as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.

Hunted at birth and humiliated at death,

Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

♦ Sharing the Peace of Christ/Gathering for Community

You are invited into an extended time of greeting each other and sharing the Peace of Christmas.

A table has been set with goodies and hot cocoa.

Come...help yourself as you share the joy of the birth of Love.

♦ Indicates congregation standing, if able.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

- ♦ Carol #143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE
Story Time Santa's Favorite Story
Scripture Luke 2:15-21
Carol Sing *In our old-fashioned carol-sing, you are invited
to shout out a Christmas carol for the congregation to sing.
Please keep your selections to the hymnal #108-156.
Choose two verses for us to sing.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- Christmas Prayer
Sharing our Gifts and Gratuities
Offertory Meditation
♦ Response of Faith
Like Mary,
we believe in cherishing good news.
Like the angels,
we believe in singing God's praise.
Like the shepherds,
we believe that God's presence in our life is something worth talking about.
Like generations before,
we believe that God is with us.
Like the generations to come,
we believe that God is with us.
God is here. God is love.
We believe. Thanks be to God!

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- ♦ Sending Carol #134 Joy to the World ANTIOCH
♦ Christmas Day Benediction
*From generation to generation, God keeps drawing near.
From generation to generation, a light has shone in the darkness.
From generation to generation, God's love has moved through the world, person to person, as simple as that.
May we rest in the joy of this day, and may we allow it to change us.
Merry Christmas!
Go in peace. God is with you every step of the way. Amen.*

- Postlude Joy to the World! setting by John Carter
Stephanie Coates, piano

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This service is being streamed live and recorded for publication. Please sit in the balcony or the back pews if you wish to be out of camera view.



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Love Has Come

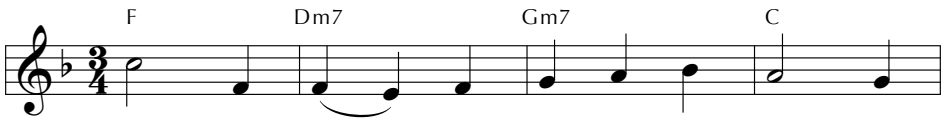
110

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm7)

(Em7)

(A)



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

(D)

(Bm7)

(Em)

(A7) (D)



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A)

(D)

(Bm)

(D)

(A) (G)

(D)



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7)

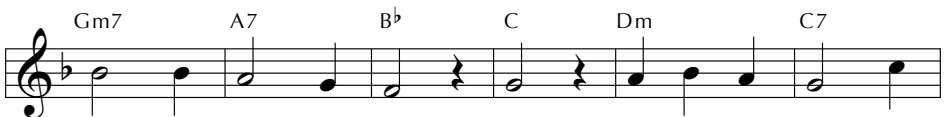
(F#7)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

(A7)



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D)

(A)

(G)

(A)

(D)

(A)

(A7)

(Dsus) (D)



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

134

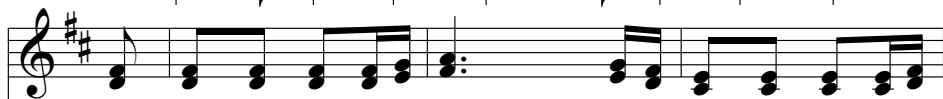
Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 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,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.