Receiving,
Living,
and
Sharing
the Grace given to us

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
Sunday Worship
December 24, 2024 | 11 P.M.

Christmas Eve

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GATHERING & GREETING

INTROIT — The First Noel — arr. by Jim Koning

CALL TO WORSHIP CANDLE LIGHTING

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming.
We are preparing ourselves for the days…

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

♦ OPENING HYMN #133 — O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1, 3) — ADESTE FIDELES

♦ CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ Jesus came to save us, not because of our works, but according to the mercy of God through the water of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

♦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as a 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 the glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Hear our prayers…

Silent Prayer

♦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen.

♦ RESPONSE #113 — Angels We Have Heard on High — GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

♦ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

♦ **Everyone is invited to rise as able**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Luke 2:1-7
#121 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1, 2, 4)

Luke 2:8-15
#147 The First Nowell (vv. 1-4)

Luke 2:16-20
Sing We Now of Christmas — arr. by Kyle Pederson

Matthew 2:1-12
#151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

SERMON — Prince of Peace

RESPONDING

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE #134 — Joy to the World — ANTIOCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your grace. **Hear our prayers.**

OFFERING — In the Bleak Midwinter

Loose coins supports the Hunger Fund

♦ DOXOLOGY — Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow — #606 OLD HUNDREDTH

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

♦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION & 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.

SENDING

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST — Silent Night, Holy Night! — STILLE NACHT

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 they 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.

Away in a Manger MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

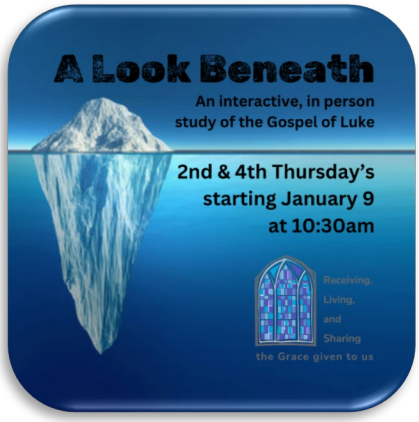
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

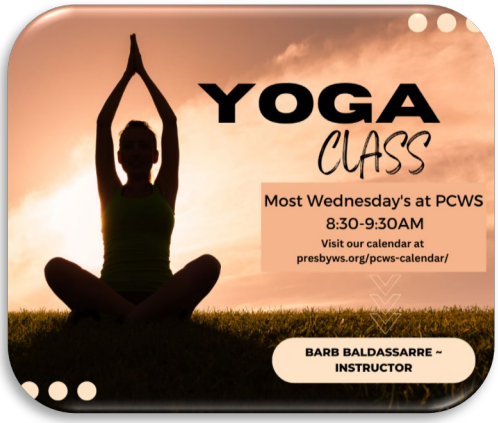
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

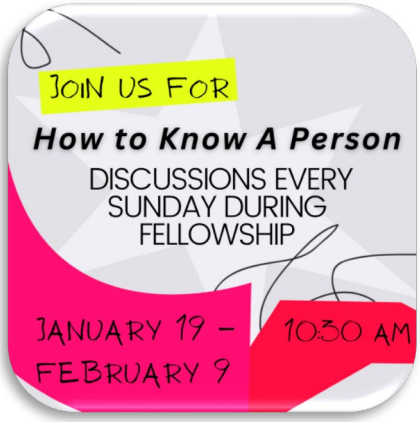
♦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS







THANK YOU *to all for serving this morning:*

Pastor Dan Robertson / Stephanie Coates – Director of Music / Amber Clark – Director of Children & Family Ministry
Chancel Choir / Pam Stephan – Guest Accompanist / Kathy Boxell, Natalie Carlisle, Mark Dold & Henry Lobash – Liturgists /
Nick Boxell – Greeter / Steve, Sarah & Sam Blough – Ushers / Laura Cordell & Joyce Smyers - Deacons of the Day
Roger Dold - Sound Operator / Video Operator / Jill & Roger Dold, Kay & Tom Kelly – Advent Lighters

Assisted listening devices are available for worship; please ask an usher for assistance.

The nursery is available during worship and fellowship staffed by Ms. Shaquirra & Ms. Siobhan!

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-713281 and CCLI (license numbers 1117008 and 20337417). Selected liturgy from the *Book of Common Worship,* 1993 & Carol Holbrook Pricket, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024.

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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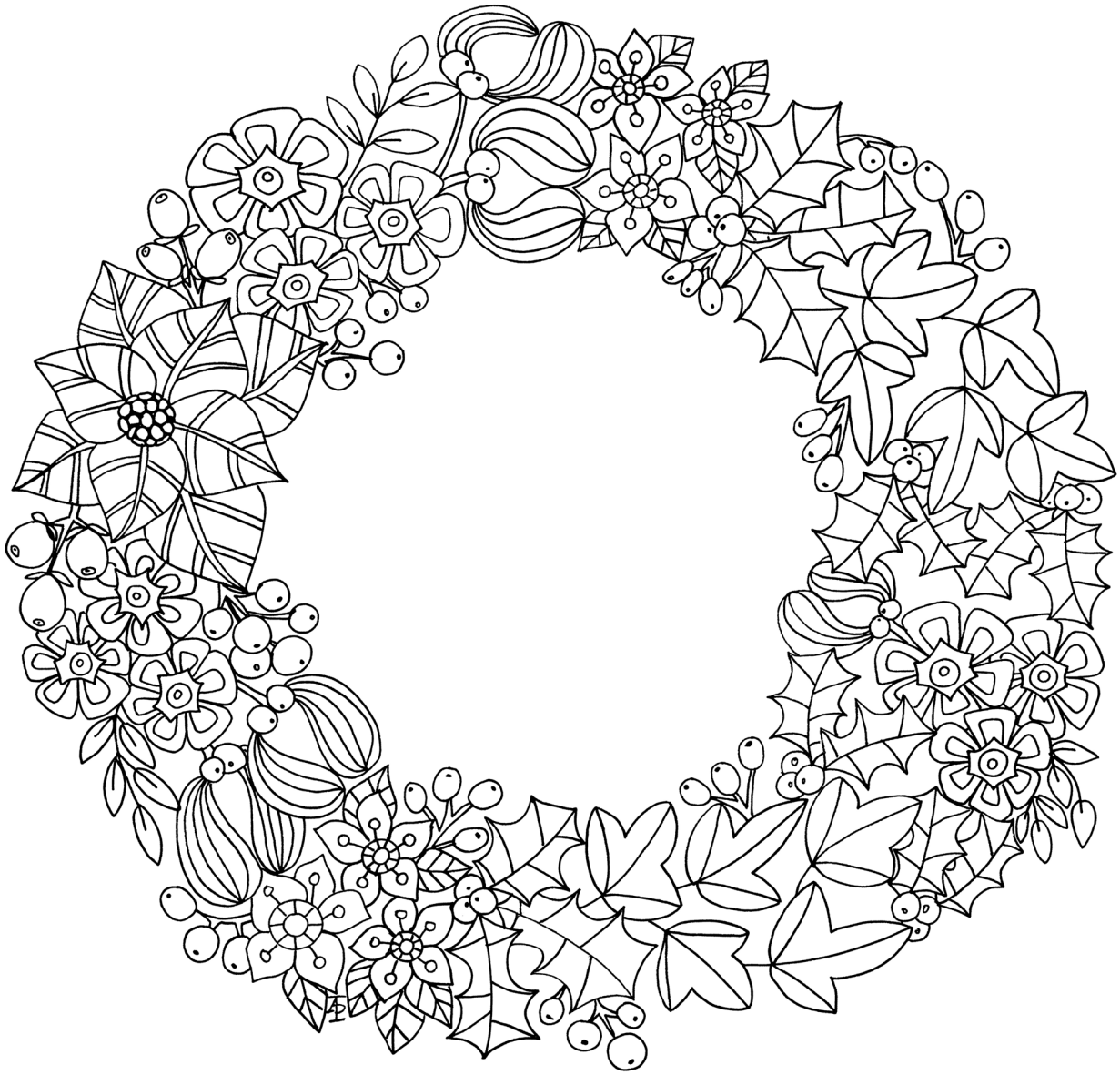
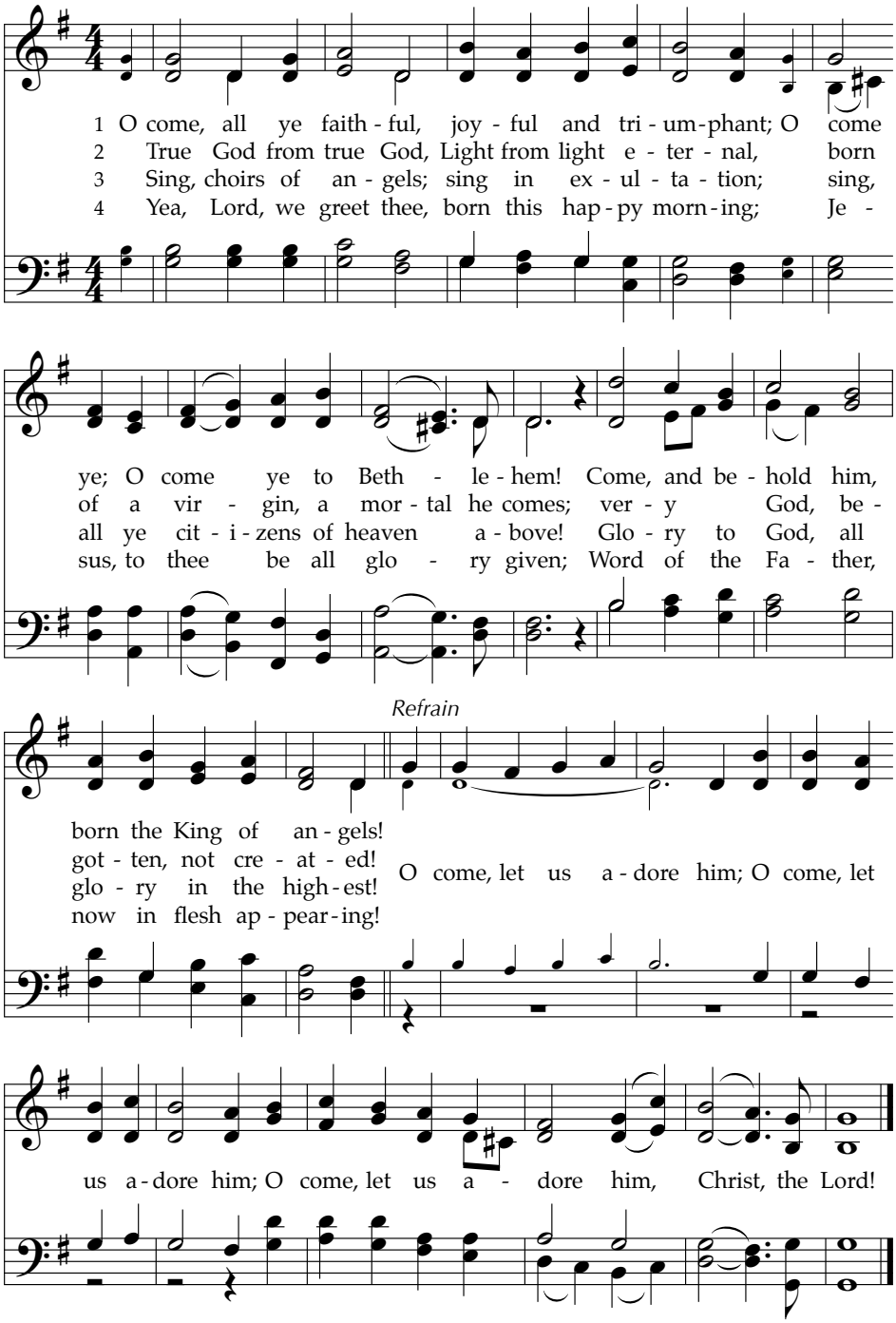
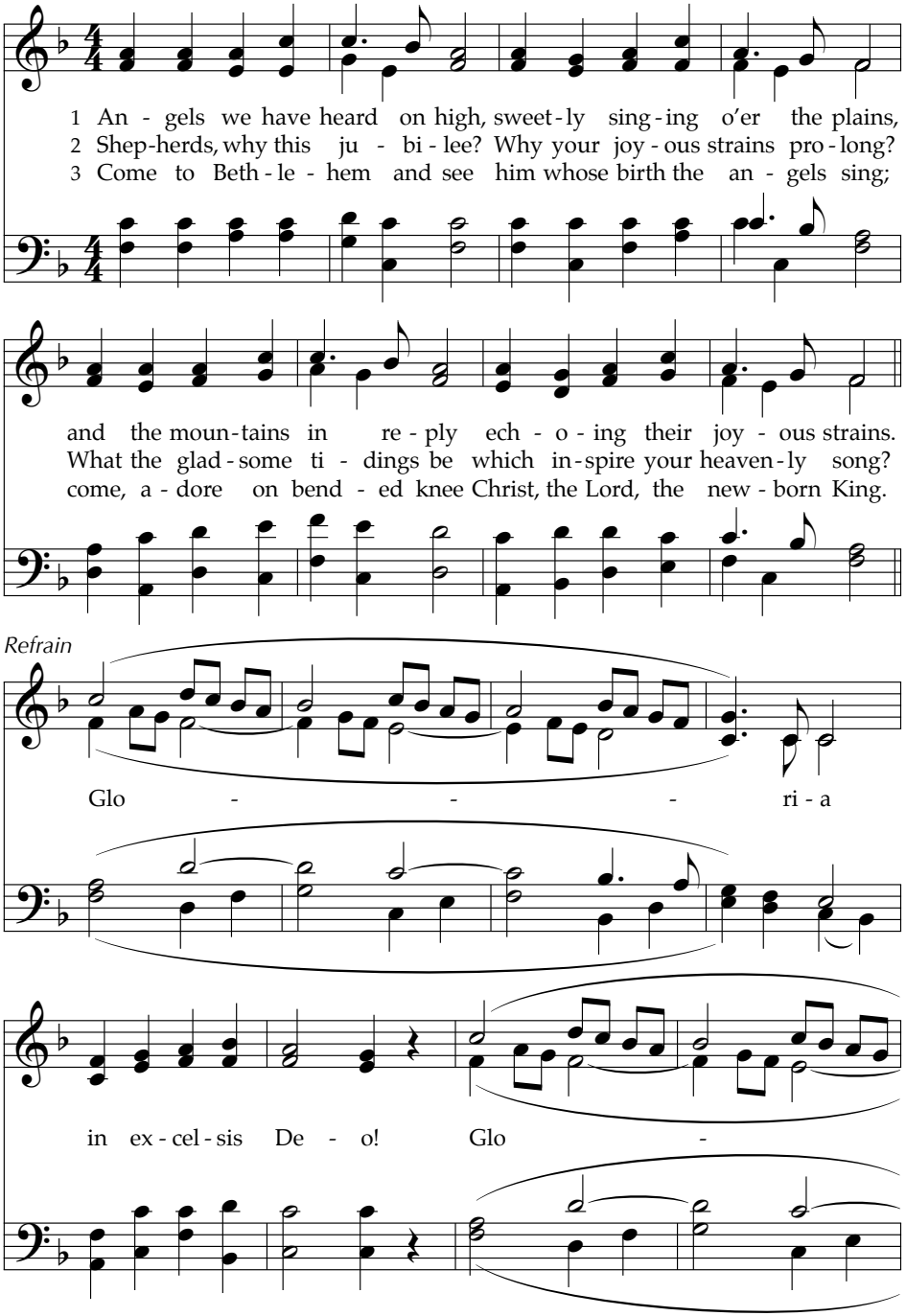


Notes:

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

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.

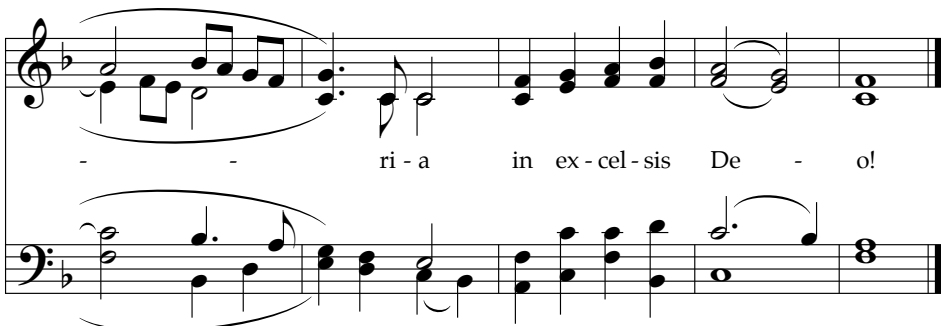
TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906

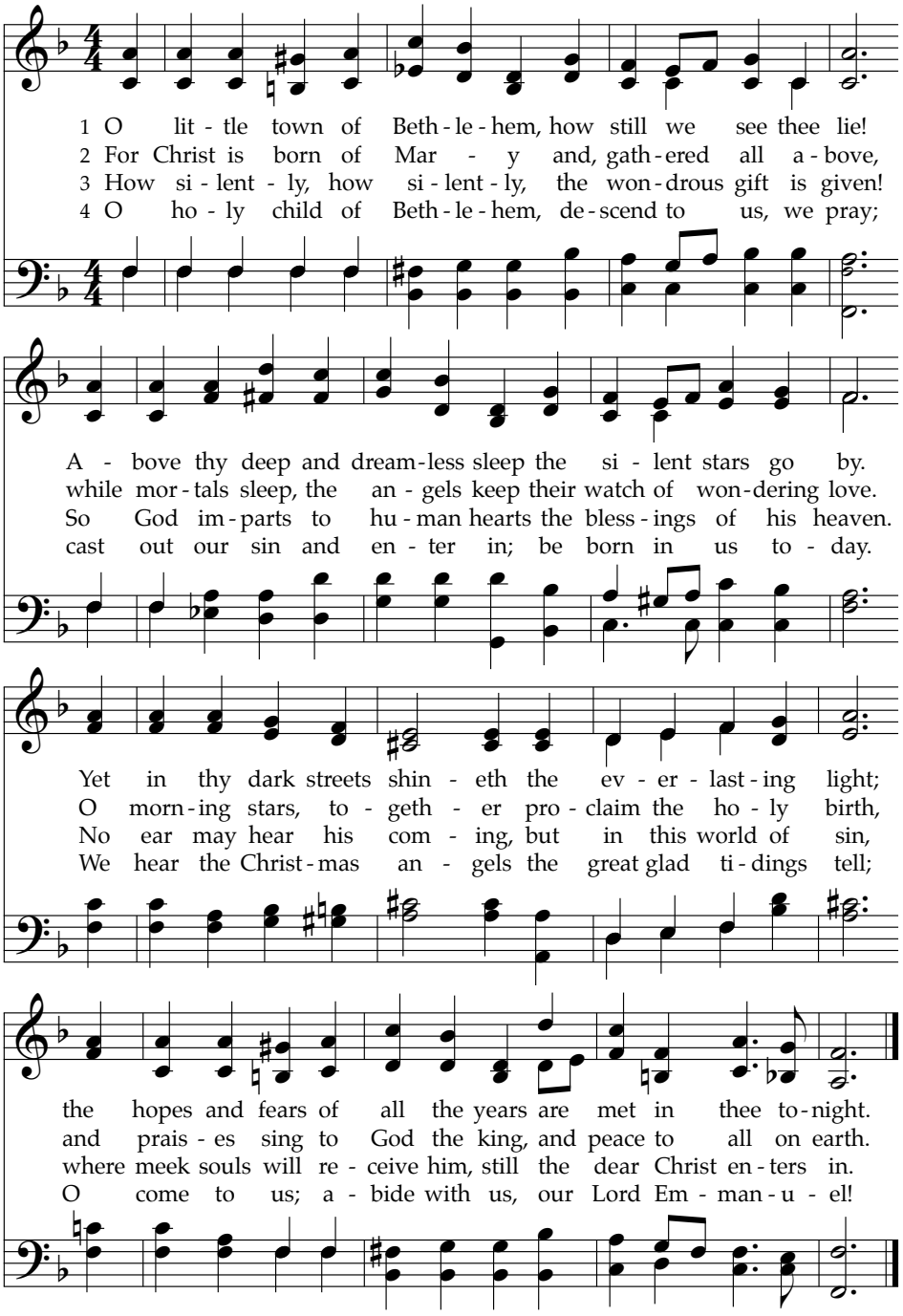
ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.
(admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

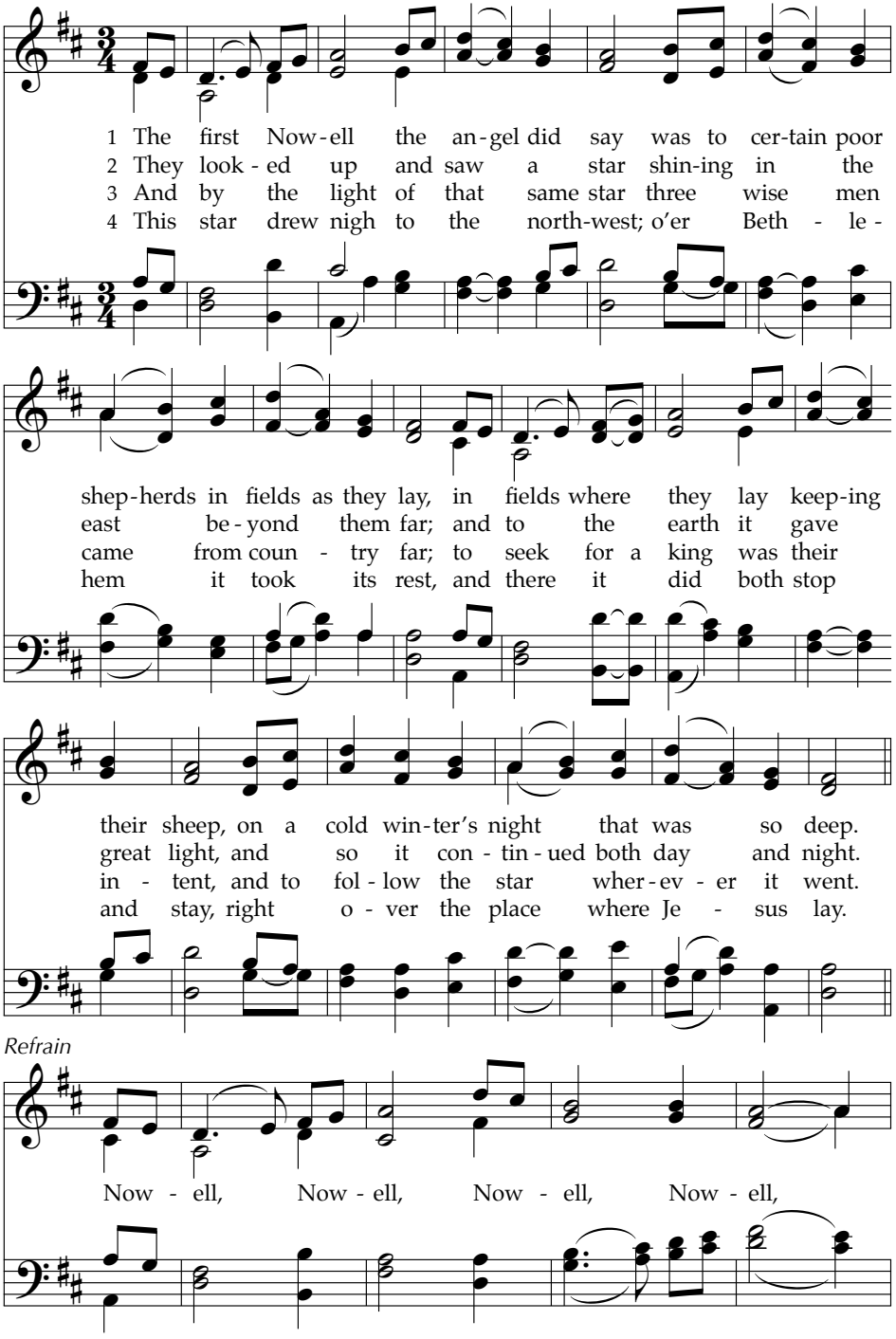
GLORIA
7.7.7.7 with refrain


- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

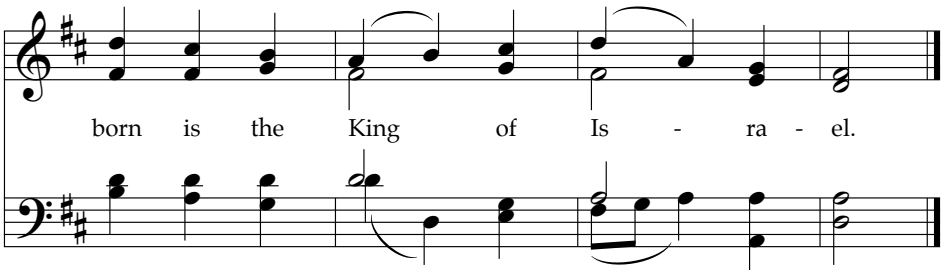
TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
(alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

147 The First Nowell

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus* / *né*) as well to "news" (*nova* / *nouvelle*).

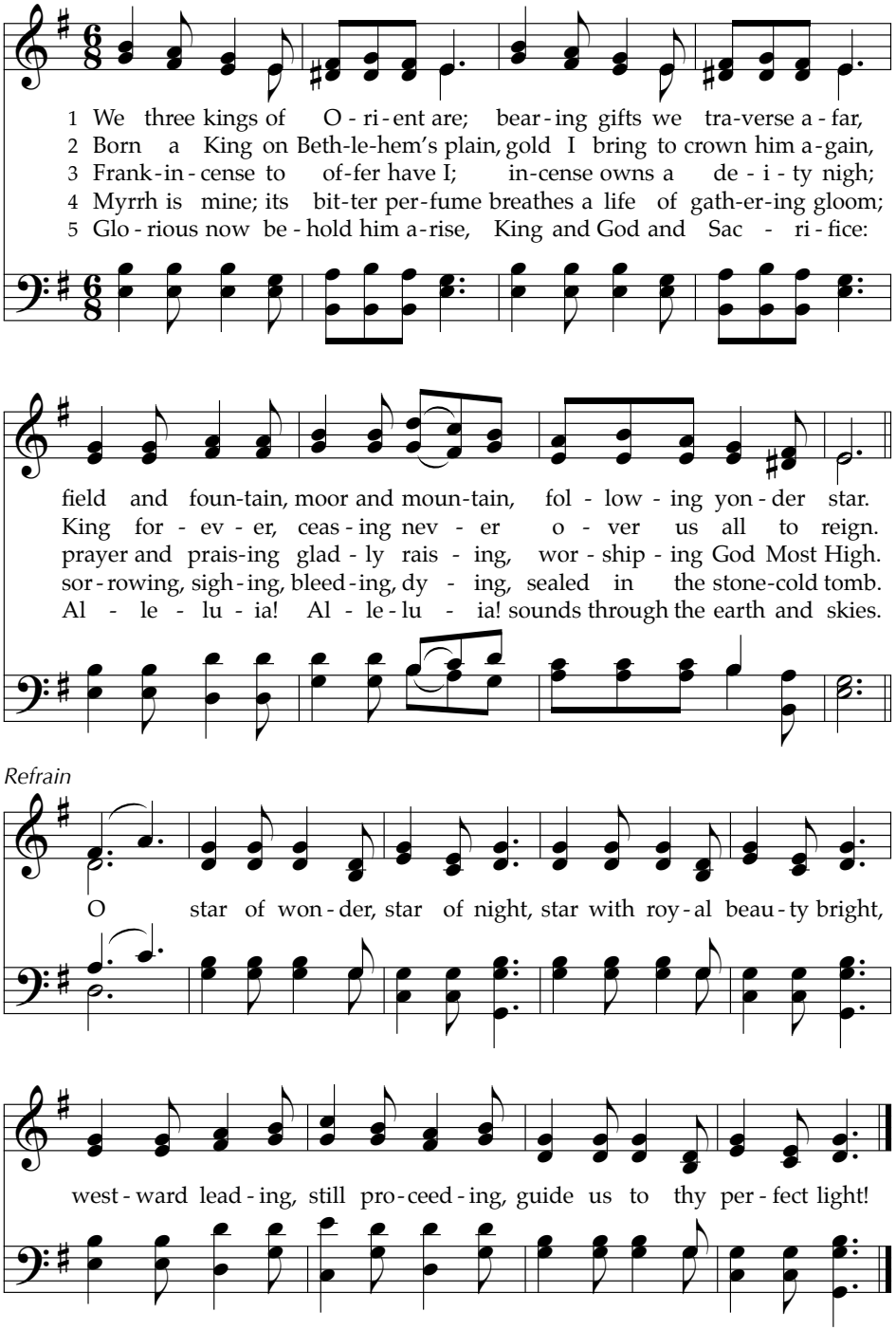
TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols,* 2nd ed., 1823, alt.
MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols,* 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL
Irregular



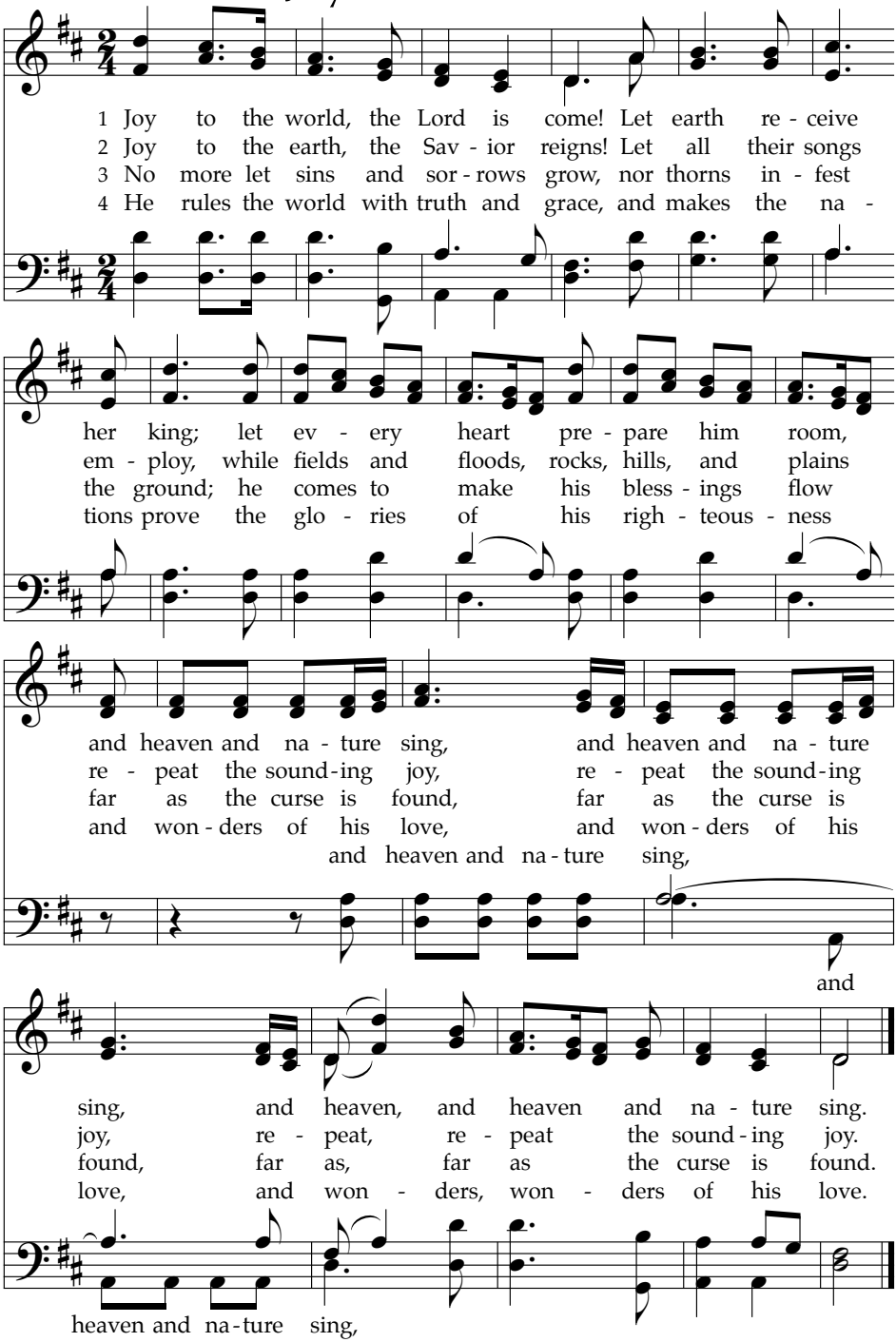
5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.
Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Refrain

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

TEXT and MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

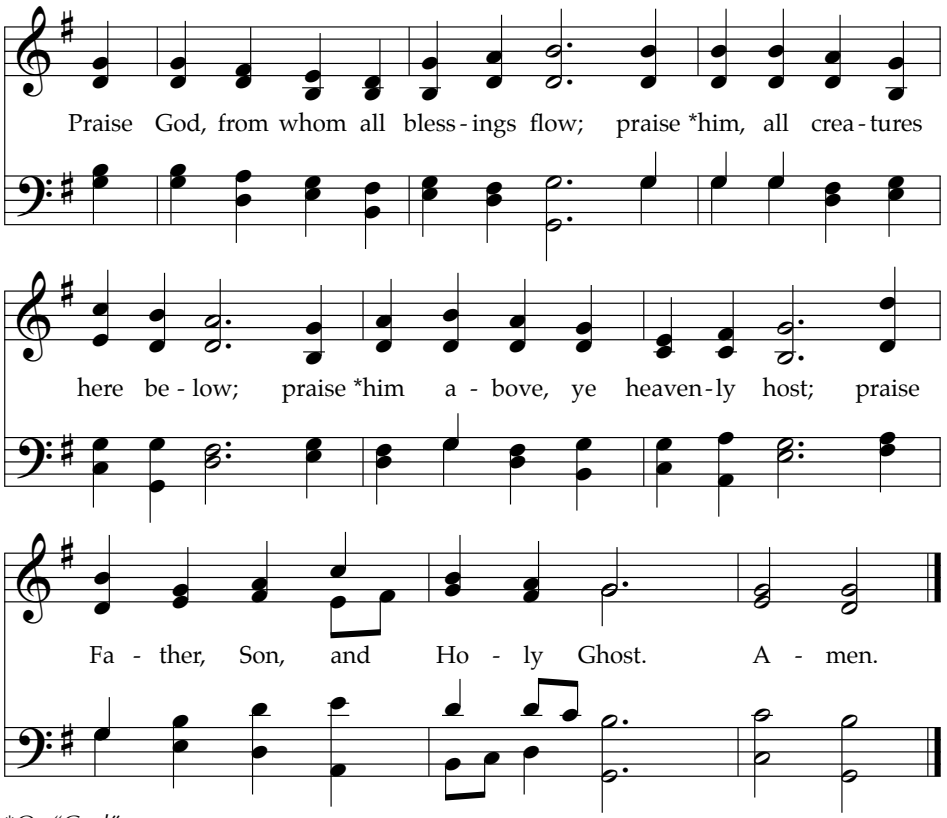
KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.8.6 with refrain

134 Joy to the World

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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH
CM with repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM