Receiving,
Living,
and
Sharing
the Grace given to us

Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
Sunday Worship
December 21, 2025 | 9:30 A.M.

4th Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE — Still, Still, Still with Mary, Did You Know? — arr. by Carol Tornquist

GATHERING & GREETING

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CONFESSION — John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. **Amen.**

♦ HYMN #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!**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Word made flesh, speak to us now. Open our hearts to receive you. By your Spirit, help us see your light shining in the darkness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 — Old Testament, page 600

♦ *Everyone is invited to rise as able and speak the **bold** print in unison*

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Love Has Come (v. 3) — #110 BRING A TORCH

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

ANTHEM — Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence — arr. by Shive & Getty

SERMON — A Joyful Surprise

POP-UP PAGEANT

RESPONDING

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

OFFERING — Offertory on "Es ist ein Ros" — Crain A. Penfield

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 & 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.

SENDING

♦ SENDING HYMN #119 — Hark! The Herald Angels Sing — MENDELSSOHN

Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School in Room 202 until 11:15 am

♦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Go as children of God, born of the Spirit. Bear witness to the light. Share the grace and truth of Christ. For the light shines in the darkness. **And the darkness will not overcome it. Amen.**

♦ POSTLUDE — Postlude on "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" — arr. by Thomas Arbeau

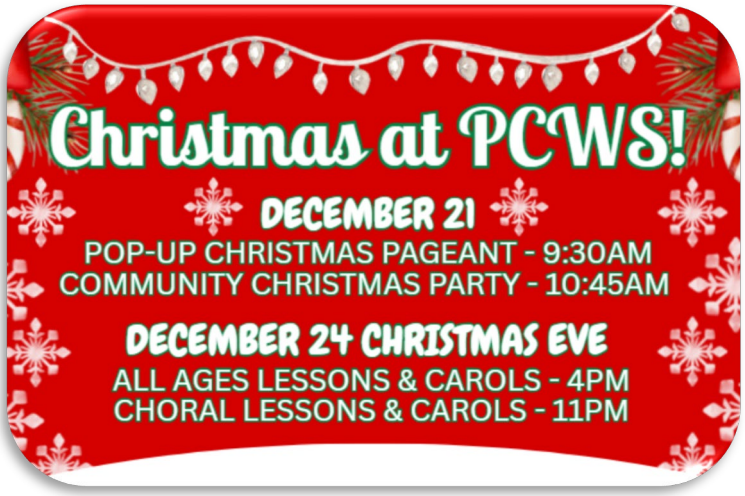
Please join us downstairs in the Jones Room for a Holly Jolly Christmas Party!

Mission Statement

You are most welcome here.

We invite you to share in our faith journey as we walk and grow together.

We are committed to encouraging one another along the way as we seek to experience, express, and extend God's unconditional love.



Online Giving

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25 & 26 - *MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND OUR WEBSITE

THANK YOU *to all for serving this morning:*

Pastor Dan Robertson / Robert Moynihan – Parish Associate / Stephanie Coates – Director of Music
Amber Clark – Director of Children & Family Ministry / Laura Hepburn – Soloist
Rogers Malone – Liturgist / Steve Blough & Matt Booth – Usher / Sheryl Allen - Fellowship Host
Steve Blough & Amy Malone - Deacons of the Day / Roger Dold - Sound Operator / Whitney Carlisle - Video Operator
The Farrar Family - Advent Candle 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!

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-713281 and CCLI (license numbers 1117008 and 20337417). Paul Banovic, writer of liturgist scripture introduction. Liturgy for today's service inspired by John 1.

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.

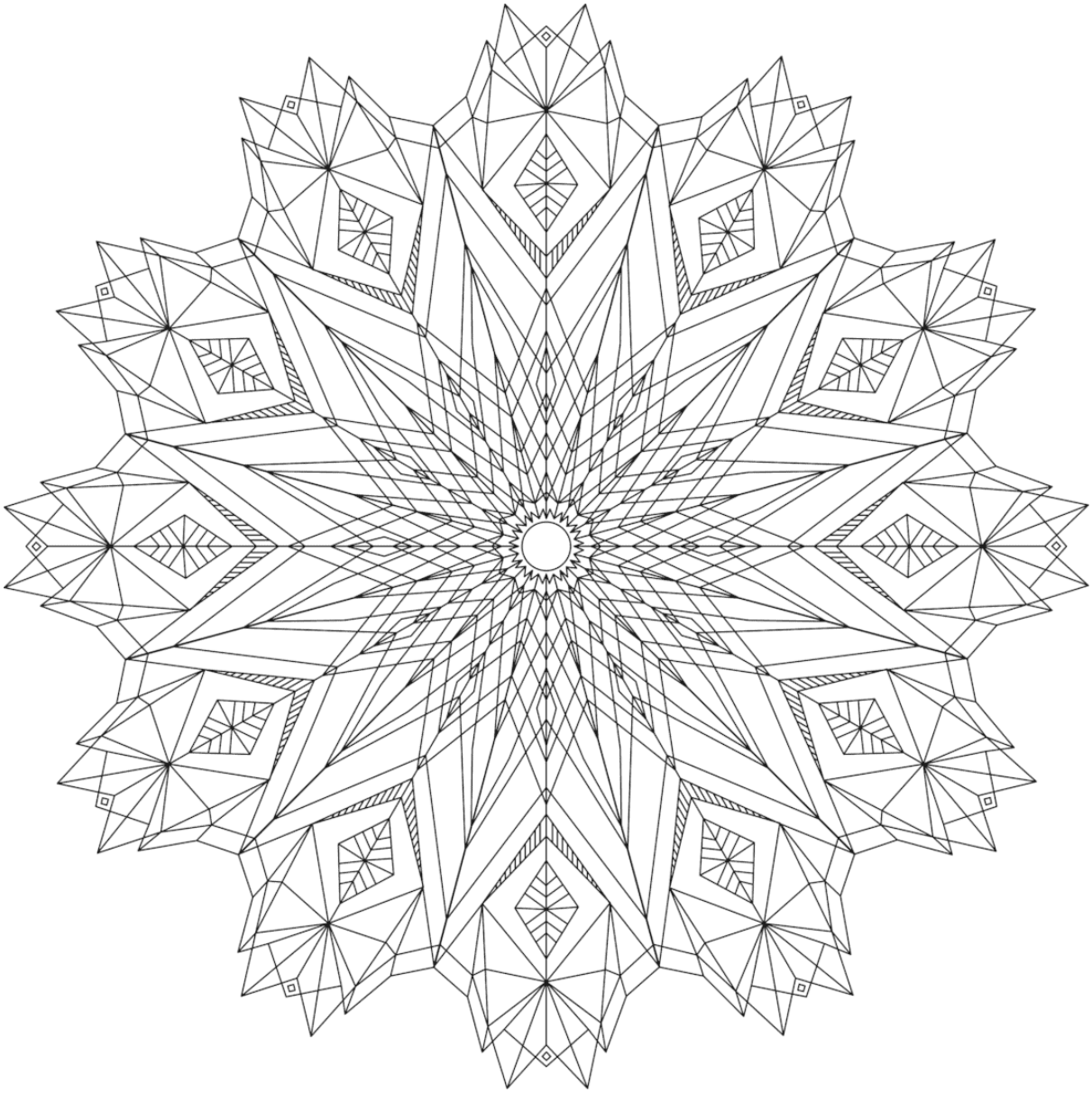
Please visit our website at presbyws.org or email us at pcws@presbyws.org

Presbyterian Church Of Western Springs

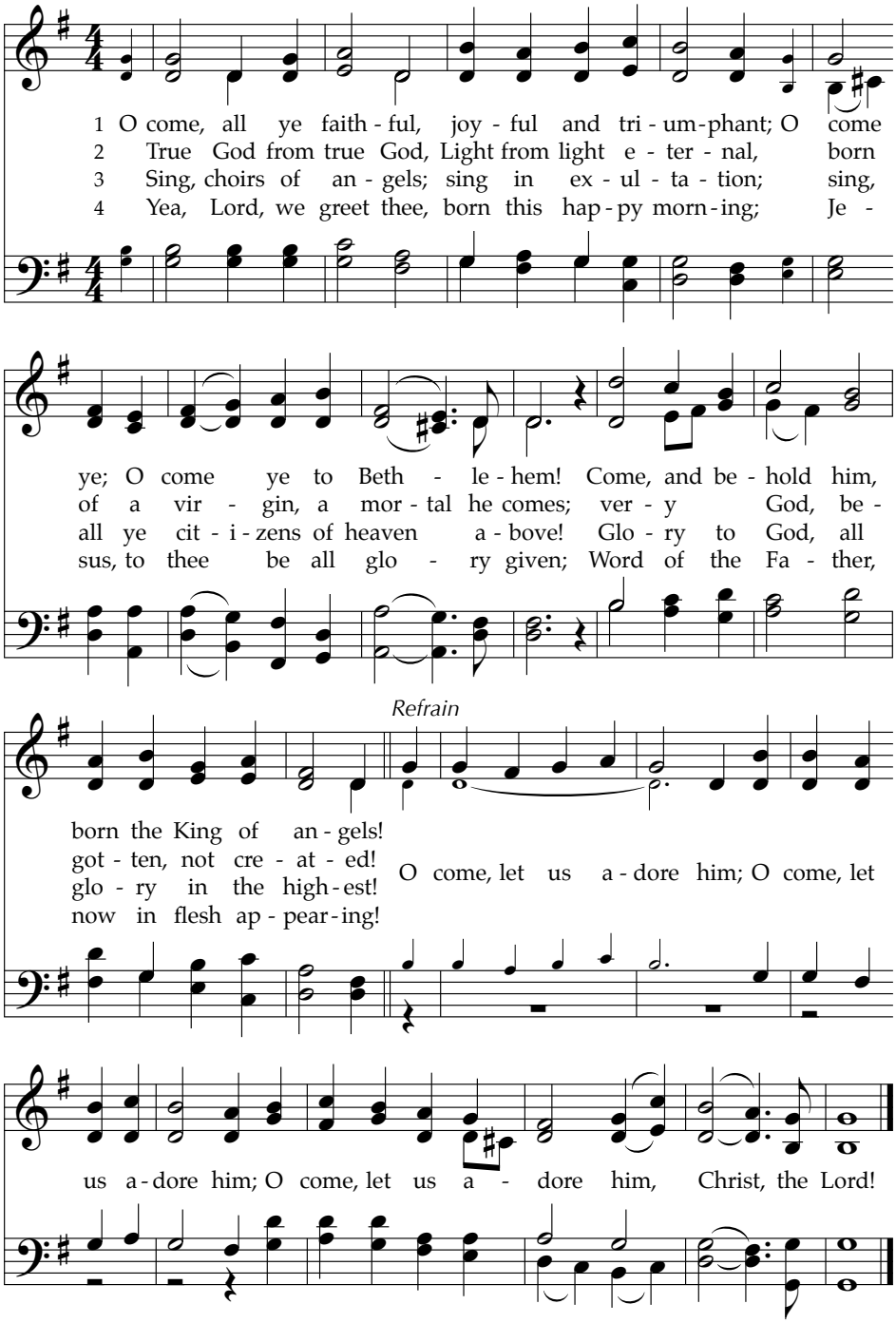
5250 Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558-1898

www.presbyws.org

708-246-5220 Phone
708-246-4276 Fax

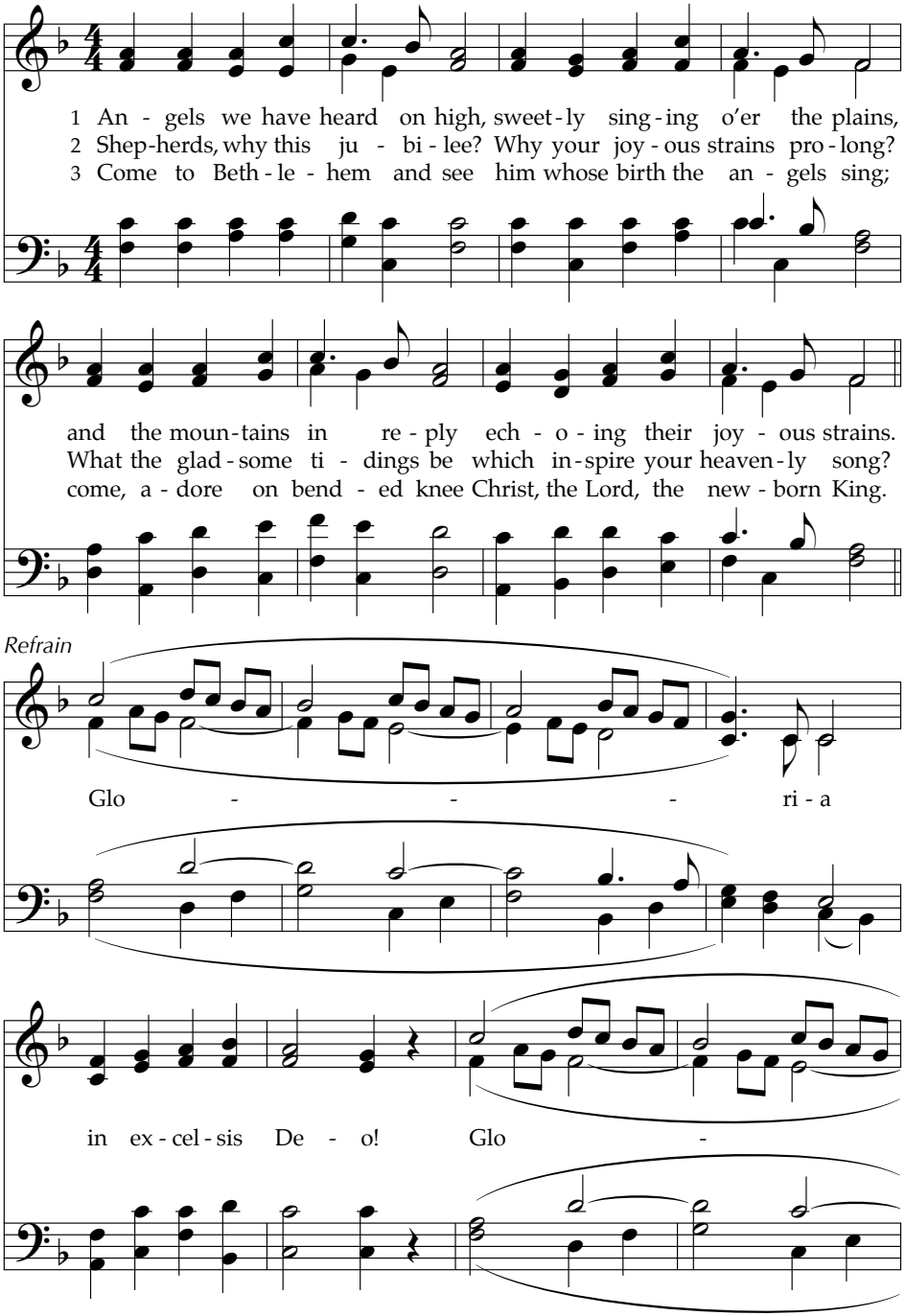


Notes:

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.

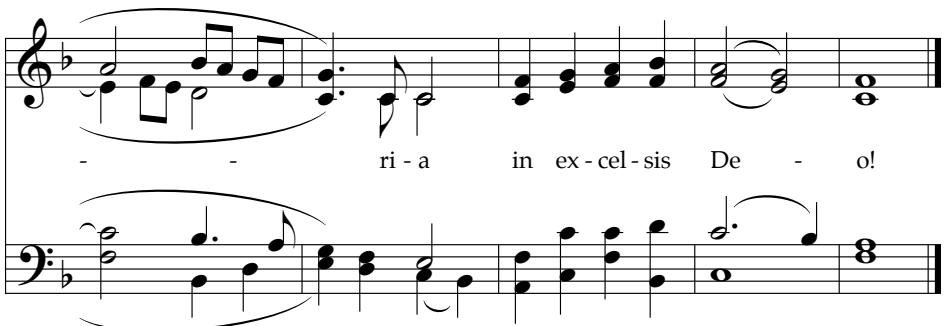
TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

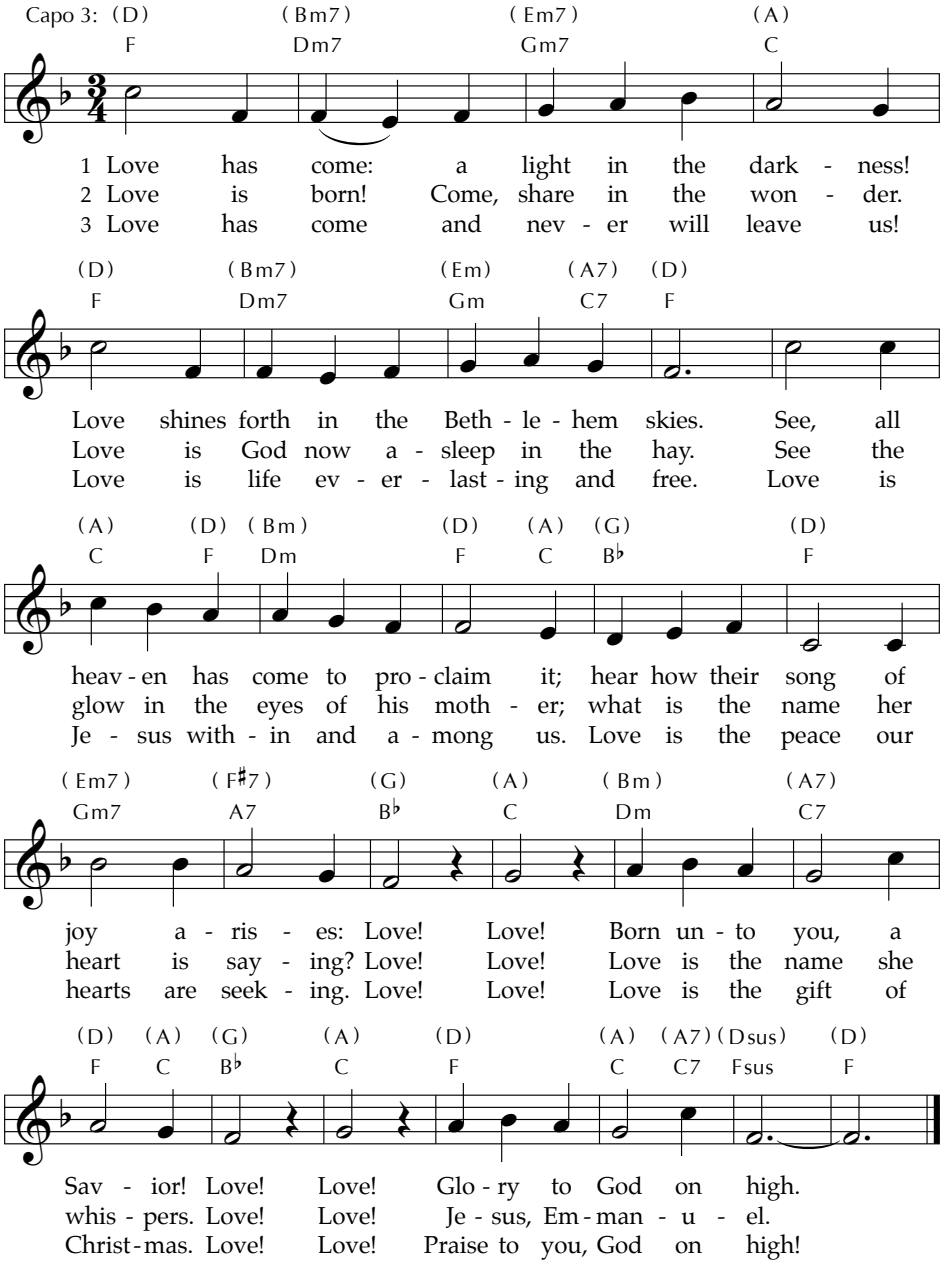
113 Angels We Have Heard on High

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!

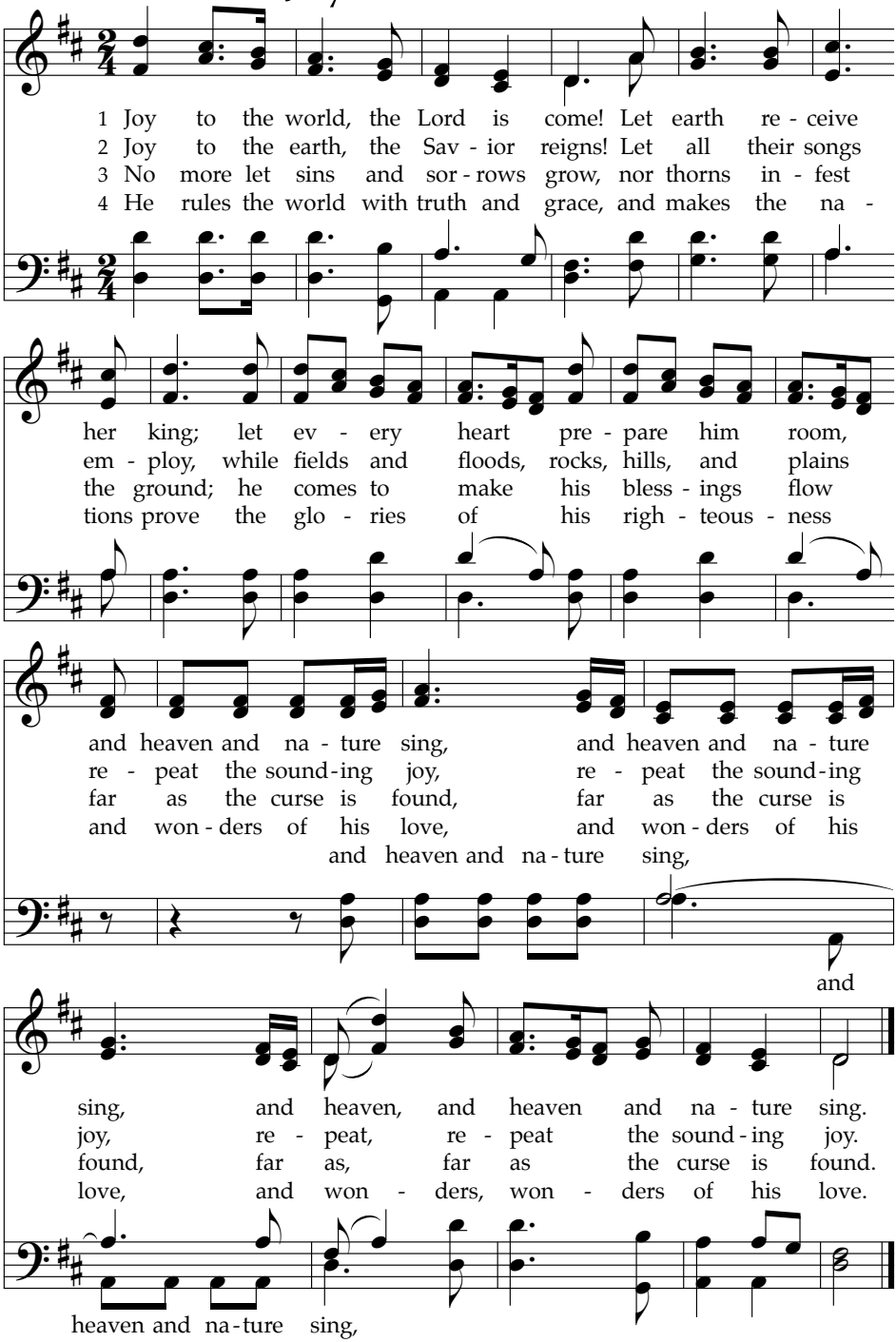
Love Has Come 110



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."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

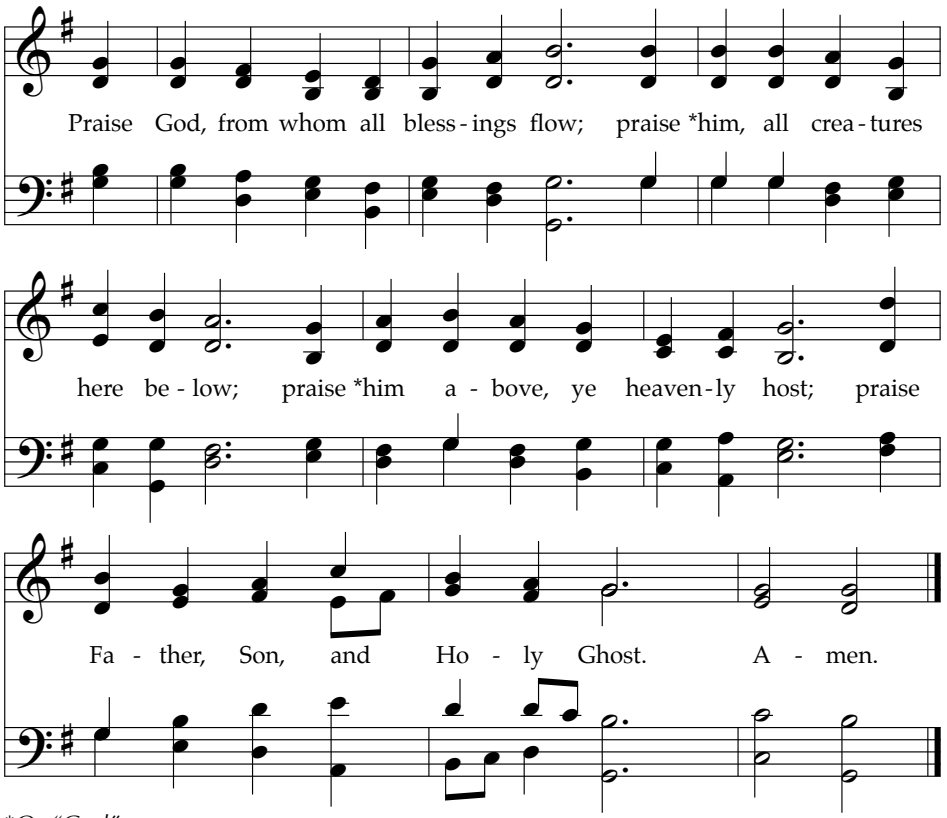
BRING A TORCH
9.9.10.9.9.8

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)

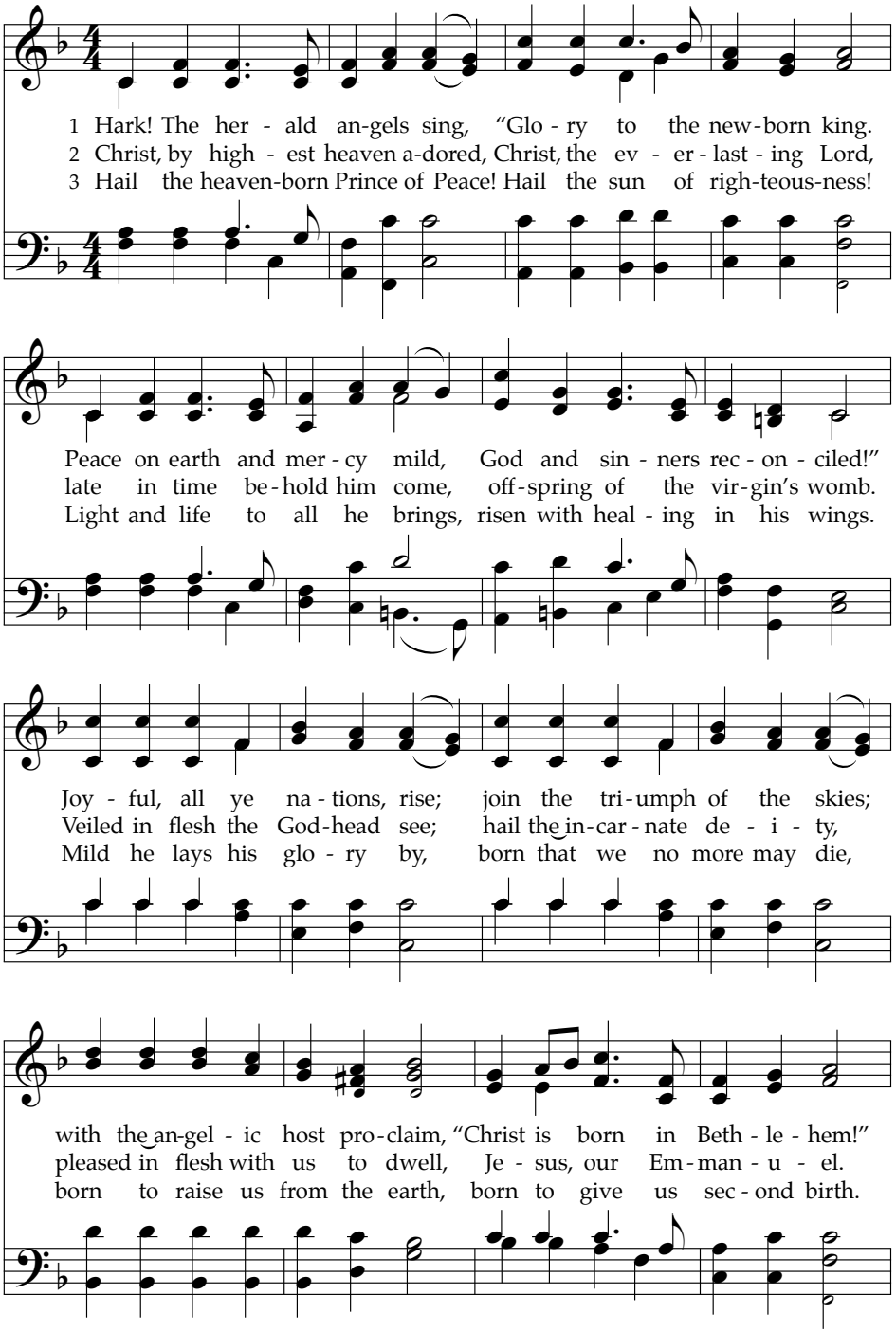
606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

**Or "God"*

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

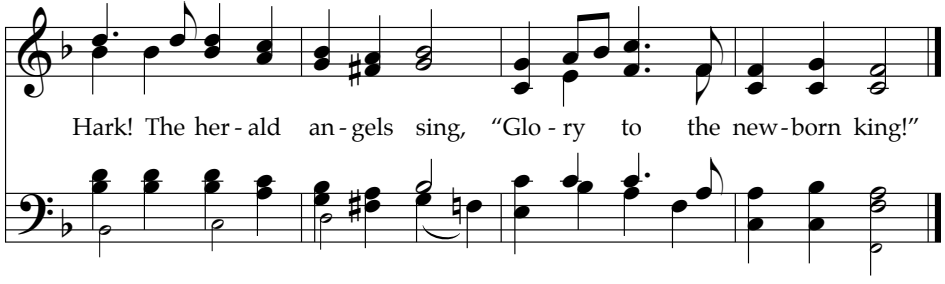
OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"