



# LESSONS & CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

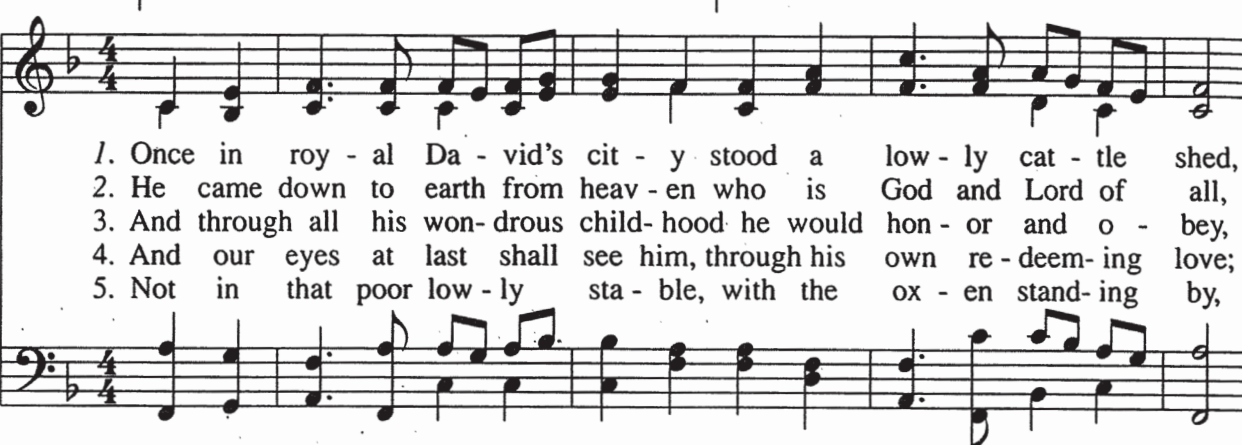
DECEMBER 24, 2018  
REFORMATION COVENANT CHURCH



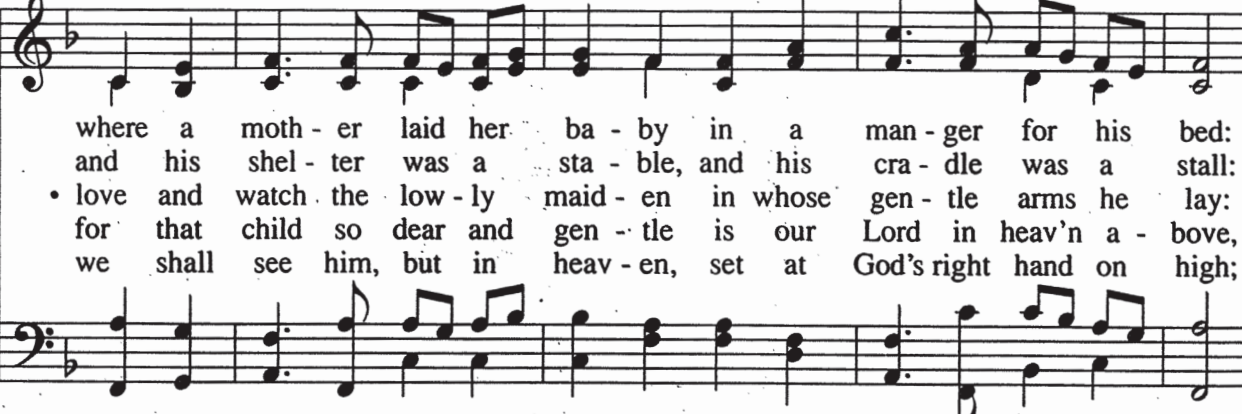
## PROCESSIONAL

### Once in Royal David's City

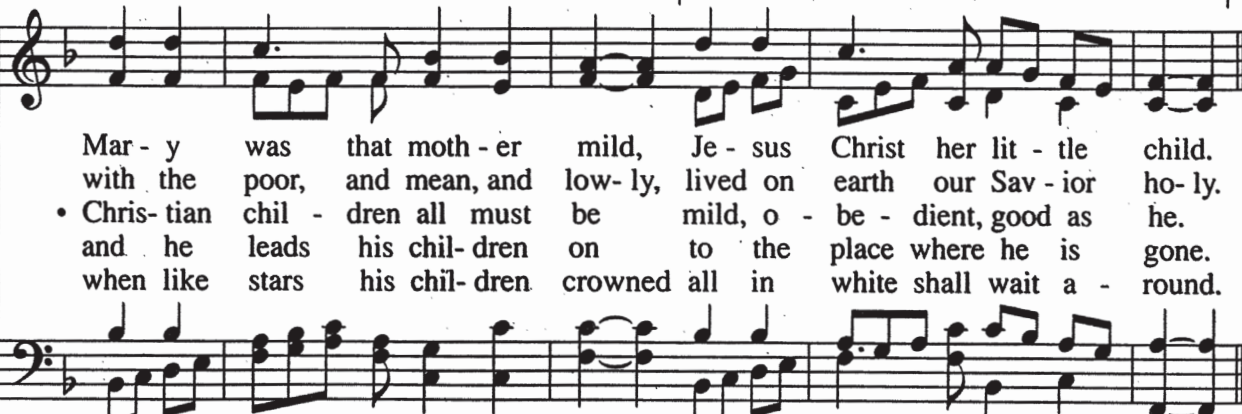
*You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12*



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o - bey,  
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:  
• love and watch the low - ly maid - en in whose gen - tle arms he lay:  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,  
we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
• Chris - tian chil - dren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.  
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849



## THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

## THE LORDS PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.



# THE BIDDING CAROL

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL (8 7. 8 7. D.)  
Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

Charles Wesley, 1744




1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a King,



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.





# FIRST LESSON FROM GENESIS 3:8-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise, and that the Woman's seed will bruise the serpent's head.

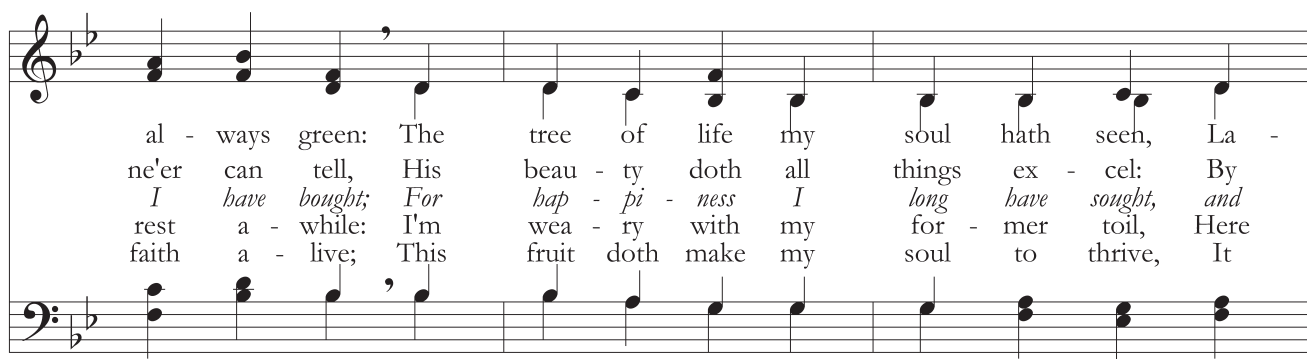
## Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Posten, 1905-1987

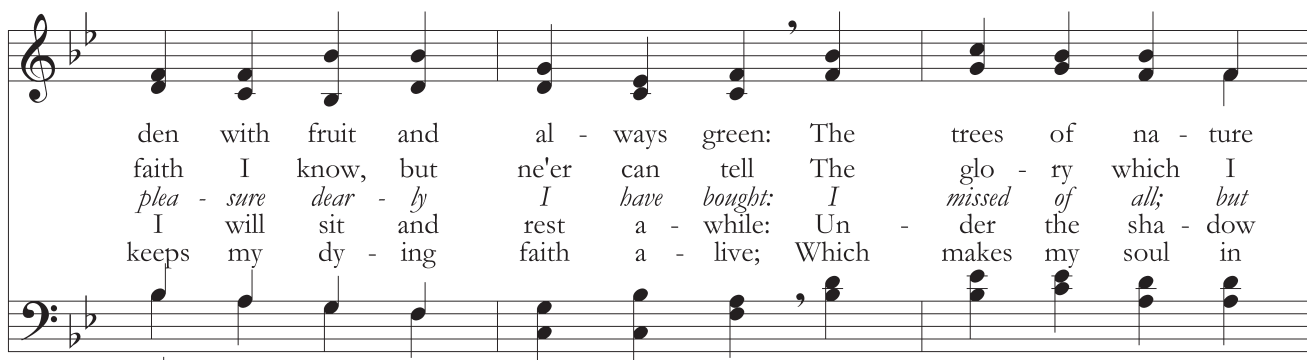
Divine Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1784



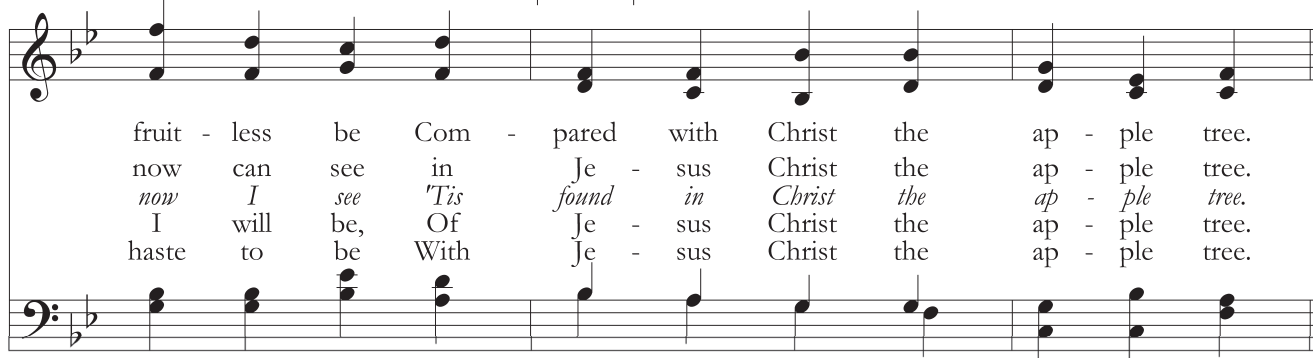
1. The tree of life my soul hath seen, La - den with fruit and  
 2. His beau - ty doth all things ex - cel: By faith I know, but  
 3. For hap - pi - ness I long have sought, And plea - sure dear - ly  
 4. I'm wea - ry with my for - mer toil, Here I will sit and  
 5. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dy - ing



al - ways green: The tree of life my soul hath seen, La -  
 ne'er can tell, His beau - ty doth all things ex - cel: By  
 I have bought; For hap - pi - ness I long have sought, and  
 rest a - while: I'm wea - ry with my for - mer toil, Here  
 faith a - live; This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It



den with fruit and al - ways green: The trees of na - ture  
 faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glo - ry which I  
 plea - sure dear - ly I have bought: The missed of all; but  
 I will sit and rest a - while: Un - der the sha - dow  
 keeps my dy - ing faith a - live; Which makes my soul in



fruit - less be Com - pared with Christ the ap - ple tree.  
 now can see in Je - sus Christ the ap - ple tree.  
 now I see 'Tis found in Christ the ap - ple tree.  
 I will be, Of Je - sus Christ the ap - ple tree.  
 haste to be With Je - sus Christ the ap - ple tree.



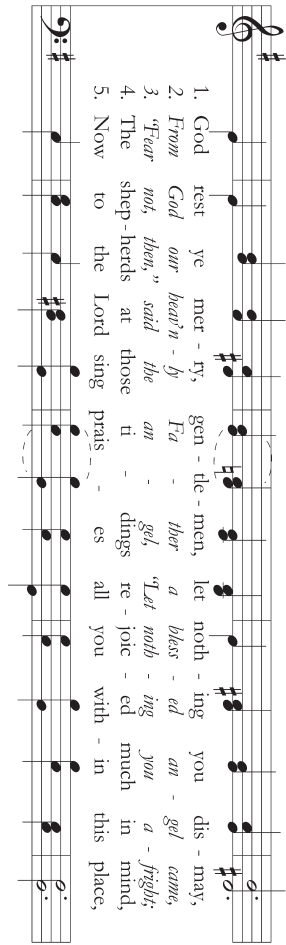
## SECOND LESSON FROM GENESIS 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

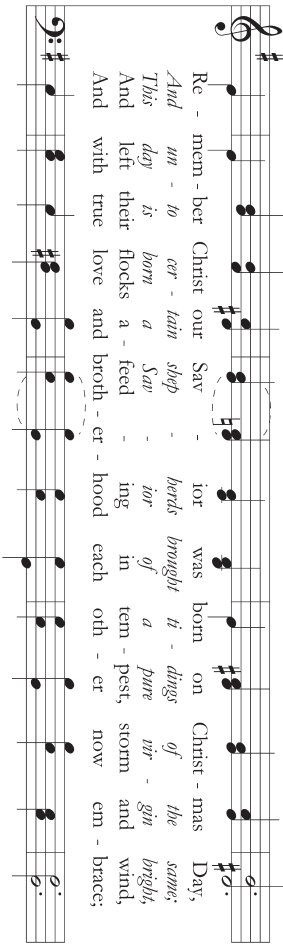
### God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YE MERRY (8 6, 8 6, 8 4 8)  
English melody, 18th century

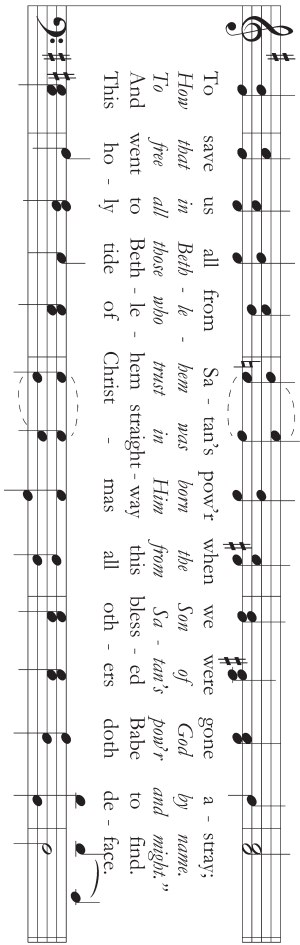
English carol, 18th century



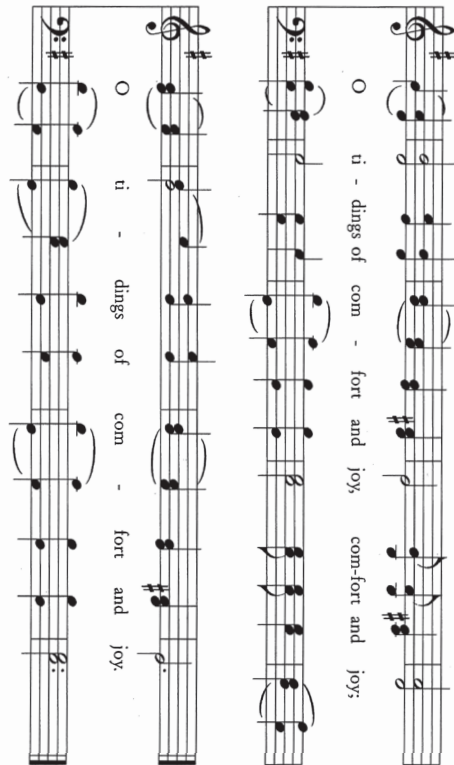
1. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,  
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,  
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let notb - ing your a - fright;  
4. The shep - herds at those ti - dings re - joic - ed much in mind,  
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es all you with - in this place,



Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same;  
This day is born a Saw - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
And left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm and wind,  
And with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace;



To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;  
How that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,  
To free all those who trust in Him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
And went to Beth - le - hem straight - way this bless - ed Babe to find.  
This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy;  
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy;  
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy;  
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy;  
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy;



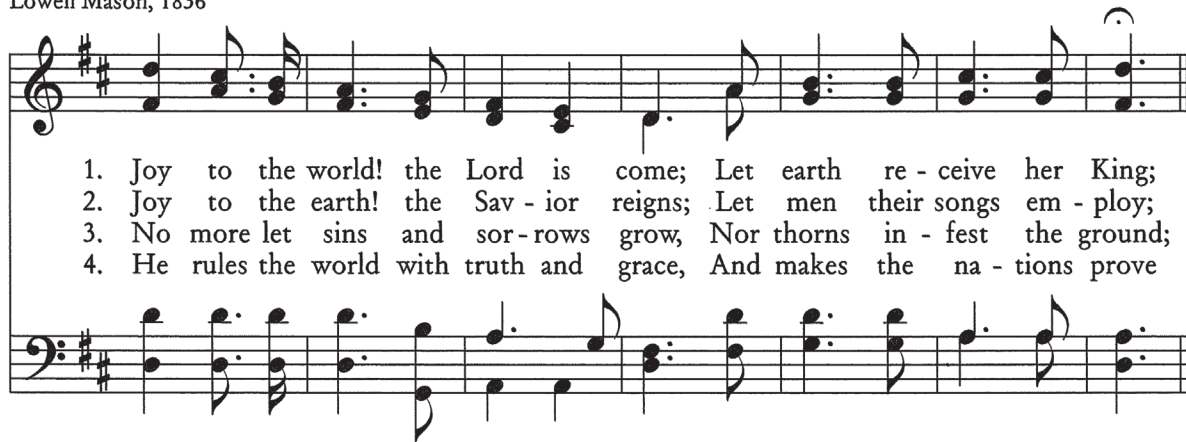


**THIRD LESSON FROM ISAIAH 9:1-7**  
*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

## Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH (C.M.)  
Lowell Mason, 1836

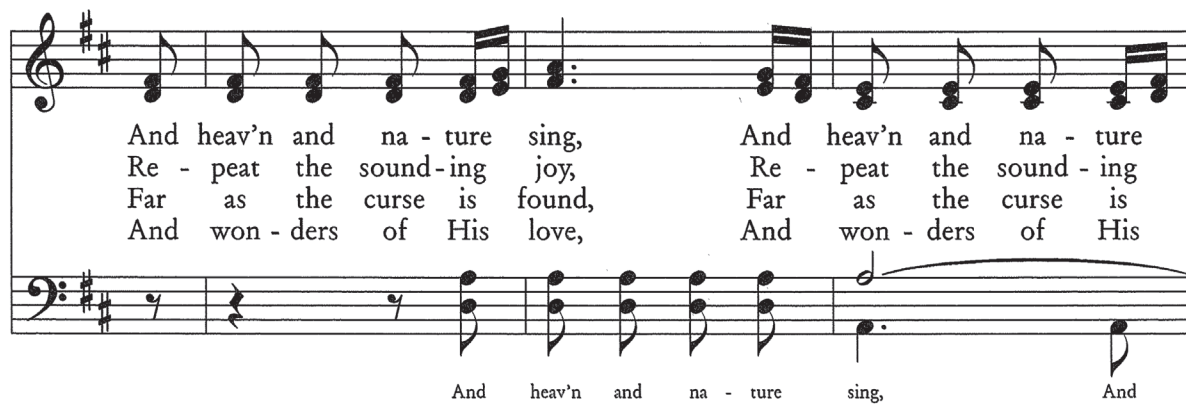
Isaac Watts, 1719



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;  
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n 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 heav'n and na - ture sing, And



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n 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.



## FOURTH LESSON FROM ISAIAH 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is fore-shown.

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN (7 6. 7 6. 6 7 6)

German melody, 15th century

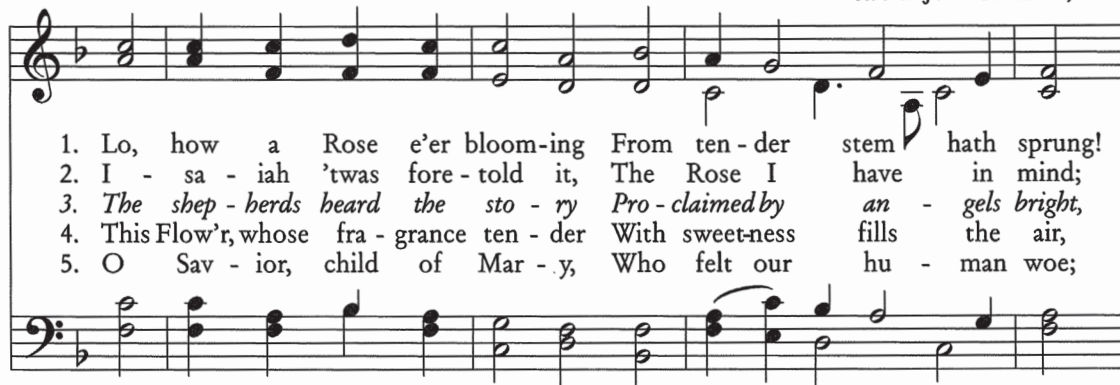
arr. Michael Praetorius, *Musae Sionae*, 1609

German, 15th century

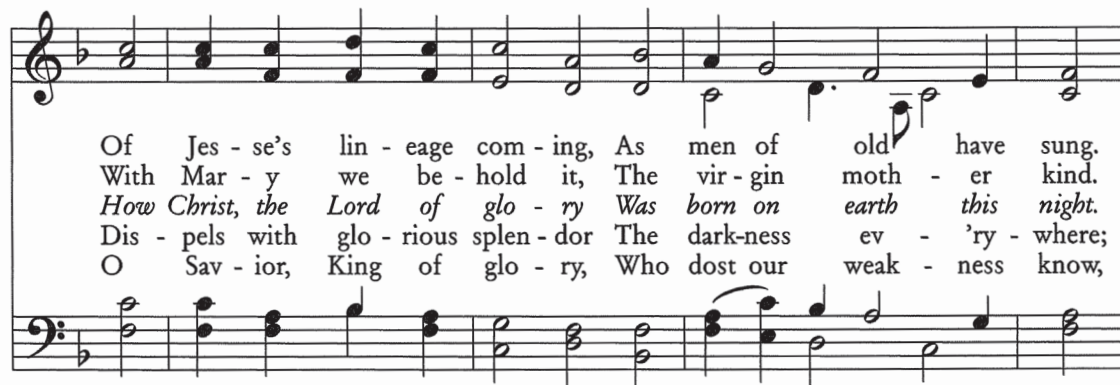
st. 1-2 tr. Theodore Baker, 1894

st. 3 tr. Harriet R. Spaeth, 1875

st. 5 tr. John C. Mattes, 1914




1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung!  
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind;  
3. *The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro - claimed by an - gels bright,*  
4. This Flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,  
5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man woe;



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, As men of old have sung.  
With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.  
*How Christ, the Lord of glo - ry Was born on earth this night.*  
Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry - where;  
O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness know,



It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of  
To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a  
*To Beth - le - hem they sped And in the man - ger*  
True Man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death He  
Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of



win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
*found Him, As an - gel her - alds said.*  
saves us, And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
heav - en And to the end - less day.





# FIFTH LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 1:26-38

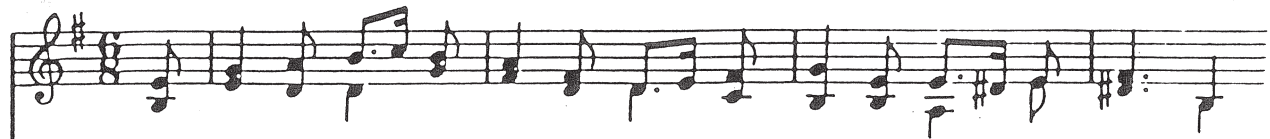
*The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary..*

## What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

WILLIAM C. DIX, 1837-1898

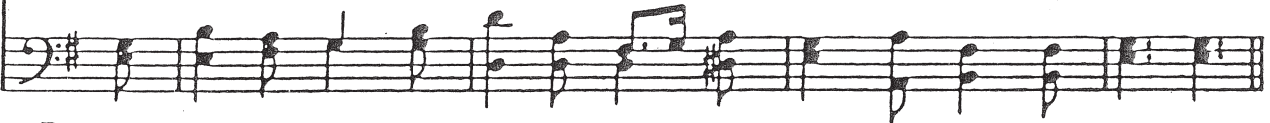
English melody, before 1642



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, rich and poor, to own Him;



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Christian, 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.



### REFRAIN



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



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



# SIXTH LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 1:18-23

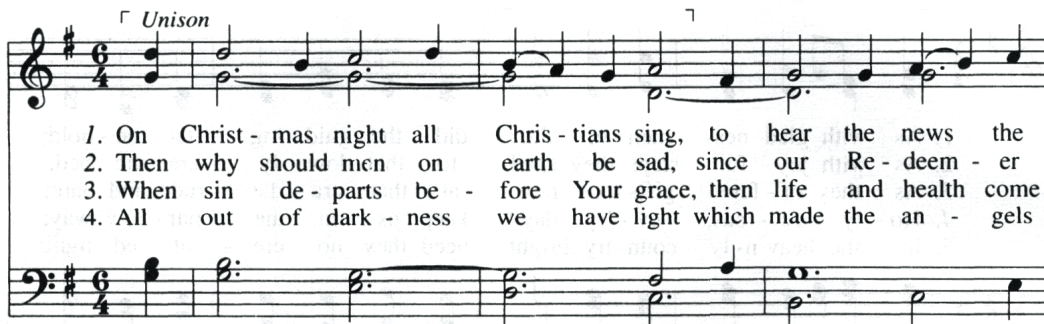
Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

227

## On Christmas Night All Christians Sing


*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10*

*Unison*



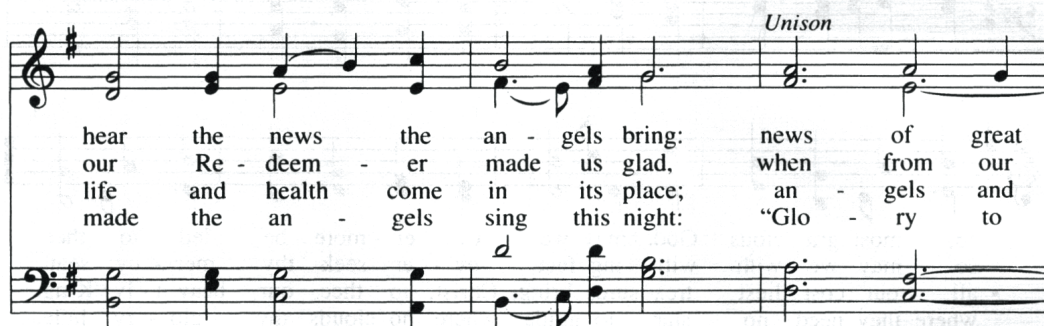
1. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the  
 2. Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er  
 3. When sin de - parts be - fore Your grace, then life and health come  
 4. All out of dark - ness we have light which made the an - gels

*Harmony*



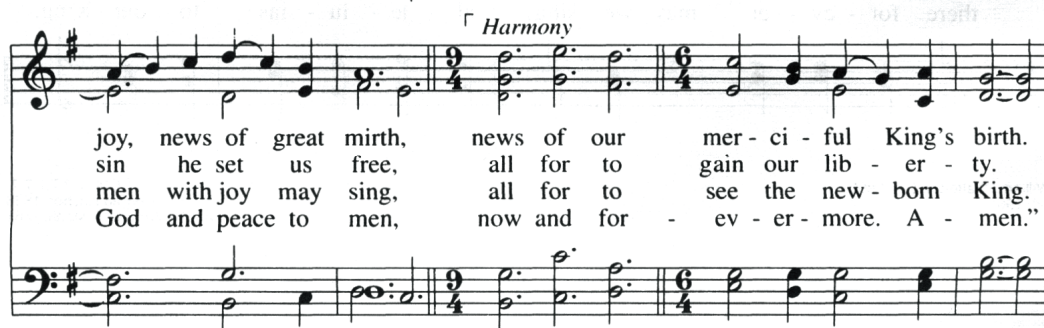
an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to  
 made us glad; then why should men on earth be sad, since  
 in its place; when sin de - parts be - fore Your grace, then  
 sing this night; all out of dark - ness we have light, which

*Unison*



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great  
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, when from our  
 life and health come in its place; an - gels and  
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to

*Harmony*



joy, news of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
 sin he set us free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty.  
 men with joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.  
 God and peace to men, now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

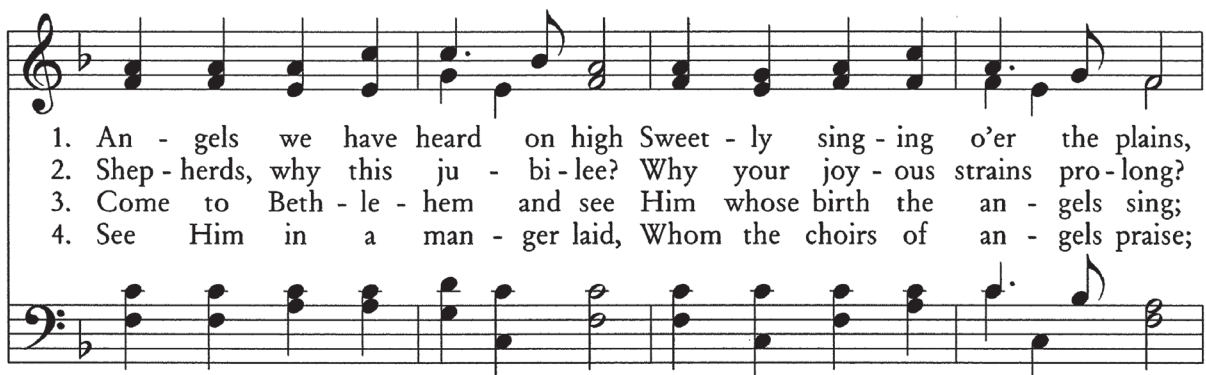




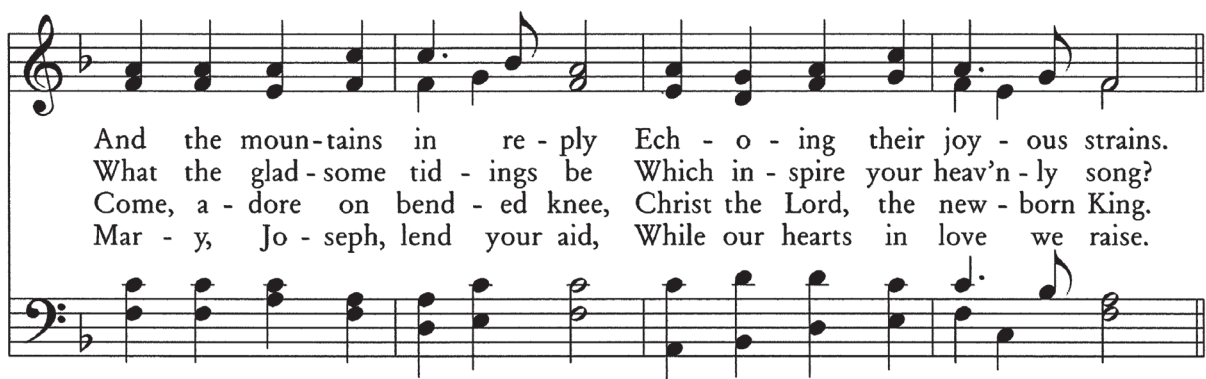
## SEVENTH LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

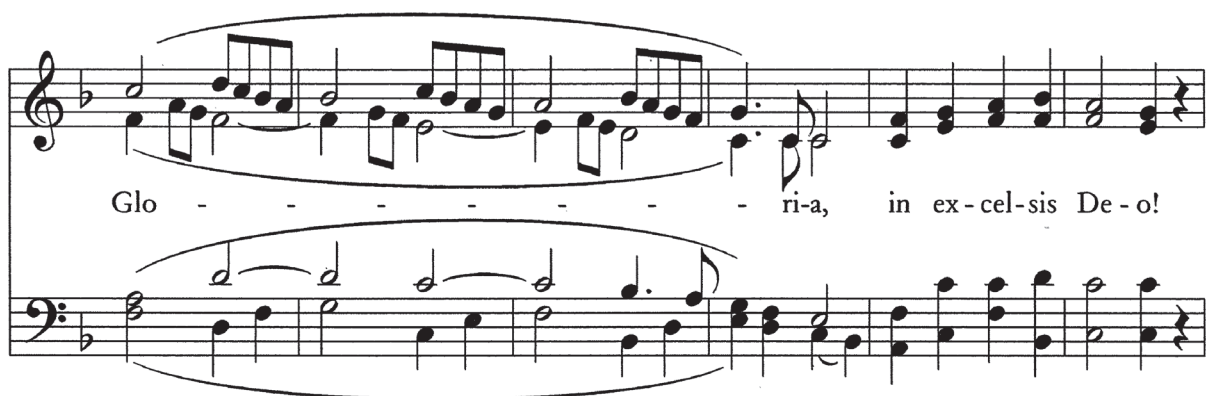
### Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;



And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.



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



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



## EIGHTH LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 2:1-11

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS (Irregular)

John Francis Wade, *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Latin hymn

John Francis Wade, c. 1743

tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841



1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye, O  
2. God of God, Light of Light; Lo, He ab-  
3. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; Sing, all ye  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-sus, to



come ye to Beth-le-hem. Come and be-hold Him,  
hors not the Vir-gin's womb; Ver-y God, be-  
cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove! Glo-ry to God,  
Thee be-glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,



born the King of an-gels:  
got-ten, not cre-at-ed: O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-  
in the high-est:  
now in flesh ap-pear-ing:



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





## NINTH LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:1-14

*John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

*(Lighting of candles)*

### In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;  
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.  
MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM  
Irregular



## NATIVITY PRAYER OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Let the just rejoice,  
☞ For their Justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
☞ For their Saviour is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
☞ For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
☞ For their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
☞ For their Liberator is born.  
Let all Christians rejoice,  
☞ For Jesus Christ is born.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. ☞ **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **Amen.**

