

GATHERING

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary. In his face we behold your glory, for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation. By Your Spirit, let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Noel de Saintonge

J.F. Dandrieu

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Today the Lord comes in love and power, in grace and truth, offering hope and peace.

Christ is born today! Alleluia!

The promised one, mighty, though small, is our hope, our strength, our life.

Christ is born to save! Alleluia!

In hope, let us worship God.

Christ is born to save! Alleluia! Amen.

*** HYMN 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Lord God Almighty, Ruler of heaven and earth; we dare not lift our eyes into the brilliance of your holiness. Cover us, we pray, with the cloak of your mercy and the grace of Jesus your Son. Then may we heartily turn from all that would keep us from your holy love and flee into your waiting arms for refuge and strength. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*** HYMN 145**

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-4 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 865

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Gesu Bambino

P. Yon

Heather Harrell, soprano

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced, and at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light. Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell, from paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* HYMN 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 59

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

So Much From So Little

Dr. Don McGarity

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd

G.F. Handel

Heather Harrell, soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him, that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

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

* 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* HYMN 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Dr. Don McGarity, Scott Stuart, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Maralyn Foote

ORGANIST: Emeritus Director of Music & Organist Dr. Mark Coffey

CHAPEL USHER: Jeanne Thomas; SANCTUARY USHERS: Maralyn Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

VIDEO TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, John Rayl; SOUND: Kaylee Bleeker

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

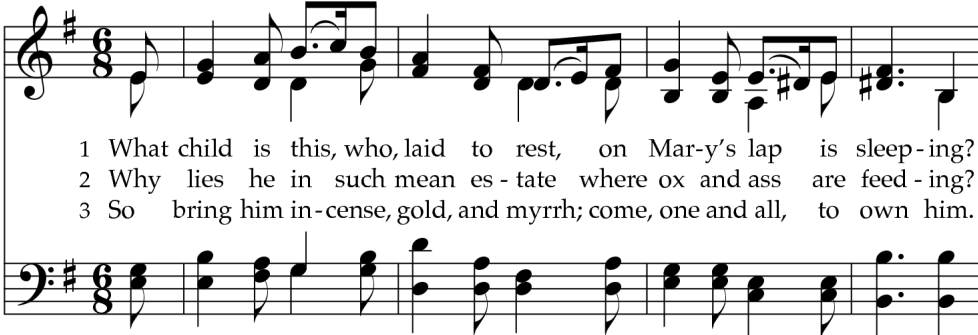
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

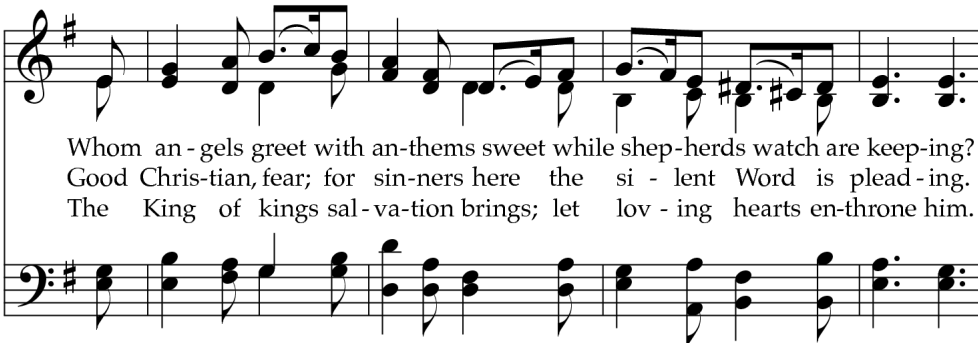
with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

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

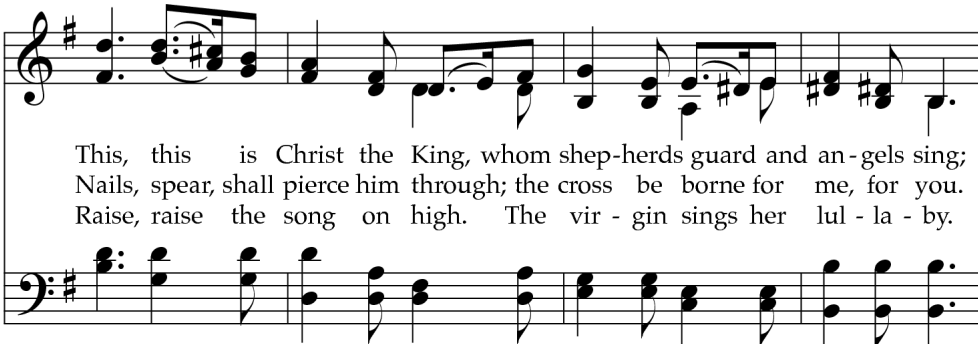
145 What Child Is This



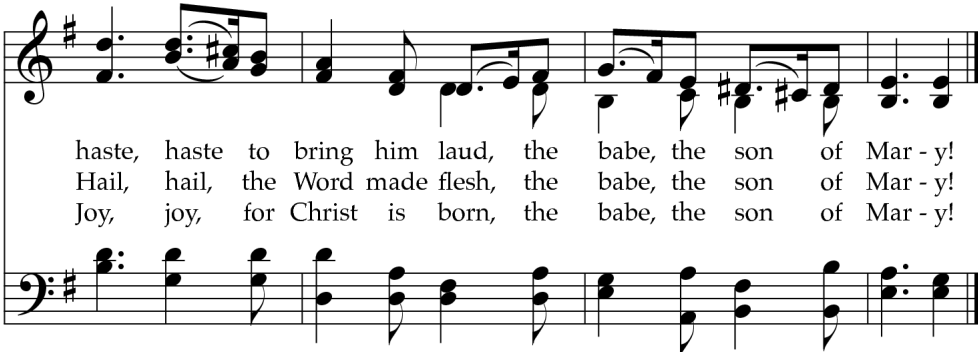
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, 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.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y 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 ti - dings 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!

GOSPEL READING

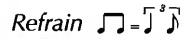
Luke 2:22-40 (NRSV)

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

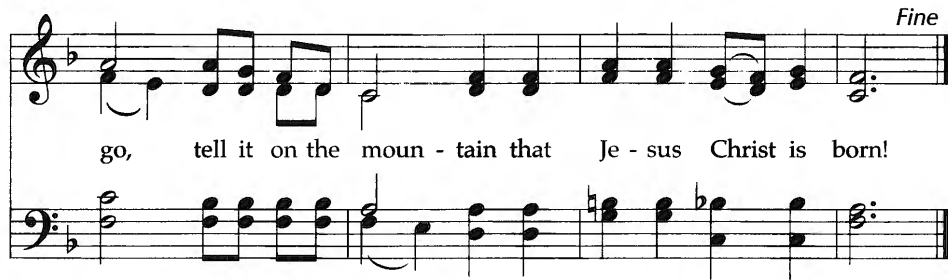
Thanks be to God.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

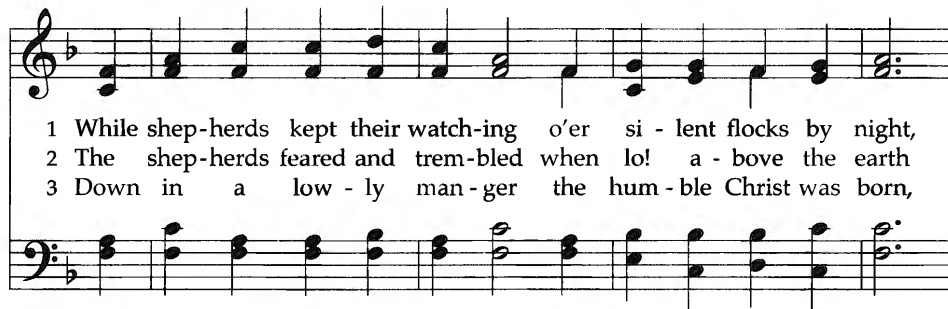


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

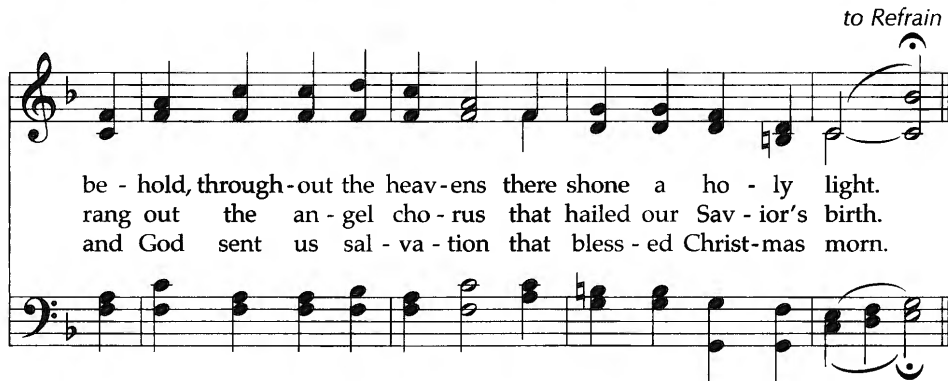


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

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,



to Refrain

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.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
 Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

GLORIFY GOD

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

The Church Office will be Closed tomorrow, Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Start the new year with service: So many of you came out to help decorate the church. As the celebrations come to an end, please join us next Monday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m. to help take the Christmas decorations down.

January is a Great Time to Join a Choir at First Presbyterian Church! There are choirs and handbell groups for a variety of ages. Please contact Mitch Rorick at music@1stpc.org with questions or to find the right group for you.

Concert for a Cause: The Florida State University Singers will present a concert, under the direction of Kevin Fenton, on Sunday, January 21 at 4 p.m. They will be joined by the Santa Fe Singers and the Gainesville High School Chamber Choir. The free-will offering supports Filter of Hope, whose mission is to provide families living in poverty easy access to clean, safe drinking water by manufacturing and distributing simple, life-saving water filters.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Nursery Care (6 weeks old through pre-kindergarten) is available on Sundays from 10:45 a.m. through the end of the 11 a.m. worship service. Email Jenna Mueller at jdmueller2009@gmail.com with questions or to sign up. Families, please find the sign-in cart upstairs in the Christian Education building by room 204. ***The nursery is seeking the donation of a pack 'n play for the nursery as well as the following items for a Nursing room: glider, white noise machine, bassinet, and changing table.*

Children's Worship Guides are located in the narthex, and Gordon Hall. Pick one up before the service to help your child participate in worship. We encourage your family to discuss worship together - even if you don't use the guide.

Time for Young Disciples: All children are invited to the front steps for a special lesson during 11 a.m. worship. Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.

The Young Adult Ministry is for post-college through empty-nesters. Save the date - Friday, February 9 - for an evening of dinner, encouragement, and equipping for parents and caregivers with special guest Alicia Pfahler, LMHC. Contact Fred Lundy.

Gordon Hoover Sunday School: Meet in the Church Library at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Enter through the Mary Gate or the sanctuary. All are welcome! Email Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com with questions.

December 31	1 Corinthians 7	Ross Teigen
January 7	1 Corinthians 8	Perry Foote

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Melda Bassett, Jayne Fox, Carol Hayes-Christiansen, Kay Koons, Elizabeth Miller, and Marjorie Pedrick. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Year-End Giving: Contributions made through Sunday, December 31, 2023 will be credited to the 2023 calendar year. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 31, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by December 31. The office is closed on Monday, January 1. Contact Trudy Bonerba with questions.

Ushers Needed in January: Ushers greet parishioners, distribute bulletins, and help people to a seat. They also take up a collection at the offering time. Please contact Laura Montgomery in the office by phone or email to fill this need.

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Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

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Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

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Is there something you would like to announce in the Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org