

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Prelude **Choir Introit** Congregation

**Call to Worship-Responsive:** 

Liturgist:

How does a weary world practice love?

All: By sending cards, and picking up

> the phone. By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories, and finding common ground. By advocating for justice, and

saving a place at the table.

Liturgist: There are a million ways to practice love.

> So tonight, we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

"Go Tell It On the Mountain" #136 GTG \* Opening Hymn

Congregation

Noah Davis

Liturgist

### \* Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pastor: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love? How does a weary world combat cruelty? How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

All: We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem. Tonight, Christ draws near. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle. Tonight, we are not alone.

Pastor: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.



\* <u>Call to Confession</u> Liturgist

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin and to bring to us the gift of salvation.

Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give.

### \* Prayer of Confession

Congregation

Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love.
We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked, failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us.
Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light.

### \* Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon Liturgist

Peace on earth, mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

\*Responding to Grace: "Gloria from Angels we Have Heard on High" Congregation

### **Time With Young Disciples**

Congregation

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Almighty God, through your mighty acts we receive grace upon grace. From your fullness, feed us with your life-giving Word, that our lives, like bread, may feed a hungry world. **Amen.** 



**First Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks Be to God.

**Choir Anthem:** 

"Were You There on That Christmas Night"

Choir



**Second Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Sermon** "Christmas is Here" Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Music Meditation: Noah Davis

\* <u>Sermon Hymn</u> "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #119 GTG Congregation

Special Music Bethany Scovill



### **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving
The Words of Blessing for the Bread and the Cup

Call to Offering Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

<u>Prayer of Dedication</u>

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

\* **Doxology** Congregation

\* <u>Closing Hymn</u> "Silent Night" #122 GTG Congregation

\* Charge, Benediction Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

\* <u>Congregational Postlude</u>: "Joy to the World" Noah Davis

### ev. Nathaniel Asperge

Pastor Nathaniel Asperger



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

### 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain



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.

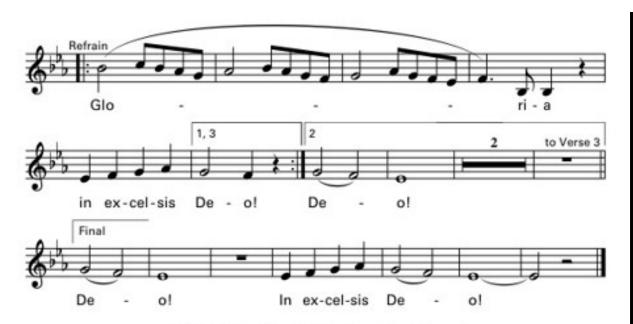
TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987 Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

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### GLORIA FROM ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

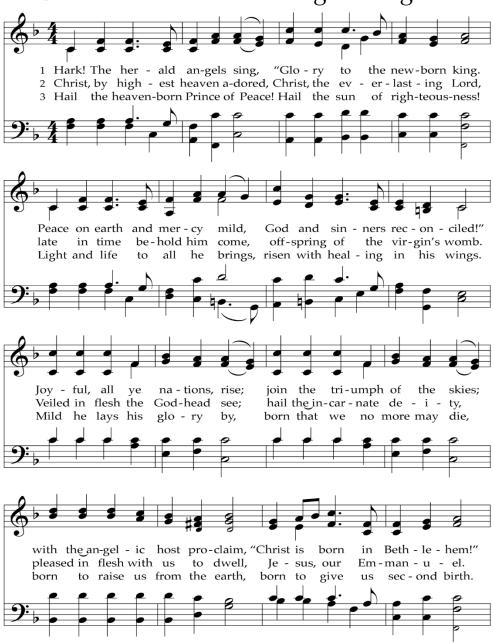


Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. Crown of Jesus Music, II, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #736146-A



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

### 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 All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #736146-A



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



### **GERMAN**

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

### KOREAN

고요한밤 거룩한밤 어둠에 묻힌밤 주의부모 앉아서 감사기도 드릴때 하기잘도 잔다

### **SPANISH**

1 ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor! Todo duerme en derredor, entre los astros que esparcen su luz, bella, anunciando al niñito Jesús, brilla la estrella de paz, brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1–3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt. MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT Irregular

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TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

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