

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 and 6:00 pm



Call to Worship

L: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

C: This is the night of the Holy Birth!

L: The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

C: Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

L: Our souls sing out God's praise!

C: God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

L: Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

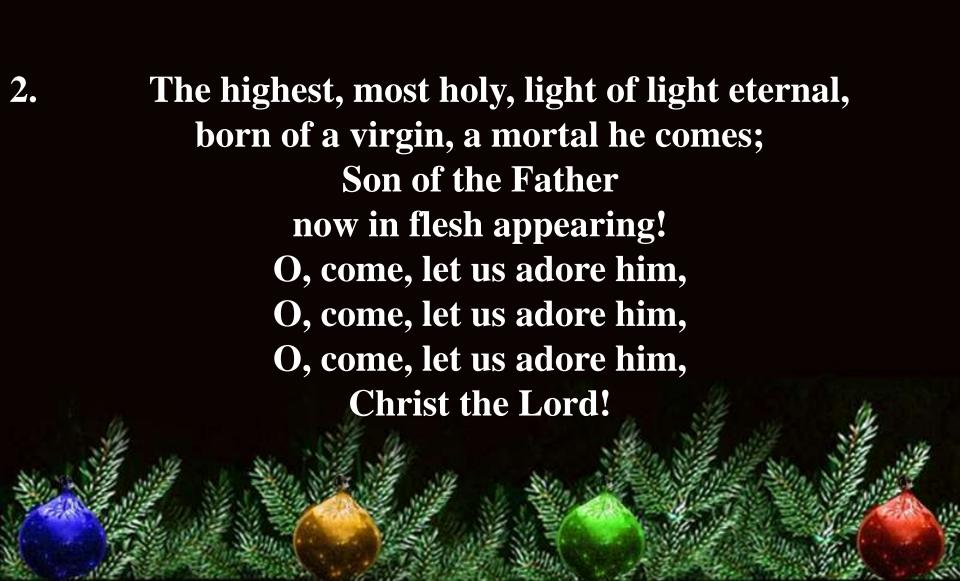
C: And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283 vv. 1, 2

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Fredrick Oakley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4: tr. Unknown, st. 2. Music: attr. John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

O, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him born the king of angels: O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, **Christ the Lord!**



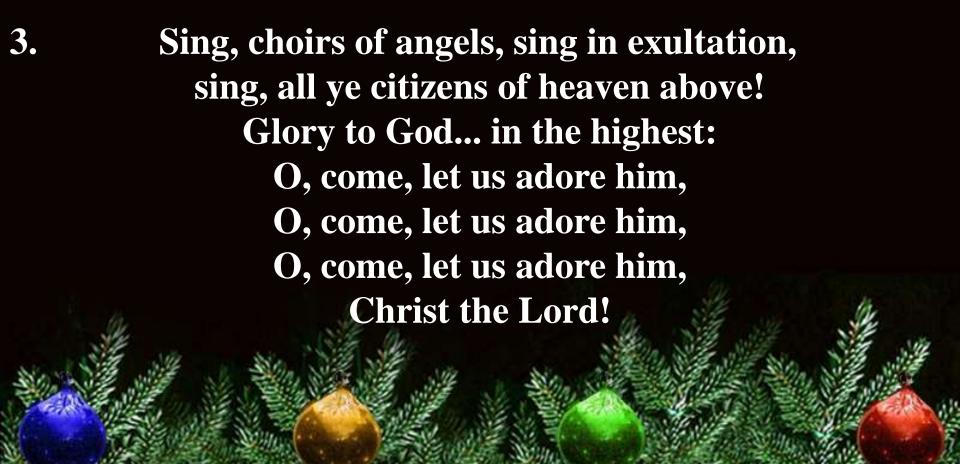
Lighting the Advent Wreath: The Christ Candle

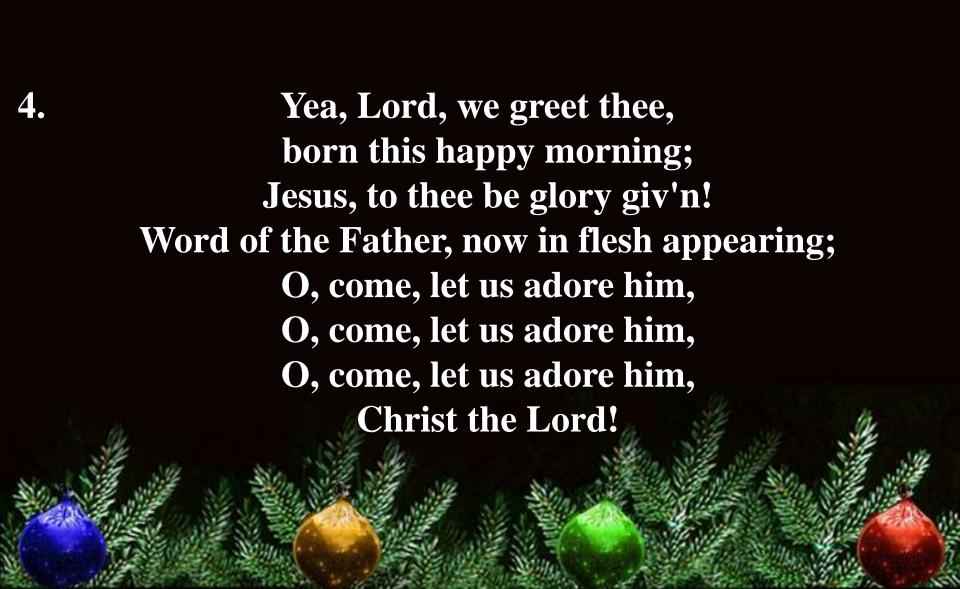
L: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle.



O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283 vv. 3, 4





Prayer

L: Holy God of Love,

There is light in our lives
because of the abundance of your steadfast love.

A love so vast, so deep, so real,
that you became one of us.

May we live within the power of this love.
And may we share its light with a world
dwelling in darkness.

C: Amen.

L: Tonight's readings are from the Gospel according to St. Luke, the first and second chapters.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1:26-45

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

What Child is This

#296

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: English ballad, 16th cent. Public Domain.

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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.

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

Words by Phillips Brooks. Music by Lewis H. Redner. CCLI #73579 Public Domain.

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth.

3.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

4.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW #289

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Public Domain.

1.

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.



Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.



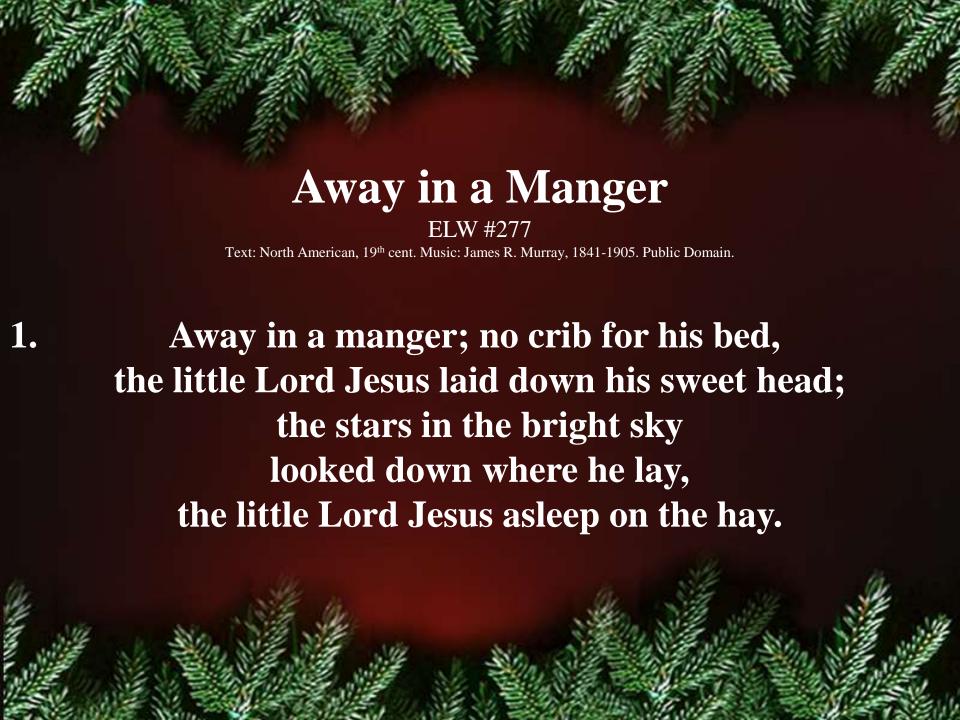
Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

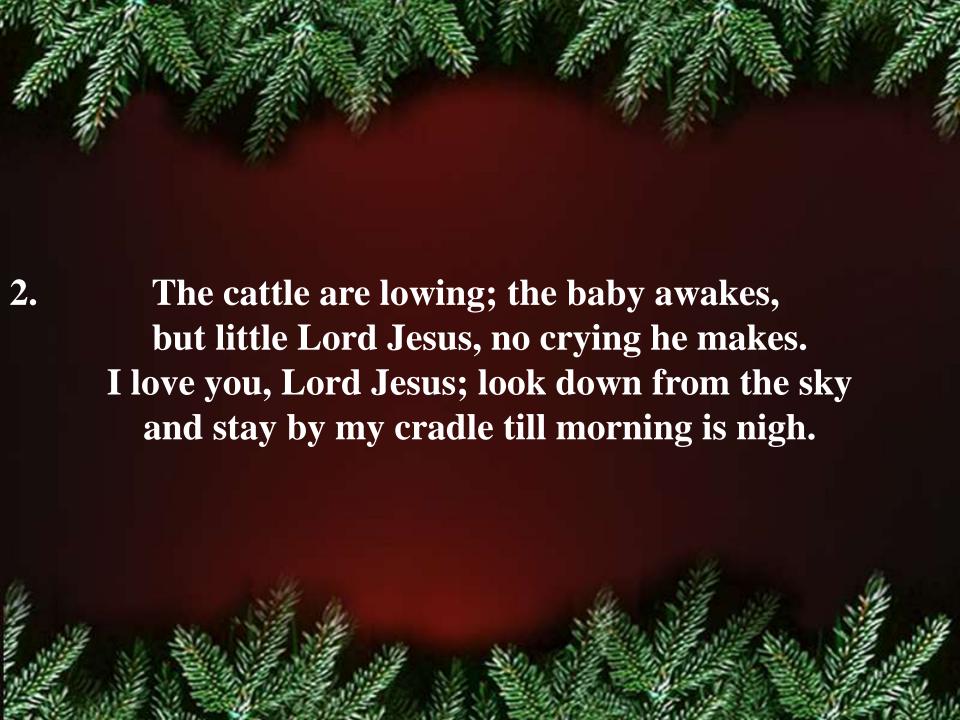
Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.









Message

4:00 pm- Jenée Provance

6:00 pm- Shawn Brunelle

Joy to the World

ELW #267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain.

Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

Prayer of Dedication and a Christmas Prayer

L: It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

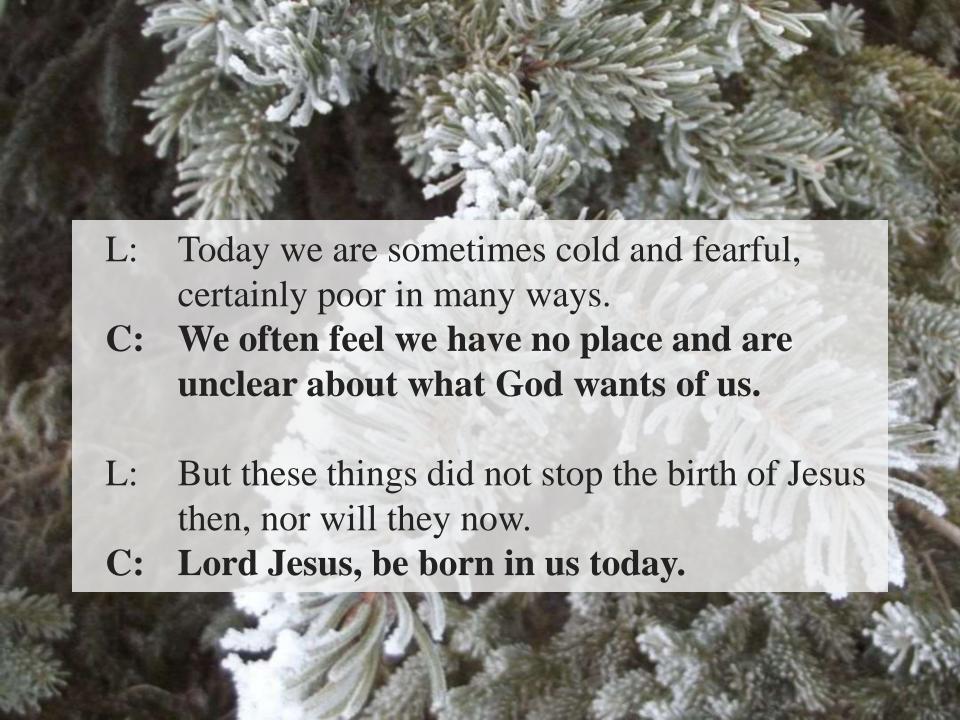
C: But that did not stop the birth.

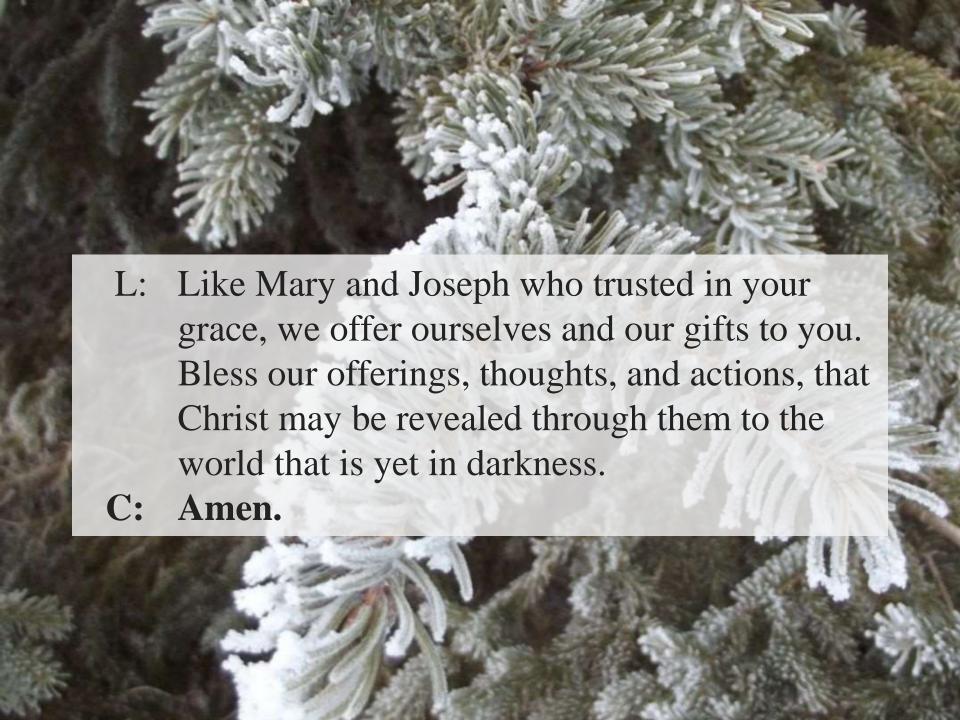
L: They were poor and no one would make room.

C: But that did not stop the birth.

L: They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

C: But that did not stop the birth.







Offering
with
Special Music
Jeff Galle

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW #271 v. 1

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959. Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863. Text © Augsburg Publishing House. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

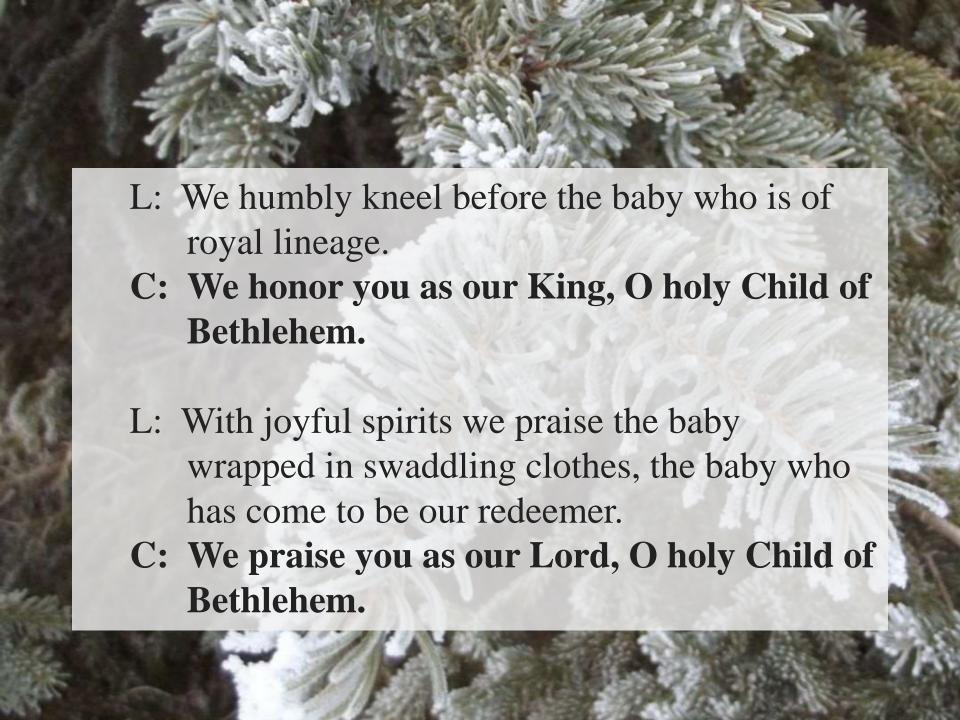
Responsive Prayer

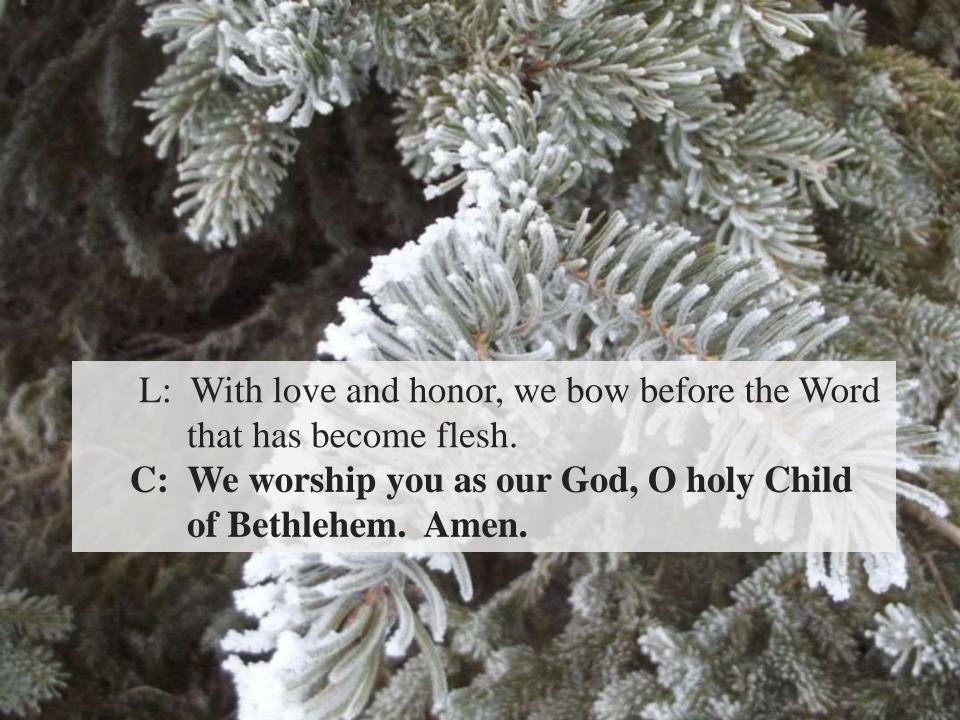
L: From near and far we gather to celebrate the coming of the One promised by the prophets of old.

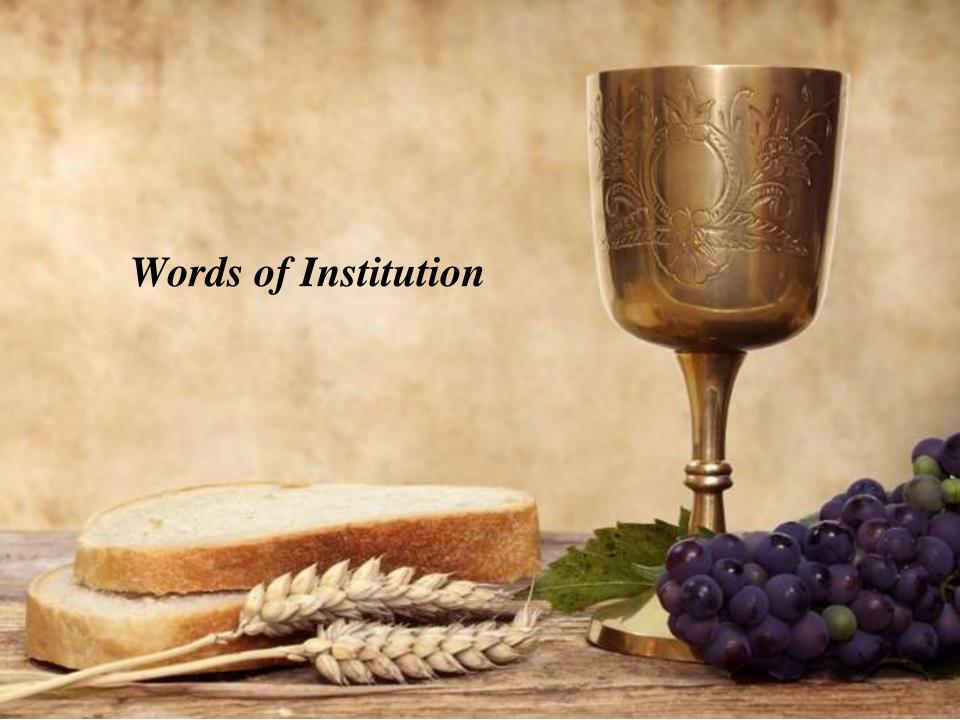
C: We welcome you to earth, O holy Child of Bethlehem

L: With admit that we are weak and sinful, and understand our need for salvation

C: We acknowledge you to be our Savior, O holy Child of Bethlehem.







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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.





Prayer after Communion

L: Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your
glory for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to
proclaim your good news of liberation and
release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ
our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lighting the Candles

As the candlelight is shared, tip only the UNLIT candle. Keep lighted candles upright at all times.

"Behold, the Light of the World!"

When the candles are all lit, we will sing "Silent Night."

Silent Night

#281

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John RF. Young, 1820-1885. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Public Domain.

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, Heav'nly 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 Your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Your birth, Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.

Benediction

L: May the light of the Christ Child light your way forever. May the blessings which broke through the darkness on this night be yours always. May you always have cause to be joyful, sing praises, give thanks, and celebrate the true light of the world, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

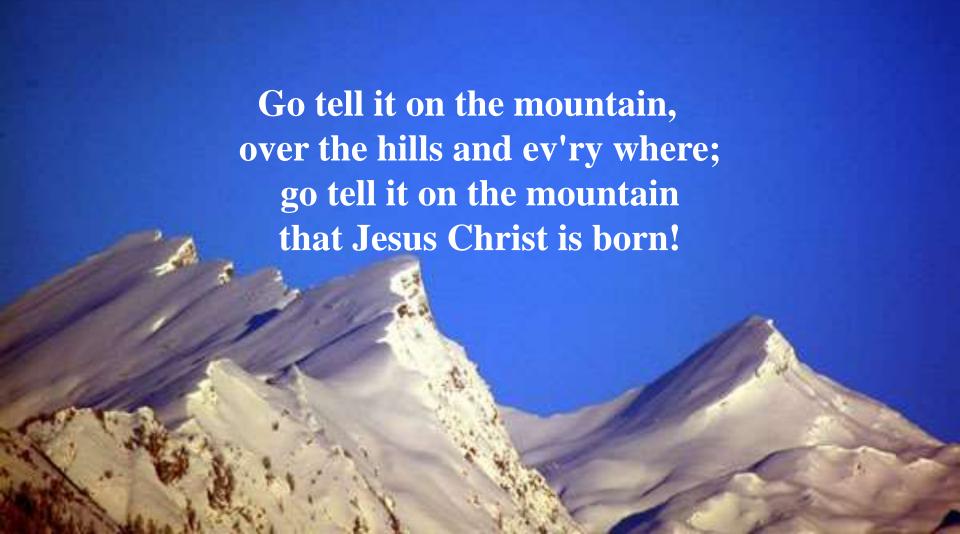
C: Amen.

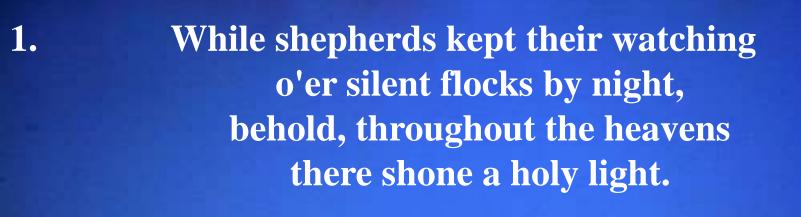


Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

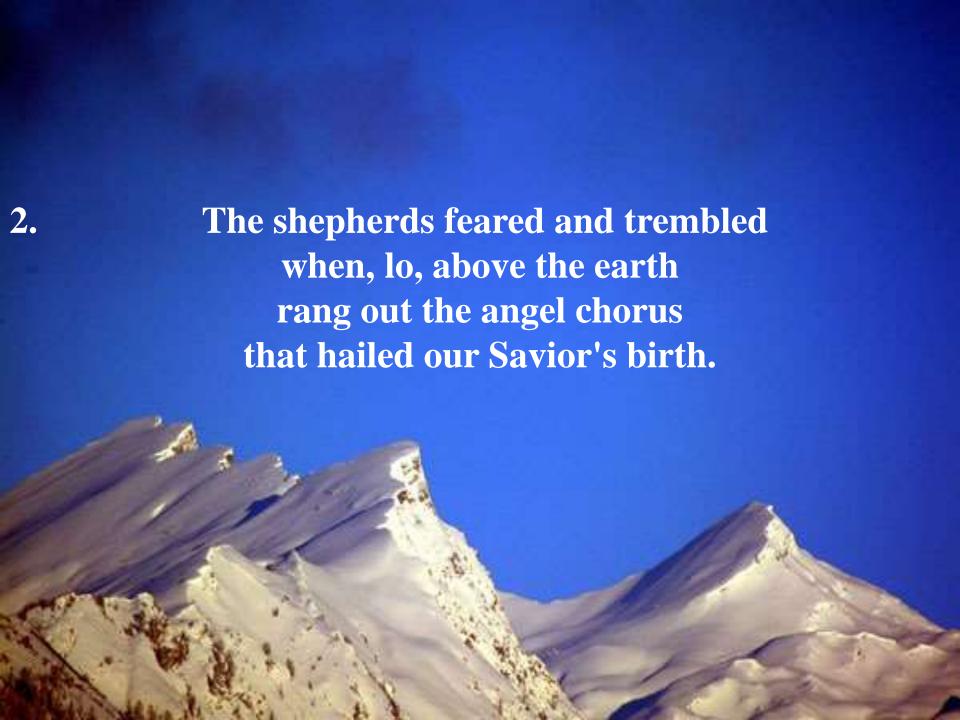
Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanza, alt. Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.



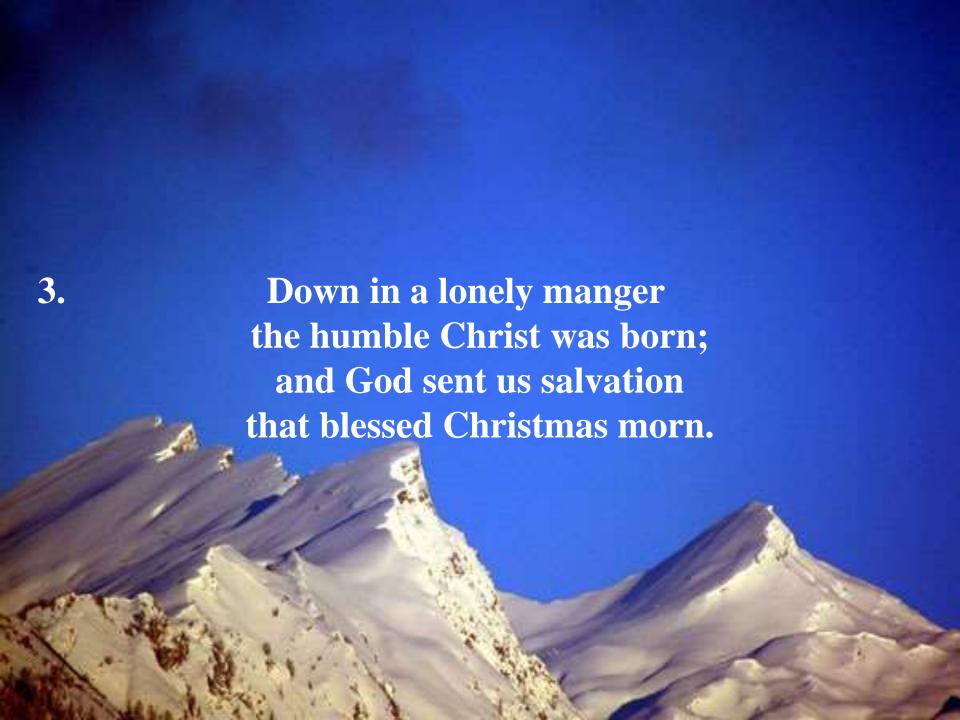




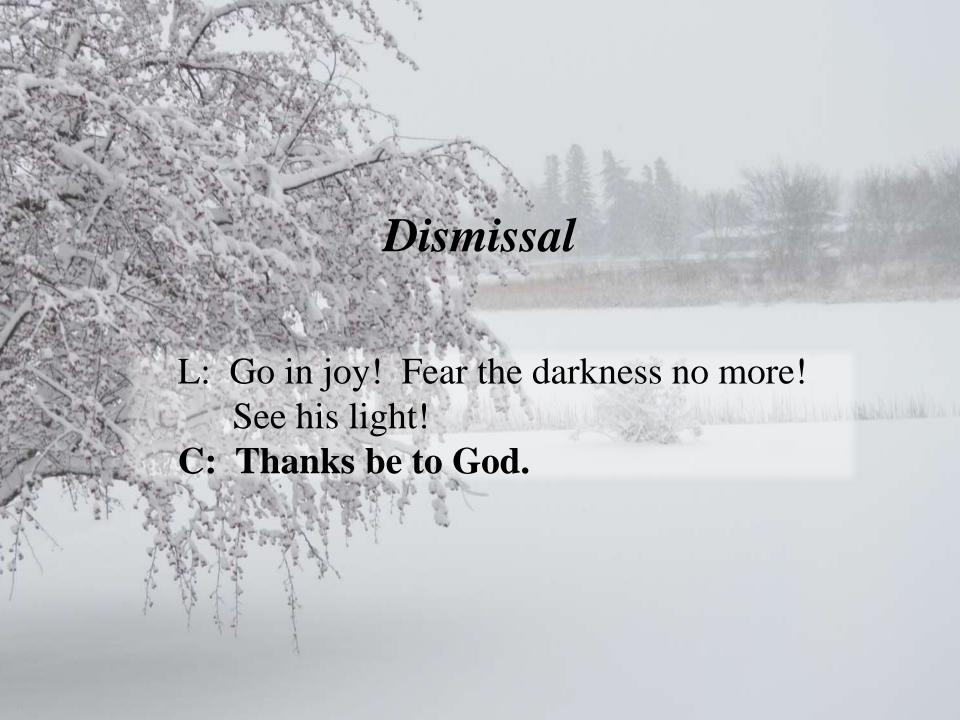














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