

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE CONFESSION

P – We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C – **Amen**

P – Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C – **Amen**

P – If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P - Most merciful God,

C – **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we gave left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen

P – Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C – **Amen**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

THE HYMN: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Grant us grace, O Lord,
that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies
and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS

THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

THE HYMN – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

THE SERMON – “A Life to Die For”

THE APOSTLES CREED

LEADER: We confess our faith in the words of the Apostolic Creed:

CONG: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of
the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

THE OFFERTORY AND THE GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.⁷

The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

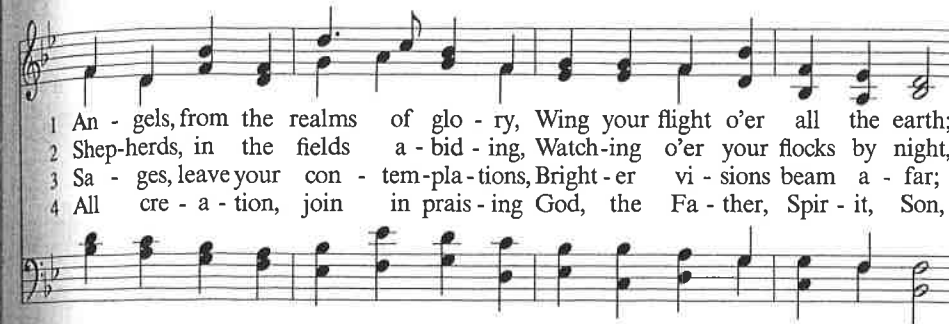
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.

People: Amen.

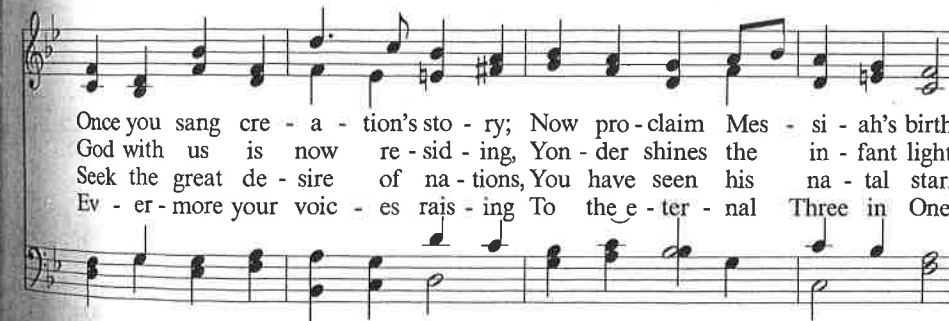
THE HYMN: "Joy to the World"

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

50

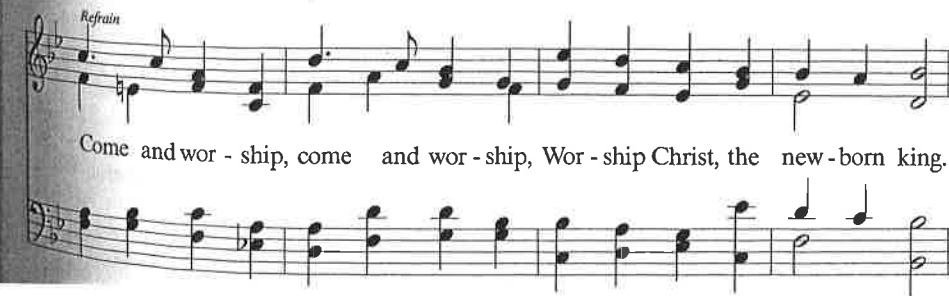


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry; Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light.
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions, You have seen his na - tal star.
Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

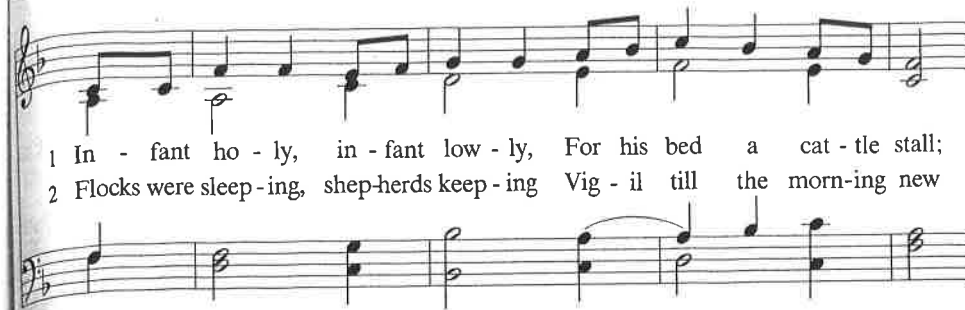
Refrain



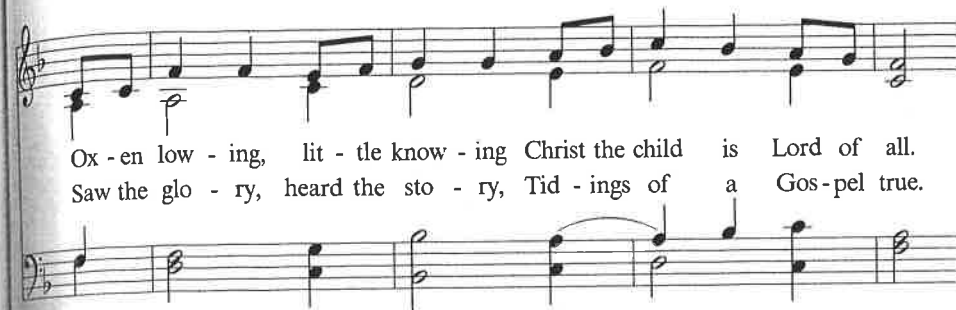
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

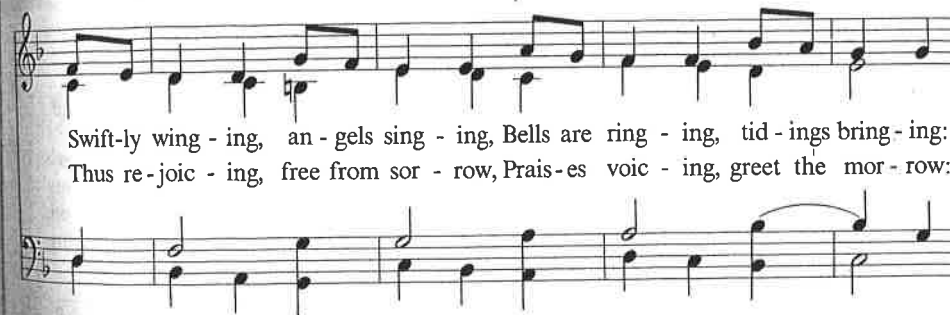
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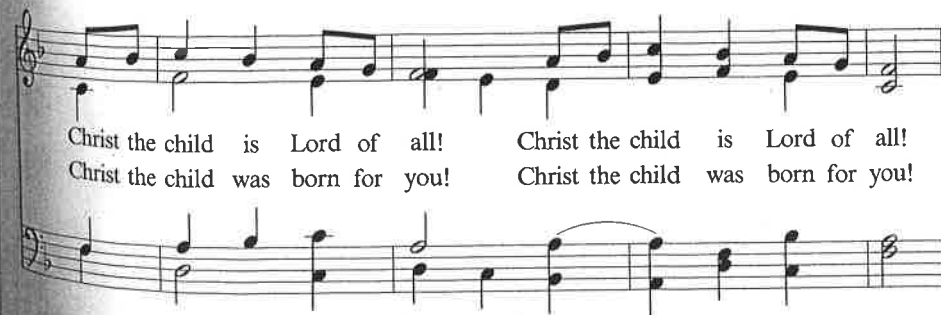
1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Joy to the World

39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



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.

