

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: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, in the face of Jesus Christ.**

P: In his name let us make confession of our sins. For his sake let us seek forgiveness.

(Silence for meditation and self – examination)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: **We do not deserve to be called your children, for we have disobeyed. In our thinking, our speaking, and our doing – we have sinned against your. We deserve your wrath and punishment.**

P: The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, in the face of Jesus Christ.

C: **It is in the name of Jesus that we come before you, heavenly Father, pleading the merits of his holy life, his innocent suffering and death.**

P: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation. Christ Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity. All who receive him, who believe in his name, are given power to become children of God.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

P: And peace to God's people on earth.

C: Amen

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

THE HYMN: "Joy to the World"

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us.

Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; 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 – "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

THE SERMON – "Christmas Carols"

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: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

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.



JESUS: HIS BIRTH

98 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

WALTHAM

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, 1807-1882

J. BAPTISTE CALKIN, 1827-1905

1. I heard the bells on Christ-mas day Their old fa-mil-iar car-ols play,
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all Chris-ten-dom
3. And in de-spair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead; nor doth He sleep;
5. Till ring-ing, sing-ing on its way The world re-volved from night to day-

And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
Had rolled a-long th'un-bro-ken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men."
The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."
A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Hark, the Glad Sound!

35

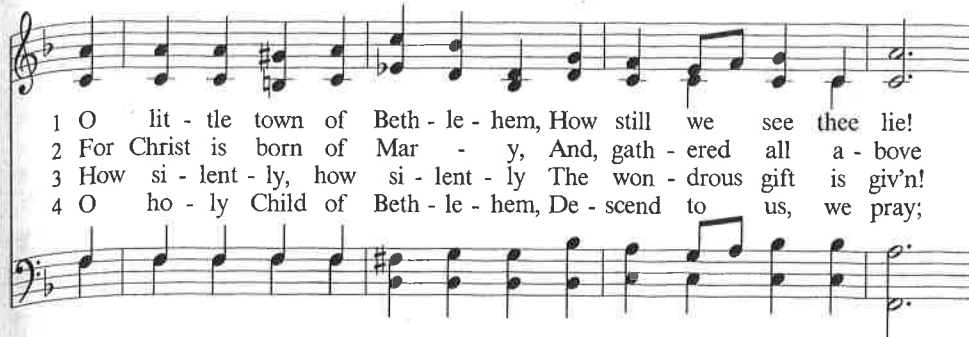
1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul - to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal

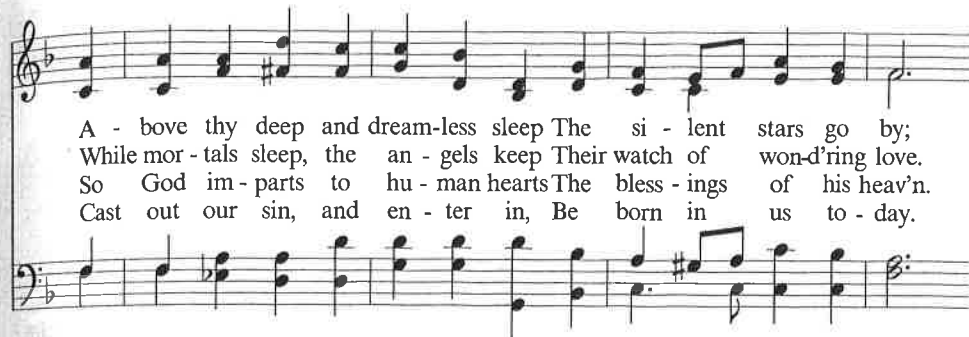
pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

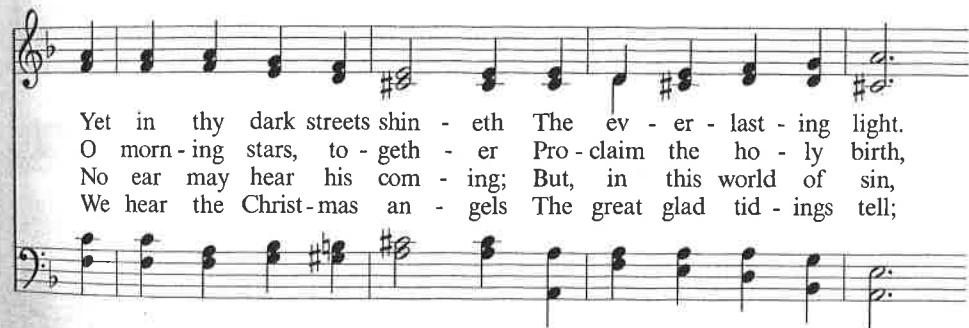
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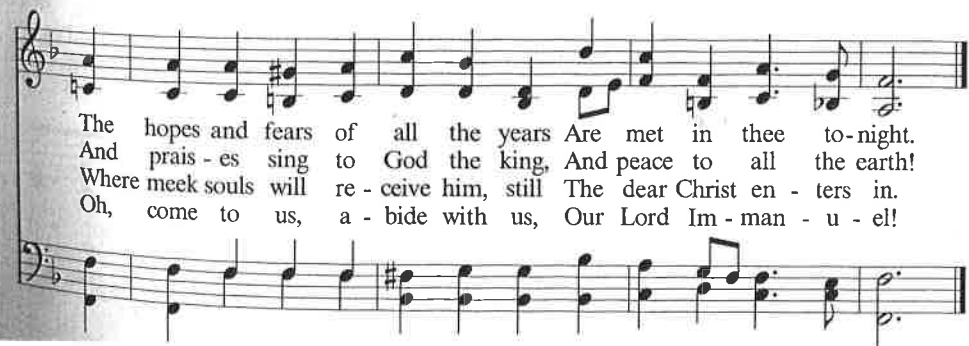
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



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-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 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 tid - ings tell;

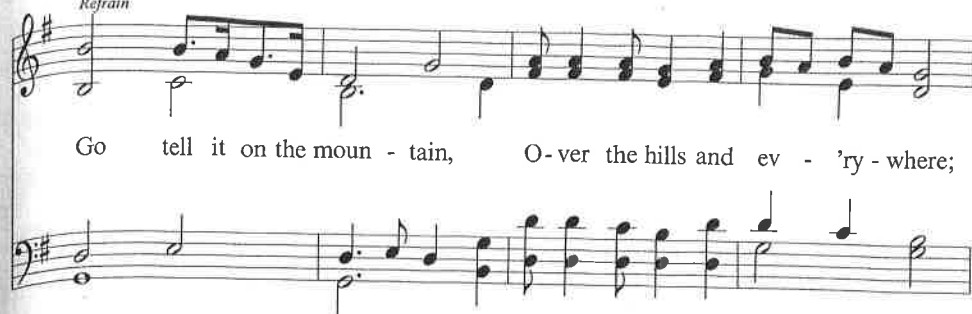


The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 Oh, come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

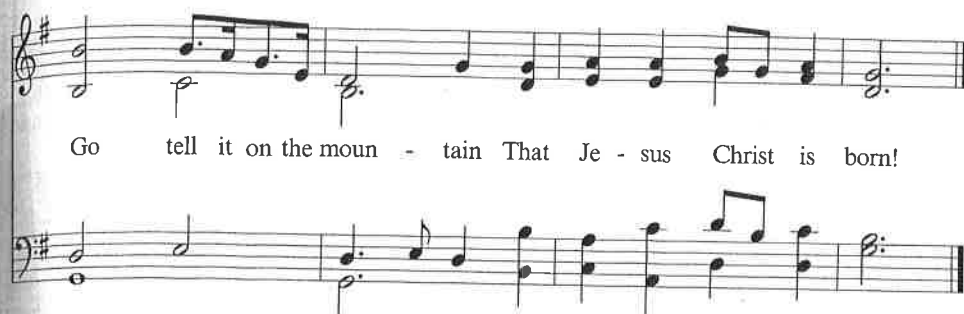
Go Tell It on the Mountain

70

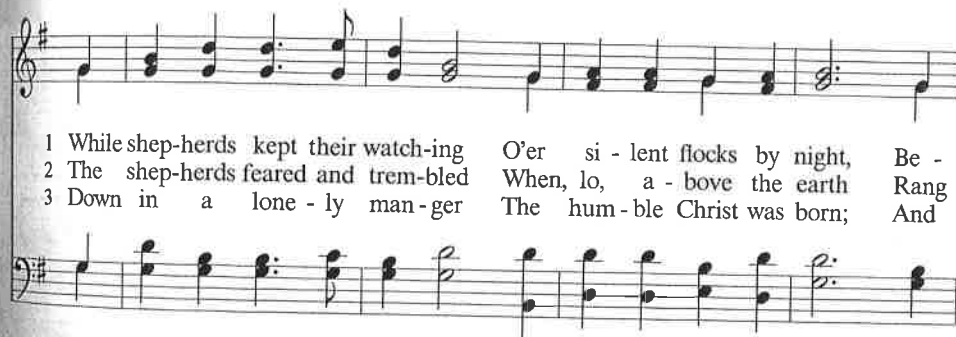
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

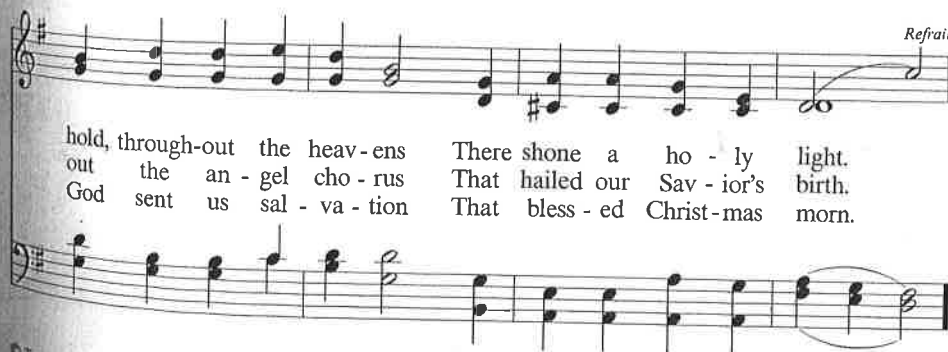


Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

Refrain



hold, through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

© Text: Negro spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1871-1925, stanzas, alt.
 Mus.: Negro spiritual