



*An angel of the Lord
appeared...*

**Sunday, December 26, 2021
Christmas 1**

"No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
on life's journey,
You are welcome here."





Welcome to Worship at St. Paul UCC



WELCOME

Mimi Llamas and Susan Relfe

PRELUDE

The Journey to Bethlehem - Video by Danii G

INVOCATION (UNISON)

God of All Times, may we sit in Your time, Kairos time, for a while. May we not be worried about chronology, the turning of pages on a calendar and years in our lives. For a moment in this in-between time, this last week of 2021, may we sit with You and grow in Your wisdom. May we know that You have plans for us, plans for a future with hope as you spoke to Jeremiah all those years ago, though our plans and futures are far different. It is the hope we cling to, that somehow things will turn out better than they have been. But may we sit in this Kairos time, O God, and remember Your faithfulness to us in all times, in all days and months and years and seasons, and know You are present with us, now and always. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** Joy to the World! (ANTIOCH)

Text: Charles Wesley; music: Rowland H. Prichard; harm.
Ralph Vaughan Williams (see page 4)

***PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

Here we are, Most Patient God, at the beginning of our Christmas journey. You alone know how that journey is going. Did we, at the beginning of the season promise to make this Christmas different? Did we promise in our heart of hearts to prepare ourselves spiritually to receive the gift of your Son? We, so easily, have given into the expectations of people and situations around us. We allowed the times of quiet we promised for you to slip away. Help us renew our preparations for your presence. Continue to be with us, Divine Source of Joy, as we learn to wait with you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Bette Rotert

ANTHEM

(by request): *Happy Birthday, Dear Christ Child*
Text: Phyllis Fairbanks
Music: Chet Gierlach
Soloist: Caetlyn Van Buren

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25 & 2:1-12

CAROLS

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Page 5, verses 1, 3,4)
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Pages 6 & 7 verses 1 & 5)
O Little Town of Bethlehem (Page 8 all verses)
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing! (Page 9, all verses)
Angels We Have Heard on High (Page 10, all verses)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *On This Day, Earth Shall Ring* (PROMISED ONE)
Text: Willard F. Jabusch (1930-2018)
Music: Israeli folk song; arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)
(Page 11)

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)**

Holy God, you crossed every conceivable barrier by becoming one of us and teaching on behalf of the outcast and poor. We are called to respond in kind by your grace. May the gifts offered today aid truly your work of reconciliation and peace in our world. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Go forth and whatever you do, do it according to the heart of Jesus, our Sovereign. Teach children, and let children teach you, cultivate wisdom and gratitude, and mend the earth in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Echo Noel
Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

OPENING HYMN Joy to the World

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

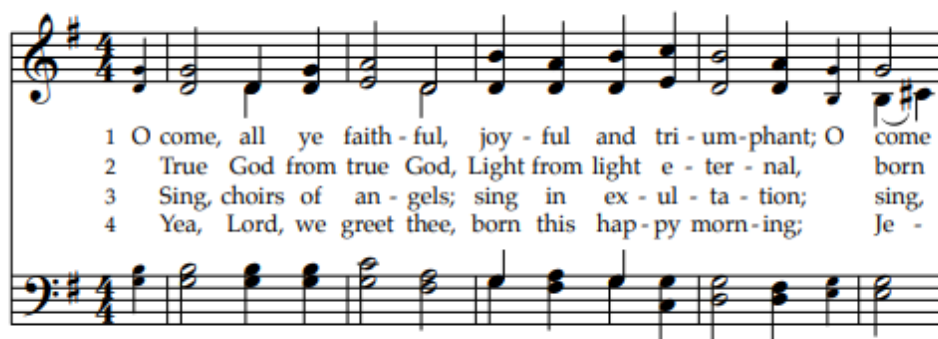
her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

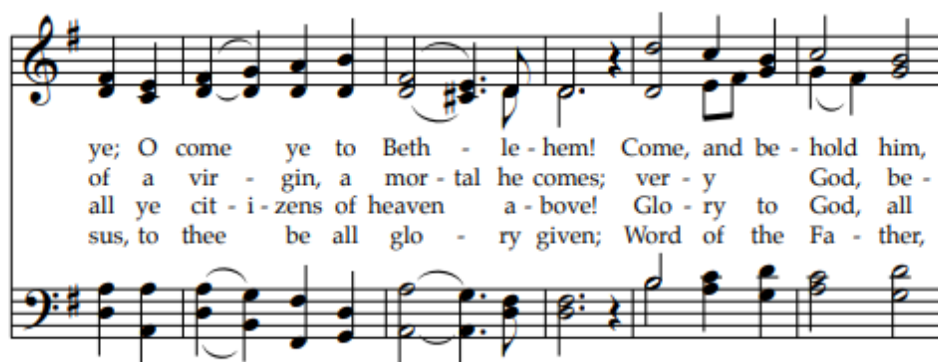
and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

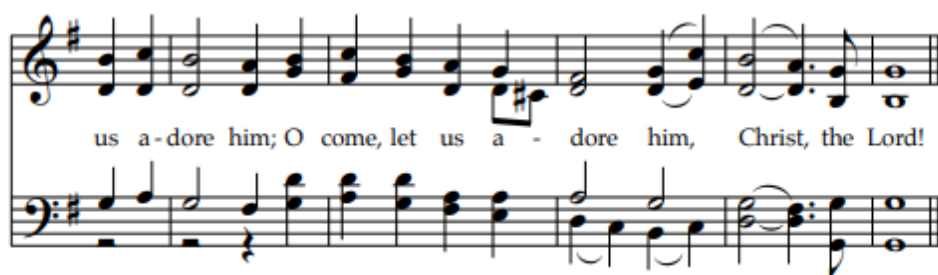


ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

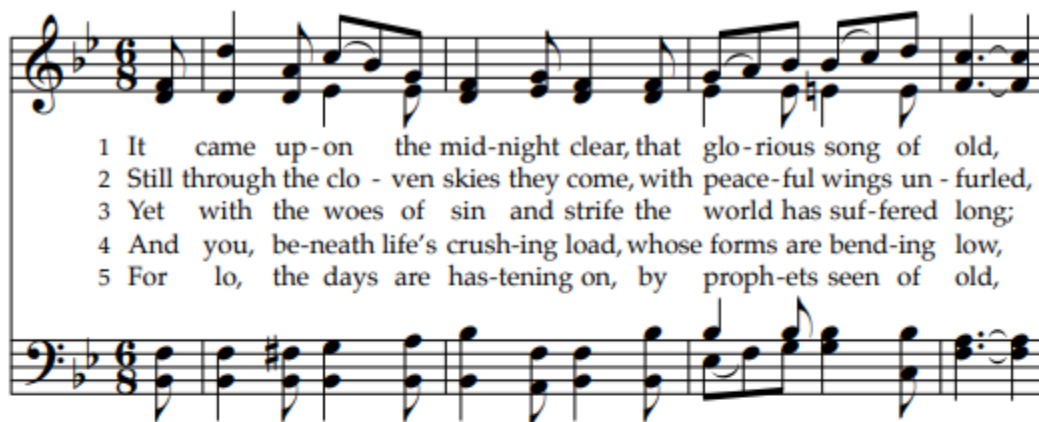


born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

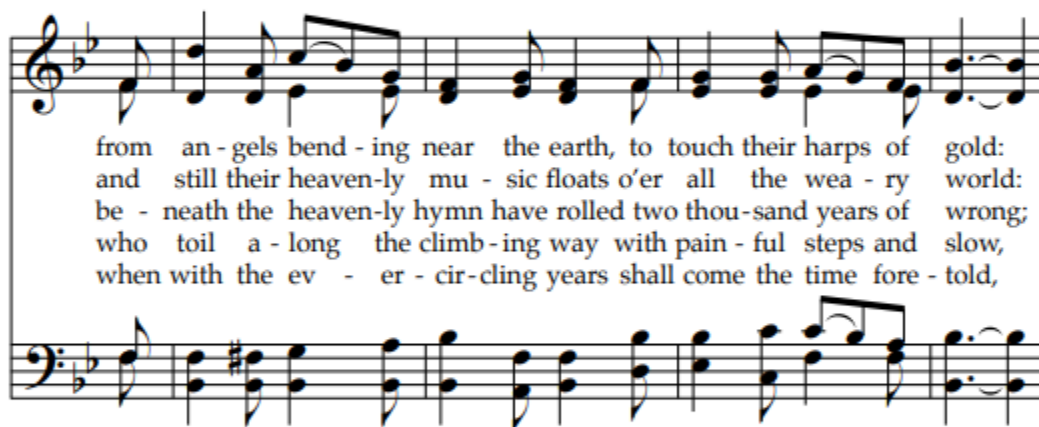


us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

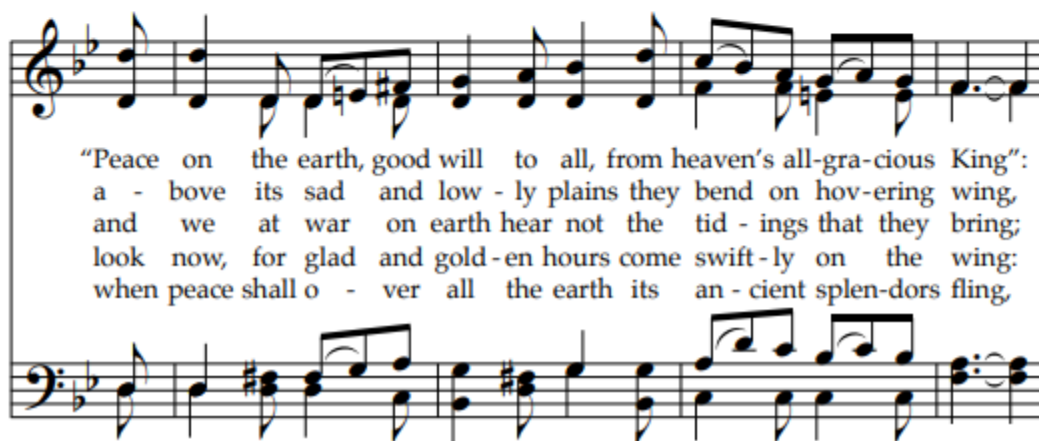
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-ling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

(It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, continued)

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp). The lyrics are written between the two staves.



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!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the song. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final four lines of the song. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal melody.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MEDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Setting by Robert J. Powell

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing,
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored;
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!



"Glo - ry to the new - born King! Peace on earth and
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness! Light and life to



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no



of the skies; with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim,
De - i - ty, pleased as man with us to dwell,
more may die, born to raise us from the earth,



"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! The her - ald
Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el. Hark! The her - ald
born to give us sec - ond birth. Hark! The her - ald



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Angels We Have Heard on High

French carol

Tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London, 1862

GLORIA

18th-century French carol



1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

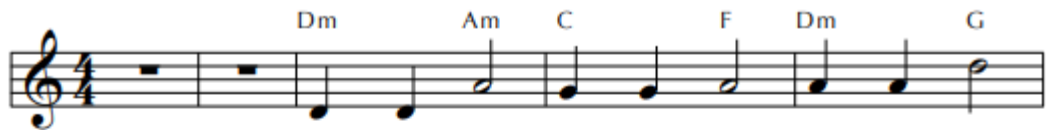


And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

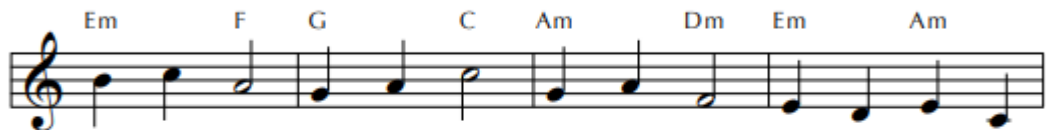
Refrain: All in Harmony



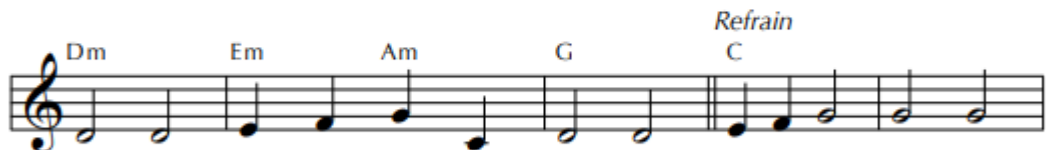
CLOSING HYMN On This Day Earth Shall Ring



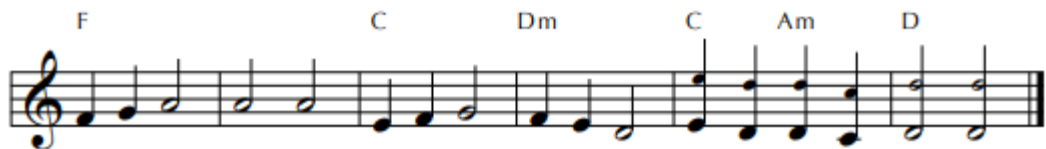
1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him. *Id - e - o - o - o,
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded and/or streamed. Music is used with permission through Onelicense.net License #A-715913, CCLI #1795791, St. James Press License #17755, or public domain.

Prayer of Reflection, Blessing of the Gifts, and Benediction from Love has no Bounds: Prayers for the First Sunday after Christmas was written by Stephanie Dorsey, chaplain resident at York Hospital in York, PA. Invocation from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c) 2020. Pastoral Prayer written by Rev. Elsa Cook.



Archives Artifacts ~ St. Paul trivia from the desk of Roger Henke

In the mid 2,000's the church staff included a position entitled "Volunteer Coordinator". Who held this position?



This Week

Sundays

9am Traditional Worship
10am Coffee Hour postponed
until further notice.

Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul

1) **Watch the services and check for event updates on FACBOOK -**

Like us at *St. Paul United Church of Christ Belleville, IL*

2) **Go to stpaulucc.org**

-and you will find: videos of services, sermons, archives, and much more!!

3) **Listen to the radio! 690am**

9am Live Sundays & repeat at 9pm

4) **Sign up for the eNews**

For Your Prayers

Gus Kuether Bev Juenger
Lori Coleman Karen Zaber
Al Stahl Audrey Krummrich
Carol Hotz Joyce Maurer
Shirley Martin Lev Reynolds
Scott Schmidt, brother of Steve Schmidt
The family of Frank Foree, brother of Ruth Klingel

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to
pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org
or call 618-233-3303

Praying for your health and well being!

Mary Gentle

ANSWER:



Watch videos on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/>



Like us on Facebook
*St Paul United Church of Christ,
Belleville, Illinois*

Weekly Attendance

9am Dec 12, 2021 98 + Online Participants Dec 13, 2020 All Virtual

Offering for 12/12/2021 - \$7,809

General Fund

Needed each week \$8,082

Giving to Date  \$376,610

Budget to...  \$404,100

Total Budget  \$420,256