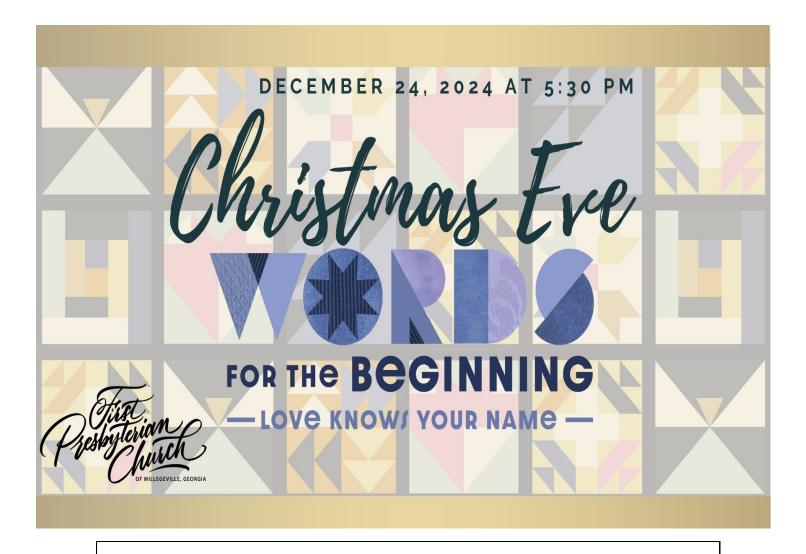


210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061 478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg Like us on Facebook



Followers of Christ, called to serve our community and be an actively-engaging light to the world.

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship, empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshiping community for LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve

Words for the beginning: Love knows your name

PRELUDE

A Rose E'er Blooming Gesù Bambino Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring Evelyn R. Larter Peter A. Yon J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to Rev. Susan. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT
CALL TO WORSHIP

O Holy Night

Leader: In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child. The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

Congregation: And the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace to all whom God favors."

Leader: Let us worship our with-us God.

Congregation: Let us sing songs of praise!

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Vs. 1,3,4)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a gloria. We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible. So as we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us proof of your proximity. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. We are listening. We give thanks. Amen.

ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Arlen Clarke

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7 GOSPEL Matthew 1:1-18 Pew Bible Page # OT P 638

SERMON

Reverend Susan Balfour

NTP1

*HYMN 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem (Vs. 1, 4)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION
GREAT THANKSGIVING (see insert)
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND TH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER ANTHEM Gabriel's Message

arr. Tony Alonso

^{*}Please stand as you are able.

READING Luke 2:1-20

HYMN 113 Angels We Have Heard on High (Vs. 1, 3 and 4) arr. Richard Proulx

READING Luke 2:21-35

HYMN 145 What Child Is This (Choir only on vs. 2) arr. Malcolm Archer

READING Luke 2:36-40

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



PayPal Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. As we celebrate your birth and wait for your coming again, we bring the Scan, Pay, Go. offerings of our lives before you. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR Code or website QR Code in your bulletin.



OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still

arr. Edward Eicker

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

God of every good and perfect gift, the angels are singing: unto you a child is born. It is a love that is personal. It is a love that knows your name. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

READING Genesis 1:1-5

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

HYMN 122 Silent Night (Vs. 1-3) arr. Tim Sharp

1John 1:1-5, 14 READING

> *CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Go in Peace. AMEN!

*HYMN 134 Joy to the World (Vs. 1, 4) arr. Richard Proulx The Trumpet Shall Sound **POSTLUDE** G.F. Handel, arr. Harrison Oxley

We thank the following musicians helping us worship today:

Elise Naber-Allen, flute Andrew Allen, saxophone Cliff Towner, trumpet Allison Ryder, soprano Sara McDonald, soprano Tyler Harris, tenor Jacob McDonald, bass

Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Pastor, Rev. Susan Balfour, revsebalfour@gmail.com Children & Youth, vacant

Admin. Asst., Lois Callender, fpchurch@windstream.net Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu Organist, Kate Phillips Treasurer, Joel Burns

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm M-Fri.

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

10am ~ 1pm, Tues.-Fri.

If you would like to schedule an appt. with Rev. Susan, please call the office (478) 452-9394.



Radio Ministry WKZR (102.3FM)

Under the Palm Podcast: https:// anchor.fm/susan-balfour0



CHURCH FAMILY:

<u>LIMITED MOBILITY</u> Helen Danuser

Wesley Applebury, cancer recurrence and treatment, attending semi-

nary in Atlanta, Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S.

Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Ellen Thompson, waiting on double hip replacement

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home

Julie Balfour, Susan Balfour's sister, ongoing health issues

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Nick Carruthers, Sunda Coleman's great nephew, recovering from car accident in hospital

Blake Connlly, Mary Lucik's great grandson, ongoing health concerns

Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis

Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Kathy Hall, Gini Wilkerson's mother, knee replacement surgery

Marshall Hodgman, Donna Gautier's son, recovering from heart surgery at home

Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma

Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Donald Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, recovering from back surgery

Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, back in hospital

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns

Ambriea Pearson, Sunda Coleman's granddaughter, ongoing health concerns

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Shaylee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's great-granddaughter, ongoing health concerns

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis

Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns

Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

George and Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, Oaks at Lake Wildwood, Rm 109, 6191 Peake Rd, Macon, GA 31220

Suzy Smith, The Haven, 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro, GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 24- December 29

Today 11:00 AM The Bridge UMC Worship

5:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday- Friday Office Closed Sunday 9:30 Sunday School

10:15Children's Sunday School

11:00Worship

12:00Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity

Offerings December: \$20,821.90 Anticipated December expenses: \$21,014.00

(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

Join us for worship in-person, online at Facebook Live or on the radio at 102.3 WKZR radio every week.

Sunday: 9:30AM Zoom Sunday School Class, we are studying The

Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 871 5078 2729

Passcode: 881336

MATTHEW 25

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Who Needs God* by Harold Kushner Meeting in the Fellowship Sunday School Room 10:15 AM **Children's Sunday School Class,** songs, prayers and stories, Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, Letters to the Romans, Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you Congregation: And also with you

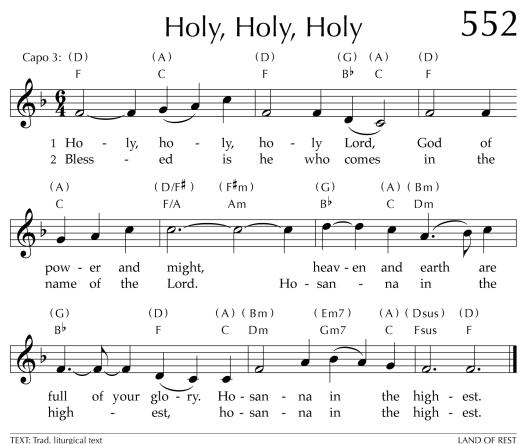
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord. Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

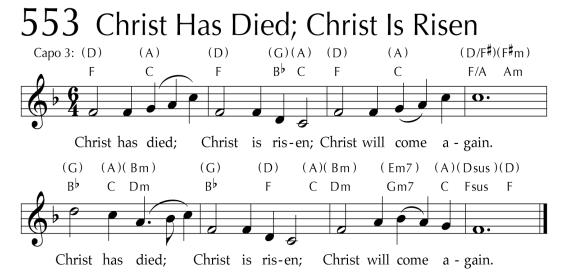
Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

According to Christ's commandment: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SERVICE MUSIC



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984 *Music Arr.* © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

LAND OF REST

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round you virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

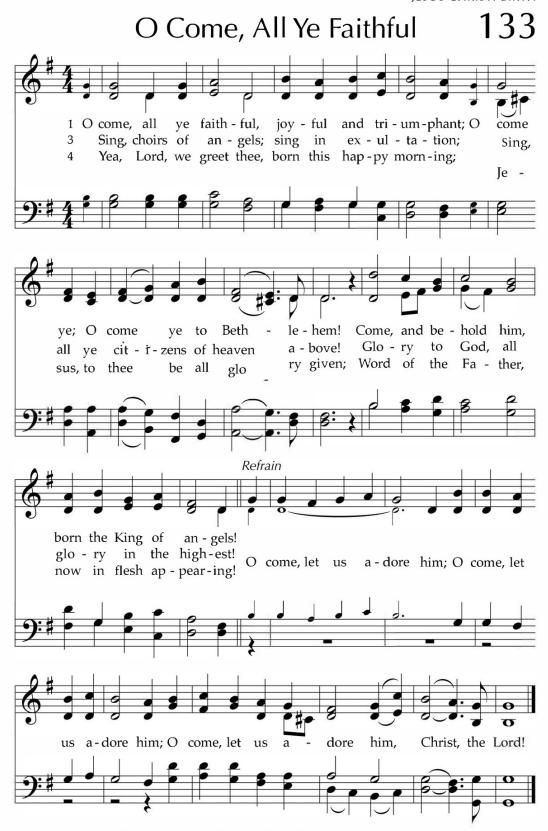
2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born!

3 Silent night, holy night! son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

4 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, wonders, of His love.

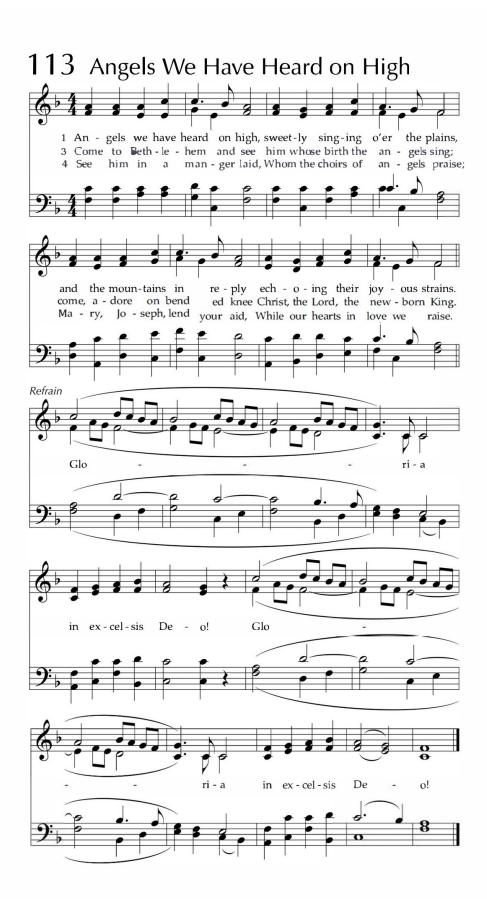


From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.





This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.