

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church  
Order of Worship for December 24, 2020  
Christmas Eve**

**Opening Voluntary** Chorale Prelude on *Irby* H. J. Gauntlett; arr. by La Salle Spier  
melody for hymn “Once in Royal David’s City”  
Amy Finka, Denny Harris, Glenda Harris, Alison Lechter, Samera Zavaro, handbells

# Welcome

**Scripture**                      Isaiah 9:2-7                      read by Jack Henderson

**Christ Candle Lighting** led by Dave Coleman

**Carol** “Once in Royal David’s City”  
Amy Finka, cantor

Prayer of Anticipation (unison) led by Samera Zavaro

*Now in the silence,  
whisper of joy which comes into every life.  
Now in the comfort of carols,  
sing of hope which takes away our despair.  
Now in familiar words heard anew,  
speak to us of grace which is born into barren lives;  
of peace which is birthed in war's shadowed fears.  
Now, leaning next to those who have always been a part of us,  
and those from whom we have been apart,  
remind us of your heart  
which always accepts us and always welcomes us.  
Now in the love which is ours forever,  
draw us closer to your heart,  
so we can be surprised by wonder,  
swaddled in serenity,  
embraced by tenderness.  
  
Now touch us once again with Christmas,  
God in Community, Holy in One.*

*(Silent prayer)*

## Passing the Peace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.*

**Carol** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

## Children's Message

## Prayer for Illumination

**Sermon**

Rev. Mike Wilson

**Special Music**

“Nativity Carol”  
Amy Finka, soprano

John Rutter

*Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;  
born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.  
Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

*Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;  
over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.  
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

*Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;  
innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.  
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
for Christ is born for aye born on Christmas Day.*

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**Carol**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
Amy Finka, cantor

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Scripture**

John 1:1-14

**Candlelight Carol**

“Silent Night”  
Les Kerr

**Charge and Benediction**

**Congregational Benediction**

“Joy to the World”  
Amy Finka, cantor

**Closing Voluntary**

Chorale Prelude on *God Rest You Merry*  
melody for hymn “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”

Wilbur Held

Today's Christmas Eve art is by DPC artist-in-residence Sarah Hart Landholt and is titled “Joy.” This is the second Christmas Eve art that Sarah created for us.

Today's Christ Candle liturgy is from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced by permission. Copyright © 2007 by Brian Wren

# Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

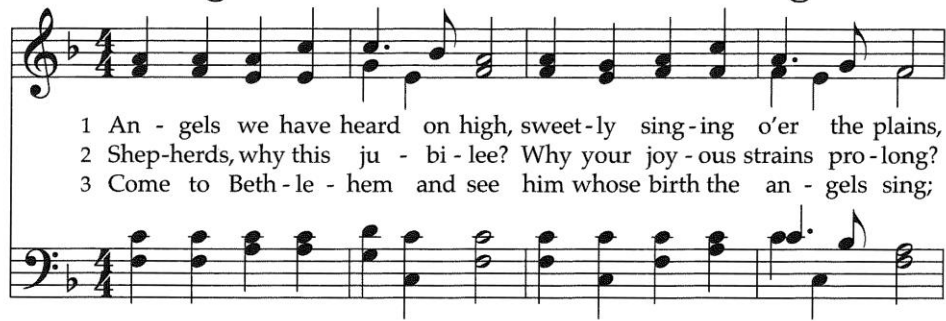
man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

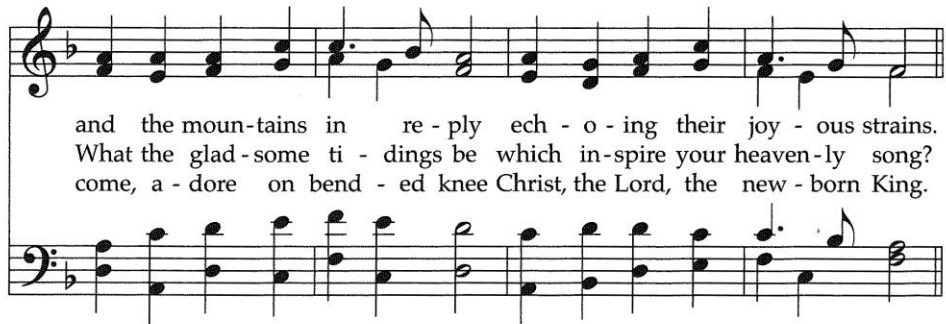
Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.



# Angels We Have Heard on High



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 ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

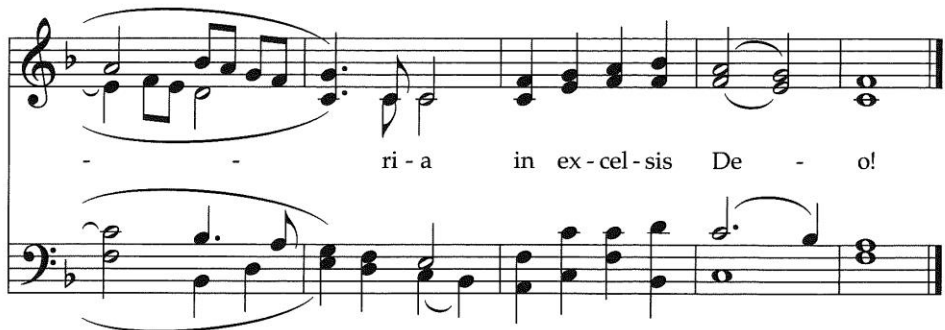
*Refrain*



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

# 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!

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.

# 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,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)