



## Christmas Eve

5 p.m.

December 24, 2021



'SOMETHING WONDERFUL IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN' BY LUCY BAUM

Ring of the Bell

Opening Voluntaries

*A Christmas Carillon*  
Geneva Bell Choir

Margaret R. Tucker

*Pastoral Symphony (from Messiah)*  
String Quartet

G. F. Handel

*As the Opening Voluntaries begin, please use the time to center yourself for worship.*

Welcome

Rev. John M. Semmes

*As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world that Central Presbyterian Church is worshiping God.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Dr. Jennifer Sengin

‘Good news of great joy,’  
the angel said,  
**‘for to you a savior is born’**  
**‘Peace on earth,’**  
the choir sang,  
**‘for God reigns in the highest’**  
**‘Follow me,’**  
the star beckoned,  
**‘For Hope was born in Bethlehem.’**



Hymn 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES



Prayer of Adoration



Hymn 123 Stanzas 3, 5

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia



Hymn 121

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
(The congregation may remain seated)

ST. LOUIS

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Christian Antwi



Hymn 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1, 3-7, Luke 2:8-16

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Anthem

*African Noel*

arr. André Thomas

Chancel Choir and Jerusalem Choir  
Thomas Dixon, conductor;  
Chris Sciarrone, djembe

Sing Noel! O come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.  
The King of kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem. Sing Noel!

Elaine Hagenberg

To Thee my heart I offer, oh Christ-child sweet and dear; upon Thy love relying, be Thou ever near. Oh take my heart and give me Thine and may it be forever mine, oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, my Savior meek and mild.

What brought Thee to the manger, oh Christ-child sweet and dear? Thy love for me a stranger, be Thou ever near, oh Lord how great Thy perfect Love, that reaches from the heavens above. Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made Thee, God, a child.

Let me be Thine forever, oh Christ-child sweet and dear; uphold me with Thy mercy, be Thou ever near. Thy hand bestows Thy gifts to me and all I have, I offer Thee! My heart, my soul, and all I own; let these be Thine alone. -Anonymous German hymn, 1653

Prayer After Communion

Rev. John M. Semmes

✠ Hymn 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

✠ Lighting of the Candles  
Hymn 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT  
( Please tip your unlit candle toward the lit candle being extended to you)

✠ Benediction Rev. John M. Semmes

“And let all God’s people say: **Merry Christmas!**”

Closing Voluntary

*Joy to the World*

Michael Bedford

---

## Participating in Worship

Tower Bell Ringer, Jason Bliss  
String Quartet:  
Violins: Cameron Richardson, Rawan Shurbjy  
Viola: Patrick Tabeeq Cello: Emanuel Hill  
Geneva Bell Choir  
Chancel Choir,  
Jerusalem Choir  
Chris Sciarrone, djembe

### Worship Staff

The Rev. John M. Semmes, Interim Pastor and  
Head of Staff  
The Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia,  
Associate Pastor for Engagement and Mission  
The Rev. P. C. (Buddy) Enniss, Pastor Emeritus  
Christian Antwi,  
Director, Ministries to Children, Youth, and  
Families

Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Choral Director  
Vicki Fey, CCM, Organist, Bethlehem Choir  
Director, Geneva Handbell Director  
Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus  
Thomas Dixon, Music Intern  
Dennis Lau, Music Intern

### Worship Production Staff

Mark Wallace Maguire,  
Director of Communications  
Dean Hammond,  
Volunteer Technology Director  
Sam Patton, Audio Engineer  
Kurt Vogel, A/V Assistant  
Jason Bliss, A/V Assistant

---

Music is printed under

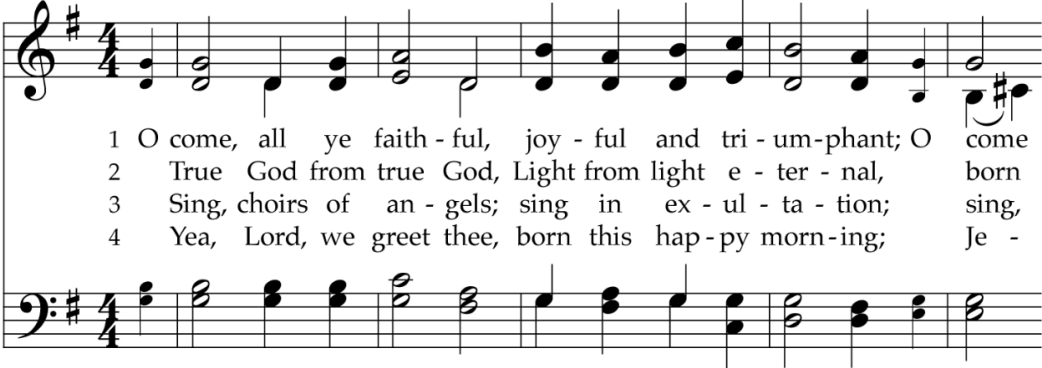
Onelicense.netAA-710014 | CCS License No. 11974 | CCLI License No. 1950421

---

Church offices will be closed the week of December 26. Offices will re-open January 3.  
Our December 26 worship service will not be livestreamed.



# O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

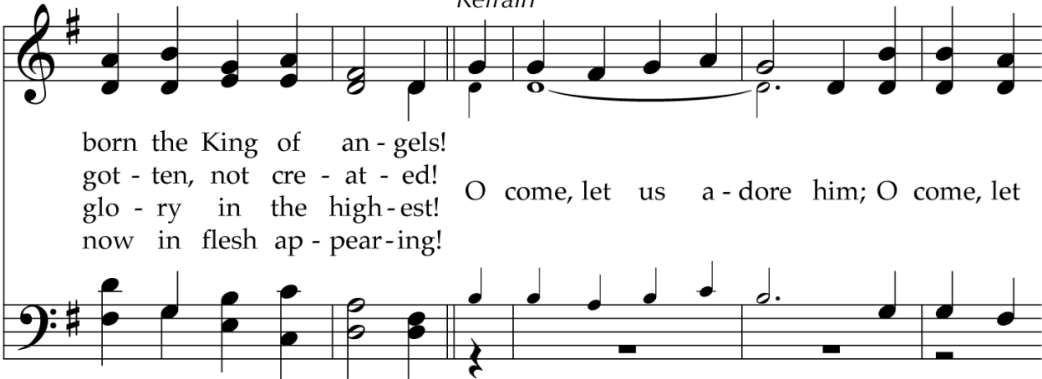


1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



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!

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

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;

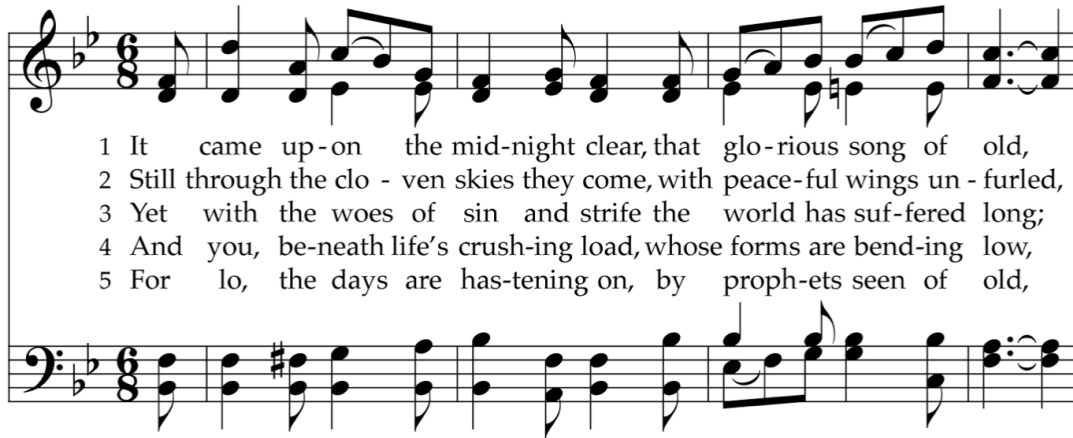
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

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;

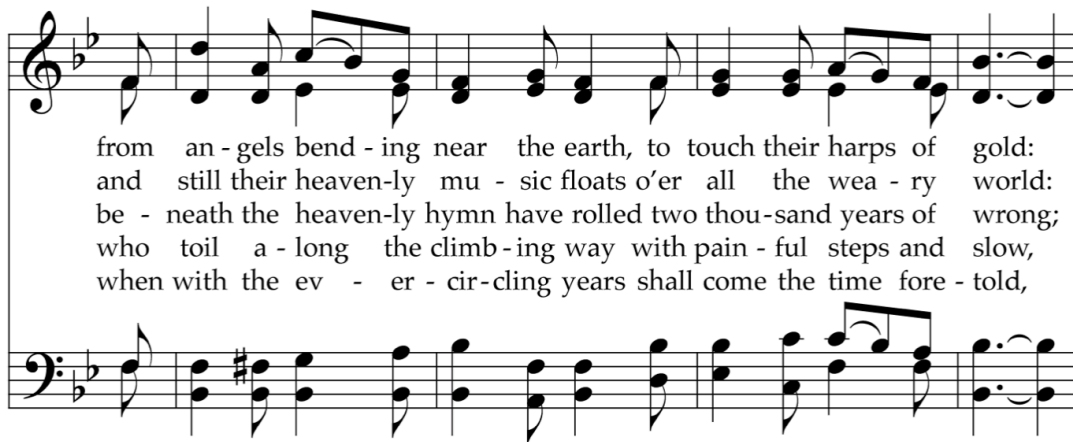
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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.

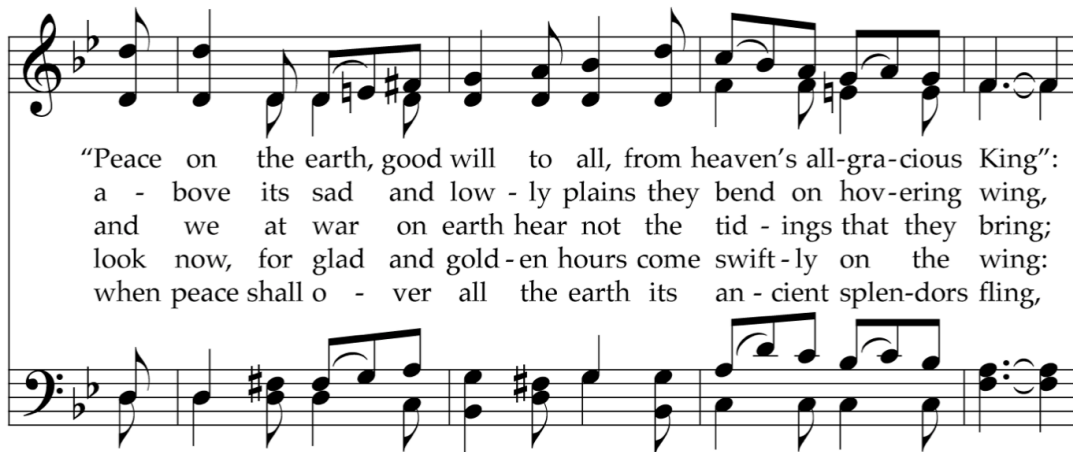
## 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



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,



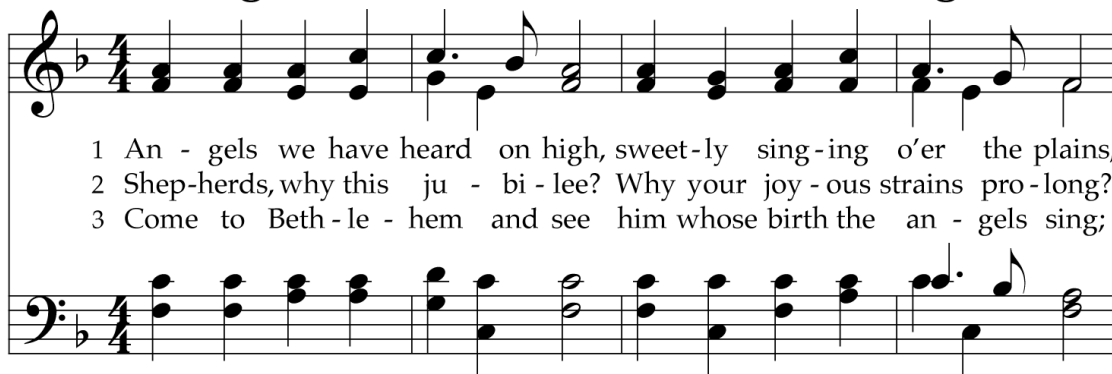
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with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



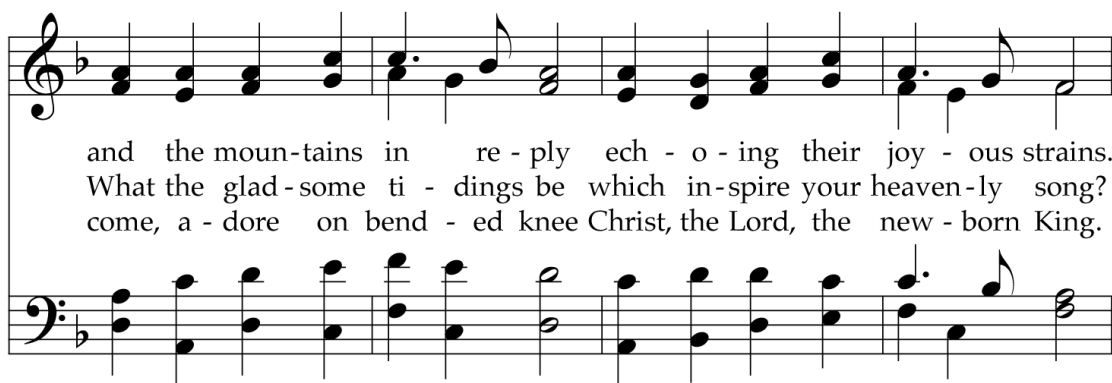
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o -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

The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

# 113 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

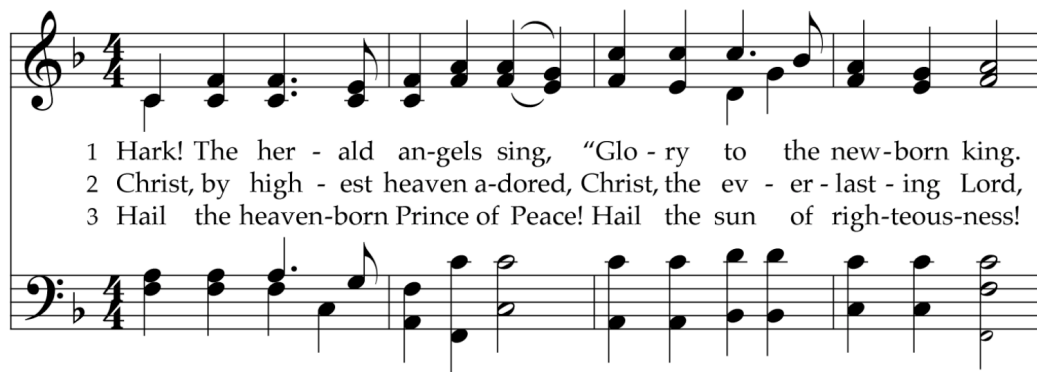


Glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a

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.



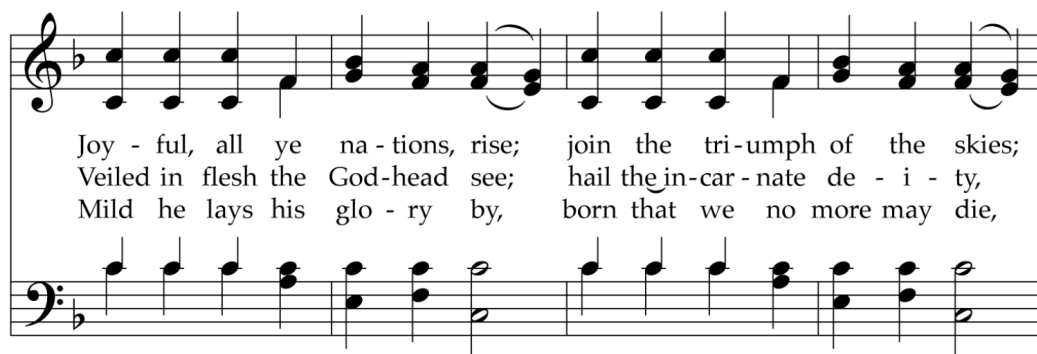
## 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



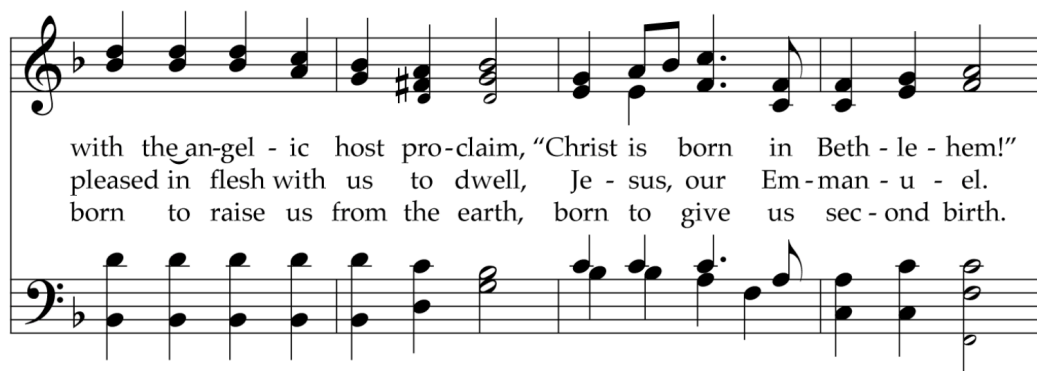
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## GERMAN

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

## KOREAN

- 1 고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앓아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

## SPANISH

- 1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor,  
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

## Visiting Central?

Whether we are together in person or being the body of Christ from afar, Central is a community of faith that offers a great variety of opportunities for you to connect and find a place to belong:

**Worship:** On Sundays, our in-person worship service takes place at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Central's Chancel Choir has resumed and is participating during worship services.

**Learning:** Our Fall classes include "Delivered out of Empire: Pivotal Moments in the Book of Exodus," "The Christian Imagination - Theology and the Origins of Race," "Friends on the Journey: an Anti-Racism Community Building," "Coffee & Connections: Conversations about Life and Faith," and "The Bible and Poverty."

**Fellowship:** Our fellowship blooms across ministries - children and youth, college and young adults, parents and older adults, and other Central Life Groups that offer meaningful connections.

**Service:** From serving meals and coffee to our neighbors experiencing homelessness at the courtyard on Sunday mornings to traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border, Israel-Palestine, and Haiti; Central offers opportunities for faithful missionary service and advocacy support in Atlanta and beyond. You may also serve in our hospitality and the A/V and communications ministries.

We welcome you at  
Central Presbyterian Church!

For more information, please connect with our associate pastor, Rev. Jasiel H. Garcia at [jhernandez@cpcatlanta.org](mailto:jhernandez@cpcatlanta.org)

## Central Care Teams

Central's diaconate is launching a new initiative called 'Central Care Teams.' Each team is composed of two to four deacons assigned to a particular Central parish. These teams will lead the church's caring and support efforts by:

- 1) Coordinating meal-trains & communicating other care-related needs to the parish.
- 2) Scheduling and coordinating care visits and in-home communion.
- 3) Assisting with funerals and memorial services.
- 4) Participating in the planning for Maundy Thursday in-home worship services.

The Care Teams will collaborate with Parish Coordinators and the Pastoral Staff. For more information, you may contact Eleanor Dake and Amy Covin.

The Care Teams for 2021-2022 are:

**Decatur** - Ed Carwile, Eleanor Dake, and Rob Forbes.

**Northern Lights** - Vicki Collier, Ginger Heidbreder, Zac Hilimire, and Brian Bishop.

**In-Town South** - Linda Lehfelddt, Ben Sutton, Sandy Hoke, Amy Covin\*, and Phillip Covin.\*

**In-Town North** - Jan DeLong, Tom Leslie, and Debbie Miller.\*

**Brookwood** - Ben Evans, Vicki Norman.

**Down Yonder** - Anne Watkins, Kathy McCloud, LaShawn Green, Emmalee Hackshaw, and Em McNair.\*

\*represents the current Parish Coordinators.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year as we care for one another and share the love of God at Central.

## Give

Please give generously to support Central's work and mission in this time of great need! You can scan the QR code to give via our secure portal.





Central Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 Congregation. As such, we are committed to:

1. Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

*We do so through the work of our Learning and Worship ministries, and through the Session's vision for community building and advocacy support for this program year.*

2. Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

*We do so through the work of the Dismantling Racism Task Group's consultation with VISIONS Inc. to better equip ourselves, and through the faithful conversations of "Friends on the Journey."*

3. And eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

*We do so through the work of the Local and Global Missions Committee, the Cozad Task Force, and the Pollard and Covenant Grant Discernment Team.*