

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing and Wholeness*

6:30 PM Worship Service • December 18, 2023



*The intention of the Blue Christmas service is to allow all who are down, mourning a loss, uncertain about the world around them, or simply struggling for any reason to engage in those feelings through prayer and reflection. We hope this will be a deeply meaningful way of connecting with God and owning these feelings.*

**Welcome members and guests** to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

**The nursery is available**, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.

**Trinity offers an induction loop** for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T." If you are unsure if your hearing aid is compatible, please contact your audiologist.



## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607  
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>  
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**REV. TINA MELUSKY** – Pastor ([tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

**GEOFFREY BELL** – Director of Music Ministries ([music@trinitynn.org](mailto:music@trinitynn.org))

**SHARON MATHISON** – Administrative Assistant ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org))

**CAROL BESSOM** – Treasurer ([cbessom@trinitynn.com](mailto:cbessom@trinitynn.com))

**THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN** – Ministers of the Word

**FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS:** <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://trinitynn.org>

### PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

**Pastor's Cell:** (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,  
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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## WELCOME

*(We begin in quiet reflection, seeking to come before God*

## PRELUDE

*Carol of the Bells*

arr. Mark Hayes

*to find peace, comfort and restoration)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*All headings with an \* can be found in the Holden Evening Prayer booklets.*

*The assembly stands.*

The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

**The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.**

The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

**We come to prepare a way for the Lord.**

We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.

**For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.**

## Gathering Hymn

*As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*

ELW 261

LUCENT

## \*SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Holden booklet page 2*

## \*EVENING HYMN

*Holden booklet page 3*

## \*EVENING THANKSGIVING

*Holden booklet page 4*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40.1, 25-31

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

The light shines in the darkness  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**PSALM 141**

*Holden* booklet pages 4-7

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.  
**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time  
forth for ever more.**

**\*THE ANNUNCIATION**

Holden booklet page 8

**\*THE MAGNIFICAT**

Holden booklet page 8

**HOMILY**

Pastor Tina Melusky

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes*  
TENTH NIGHT

ACS 908

## **A LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE WITH CANDLE LIGHTING**

*At this time we enter into a time of intentional reflection and prayer. We have several stations and options for you to reflect and pray during this time. You may come forward to light a candle in the spirit of remembrance, hope, or whatever is on your heart. You may also come forward for individual time of prayer and anointing with Pastor Tina. There is also a board near the baptismal font where you are welcome to write down the burdens which you feel are weighing you down from the world around us. We write these together in the spirit of recognizing that we do not bear our communal burdens alone. You may also pray quietly in your pew and take this time with God for yourself.*

**\*LITANY AND PRAYERS**

Holden booklet page 10

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And Also with you.**

**ANTHEM**

*Christmas Dreams*

Heather Sorenson

*On that Christmas night when mystic stars shone bright,  
a wistful blind man moved in sleep and dreamed that he had sight.*

*That night when shepherds heard an angel choir near,  
a deaf man stirred in slumber's spell and dreamed that he could hear.*

*Child of healing, Child of hope, take the things that hurt us most,  
and with Your touch, they'll be redeemed, Holy Child of Christmas dreams.*

*On that night in cattle stall, a King slept through the cold.  
A cripple turned his twisted limbs and dreamed that he was whole.*

*That night when o'er the Babe, young Mary rose to lean,  
a loathsome leper smiled in sleep and dreamed that he was clean.*

*Child of healing, Child of hope, take the things that hurt us most,  
and with Your touch, they'll be redeemed, Holy Child of Christmas dreams.*

*That night in manger lay the Child who came to save.  
A man moved in the sleep of death and dreamed there was no grave.*

*Child of healing, Child of hope, take the things that hurt us most,  
and with Your touch, they'll be redeemed, Holy Child of Christmas dreams.*

#### LITANY OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation:

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,  
And the light around me will be night,"**

Even the darkness is not dark to God,  
and the night is as bright as the day.

**The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us  
has come to us in Jesus Christ**

who binds up the brokenhearted.  
**heals all our infirmities,**

and relieves our burden of sin.  
**So arise, shine; for your light has come,**

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

#### CLOSING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

**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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 282

CAROL

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Go in hope. Go in love. Christ is with you always.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

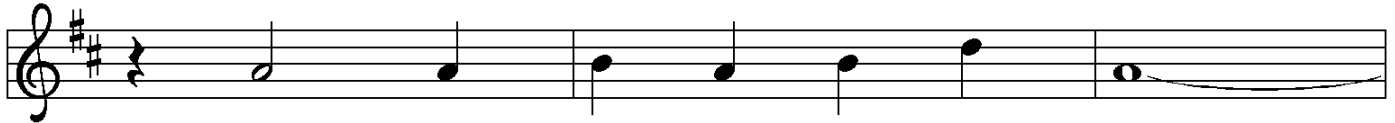
arr. Valerie Shields



Merry  
Christmas

Source: <https://soundcloud.com/davidchappell-2/in-the-bleak-midwinter-orchestral-arrangement>

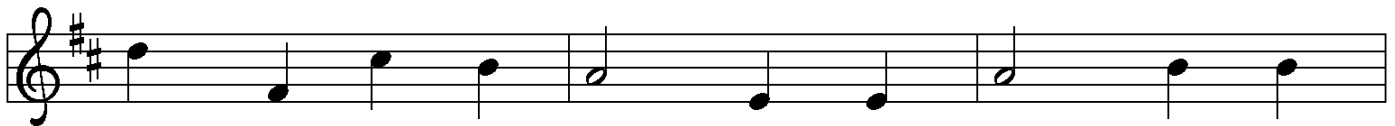




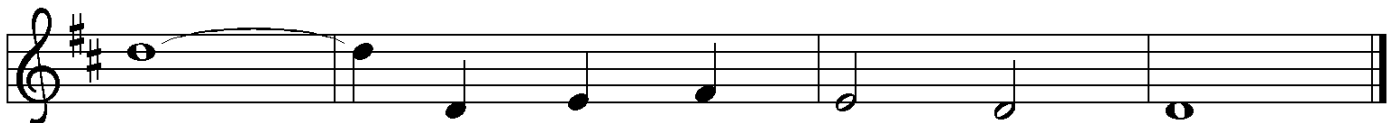
1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,  
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour  
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun  
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of  
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to  
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your  
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing  
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and  
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing  
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and

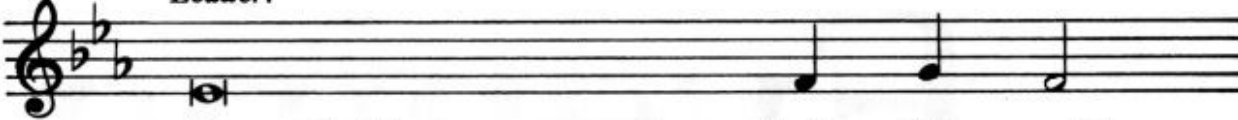


bright, till shades of fear are gone.  
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.  
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.  
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

# HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

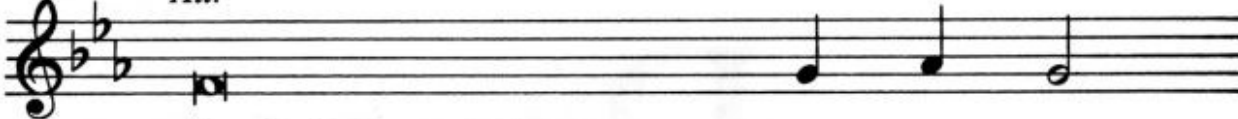
## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Leader:*



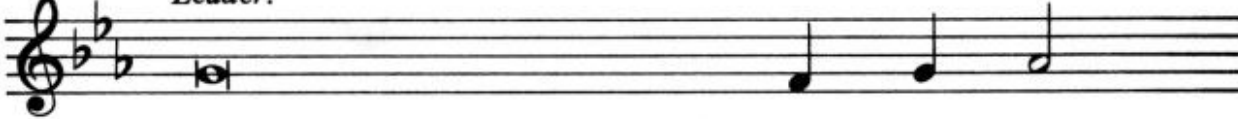
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

*All:*



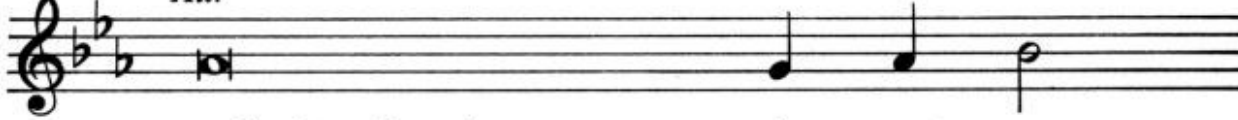
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Leader:*



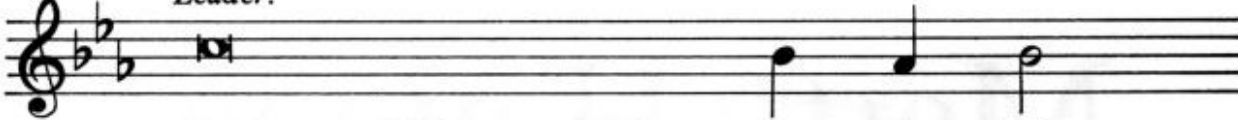
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

*All:*



and the day is al - most over.

*Leader:*



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

*All:*



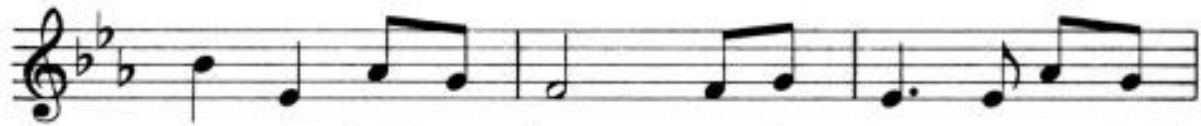
and shine within your peo-ple here. —

EVENING HYMN: "Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory"

All: *a tempo*



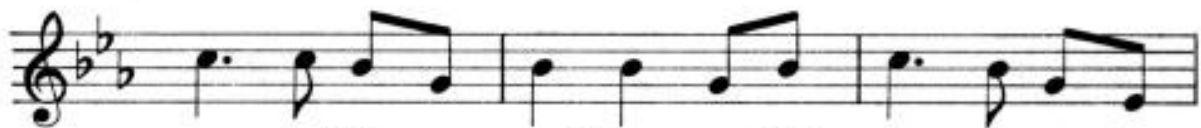
1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing  
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the  
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new, \_\_\_\_\_  
free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

# EVENING THANKSGIVING

*Leader:* *All:*

May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

*Leader:*

Let us sing our thanks to — God,

*All:*

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Leader:* Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

*All:*

A - - - men.

## PSALM 141: "Let My Prayer Rise Up as Incense"

*All:*

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

fore you, the lift - ing up of my

hands as an of - fer - ing to you. —

*Leader or Group One:*

— O God, I call to you, come to me

*All or Group Two:*

O God, I



now; O hear my voice when I  
call to you, come to me now; O

cry to you. Let my prayer rise  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the  
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to  
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. Keep watch with - in me, God;  
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be  
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the

burn - ing bright. — Let my prayer rise  
light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to  
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. — All praise to the God of all - Cre -  
of - fer - ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the  
praise to the God of all- Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. \_\_\_\_\_ Let my prayer rise  
praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to  
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. \_\_\_\_\_  
of - fer - ing to you.




## THE ANNUNCIATION & THE MAGNIFICAT

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

## THE MAGNIFICAT



you,  
heart,                    You have looked with love on your  
                                  You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

*fine last time*



*The Magnificat continued*



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah — and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

# THE LITANY

**A** *All:*  
*Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

**B**

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

*Leader:* **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray\_ to you:

*Leader:* **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

*Leader:* **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer-cy:

*Leader:*

Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

*All:*

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

## PRAYERS

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those  
 who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial  
 and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power  
 and the glory are yours,  
 now and forever. Amen**



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.  
 2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.  
 3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the  
 Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each  
 ra - dant star to light our way. Sum - mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,  
 home - less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,  
 heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



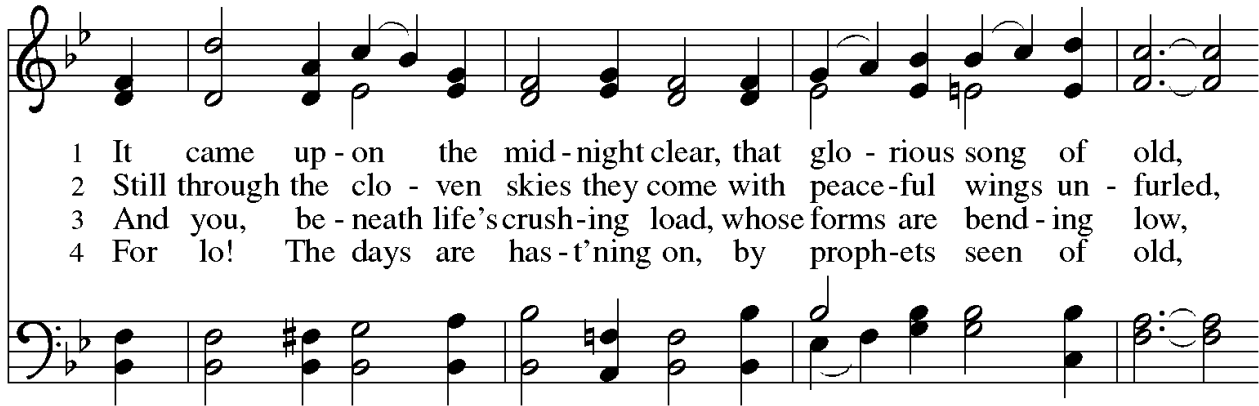
na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.  
 for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.  
 to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

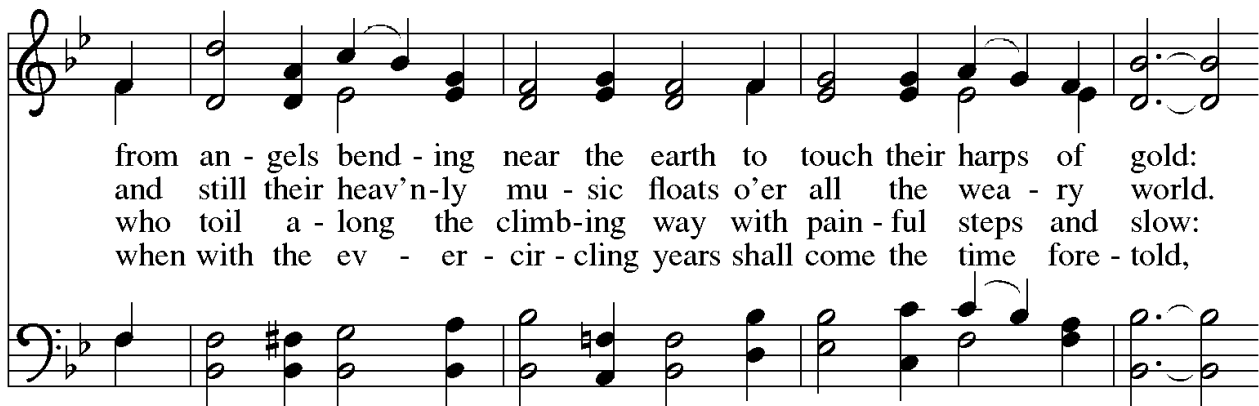
Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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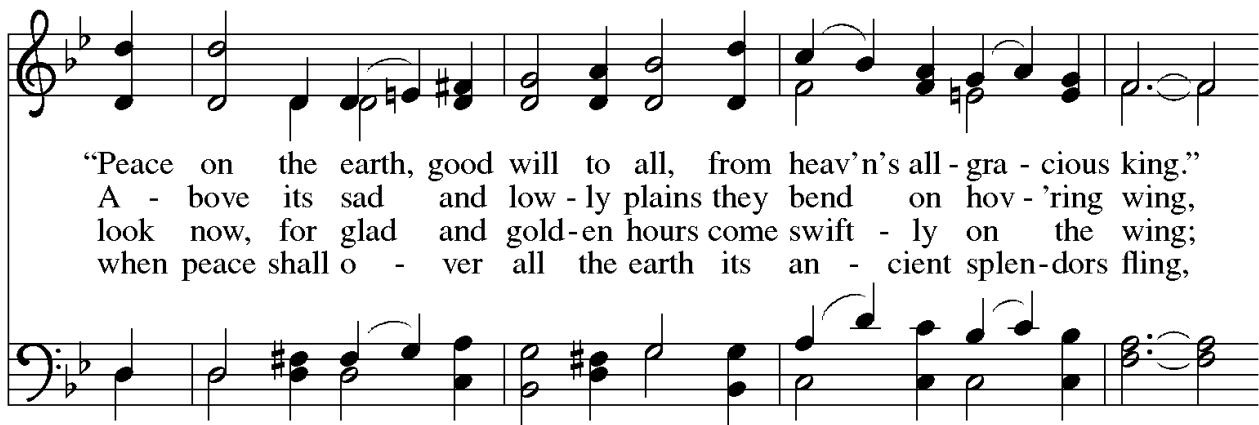
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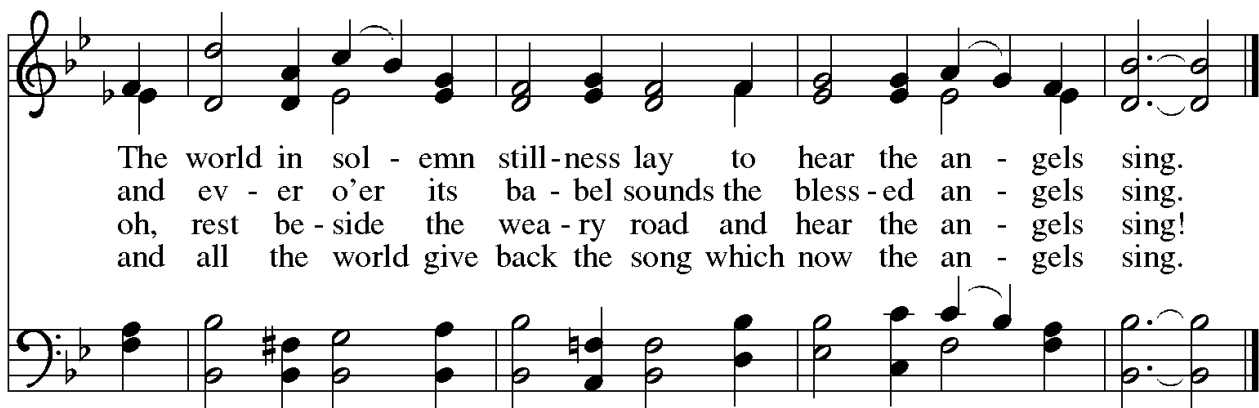
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 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 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.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.