



"When a Child Is Born"

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# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024

Four O' Clock

PRELUDE                      Variations on Christmas Carols

*Please enjoy the prelude as a time of silent preparation for worship.*

CHORAL INTROIT              Of the Father's Love Begotten

WELCOME    The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Eternal God, on this holy night we gather -*

*People: To stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;*

*Leader: To sit with Mary and Joseph, cradling your love;*

*People: To sing with angels, rejoicing in your power.*

*Leader: Once more the candles are lit as we lift our voices to tell the world good news of great joy: that to us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!*

\* CAROL 133    O Come, All Ye Faithful    *Adeste Fideles*

\* OPENING PRAYER (Unison)    The Rev. Robert Ater

O God, from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags; such humble love astounds us. In Jesus you have become one with us that we might become one with you. Open our hearts to receive this blessing that he may be born in us, and we in him, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* CAROL 124    Still, Still, Still    *Still, Still, Still*  
(Soloists vs. 1; congregation vs. 2)

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep  
While angel hosts from heaven come winging,  
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

## VOICES OF CHRISTMAS

READINGS & SCRIPTURES    Revs. Bush, Larson, Ater

“When the Song of the Angels is Stilled” by H. Thurman

Micah 5:2-5a

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Ater

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CAROL 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem (remain seated)

St. Louis

### REMEMBERING THE CHALLENGES

READINGS

Revs. Bush, Larson, Ater

“Against Our Better Judgment” by Ann Weems

“A Child’s Christmas in Wales” by Dylan Thomas (excerpt)

Matthew 1:18-25

REFLECTION

“Names Matter”

Dr. Bush

CAROL 115 Away in a Manger

Mueller

SPECIAL MUSIC Gesu Bambino

P. Yon

*When blossoms flower mid the snows upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars, their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Venite Adoremus,  
Dominum.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows, to greet the Holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of love and light.  
Let ev’ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came, that we with Him might dwell.*

*O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Venite Adoremus,  
Dominum.*

THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OFFERINGS

Rev. Teresa Larson

*Please sign the red Friendship Folder and greet one another following the service.*

*Online worshipers please indicate your presence using the link on the website.*

OFFERTORY

I Wonder As I Wander

J. J. Niles

### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH

THE SCRIPTURES Luke 2:1-16

Rev. Ater (NT 58)

CREATION OF THE CRECHE

CAROL 145 What Child Is This (remain seated)

Greensleeves

REFLECTION

“Peace by Piece”

Rev. Larson



# 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.


## Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D)  
F




1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7)  
C7




the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G)  
B $\flat$



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7)  
C7



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

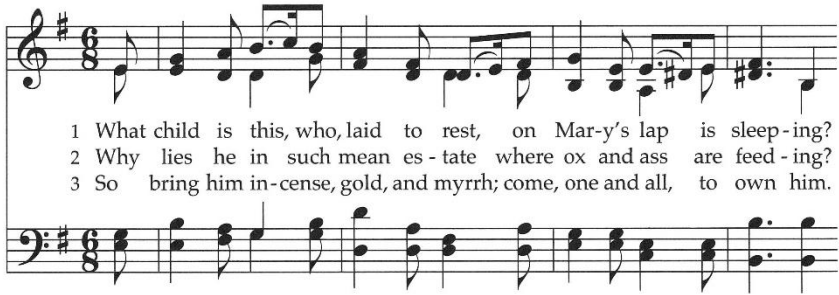
(D) (G)  
F B $\flat$

(A7) (D) (Em) (A7) (D)  
C7 F Gm C7 F

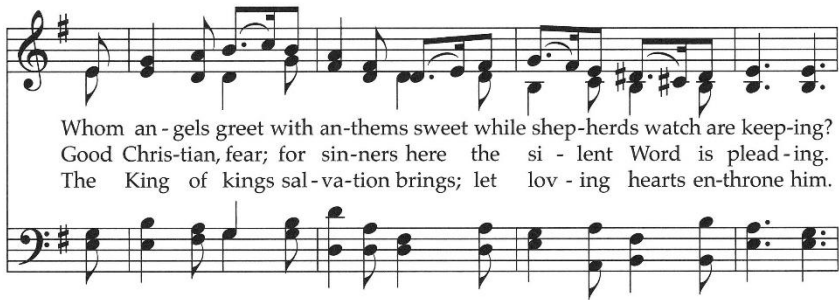
Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.



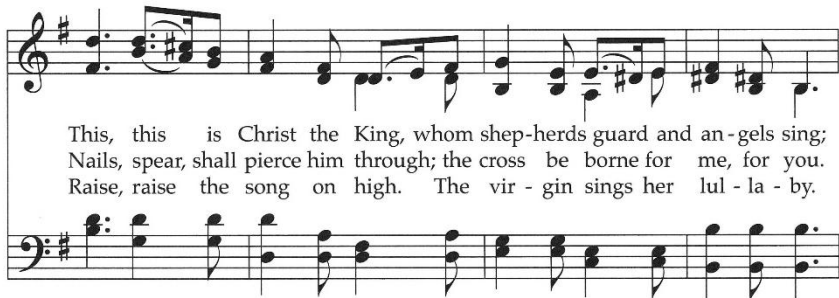
## What Child Is This



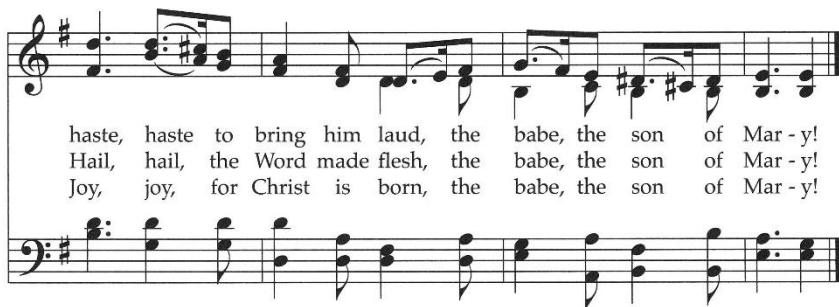
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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.

**WELCOME! Are you new to Immanuel?**

**Join us for a Membership Welcome and Orientation**

**Please go to [https://bit.ly/IPC\\_MembershipWelcome\\_Winter2025](https://bit.ly/IPC_MembershipWelcome_Winter2025)  
and let the Session know of your interest and availability on three  
possible Sundays: January 12, January 19, or February 2  
following worship from 11:20 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Designed for new friends considering church membership, participants will have an opportunity to hear our story and learn about our shared mission and ministry. Childcare available. For more information about church membership or this event, please speak with Rev. Rob Ater ([robertater@immanuelwi.org](mailto:robertater@immanuelwi.org)).

## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since 1931. It offers an opportunity to extend the joy of Christmas to retired church workers with special needs for help and to support students of color at schools and colleges related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Special offering envelopes are available in the pews or you may mail your gift to the church office noting “Christmas Joy” in the memo line. For more information or to make your gift online, go to: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> or [https://bit.ly/IPC\\_ChristmasJoyOffering](https://bit.ly/IPC_ChristmasJoyOffering).

## **“MOVING FORWARD FAITHFULLY”**

**Stewardship for 2025 + *Thank you!***

**The pledge goal for 2025 is \$1,020,308. Pledges received to date total \$920,032.** We are grateful to the members and friends who have made gifts and pledges for the work of the church in 2025. We also thank those who support the church through regular Sunday offerings, time, and prayer. Extra pledge forms are on the Great Hall tables.

## **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**Student & Young Adult Lunch at *The Knick***

**THIS Friday, December 27 at noon**

The ministers and deacons welcome home Immanuel students and college-aged young adults as they return for holiday breaks from school and work. Once again this year, the ministers and deacons will host a luncheon for Immanuel students and young adults who are home for break on Friday, December 27. If you are a college student or have one in your household, and haven't already responded, please email Rev. Ater ([robertater@immanuelwi.org](mailto:robertater@immanuelwi.org)).

**Thank you to this afternoon's volunteers:** Welcome Team – Ahna Olson (and Benji) and Martha Mainland; Ushers – Mark Connelly, Paul Campbell, and Curtiss Peck; Camera operator – David Ravie.

**“CIRCLE OF CARING” GATHERING**  
**NEXT Sunday, December 29 from 11:20 - noon**  
**in the Upper Room Chapel**

The last Sunday of the calendar year reminds us both of the transitions navigated in 2024 as well as the opportunities awaiting us in 2025. The past months have not always been easy. Many of us have experienced personal loss, the ending of a work career, or the move to a different home. The New Year will likely bring more change, including a new political administration and lingering uncertainty over the state of the world. Our faith can serve as a calming, steadying resource in seasons of transition. If you are open to a time of reflection, sharing, listening and prayer, please join the “Circle of Caring” conversation NEXT Sunday, December 29 from 11:20 until noon in the Upper Room Chapel. Contact Dr. Bush for more information ([randybush@immanuelwi.org](mailto:randybush@immanuelwi.org)).

**CHRISTMAS at IMMANUEL**

**The First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.**

Litany for Christmas  
Christmas Carols – Bring a Bell to Ring!  
Dedication of the Christmas Joy offering  
*Rev. Ater preaching*

**Epiphany Sunday**  
**Sunday, January 5 at 10:00 a.m.**  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
*Dr. Bush preaching*

**WEEKLY CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>TONIGHT</b>	7:00	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>Worship;</b> Dr. Bush preaching Communion, choir, organ, and candle lighting
	8:00	Christmas Coffee Hour in the Parlor
December 25-26		Church Office Closed
December 27	noon	Student & Young Adult Lunch
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>		<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>
December 29	10:00	<b>Morning Worship;</b> Rev. Ater preaching <i>Bring a bell to ring!</i>
	11:00	Coffee Hour in the Parlor
January 1		Church Office Closed



Bulletins returned to the tables in the Narthex will be recycled.



**IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1100 North Astor Street**  
**Offices: 1105 North Waverly Street**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202**  
**414.276.4757    [www.immanuelwi.org](http://www.immanuelwi.org)**

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Randall K. Bush	Interim Pastor
Robert W. Ater	Associate Pastor
Teresa A. Larson	Associate Pastor
Susan J. Stoll	Part-time Associate Pastor for spiritual care
Steven J. Jensen	Organist
John S. Komasa	Choir Director
Crystal Stinemates	Program and Office Administrator
Sarah Campbell	Financial Administrator
Nathan Wesselowski	Sexton
Deborah A. Block	Pastor Emerita
William H. Johnstone	Pastor Emeritus
Jean Dow	Associate Pastor Emerita
James C. Fisher	Parish Associate
Sister Karlyn Cauley	Ecumenical Associate

*This depiction of Mary and Jesus surrounded by shepherds and an angel comes from the noted artist James He Qi, who studied at the Nanjing University and Hamburg Art Institute, and is currently the artist-in-residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA). It shows the moment when the shepherds traveled into Bethlehem to find Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger (Luke 2:16).*