

# Calvary United Methodist Church

Thursday, December 24, 2020; 7:00 pm

*A Celebration on Christmas Eve*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*Dee Freeman*

### Call To Worship

We were down in the dark, now we glimpse a great light.

**Many: Thank God, we see a new day dawnin'!**

What was nothing is turning to something. Terror tried us, storms denied us. Injustice angered us, apathy discouraged us. But thank God today that,

**We see a new day dawnin'!**

Oppression giving way to overflow.

**We see a new day dawnin'!**

One: Burdens becoming blessings!

**We see a new day dawnin'!**

One: Sadness to salvation!

**We see a new day dawnin'!**

The yoke is broke! A new day is dawnin'! For a Savior is born for us. Wonderful Counselor – guide for us. Everlasting Father – provider for us. Prince of Peace – drawing near to us.

**It's a new day! And I thank God for it! Let us worship the Lord our God!<sup>1</sup>**

### Invocation of the Spirit

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

**We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.**

Rejoice, a Savior is born.

**A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

### Opening Hymn

*Joy To The World*

See the next page for the lyrics.

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<sup>1</sup> (Joseph W. Daniels, *The Africana Worship Book for Year B, Discipleship Resources*, 2007, p. 51)

## First Reading:

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!”  
(Isaiah 52:7, NLT)

Beautiful is the Newborn King.

**Beautiful is the baby. Tiny feet. Tiny hands. Softest skin. Full of life.**

Beautiful is the child who will know the pain of walking the walk in his own name.

**Beautiful are those feet that will blister from the journey to brighter days.**

Beautiful is the builder who will create more than furniture with his hands.

**Beautiful are those hands that will work and live with and within the community.**

Beautiful is the one who will be whipped and bruised.

**Beautiful is that skin that will swell and absorb our pain.**

Beautiful is the pouring out that will come in the darkest hour.

**Beautiful is the blood that shows us the cost of compassion and love.**

Beautiful as he is and beautiful as he will be.

**Beautiful is the Newborn King.**

**Tiny feet. Tiny hands. Softest skin. Full of life.<sup>2</sup>**

## Special Music

### The Story of Christ's Birth

*A Collection of Scriptures*

“This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’ ”” (Matthew 1:18–23, NLT)

“At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this

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<sup>2</sup> BEAUTIFUL: A Responsive Reading, Inspired by Isaiah 52:7-10 <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/companys-coming/christmas-eve-christmas-day-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/christmas-day-year-b-additional-liturgical-resources>

10:15 am Worship

census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them." (Luke 2:1–20, NLT)

### **Special Music**

#### **Sermon**

*Rev. Matthew Williams*

*Company's Coming: Welcoming The Guest*

### **Special Music**

#### **Christmas Carols:**

The First Noel

Silent Night

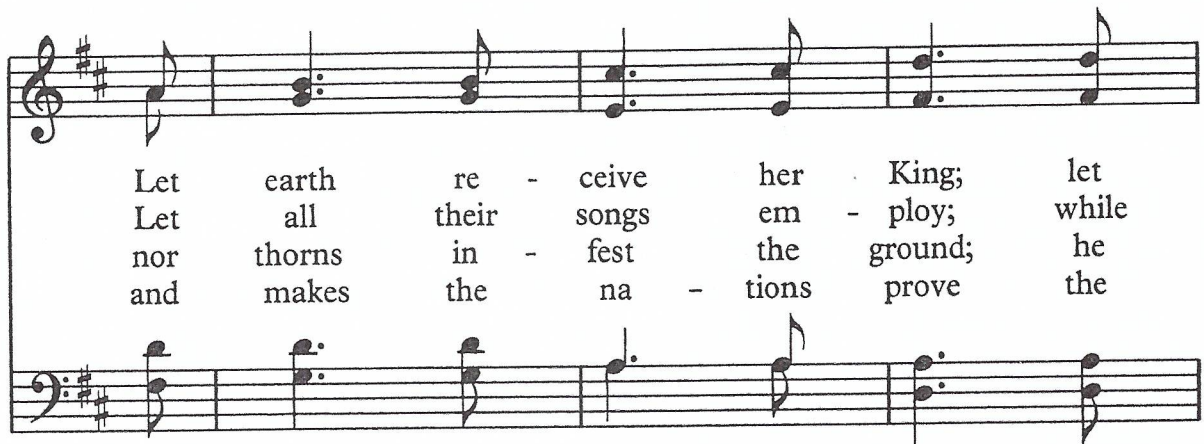
During the singing of these hymns, you are invited to crack your glow stick and use it as a symbolic representation of the Light of Christ entering into the world. These glow sticks are for you to keep.

### **Benediction**

## Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,



Let earth re - ceive her King; let  
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while  
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
 and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 far as the curse is found, far  
 and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 as the curse is found, far  
 won - ders of his love, and

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

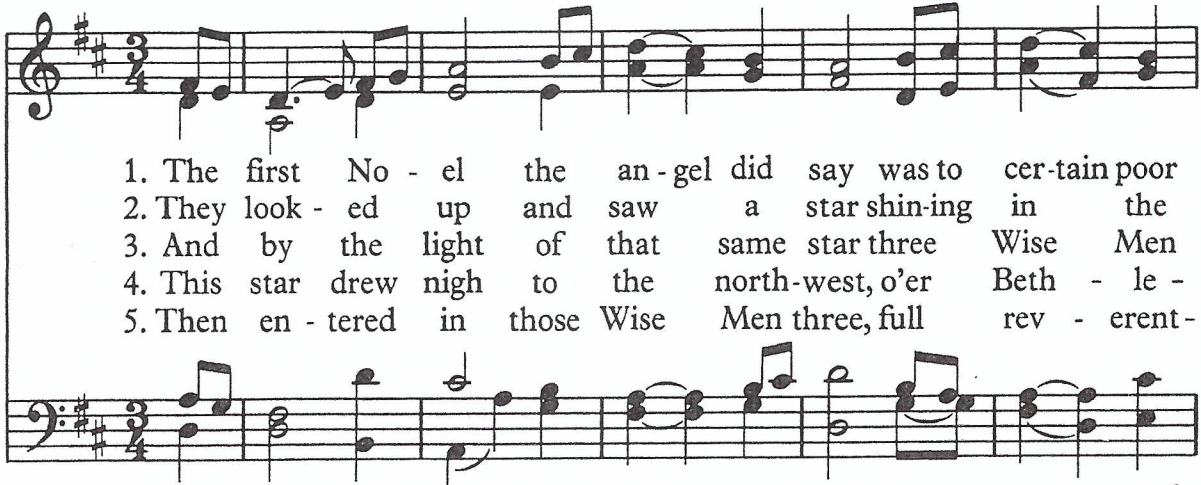
and re - peat the sound - ture  
 far as the curse - ing  
 and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

# The First Noel

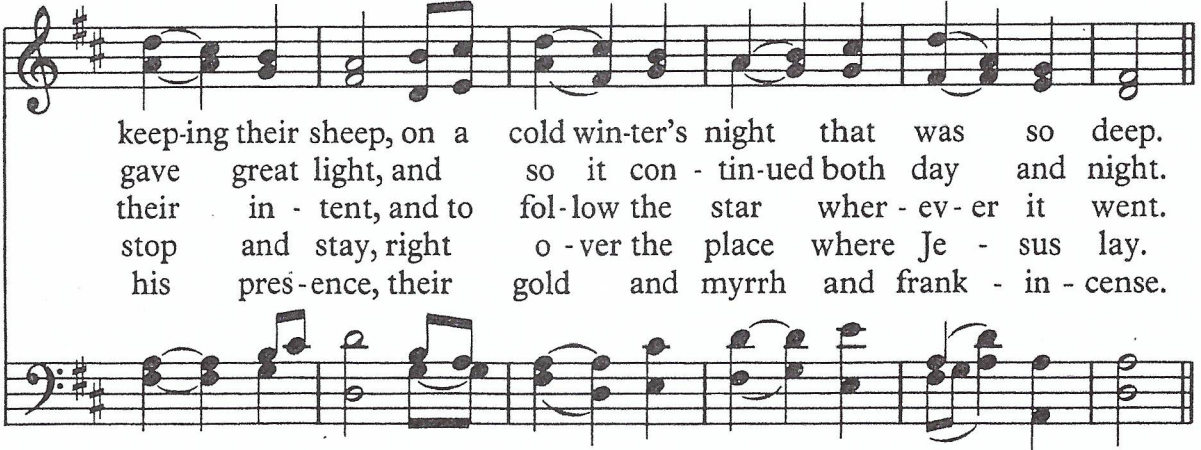
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1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

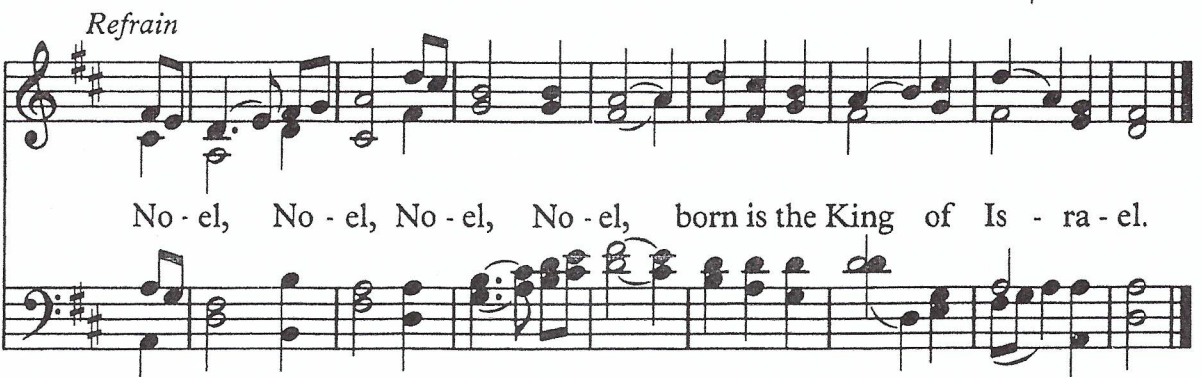


shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay  
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was  
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both  
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in



keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)  
 MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL  
 Irr. with Refrain

# Silent Night, Holy Night

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1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright.  
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*  
 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 mild,  
*nur das trau-te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold-er Kna-be mit lock - i - gem Haar,*  
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heaven-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face—with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;



sleep in heav-en - ly peace, sleep in heav-en - ly peace.  
*schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;  
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)  
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT  
 Irr.

