

Hymns – Sunday, December 24, 2020

Joy to the World – VU 59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the
sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the
curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and
wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Words: Isaac Watts, 11719, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833;
George Frideric Handel, 1742.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem – VU 64

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;

yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, alt. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908.

Away in a Manger – VU 69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: verses 1–2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, ca. 1885; verse 3, John T. McFarland, 1851–1913; Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1829, alt. Music: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895, Arr. Desmond Hassell 1992. Arrangement copyright © 1992 Desmond Hassell. All rights reserved. Used with permission under license #605258 LicenSing.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night– VU 75

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line

a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Text: Nahum Tate, 1700, alt. Music: adapt. From Este's Whole Book of Psalmes 1592.

What Child Is This – VU 74

1. What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Words: William C. Dix. ca. 1865. Music: English melody, 16th century, harm. attrib. John Stainer 1871

O Come, All Ye Faithful – VU 60

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King
of angels;**

Refrain:

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

**2. God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:**

Refrain

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in
exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:**

Refrain

**4. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful
footsteps;
Refrain.**

**5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born
this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing:**

Refrain

Text: trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt. Music: John F. Wade.

Silent Night, Holy Night – VU 67

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in
heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ
the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus,
Lord, at thy birth.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. by John F. Young, 1863, et al. Music: Franz X. Grüber 1818.

Virtual Christmas Pageant Script (Readings) - Xmas Eve 2020

Luke 2: 1 -20 (Common English Bible – adapted)

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

Bethlehem was crowded and Joseph’s relatives didn’t have a guestroom for them. But they found a warm and safe place for Mary to have her baby -- in the stable with the animals.

Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” VU 64

**While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly,
They laid him in a manger, because there was no crib for him in the stable.**

Hymn: “Away in a Manger VU 69

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

Hymn: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks VU 75 vs. 1-4

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours.”

Special Music: “Gloria in Excelsis”

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Hymn: “What Child is This?” VU 74

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.