

* Hymn 123 (vv. 1-3) It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*Benediction

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Timothy Shaw

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Today's worship leaders are Associate Pastor Thomas A. Brown
and Senior Pastor Ellen Clark Clémot.

Our ushers this morning are Carolyn Smith and Kent Stevens.

Thank you also to our tabulators Carolyn Smith and Kent Stevens
and our processor Ann Jadro.

Special thanks to Bob Eager, Craig Duke, Lisa Duke
and Natalie Duke for their technical assistance today.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

3:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve worship service with children's ensembles
and brass (*in-person only; Nursery Care available*)

5:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve candlelight worship service with adult ensembles and brass
(*livestreamed and in-person*)

11:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve candlelight worship service
(*in-person only*)

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 25-30, 2023

Monday – Friday
Church Office Closed

NEXT SUNDAY, December 31, 2023

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

240 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ 07928 • 973-635-2340 • www.pcct-nj.org

The Rev. Dr. Ellen C. Clémot, Senior Pastor, eclémot@pcct-nj.org

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown, Associate Pastor, tbrown@pcct-nj.org

Matthew Zabiegala, Director of Music, mzabiegala@pcct-nj.org

Elizabeth Monkemeier, Director of Children's Music, emonkemeier@pcct-nj.org

Yvonne Anderson, Director of Family Ministries, yanderson@pcct-nj.org

Ceri Gilpin, Church Administrator, cgilpin@pcct-nj.org

Gloria Newson, Administrative Assistant, gnewson@pcct-nj.org

Lynn Apolinaro, Director of External Communications, lapolinaro@pcct-nj.org

Allie Goldstein, Bookkeeper, agoldstein@pcct-nj.org

Mark Van Nest, Sexton, mvannest@pcct-nj.org

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & FAREWELL FELLOWSHIP FOR PASTOR CLÉMOT

Sunday, January 7, 2024, after worship

ANNUAL MEETING & WINTER BREAKFAST: Sunday, January 28, 2024



Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

The Schmitter Family

Congregation Sings:

"Light the Advent Candle"

PICARDY
VENI EMMANUEL

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram
ad. Matthew Zabiegala

$\text{♩} = 120$



As we light the Ad - ve - nt can - dle with the light of hope burn - ing bright,

7



faith - fu - lly we wait for his com - ing; faith - fu - lly it shines through the night.

13



In our hum - ble hearts a fi - re burns as well; hear the prayer these flames wou - ld

19



tell - - - O come, O come Em - man - - - u -

23



el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el.

Reader 1: Deeply planted in the mystery of life
is God's presence living among us,
a promise to the whole world.

Reader 2: Four candles shine as God's purpose is revealed
word made flesh to bring us new life.

All: Possibility awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Reader 3: Deeply planted in the mystery of life is God's love;
gracing the world with presence and purpose.

Reader 4: Let us pray...
We wait, Holy God, longing for the dawning of a new day.
We prepare, trying to make room,
expectant yet worried; hopeful yet wondering.

Reader 5: God, we believe you long for the world's transformation,
and are preparing us for it even now,
making us into vessels of light and love.
Help us get ready to receive the gift of Jesus anew. Amen.



*Advent Candle Liturgy adapted from the work of Rev. Teri Peterson.
The hymn is an excerpt from "Light the Advent Candle" by Ruth Elaine Schram.*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

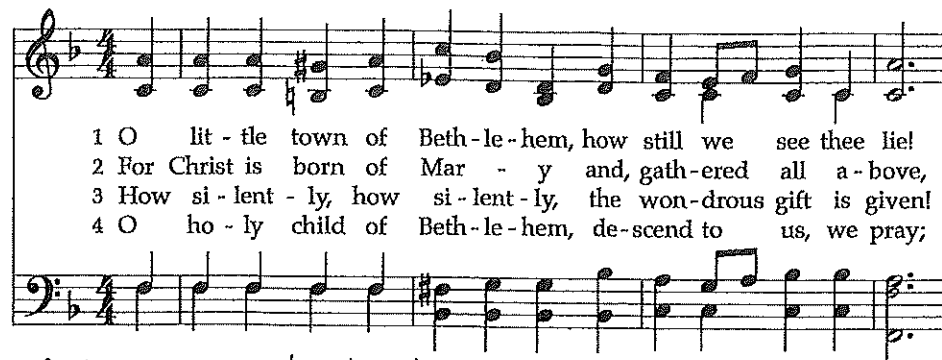
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

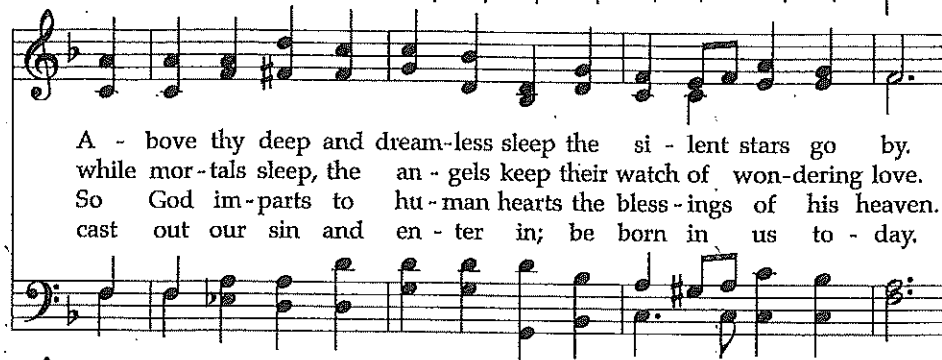
TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

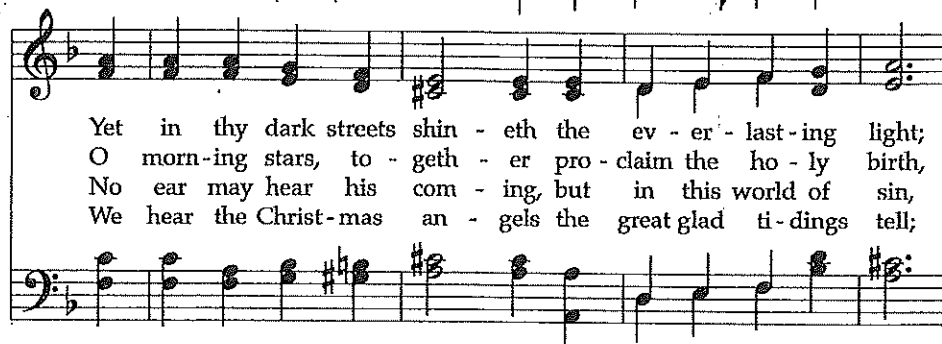
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



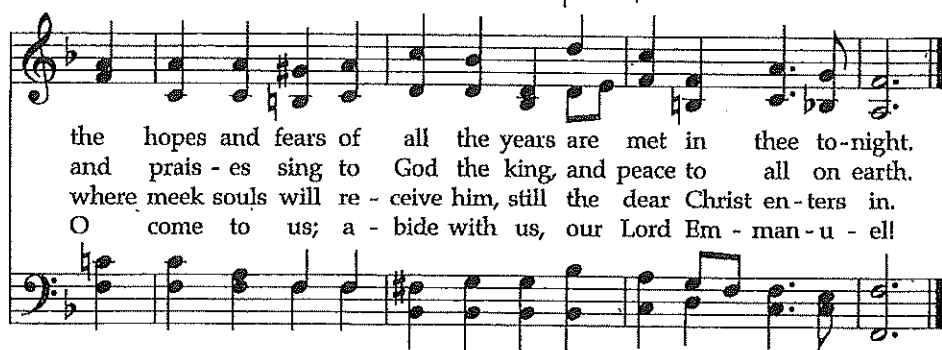
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99

Song of Mary

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3 From age to age to all who fear, such
 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55), commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979, rev. 1987

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

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Music Harm. © 1943, 1961, 1985 *Church Pension Fund*

MORNING SONG

CM

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,



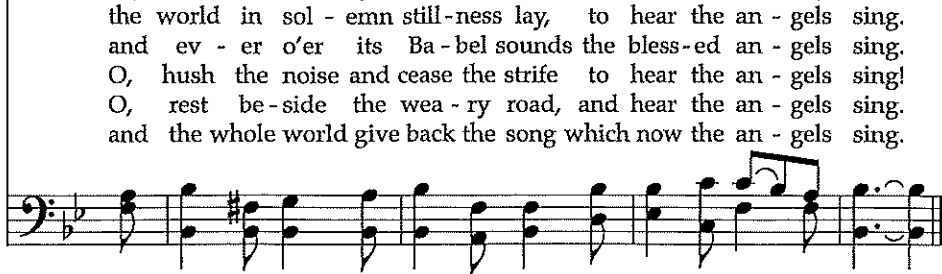
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling 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 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.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



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.