



7:00pm Worship Service
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024



+ stand, as able. UMH = red United Methodist Hymnal

FESTIVE PRELUDE

Quand Jesus Naquit à Noël – Claude Balbastre
Of the Father's love begotten – Kevin McChesney
Messiah – George Frideric Handel
Pastoral Symphony
For unto us a child is born
Christmas Day – Gustav Holst
The dream Isaiah saw – Glenn Rudolph

GATHERING

Welcome

+Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness; on them light has shined. The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness did not overcome it. Christ is born in Bethlehem. Come let us adore him!

+Entrance Hymn: O come, all ye faithful (UMH 234) *verses 1-3 & 6 sung in English*

+Prayer

WORD

Scripture Psalm 96: 1-6

Psalm 96: Cantate Domino – Hans Leo Hassler

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

+Gospel Acclamation: Angels we have heard on high (UMH 238 Refrain)

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-celsis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-celsis De - o!

+Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

+Gospel Acclamation

Sermon "Fear not!"

Solo: From a distant home – Puerto Rican carol arr. Brian Schoettler

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People with Carols

Petition for the church.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**
Hark! the herald angels sing (UMH 240 st. 1)

Petition for the world.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**
Away in a manger (UMH 217 st. 1)

Petition for the earth.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**
Lo, how a rose e're blooming (UMH 216 st. 1)

Petition for our families and communities.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**
Love came down at Christmas (UMH 242 st. 1)

Petition for those suffering illness.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**
Once in royal David's city (UMH 250 st. 3)

Petition for those who have died.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**
What child is this (UMH 219 v. 1)

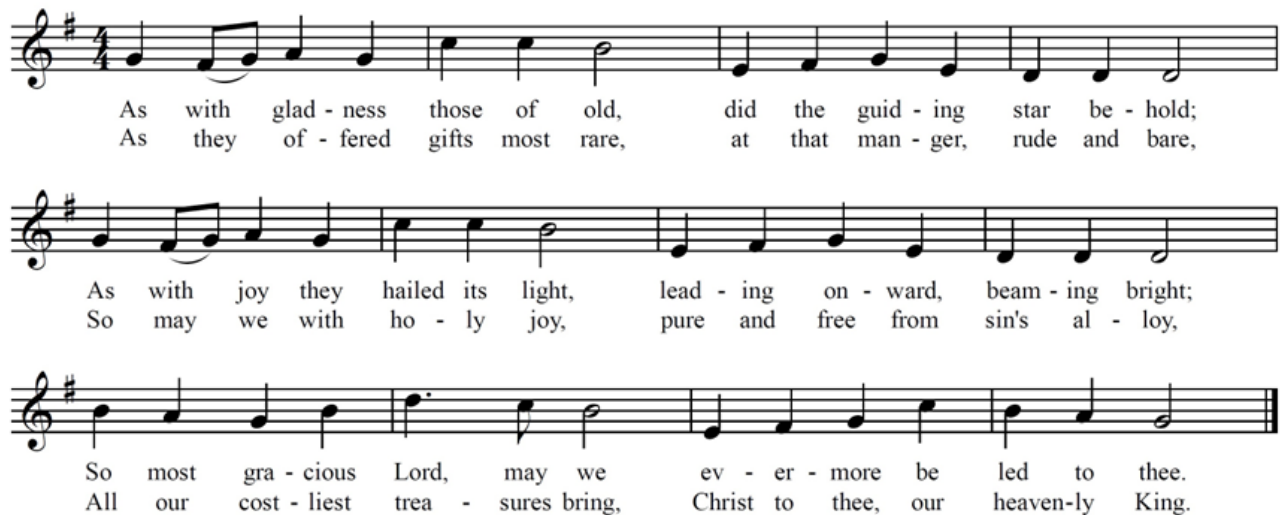
The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

**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. Amen**

+The Peace

Offertory Anthem: The Savior's Birth - Marques Garrett
+Presentation Hymn: As with gladness those of old



As with glad - ness those of old, did the guid - ing star be - hold;
As they of - fered gifts most rare, at that man - ger, rude and bare,
As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
So most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ to thee, our heaven - ly King.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), alt.
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

DIX, 7.7.7.77

+Offertory Prayer
+Lighting the Christ Candle

Arise, shine, dear people, for our Light has come!

Christ is the World's true Light, on our paths and in our lives.

Receive the light and let its warmth and glow

be in your hearts this night.

May the glory of the Lord shine through us for the world.

+Sharing the Light of Christ

The candlelight will be passed to people in the center aisle. The light is then passed from person to person down the pew. Please hold lighted candles upright; slide the cup down, tip the unlighted candle, and slide the cup back to protect the flame.

SENDING

Hymn: Silent night (UMH 239)

Stanza 1 sung in German by soloist, then stanzas 1-4 sung in English.

+Benediction

+Sending Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain (UMH 251)

Postlude: In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 - Johann Sebastian Bach organ cam

Please take the insert with you and recycle the bulletins at the exit if you do not plan to take them with you. Please leave your candle at the exit.

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Worship Leadership

Preacher: Rev Grace Imathiu

Liturgist: Rev. Britt Cox

Scripture Reader: Mike Bergman and Dr. Robert Harris

Lighting the Christ Candle: Fay Godman and Martha Rudy

Acolyte: Benjamin and Everett L

Cross Bearer: Bruce Greene

Minister of Music & Organist: Dr. Brian Schoettler

Music Assistant: Cody Michael Bradley

Chancel Choir

Chamber Choir

Handbell Choir

Oboe: Celia Chambers

String Quartet: Angelica D'Costa, Cheryl Haack, Paula Eatman, & Ethan Clay

Soloists: Ashley Brewer, Christine Ebeling, William Johnson, & Joshua Green

Ushers/Greeters: Jim Lynch, David Smith

Audio Visual Team: Tom Scott and Sam Moy-Johnson

Eucharist at the 11:00pm service. First Church celebrates Communion (Eucharist) every Sunday: in the Sanctuary at the 10:30 am service on the first Sunday of the month and in Tittle Chapel at 11:45 am on all the other Sundays. All are invited

Anthem Texts

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Text: Isaiah 9: 6

Music: George Frideric Handel

Christmas Day

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:

Ox and ass before him bow,

And he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay,

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from woe and sin,
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Judah,
This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger,
Upon that holy morn;
The which His Mother, Mary,
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened the heavenly door,
And ye are blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this.

Come ye lofty, come ye lowly,
Let your songs of gladness ring;
In a stable lies the Holy,
In a manger rests the King:
See in Mary's arms reposing,
Christ by highest heaven adored:

The first Noel, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.
Come, your circle round him closing,
Pious hearts that love the Lord.
Come, ye poor, no pomp of station
Robes the Child your hearts adore.
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor.
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.
Come ye children, blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake;

Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender,
come, ye spirits, keen and bold;
All in all your homage render,
Weak and mighty, young and old.
High above a star is shining,
And the wisemen haste from far:
Come glad hearts and spirits pining:
For you all has risen the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations,
Thanks and love and faith and praise:
Come, ye people, come ye nations,
all in all draw nigh to gaze.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All Israel, Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian friends rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save.

Good Christian friends (UMH 224)
God rest you merry, gentlemen (18th cent. English Carol)
Come ye lofty, come ye lowly (Text: Archer Gurney, 1852, Tune: Old Breton Melody)
The First Noel (UMH 245)

The Dream Isaiah Saw

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,
leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,
blood will not darken the earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw,
take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:
God will transfigure the Violence concealed
deep in the heart and in systems of gain,
ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain.

Little child whose bed is straw,
take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,
nations obeying the call to repent,
all of creation completely restored,
filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw,
take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Text: Thomas Troeger © 1994 Oxford University Press.
Music: Glenn Rudolph © 2004 Oxford University Press.

This text was written in 1994 by Thomas Troeger, an American hymn writer who also wrote the hymn *Come to God's feast and find* for First Church in 2017. Composer Glenn Rudolph began work on this musical setting in the middle of 2001 and the work would eventually be dedicated to those who perished on September 11th. Troeger eloquently adapts the scripture from Isaiah and his powerful refrain is amplified by Rudolph's setting which emerges from simple to majestic.

Cantate Domino canticum novum: cantate Domino omnis terra.

Cantate Domino et benedicite nomini ejus: annuntiate de die in diem salutare ejus.

Annuntiate inter gentes gloriam ejus: in omnibus populis mirabilia ejus

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name; tell of God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples. (Psalm 96:1-3)

The Savior's Birth

Hodie Christus natus est:

 Today Christ is born;
hodie Salvator apparuit.
 today the Savior has appeared.

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow,

It will lead to the place where the Savior's born
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.

Venite, venite in Bethlehem:

 Come, O come to Bethlehem:

Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord.

What did she name Him? Yes, Lord!

She name Him King Jesus, Yes, Lord!

Natum videte Regem Angelorum.

 See the new-born King of Angels.

If you take good heed to the Angel's word,
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd.
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,
Leave your sheep and leave your rams.

Puer natus est nobis,

 A boy is born to us,

Puer natus est in Bethlehem,

 A boy is born in Bethlehem,

Hic jacet in praesepe

 Here lies in a manger,

et vocabitur nomen ejus,

 and his name shall be called:

magni consilii Angelus.

 the Angel of great council.

Oh, Mary, what you gonna call yo' pretty little baby

Christmas Poinsettias

In Loving Memory of:

All the saints from William and Nancy Brown
Steve Armstrong from Carol Kriekard, Eric and Brian Armstrong.
Hazel Barnett from Carol Barnett
My parents, Harry and Virginia Barnes from Sandra Gordon
Robert and Martha Baumberger from Bruce Baumberger
Ethelyn Bond from George Bond
Jack Cappozzo by Glynis and Dan Doyle
Joan and Bill Doyle from Glynnis and Dan Doyle
Carl Lawrence Godman by Fay Godman
Barb Gorman from Jean Clipperton & Miles Shultz
My Grandparents from Leah Holzwarth
Our Grandparents from Lindsay Theile & Justin Sabrsula
Dan and Betty Heiple, Ed and Lois Grodsky from Teresa and Rich Grodsky
Anita Hill from Robert Thompson
Marie and Karl Hinz from Cate Whitcomb and Jack Hinz
David Hay Jones by Grace and Erik
John and Vera Kerastas from John & Barbara Kerastas
Bette Mitchell by Jill Althage and Louise Sprengelmeyer
Our Parents from Constance and Hugh Williams
Fredrick and Barbara Poole from Mary Poole
Dr. Jean Sindab from Joe Agne
Debbie Wagner from Bryan and Caroline Wagner
Harold and Jamaline Werner from John & Barbara Kerastas
Bill and Dorothy Whitcomb from Cate Whitcomb and Jack Hinz
Dale and Edythe Williams from Eileen Chamber

In Honor of:

Fay Godman for 62 faithful membership at First Church - Evanston
Our beloved family from Don and Patty Baker
My wonderful children from Lori Colbert
The Ministry of First Church Staff from Britt Cox
Colin McDonald and Rebecca Beiter from Mary and Bob Hetzel
The Choir from Jane Koten
Sean, Ian, and Kieran Monahan from Ken and Bertha Monahan
Dabney Frierson James *from* Courtney Zirkle

Prayers for:

The people of Gaza and the West Bank given by Don and Diane Baker.
Peace given Mary Poole

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 Je - sus to thee be glo - ry giv'n.

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

Christmas Service Music

Gospel Acclamation

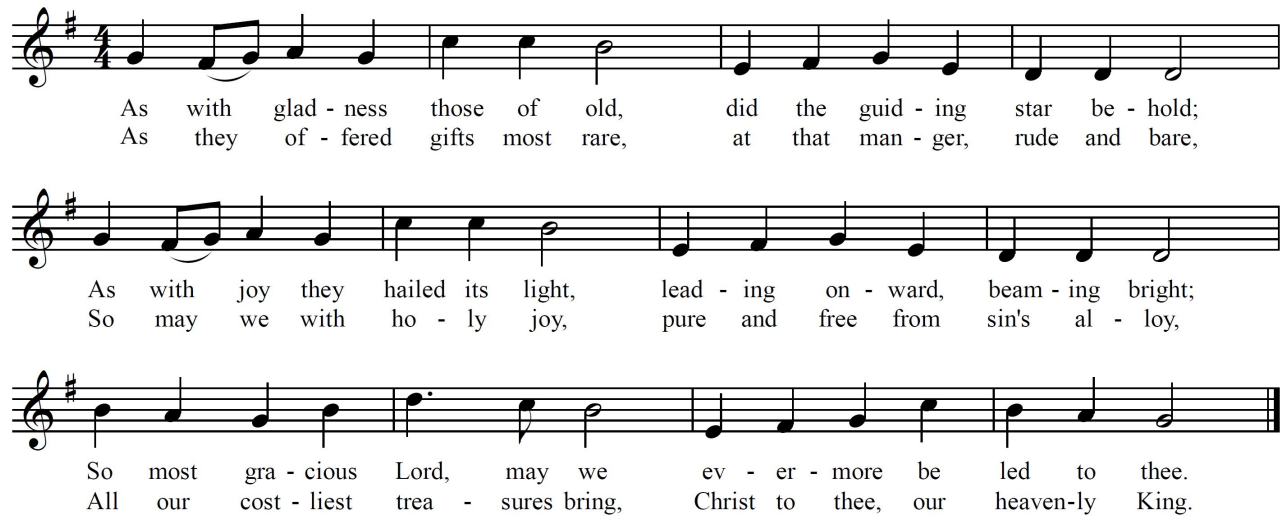


Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-celsis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-celsis De - o!

Presentation Hymn

As with gladness



As with glad - ness those of old, did the guid - ing star be - hold;
As they of - fered gifts most rare, at that man - ger, rude and bare,

As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

So most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ to thee, our heaven-ly King.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), alt.
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

DIX, 7.7.7.7.77

A LITANY FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD (BOW 495)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, almighty God,
that all who confess your name may be united in your truth,
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response: Hark! the herald angels sing (UMH 240 st. 1)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,
in the ways of justice and peace;
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response: Away in a manger (UMH 217 st. 1)

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

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly
in the service of others and to your honor and glory.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response: Lo, how a rose e're blooming (UMH 216 st. 1)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming	It came, a floweret bright,
From tender stem hath sprung!	Amid the cold of winter
Of Jesse's lineage coming,	When half spent was the night.
As those of old have sung.	

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,
and grant that we may serve Christ in them,
and love one another as Christ loves us.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response: Love came down at Christmas (UMH 242 st. 1)

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of your salvation.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response: Once in royal David's city (UMH 250 st. 3)

Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

We commend to your mercy all who have died,
that your will for them may be fulfilled;
and we pray that we may share with all your saints
in your eternal kingdom
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response: What child is this (UMH 219 v. 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.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, U.S.A., 1979, pp. 388-389 , ALT.)

Silent Night, Holy Night

239



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, heav-en-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.

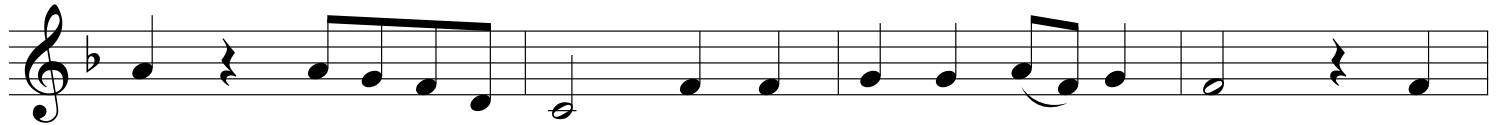
Go, tell it on the mountain

GO TELL IT

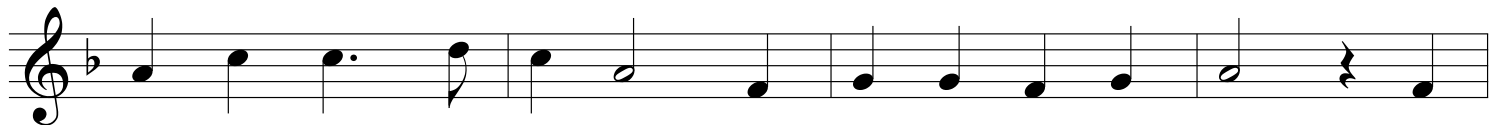
Refrain



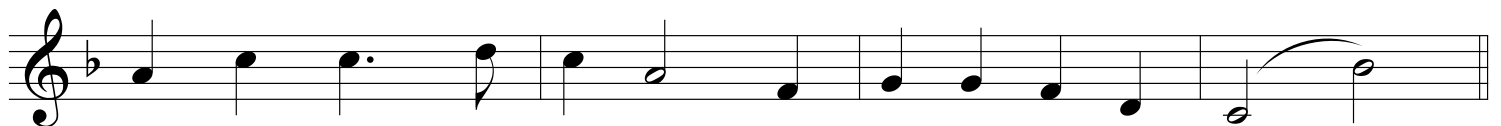
Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born. While

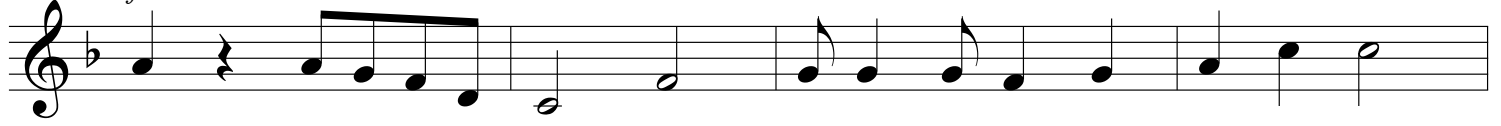


shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -

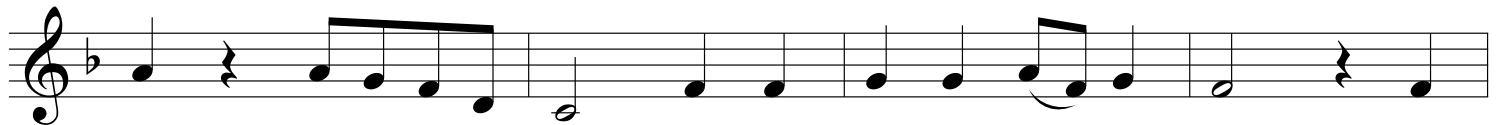


hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.

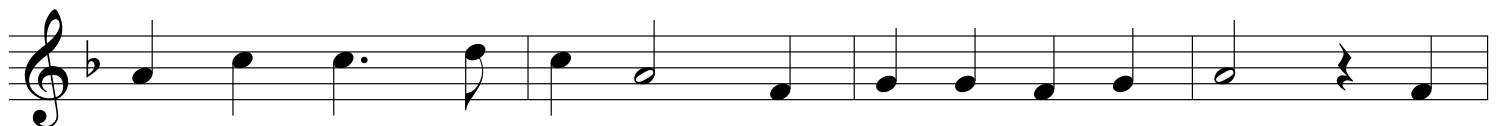
Refrain



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born. The



shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth, rang

WORDS: African American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr., 1907
MUSIC: African American spiritual

out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born. Down

in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.