

Coming Together in Christ

10:55 AM: MEDITATION:

(Please pause in a moment of quiet preparation for worship.)

11:00 AM: CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Carol of the Bells
The JoyBells

“Mykolo Leontovich”
Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 63:5, 8

Leader: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

People: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The children are invited to come forward for worship bags.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Light a candle in the darkness, Light a candle in the night, Let the peace of Jesus light us like a candle in the night.

People: He did not come in wealth and grandeur. He did not stand with men of power. He had no status to commend him. He was homeless, he was poor.

(Light the first Advent candle.)

But he came to heal the wounded and he came to heal the scars of a world that's bruised and broken where the image has been marred.

(Light the second Advent candle.)

And I feel his breath upon me and he whispers, “follow me”. And he grants the fire within me and says “Let it shine for all to see.”

(Light the third Advent candle.)

He walked among the lonely and the poorest of the poor. He gave his life to save us. He lives for evermore.

(Light the fourth Advent candle.)

Leader: Light a candle in the darkness.

* THE HYMN OF PRAISE 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

“Adeste Fideles”

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE

AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*

Lord, without prayer we become deaf to the voice of divine love and become confused by the many competing voices asking for our attention. How difficult that is! When we sit down for half an hour—without talking to someone, listening to music, watching television or reading a book—and try to become very still, we often find ourselves so overwhelmed by our noisy inner voices that we can hardly wait to get busy and distracted again. But when we decide not to run away and stay focused, the soft, gentle voice calling us the beloved (son or daughter of God) may gradually make itself heard. It is so hard to be faithful. But, God is greater than our hearts and minds, and keeps calling us the beloved...at a level far beyond all feelings and thoughts.

—Henri Nouwen

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION: The Christmas Joy Offering

Otto Ross

Hearing God's Word

FIRST LESSON:

Genesis 3:8-15

John Koegel

* HYMN #5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

“Picardy”

SECOND LESSON:

Genesis 22:15-18

Lynn, William & Christopher Fritz

* HYMN #488

The God of Abraham Praise

“Leoni”

THIRD LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Lynn, William & Christopher Fritz

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM *Away In A Manger* arr. Paul Sjolund

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 thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Bob Lange

* HYMN #48 *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* "Es Ist Ein' Ros"

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Betty Lange

CAROL BY THE CHOIR *Mary's Salutation* Johann Eccard

Mary arose and journeyed far in haste to greet Elizabeth,
whose babe did leap within her womb; The Holy Spirit gave her breath
To hail the mother of the Lord, and Mary with joy then did sing:
"My soul doth magnify the Lord, my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour,
merciful to all who fear his holy name."

SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-23 Laura & Ben Fiscus

* HYMN *In a byre (barn) near Bethlehem* (see back of bulletin)

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16 Linda Smith

* HYMN #22 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* "Regent Square"

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11 Kathy Wilhelm

* HYMN #56 *The First Nowell (verses 1-4)* "The First Nowell"

Our Response to God's Love

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Carol for All Seasons
The JoyBells

Traditional French Carol
Arr. Terry Price

* THE DOXOLOGY

vs. 6, The First Nowell

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord.
That hath made heaven and earth of nought. And with His blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

NINTH LESSON:

John 1:1-14

John Dillon

* THE HYMN OF PARTING #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

"Go Tell It"

* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

* SUNG BENEDICTION

Rejoice! Rejoice!
(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

"Veni Emmanuel"

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. (repeat)

* POSTLUDE

Noel (Grand Jeu et Duo)

Louis-Claude Daquin

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

IN A BYRE NEAR BETHLEHEM

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

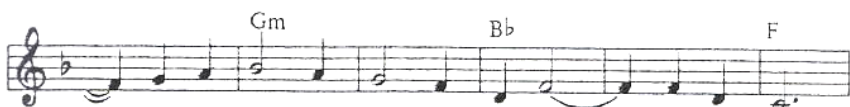
Irish traditional melody



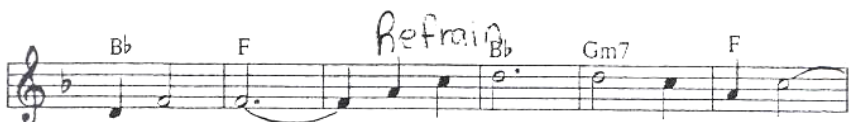
1. In a byre near Beth - le - hem, — passed by ma - ny a



wan - dering stran - ger, — the most pre - cious Word of Life —



— was heard gurg - ling in a man - ger — for the good



of us all. — *And he's here when we call him,* —



— *bring-ing health, love and laugh-ter* — to life now and



ev - er af - ter — for the good of us all. —

2. By the Galilean Lake
 where the people flocked for teaching
 the most precious Word of Life
 fed their mouths as well as preaching
 for the good of us all. REFRAIN

3. Quiet was Gethsemane,
 camouflaging priest and soldier;
 the most precious Word of Life
 took the world's weight on his shoulder
 for the good of us all. REFRAIN

4. In a byre near Bethlehem
 passed by many a wandering stranger,
 the most precious Word of Life
 was heard gurgling in a manger
 for the good of us all. REFRAIN