

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting with us today. We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us at Sovereign Grace. **Please fill in the Guest Card located in the pew rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate, so that we have a record of your visit.**

We will hold a congregational meeting today, immediately following the morning worship service, to vote on four important matters: dissolution of Rev Ben Thomas’ call to Sovereign Grace, dissolution of Rev Bill Barclay’s call to Sovereign Grace, elect Rev Bill Barclay Pastor Emeritus, and approval of the purchase and mortgage of the Archdale lot. We ask that you prayerfully consider these matters and make every effort to attend the congregational meeting.

Our annual All Church Gathering and Christmas Music Evening Service will take place today, Sunday, December 14. The All Church Gathering will begin at 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, with the Music Evening Service immediately following at 6:15 in the Sanctuary. Please visit the website or see the newsletter for more details!

There will be a door-to-door evangelism opportunity on December 20th at 3:00pm to invite neighbors of the church to our Christmas services. Please contact Pastor Ben (ben.thomas@sovereigngrace.org) for more information.

Christmas Caroling at Brighton Gardens: Join us as we go out to visit seniors in Brighton Gardens to sing Christmas carols. We will meet at the church on **Sunday, December 21st at 3:45pm** and carpool to Brighton Gardens (or drive directly to Brighton Gardens) to begin singing at **4pm**. We will gather in their common area and sing familiar Christmas hymns., then return to the church before the evening worship service. Please use the sign-up sheet in the foyer or email Ron Barnwell at rwb820@gmail.com to participate

End of Year Giving: The Session wishes to express its gratitude for your faithfulness in giving to the General Fund, Deacon Fund, Building Program and Faith Promise this year. We encourage your continued generosity as an act of worship. Despite whatever trials of affliction may befall us, may we all abound in the riches of liberality like the churches in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:1-3)! Also, please be apprised that all contributions must be **postmarked no later than December 31st** to be included in this tax and budget year. Faith Promise pledges end on that date as well. All given in 2025 will count towards the 2025 budget. Please email Emma (emma.parker@sovereigngrace.org) if you need an update on your pledge or contributions for the year.

Please save the date for Dr. Carlton Wynne’s installation and reception on January 11. Details to come.

Save the Date for the Sovereign Grace Marriage Conference! The conference will be at Sovereign Grace the weekend of January 30th– February 1st. Our guest speakers will be Chad & Emily Van Dixhoorn. Details to come!

Nursery Volunteers

Sunday, December 14th: (Claudia Trotter, Captain)
Sunday School 2’s & 3’s: Mary Nash, Libby Applegate
Sunday School Toddlers: Tommy Simpson, Lindsay McCarley
Toddlers: Cindy White, Jessica Atkinson
2/3’s: Marie Davis, Kylie Day
Floater: Ben Dietrich
Youth: Will Henderson
Infant Worship Service: Annette Brown, Hope Keyton
Evening: Clare Simpson, Jason McArthur

Wednesday, December 17th: No prayer meeting

Sunday, December 21st: (Eilidh Anderson, Captain)
Sunday School 2’s & 3’s: Ann Corsaro, Libby Applegate
Sunday School Toddlers: Paige Prevette, Laura Cooper
Toddlers: John Burnett, Rebecca Evans
2/3’s: Karen Logterman, Levin Schnee
Floater: Sam Filburn
Youth: Emily Ball
Infant Worship Service: Jayneen Larsen, Jhennifer McArthur
Evening: Staff

Wednesday, December 24th: No prayer meeting

Greeters

December 14th: Chris & Mary Williams
December 21st: Libby Applegate & Anne Corsaro

Deacons on Duty:

December 14th: Eddie Barrett & Brian Brown
December 21st: Jon Drye & Luke Barclay

Brighton Gardens:

December 14th: Jason McArthur (lead) & Brittany Smith (piano)
December 21st: Christmas Caroling, Beth Smoak (piano)



Glorifying God

Growing Together

Going to the Nations



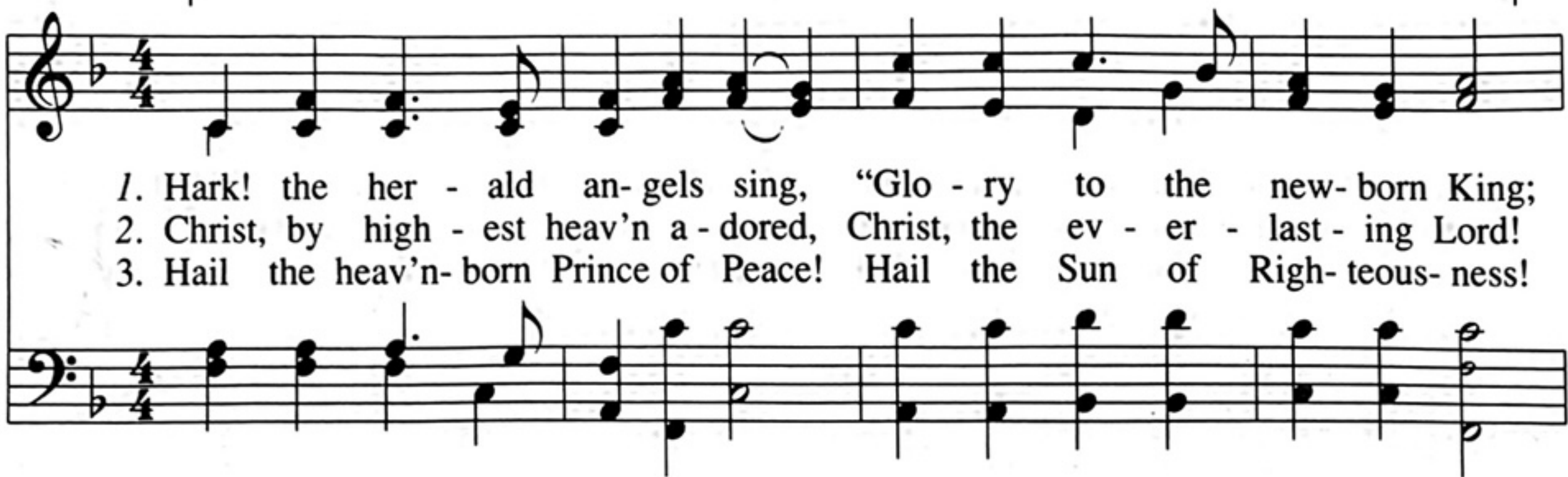
<div>Morning Worship</div> <div>December 14th, 2025 10:55 am</div>			<div>Sermon Notes</div>		
<div>The Preparation for Worship</div>					
<div>Welcome and Announcements</div>					
<div>Prelude</div>					
<div>The Adoration of God</div>					
<div>The Call to Worship</div>					
<div>*Hymn #203</div>			<div>“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”</div>		
<div>*Prayer of Adoration</div>					
<div>*Confession of Faith</div> <div>I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost creature, secured and delivered me even from my sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns forever. This is most certainly true.</div> <div>- Luther’s Small Catechism, Second Article</div>					
<div>The Means of Grace</div>					
<div>Scripture Reading</div> <div>Isaiah 11:1-10</div> <div>Romans 15:8-13</div>			<div>p. 575</div> <div>p. 949</div>		
<div>Confession of Sin</div> <div>O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, but to You belong mercy and forgiveness. Forgive and cleanse us we pray, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.</div> <div>(from Daniel 9)</div>					
<div>Words of Pardon and Assurance</div> <div>Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.</div> <div>(Psa 32:1-3, 5)</div>					
<div>*Hymn #221</div>			<div>“Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming”</div>		
<div>The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings</div>					
<div>*Gloria Patri</div> <div>Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</div>					
<div>Prayer of Intercession</div>			<div>Bill Cooper</div>		
<div>*Hymn #225</div>			<div>“Once In David’s Royal City”</div>		
<div>The Reading of God’s Word</div> <div>Luke 2: 8-14</div>			<div>p. 857</div>		
<div>Sermon</div> <div>“The Angel’s Song: <i>The Gloria</i>”</div>			<div>Rev. Ben Thomas</div> <div>Associate Pastor</div>		
<div>The Response and Benediction</div>					
<div>*Hymn #214</div>			<div>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</div>		
<div>*Benediction</div>					
<div>*Congregational Response</div>			<div>MENDELLSOHN 7.7.7.7.D.ref.</div>		
<div>Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness</div> <div>Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in this wings.</div> <div>Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,</div> <div>Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.</div> <div>Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King.”</div>					
<div>*Indicates Congregation Standing</div>					
			<div>3326 Archdale Drive Charlotte, NC 28210 704-553-9600 sovereigngrace.org</div> <div>Dr. William B. Barclay Senior Pastor</div> <div>Rev. Ben Thomas Associate Pastor</div> <div>Rev. Will Keyton Assistant Pastor</div> <div>Rev. Ricky Johnson Assistant Pastor of Youth & Families</div>		

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14

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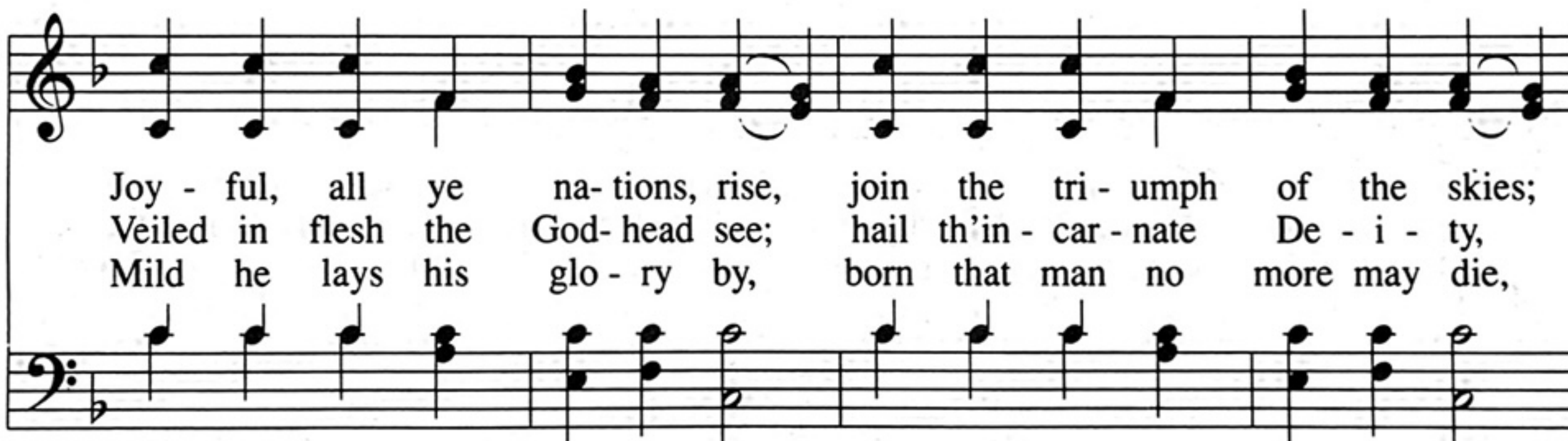
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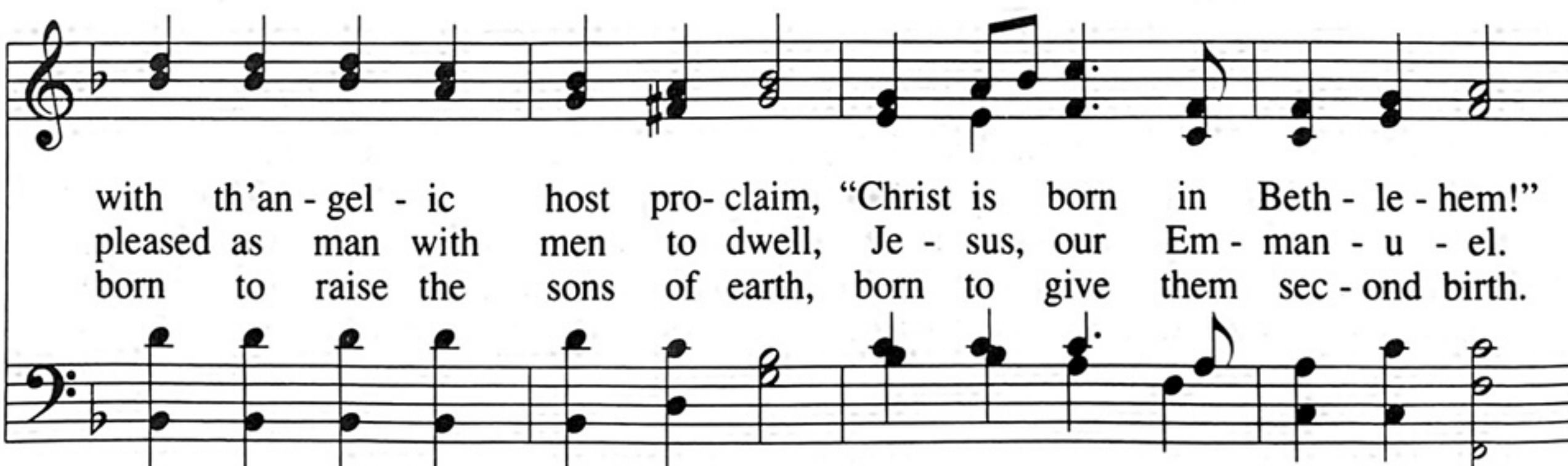
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

7

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D.ref.
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

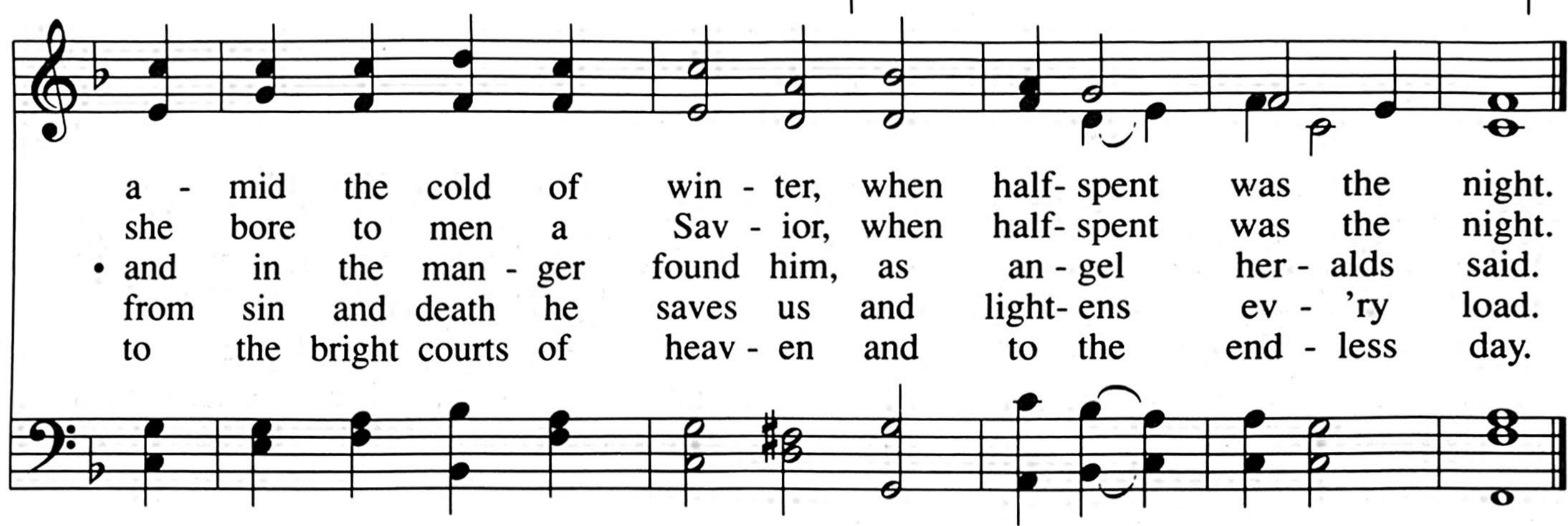
A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Is. 11:1

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
 4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
 • an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
 fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
 • was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
 the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
 who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,



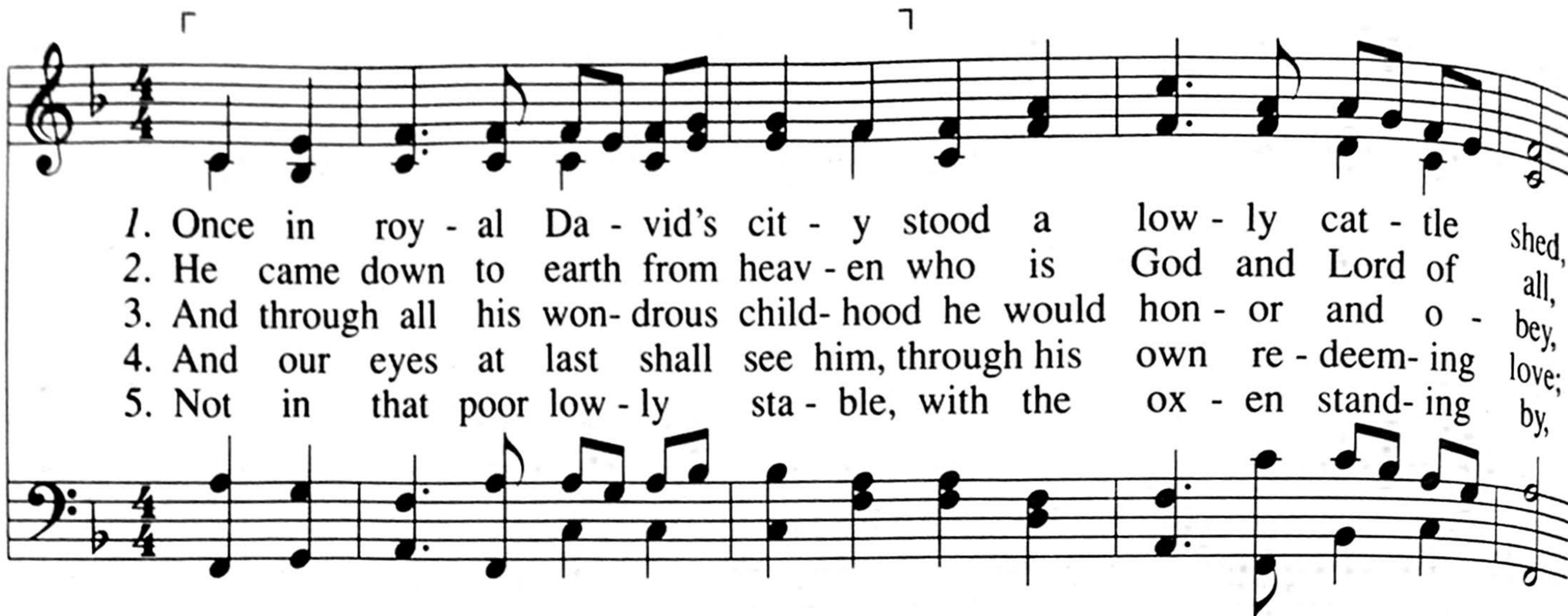
a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half-spent was the night.
 • and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

German hymn, ca. 1500
 St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894
 St. 3-4 tr. by Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875
 St. 5 tr. by John C. Mattes, 1914

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 German melody, 15th cent.
 Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; alt.

Once in Royal David's City

You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

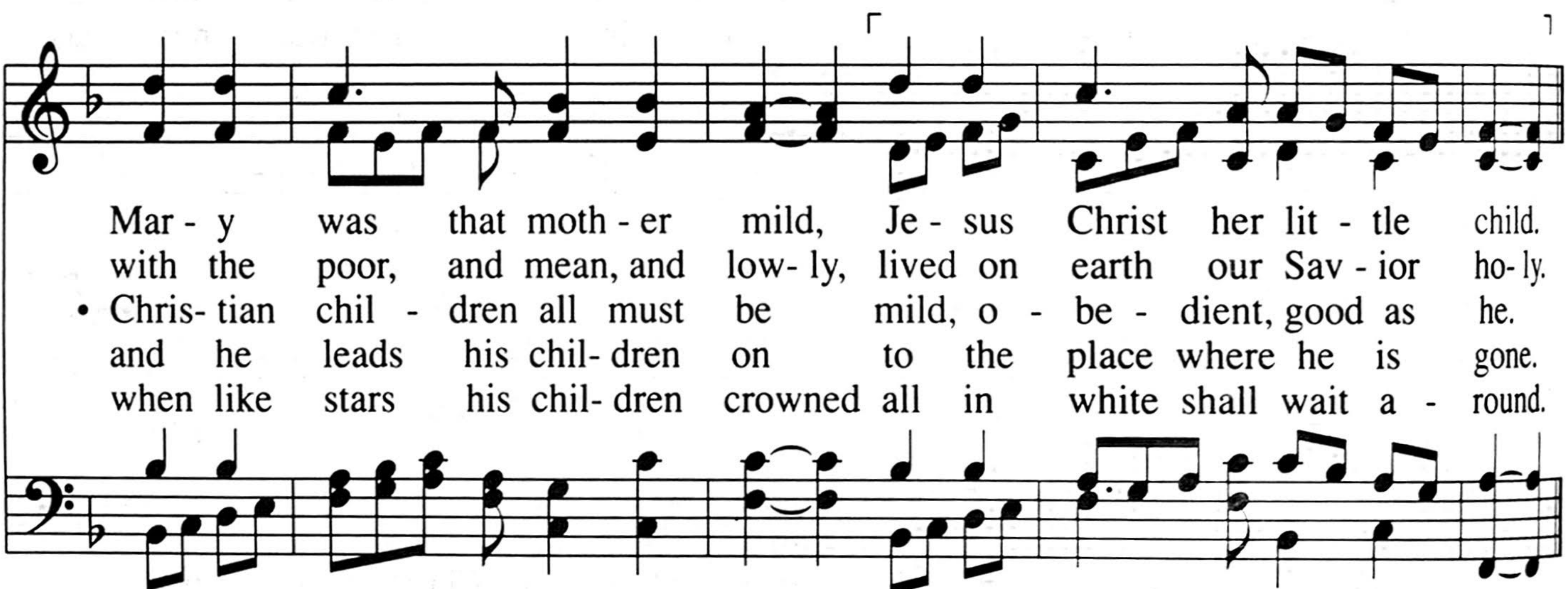


1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of
 3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o -
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing
 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing

shed,
all,
bey,
love;
by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
 • love and watch the low - ly maid - en in whose gen - tle arms he lay:
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,
 we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 • Chris - tian chil - dren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

1.	Joy	to	the	world!	The	Lord	is	come:	let	earth	re -	ceive	her
2.	Joy	to	the	earth!	The	Sav -	ior	reigns:	let	men	their	songs	em -
3.	No	more	let	sins	and	sor -	rows	grow,	nor	thorns	in -	fest	the
4.	He	rules	the	world	with	truth	and	grace,	and	makes	the	na -	tions

King;	let	ev -	ery	heart	pre -	pare	him	room,
ploy;	while	fields	and	floods,	rocks,	hills,	and	plains
ground;	he	comes	to	make	his	bless -	ings	flow
prove	the	glo -	ries	of	his	righ -	teous -	ness

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

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Angels We Have Heard on High

214

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.