



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-5

p. 889

Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem to be enrolled in the census.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 6-7

p. 889

The baby is born, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and laid in a manger.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

*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.  
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.*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 8-15 p. 889  
As shepherds keep watch during the night, angels proclaim good news.

ANTHEM “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” Bacak

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 15 p. 889  
The shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem to worship the Christ child.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 16 p. 889  
Just as the angels promised, the shepherds find the baby in Bethlehem.

ANTHEM “*Shepherds, Hurry*” Scott

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 17- 19 p. 889  
The shepherds tell the angel’s message that the child is the Messiah.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

Love has come, a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 20 p. 889  
The shepherds return home praising God.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

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 lamb before Him bow;  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1-2 p. 835  
A star appears in the sky; magi from the East follow it to Jerusalem.

ANTHEM "*We Three Kings*" Handbells

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 9-11 p. 836  
The wise men find the baby Jesus in Bethlehem and worship him.

ANTHEM "*O Holy Night*" Adam  
Bud Smith, Soloist

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 12 p. 836  
The wise men return to their own country by another way.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*“Three Songs of Christmas”*

Piano: Lucy Smith Organ: Jan McDorman

\*CAROL

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

## MESSAGE

## *“Home for Christmas”*

### CANDLE LIGHTING *(please remain seated)*

(The Handbell Choir will play a verse of “Silent Night” and then the congregation will join together in song. During the singing of this carol, the flame, taken from the Christ candle, will be passed among the congregation. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright while the unlighted candle is tipped to receive the flame. Following the Christmas Blessing, before leaving the pew, please extinguish the candles.)

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 "Alleluia.  
Christ the Savior is born;  
Christ the Savior 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.

Silent night, holy night,  
Wondrous star, lend thy light.  
With the angels, let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King.  
Christ the Savior is born;  
Christ the Savior is born.

## THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*“Joy to the World”*

Handel

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We heartily welcome all newcomers on this Holy Night. We hope you will return to worship with us again at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. We invite you to the special Christmas Day service tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

A special word of thanks to all those who donated poinsettias in memory of loved ones!

A word of deepest appreciation to all who participated in this evening's worship service. The gift of your talents has enriched our faith as a church family.

This evening's offering will be used for the missions and ministries of the United Methodist Church in our area, our nation, and our world. These include camping ministries at Casowasco & Aldersgate; outreach to the rural & urban poor through places like Syracuse's West Side Mission & Utica Neighborhood Center; college ministry on many campuses, including Syracuse University; programs for disadvantaged youth; disaster relief in the U.S. & overseas; and training of pastors, missionaries, & church leaders. These are all made possible by our Conference's Benevolence Shared Ministries. Thanks for your generosity!

*Friendly NURSERY CARE for pre-school children is available anytime from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. It is located downstairs at the east end of the building.*

BATHROOMS are located downstairs on the opposite side of the dining hall from the kitchen.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS are located at the top (left hand side) of the double stairway to the sanctuary, to the left of the front outside doors, in the choir loft behind the pulpit, in the kitchen (north wall to the left of the window into the dining hall), to the left of the furnace room door, and at the top of the back staircase in the Sunday School area.

For our 10:30 a.m. worship service tomorrow on Christmas Sunday we invite anyone who would like to sing “Do You Hear What I Hear?” to join the choir. This is for kids, senior citizens, and everyone in between! Please come at 9:45 a.m. to practice with us. It will be an informal Candy Cane Choir—we welcome you to wear white or red tops (we will be seated with our family), no need for choir robes.