

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Kardisco, Associate Pastor

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Secretary

First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 & 10:30 AM

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance! We pray God's blessing upon you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

by Goss

CALL TO WORSHIP

Group 1 (Left Side): Praise the LORD! Across the heavens, from the heights, all you angels, heavenly beings, sing praise! Sing praise! Sun and moon, glittering stars, sing praise! Sing praise! Highest heavens, rain clouds, sing praise! Sing praise! Praise God's name, whose word called you forth and fixed you in place forever by eternal decree.

Group 2 (Right Side): Let there be praise! From the depths of the earth, from creatures of the deep. Fire and hail, snow and mist, storms, winds, mountains, hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild beasts and tame, snakes and birds, princes, judges, rulers, subjects, men, women, old and young – praise, praise the holy name! This name beyond all names.

ALL: God's splendor above the earth, above the heavens, gives strength to the nation, glory to the faithful, a people close to God. Praise the Lord!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: We have opposed your ways, O God. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have avoided the hard truths of your prophets.

Silence

ALL: Show us your mercy, O God, and grant us your salvation. By your light, may we see light. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

L: The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. God's mercy is over all God's works. You are forgiven. Walk in the light of Christ.

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 129 (black hymnal, v. 2) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ALL SING: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forevermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE
MESSAGE**

Matthew 2: 1-15

HYMN NO. 157 (black hymnal)

Brightest and Best

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SPECIAL MUSIC (played by the Holy Dingalings)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Traditional

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Traditional

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Lopez

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 575 (vs. 2 & 3)

O for a World

**ALL SING: O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that
opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 132** (black hymnal)

Joy to the World

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Traditional

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Addison Bickleman's 4th birthday by Eric Bickleman, Jennifer, Caitlin, Ben, & Mason Damon.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of all who helped in any way with our Christmas Eve services by the congregation.

The bulletins are presented in honor of my mother and my grandmother, Dorothy Leber's 100th birthday by Jane & Jodi Graham.

Thank you to the Holy Dingalings for participating in both services today.

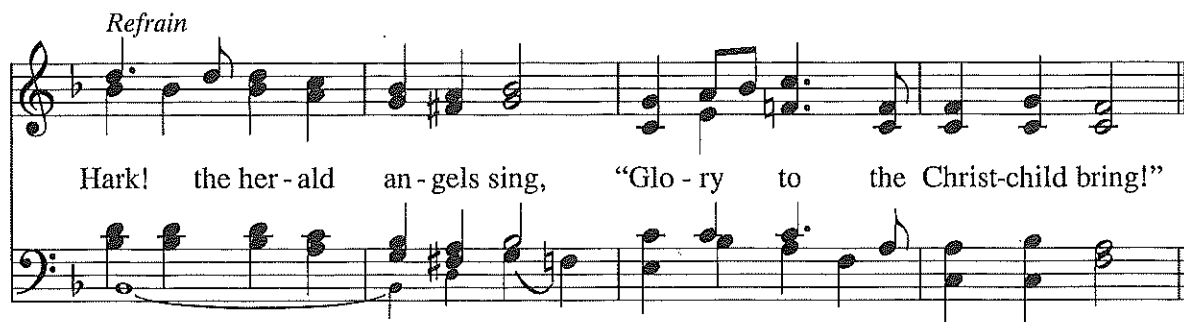
We offer a hearing assistance system called *Listen Technologies*. If you would like to use a receiver, please check with the volunteers at the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

8 AM Worship Tech: Dave Strine
8 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Pastor Jeff
8 AM Sound Tech: George DeMers
8 AM Video Tech: Dave Beyer
8 AM Hall Monitor: Coordinated by Pam Minnich
10:30 AM Worship Tech: Coordinated by Travis Pinci
10:30 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Pastor Jeff
10:30 AM Sound Tech: Evan Waltemyer
10:30 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty
10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone
10:30 AM Hall Monitor: Bob Katherman
10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Pastor Jeff

¹**Coming Home Again: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Christmas, Year A**, were written by the Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA. <http://armenianmemorialchurch.org/?q=node/87>. Copyright 2019 Justice Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

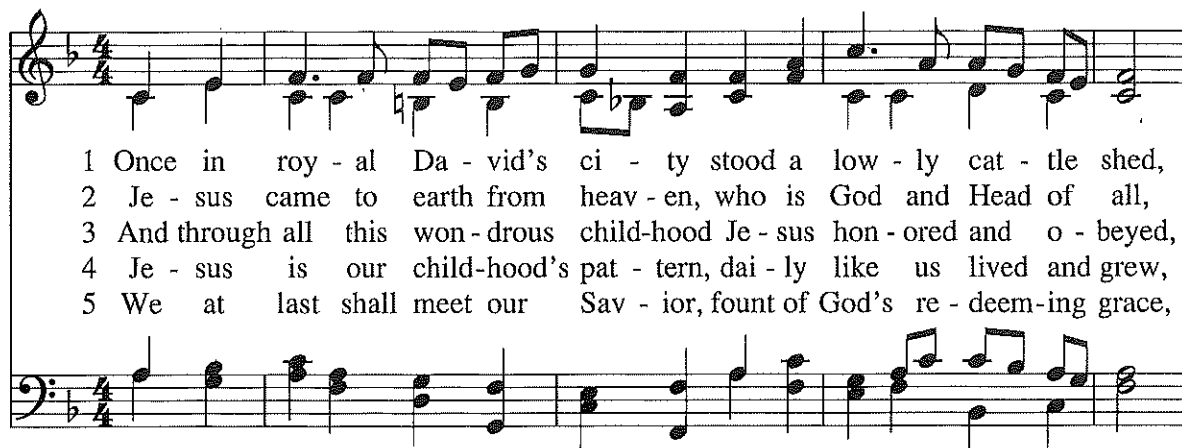
Refrain



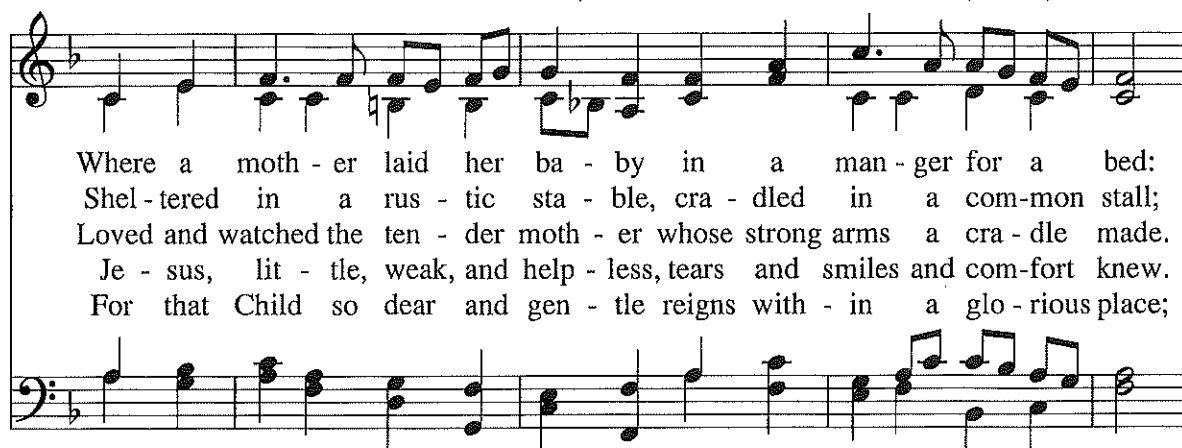
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"

Once in Royal David's City

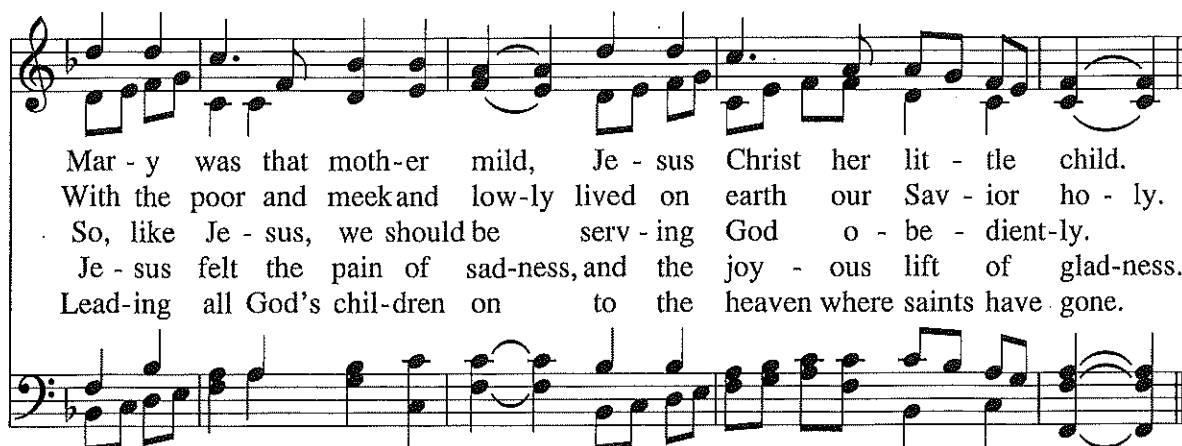
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*Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.**Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18*


1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
 3 And through all this won - drous child - hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
 4 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
 5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem - ing grace,



Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
 Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
 Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
 Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
 For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
 Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
 Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the bishop of Ireland, wrote a series of children's hymns commenting on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn, elaborating on the words "... born of the Virgin Mary," tells the whole life of Christ.

Tune: IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.
 Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
 Harm. A. H. Mann, 1919

Brightest and Best

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Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

Matt. 2:9-11; Luke 2:10-14

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.
God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;
fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta (including all of India), where he died of exhaustion at age forty-three. His *Hymns* (1827) was the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year.

Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.
James P. Harding, 1892
The New Psalms and Hymns, Richmond, Va., 1901
Alternate setting: WALKER

Joy to the World!

*Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.**Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."

Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.
 Lowell Mason, 1836