



For what we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants
for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5

Truly great hymns and worship songs—the kind that the church will still sing 200 years from now—combine robust, sound theology with a singable tune which matches well the theme of the song.

On Christmas Eve of 1818 (200 years ago!), Pastor Joseph Mohr of St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria wanted a Christmas carol that would serve as a fitting conclusion to the Christmas Eve service he was planning.

His mind went back to the little poem he had written two years earlier while serving another church.

He pulled it out, wondering if it could be set to music.

Pastor Mohr paid a visit to his friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, a schoolteacher who also served as the church's organist and choir leader. In just a few short hours Gruber came up with a memorably beautiful melody that is still instantly recognized and loved to this day... 200 years later.

We know the song as *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

The birth of Christ is *holy*. And it compels a reverent reflection, perhaps best entered into while *silent*.

Please plan to attend the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service,
as we conclude Advent and welcome Christmas with the singing of *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 23, 2018 A.D.

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! If you are a guest with us, please be sure to sign our Welcome Pads when they are passed around before the service. Children are welcome in our worship. We have a nursery available for children 3 and under. Children 4 to 6 years of age may be dismissed to Children's Worship prior to the sermon. Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Song of Assembly¹

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wisemen from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger, Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,
His power and glory ever more proclaim! His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

from Revelation 12:10; Isaiah 9:6

Pastor: Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come!

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 122

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Hymn of Praise

The First Noel

Traditional Carol

The first Noel, the angel 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, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew night to the north-west; O'er Bethlehem it took it's rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord, Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

The Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: Micah 5:2-5a

Jake & Liz Cook

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world to deliver your captive people; surely you have done great things for us; yet we continue to ignore what you have done, turn our backs on what you are doing, and forget about what you will do; forgive us of our sinful apathy; grant to us the assurance of salvation; cause your Holy Spirit to work in us genuine repentance and wholehearted obedience. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Saving Forgiveness Through Christ

Luke 1:76-79; Titus 3:4,5a

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.... When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Wesley

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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing on His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth,
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon²

Pastor Tommy Lee

**There is no such thing as “the spirit of Christmas.”
There is, of course, the Spirit of God... the Spirit of CHRIST.
John 1:1-14 (page 886)**

We Respond

Immanuel

Card

A sign shall be given, a virgin will conceive,
A human baby bearing undiminished Deity.
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see;
And hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.

*Immanuel, Our God is with us.
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?
Our God is with us, Immanuel.*

You shall be my people, I will be your God,
Said He who did not spare His Son, but gave Him for us all.
On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height,
Could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to share in this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in a deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the Church.

(Gluten free communion bread is available upon request; please speak to the pastor before the service or alert your server during communion.)

² 4, 5, & 6 year-old children may be dismissed before the sermon to Children's Worship in room 132.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Mohr

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, heav'nly host 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!

Benediction³

from Mary's Song, Luke 1:46-50

May your soul magnify the Lord, and may your spirit rejoice in God our Savior, for he has looked upon the humble estate of his people, and granted his blessing. For he who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is his name. His mercy is on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Song of Faith

Let There Be Light

Let there be light, let it shine bright,
Piercing the darkness with dazzling white.
Hope for the hopeless was born on that night
When God sent His Son and said let there be light.

This Week

Tuesday 6:30pm

Women's Bible Study @ NCC (Armor of God)

Friday 6:30am

Men's Bible Study @ Temple, Inc. (Mansfield's Book of Manly Men)

³ Just as God called us into His presence at the beginning, so now He commands His blessing upon us as we depart. We look up and extend our hands in a posture of thanksgiving as we receive this great gift. Our final response to God's assurance of His peace and presence upon those who are in Christ is a chorus of joyful song.

DPC Announcements

Midweek Ministries: will resume January 9th.

Get More Connected: Sign up for the weekly email by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org.

Next Up! The next four books of Scripture that we'll be reading together via the Cultivate daily readings will be Philemon, Zechariah, Romans, & Malachi. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: A Festival of Lessons and Carols, "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!", tomorrow, Monday, December 24, 5:00 pm.

Secret Sister: will be starting again in January. If you would like to participate, there is a sign up form on the desk in the gathering room. Please return your form by next Sunday, December 30. For more information about Secret Sister, see Elizabeth Lee or the secret sister letter on the desk.

Baby Shower: A Table Baby Shower for Jonathan and Megan Davis on the birth of their son, John Grady. A table will be set up on Sunday, January 5. Feel free to bring your gift or some diapers or other practical gifts and leave them on the table. See Elizabeth Lee with questions.

JOY (Empty-Nesters) Luncheon: The next JOY covered dish luncheon will be on Sunday, January 13, following the worship service.

Women's Bible Study: This winter and spring, the Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m., beginning January 15th. It will be facilitated by Teresa Quinn and Annah Joseph. Childcare provided. *In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character*, by Jen Wilkin. Available in the DPC Book Nook!

Missions Sunday: Plan to join us on Sunday, February 3 to hear Dr. Paul Kooistra preach on "Missions: The Heart of God". Dr. Kooistra will be speaking for both the worship service and a joint Sunday school.

Life Groups! The Wednesday night adult small groups ("doing life together in the context of the Word, prayer, fellowship and mission") will be multiplying and/or reshuffling, then relaunching in January. If you're not in a LG and want to be or are interested in leading one, please contact Rick Stark.

DPC 2019 Christian Faith & Life Conference: Pastor Sandy Willson will return! To hear another sermon from him, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y894cbr4> Recommendation: Our Chief End. Our conference will be February 22-24.

Sermon Outline Notes: for adults and children are available on the back table.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

FALL 2018

SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM

The Fun Adult Class! Join us as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith, a study of the doctrinal foundation of the Presbyterian Church. We discuss the daily spiritual implications of good theology. Led by Kent Quinn, Mike McMahan, Blake Temple and Scott Mayo. We meet down & across the hall from the church office.

Foundations of the Faith: Join us as we study 1 Samuel, where God raises up a great prophet and priest in Samuel and a great king in David. God was preparing his people for a much greater King, who would conquer sin and death forever! This class, led by Stuart Smith, meets in the Parlor and is open to everyone.

Young Adult Class: The Young Adult class, led by Nathan White, is going through the book of Jude. Join us in the choir room, down the back hallway from the sanctuary.

Sedona Class: Led by George Godwin, we are currently studying through the Book of Acts. The class meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Guests are always welcome!

Ladies Sunday School Class: We are studying Ephesians in the library at 9:30 am. This is a discussion based Bible study, facilitated by Barbara Brownlee, Elizabeth Lee, Julie Missildine and Holly Vinson. Open to all ladies, please join us!

Session

George Godwin
Jeff Keith
Mike McMahan
Kent Quinn

Greg Smith
Blake Temple
Chip Walraven

Diaconate

James Fudge
Wade Littrell
John Lyons
Scott Missildine
Bill Nelson
Steve Sasser
Sam Thompson
Michael Vinson
David Whitcomb
David Zajic

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Service Times

9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship

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