

# New Castle Presbyterian Church



## AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



*What Child is This?*



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2025

7:30 p.m.

#### GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Prelude**

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

arr. Tom Fettke

**Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church**

**Steeple Bell**

**Choral Introit**

**The First Noel**

Bob Chilcott

Bethany Faiz - Piano

#### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing! **We come to Bethlehem, with hope, peace, joy, and love in our hearts and praise on our lips.**

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

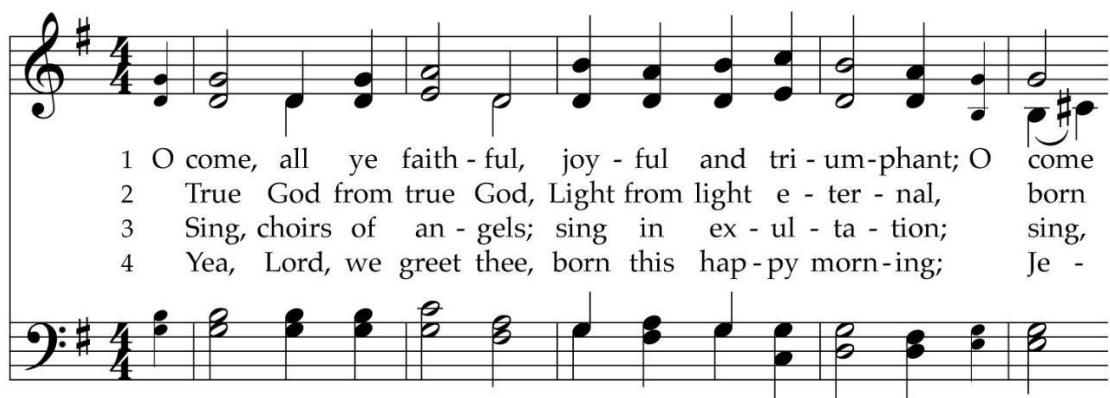
**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing!**

Hurry to Bethlehem this day, **Christ's light shines.** (*Candle is lit.*)

The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

**Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**\*Hymn 133      O Come, All Ye Faithful**



1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant; O come  
2 True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born  
3 Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come, and be-hold him,  
of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes; ver-y God, be-  
all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all  
sus, to thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther,

*Refrain*



born the King of an-gels!  
got-ten, not cre-at-ed! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let  
glo-ry in the high-est! now in flesh ap-pear-ing!



us a-dore him; O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

## **Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Holy God, at an unexpected hour you sent an unlikely liberator to an undeserving world. What child is this? Christ is our savior, our king, your light for the world. Help us to ask questions and seek answers in you, so that all would know your grace and love. Thank you for Christ, the Word made flesh! Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Let us proclaim the Good News together:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Response Hymn 113 Angels We Have Heard on High – vs 1 and 2**

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo - - -ria 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.**

**Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!**

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

### **Anthem**

### **Songs of the Angels**

Mark Hayes

Bethany Faiz - Piano

### **First Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7: The Promise is Given

Page: OT 638

### **Hymn #109 vs 1**

**Blest Be the God of Israel**

### **Second Lesson**

Luke 2:1-7: The Decree and Journey:

Page: NT 58

### **Hymn #121 vs 1&2**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

### **Third Lesson**

Luke 2:8-14: The Birth is Proclaimed

Page: NT 58

### **Hymn #119 vs 1&3**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

### **Fourth Lesson**

Luke 2:15-20: The Christ Child is Found

Page: NT 58

### **Hymn #115 vs 1&2**

**Away in a Manger**

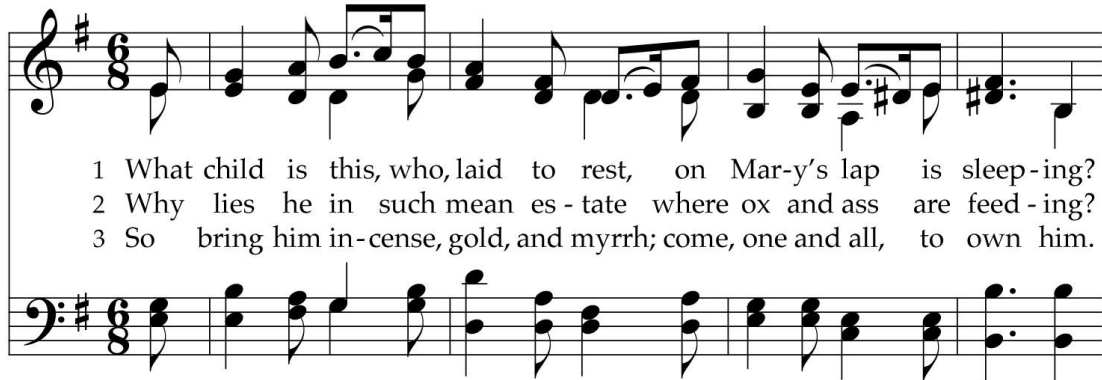
### **Meditation**

*And Heaven and Nature Sing: What Child is This?*

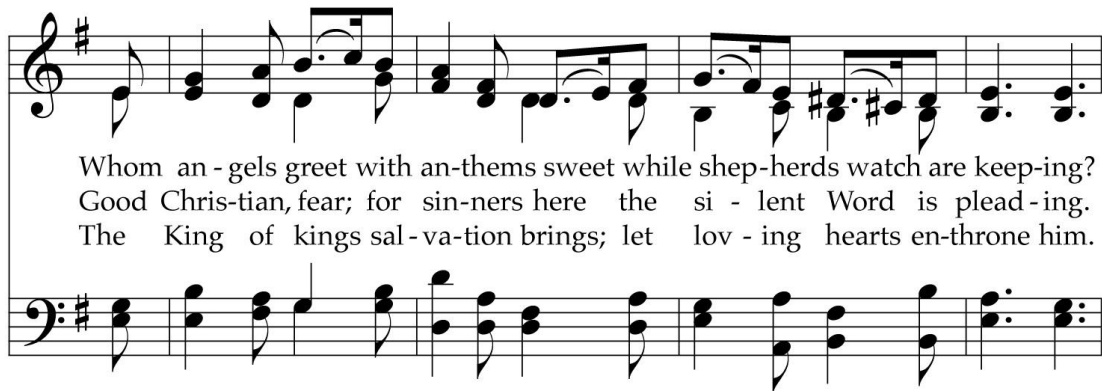
# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

## What Child is This

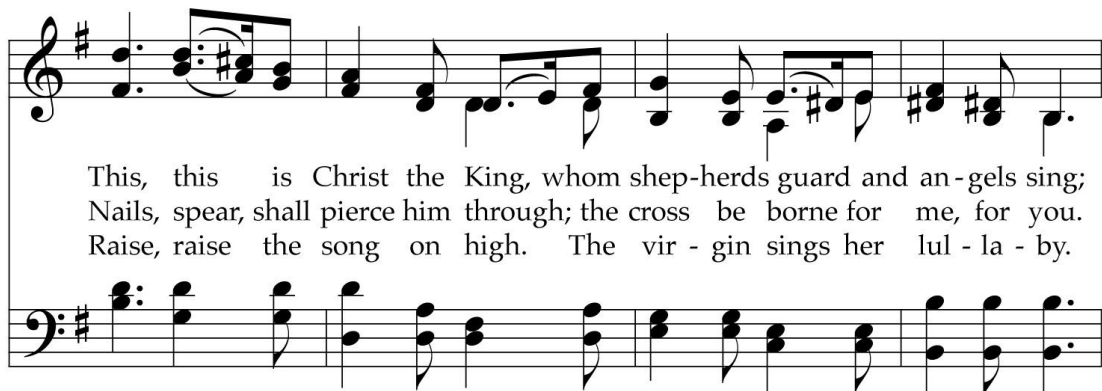
\*Hymn 145



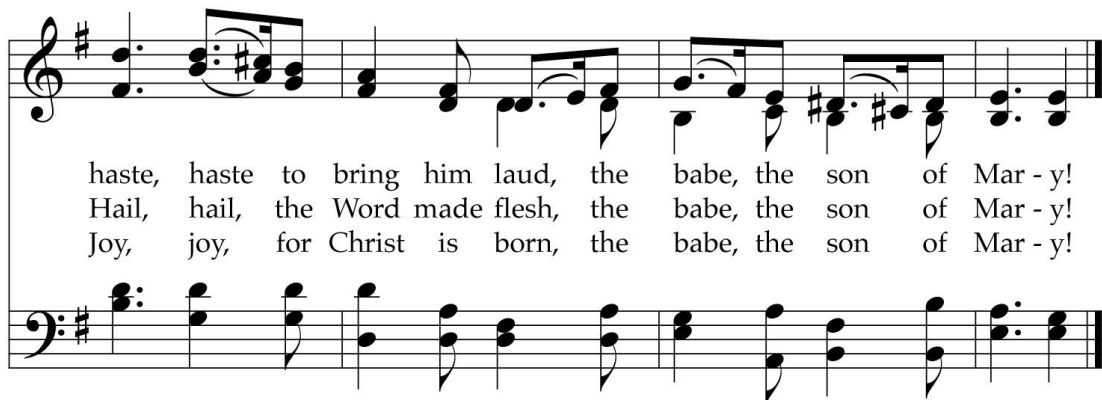
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

## Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

### Offertory

### O Holy Night

Cappeau/Adams

Sarah McCann, Soprano

*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! 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 the 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 no stranger; Behold your King! Before the Lowly bend! Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall 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! Then ever, ever praise we; His power and glory ever-more proclaim!*

### **\*Response - #110 Love Has Come, verse 1**

**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.**

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

### **\*The Celebration in Candlelight**

*Light from the Christ Candle will light the candle of the first person in each pew.  
That person will offer the light to the next. Please always dip the unlighted candle into the lighted one, as we share the light of Christ that has come into the world.*

\*Hymn 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*  
*Alles schläft, einsam wacht*  
*nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.*  
*Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앓아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*  
*Todo duerme en derredor,*  
*entre los astros que esparcen su luz,*  
*bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

## **\*Congregational Response**

**Joy to the word, 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.**

## **Organ Postlude**

## **Lift Up Your Heads (with “Joy to the World”)**

arr. Franklin Ritter

*You may recycle your bulletins in the basket at the back of the Meeting House.*

*Greeter/Ushers: Jim & Barb Whisman*

*Worship Leader: Nancy Kersey*

*Christ Candle Lighters: The Briggs Family*

*Pastor: Rev. Miriam Foltz*

## **Welcome to New Castle Presbyterian Church**

In person and via livestream, we gather as a faith community, seeking and serving the God we know in Jesus Christ. May this worship service remind you that you are God's own and that together we are called to live out God's way of love, justice and peace.

***We hope to see you this Sunday, December 28, for worship at 10:30 a.m!***

**A little help** - Please see an usher to receive any assistance, including a seat cushion.

**Restrooms** are located in the Education Building, at the far end of the Fellowship Hall.

**Worship “code”:** \* = please stand if able    **bold** = all speak together

### **Gentle Reminders:**

Please turn off all cell phones.

Parking spaces on 2nd Street are for  
handicapped parking only.

### **Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm

Pastor Miriam's day of rest is Monday.

**The Beautiful Christmas Display of Flowers  
In the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God**



Earl Reed & Family	In Memory of Janet Reed In Memory of Bill & Grace Werkheiser
Tanasi Baldet	In Memory of My Mom
Chris & Rick Fagles & Family	In Memory of Our Parents, Skip & Doug Twyford
Dan & Candy Dunson	In Honor of New Castle Presbyterian Church Support of the Guatemala Project
Joan Appleby	In Memory of Bob Appleby
Pat Taylor	In Memory of Dave and Our Parents
Juliann & Rob Barry	In Memory of Loved Ones
Beverly Stoudt	In Memory of Judy Dill Gavotos
Scott & Amy Selheimer	In Memory of Mark Campbell, Shirley Knox & Our Parents
Sandy & Lindy Ballance	In Memory of Loved Ones
Lyn Briggs	In Memory of Loved Ones
Connie Reese	In Memory of Don Reese
Dan Knox	In Memory of Shirley Knox & Gene Mayhew
Carol Mayhew	In Memory of Gene Mayhew In Honor of Stacey, JW, Logan, Hart, Luke & Hunter
Mary Fontinha	In Memory of Detlev Moore
Peter & Kelly McCurdy	In Honor & Memory of our Parents and other Loved Ones In Memory of Shirley Knox, Gene Mayhew, And Rod Denison In Honor of Dan Knox, Lyn Briggs and The Foltz Family