## Mt. Zion United Church of Christ 1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

Telephone: 717-755-6117 E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor Louis Allison, Tech Director

Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

December 28, 2025 9:45 AM

### In the Dark Streets Shineth: The Light of Wonder

First Sunday after Christmas

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, 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! We have children's books and activity bags in the side hallway for them to enjoy! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS & CONCERNS
INTRODUCTION TO THEME

PRELUDE Gesu Bambino by Marten

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

C: The light shines, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

L: We have seen God's glory—grace upon grace.

C: The holy has found a home in human hearts.

L: Let every heart be filled with wonder and light.

C: The light of Christ is here—shining in us and among us.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: God of wonder,

C: you have come among us in the stillness of night and the laughter of morning. Your light fills what was empty; your grace overflows what was ordinary. Let the light we have seen in Christ dwell richly in us, so that every word and act may carry your brightness into the world. Your light has found us; shine through us, O God. Amen.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

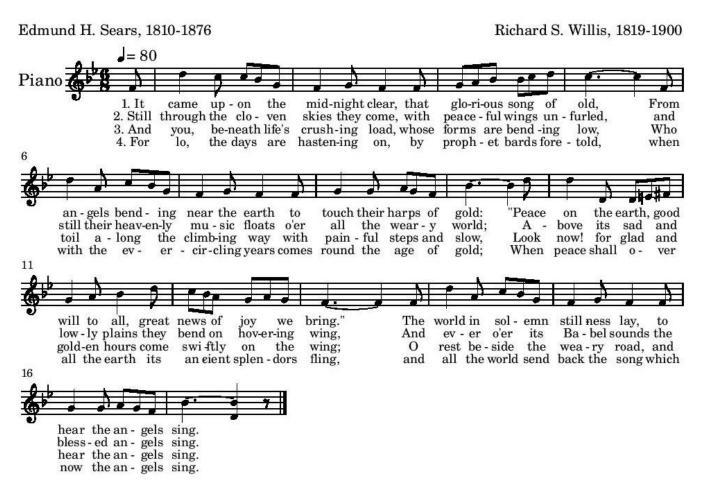
#### **LESSON 1—THE PROMISE OF LIGHT**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (CEB)

**\*CAROL NO. 107** (red hymnal, see below, vs. 1 & 3)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



#### LESSON 2—A SMALL PLACE SHINES

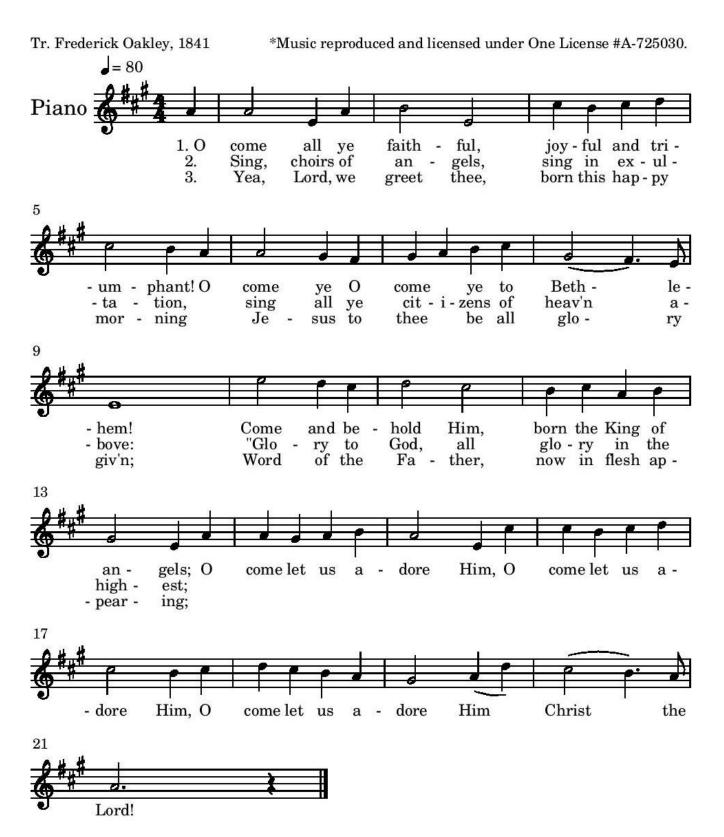
SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a (CEB)

O Come All Ye Faithful

<sup>\*</sup>GATHERING HYMN NO. 112 (red hymnal, see next page, vs. 1 & 2)

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful (Traditional)



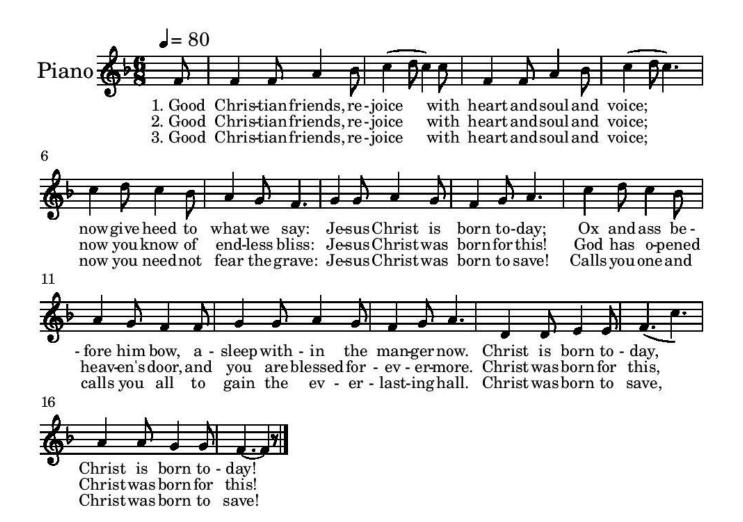
<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38 (CEB)

**CAROL NO. 129** (black hymnal, see below)

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

# Good Christian Friends Rejoice



#### **LESSON 4—LIGHT ENTERS THE WORLD**

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 (CEB)

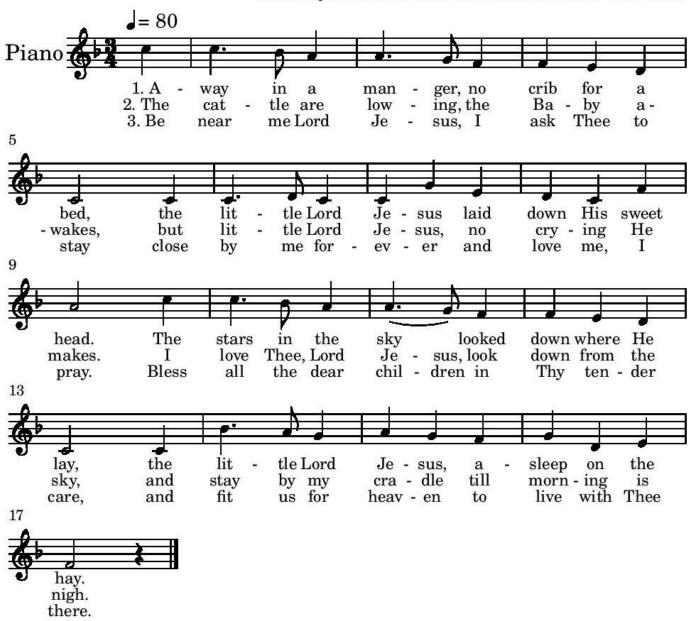
**CAROL NO. 109** (red hymnal, see next page, vs. 1 & 2)

Away in a Manger

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Away in a Manger

James R. Murray, 1887 \*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-12 (CEB)

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 102 (red hymnal, see below, vs. 1 & 3)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

# Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Traditional)



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:13-14 (CEB)

**CAROL NO. 104** (red hymnal, vs. 1 & 2, see below)

Angels from the Realms of Glory

# Angels from the Realms of Glory

James Montgomery, 1816
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<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-16 (CEB)

**CAROL NO. 105** (red hymnal, see below, vs. 1 & 4)

Angels We Have Heard on High

# Angels We Have Heard on High (Traditional)



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

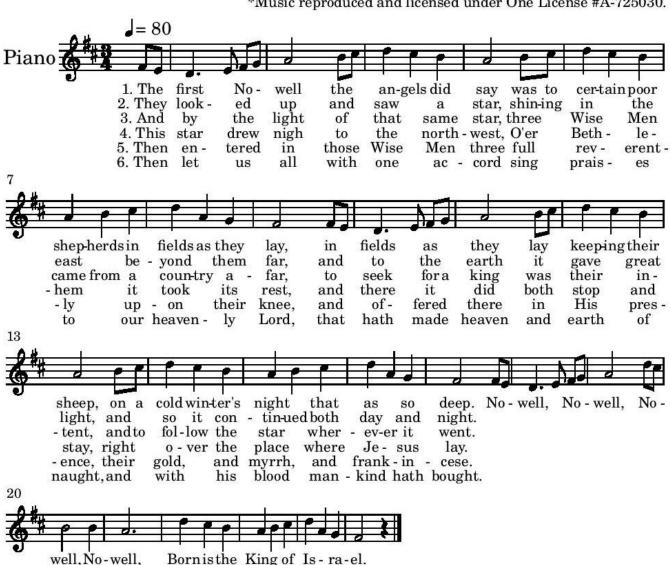
SCRIPTURE Luke 2:17-20 (CEB)

**\*CAROL NO. 118** (red hymnal, see below, vs. 1 & 3)

The First Noel

## The First Noel

Traditional English Carol, 1833 \*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

#### \*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION CONFESSION

L: God of new beginnings,

C: we confess that we grow impatient with the holy. We rush past mystery, forgetting that your light is still unfolding. Forgive our hurry and our blindness. Keep us near the manger a little longer, that we might notice your presence in our ordinary days and carry the wonder of Christ into the world. Your light has found us; shine through us, O God. Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: The same God who lit the night sky with angels now lights our lives with mercy. Christ's light is not for one night only—it shines on, in us and through us, revealing grace that will not fade. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and made whole.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR CHRISTMAS

L: Forgiven and renewed, we turn now to prayer—for the world Christ entered, for the people Christ came to love, for the places still waiting for wonder. The shepherds hurried from the manger carrying good news in their arms. May our prayers carry that same hope into God's heart.

#### C: Your light has found us; shine through us, O God.

L: God of still mornings and quiet hearts, you have met us in our need, and your light rests gently upon us. We pray for your world—for places aching for peace, for those who celebrated without shelter, for those who awoke to grief instead of gladness, for nations longing for justice and healing. Let your light linger where the night feels long.

## C: Your light has found us; shine through us, O God.

L: We pray for our own community—for families settling back into routines, for those carrying hidden burdens, for those who serve quietly and for those who are simply tired. May the wonder of Christ's birth steady our steps and soften our days.

## C: Your light has found us; shine through us, O God.

L: We give thanks for joy that continues to ripple through this season—for candles stillglowing, for music that will not leave our hearts, for moments of laughter and tenderness. We speak our joys aloud in gratitude.

(Pause for spoken joys.)

L: Thank you for the light these joys reveal.

C: Your light has found us; shine through us, O God.

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: We lift before you all who need your gentle care—the weary, the ill, the grieving, the afraid. Those navigating loss, and those longing for hope. Hear the names we speak in love.

(Pause for spoken concerns.)

L: Make your presence known loudly in the places where discouragement settles and courage wears thin.

### C: Your light has found us; shine through us, O God.

L: God of Wonder, hold all these prayers in your keeping, and prepare our hearts now to hear again the promise of your restoring love. Through Christ, the Light of the World, we pray as together we join in the prayer he taught us...

C: 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.

L: God of life, God of new life, inspire this congregation to reach out beyond our walls, beyond our fears, beyond our past. Help us to welcome your future. Christ Jesus, by your coming,

C: Set us free for your ministry—let us bring joy to the world.

L: God of life, God of new life, by the birth of Jesus you have brought light into our darkness. Shine in our lives. Christ Jesus, by your coming,

C: Set us free for your ministry—let us bring joy to the world.

L: We pray in the name of Jesus, our light, our life, and our hope.

C: Amen.

#### **LESSON 9—LIGHT RESORES AND RENEWS**

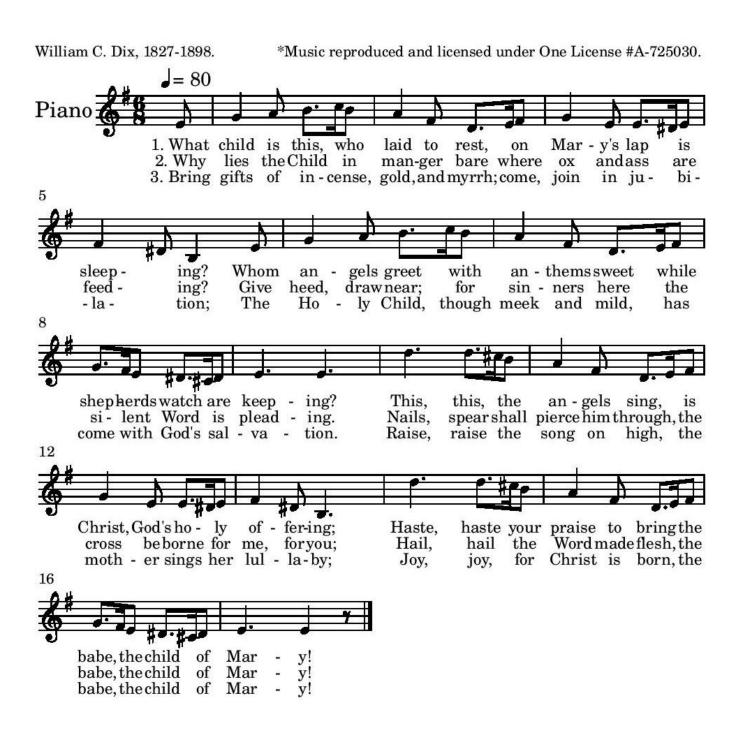
SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (CEB)

\*CAROL NO. 148 (black hymnal, see next page, vs. 1 & 3)

What Child is This?

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## What Child is This



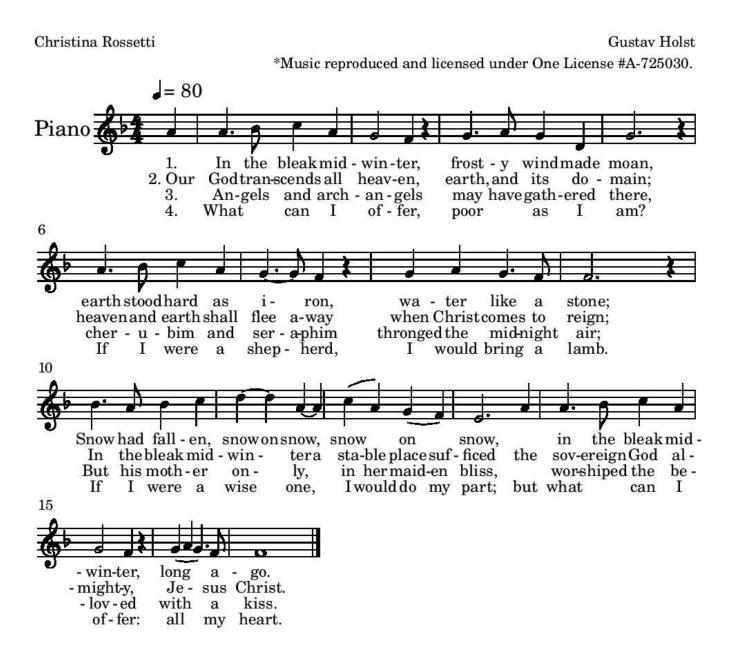
<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5 (CEB)

**CAROL NO. 128** (black hymnal, see below, vs. 1 & 4)

*In the Bleak Midwinter* 

## In the Bleak Midwinter



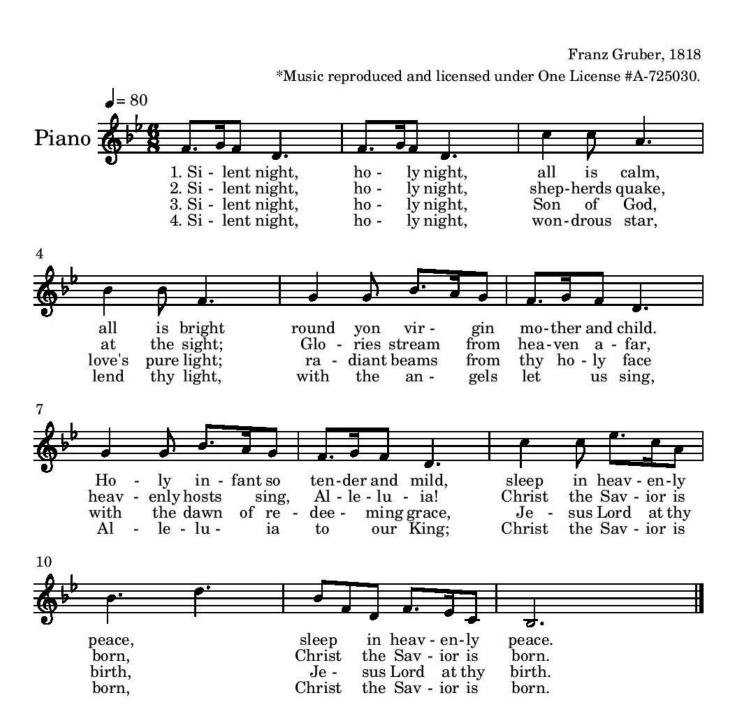
<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 19 (CEB)

**CAROL** (see below, vs. 1 & 3)

Silent Night

# Silent Night



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE John 1:6-14 (CEB)

#### A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP OFFERTORY CAROL NO. 120 (black hymnal, see below)

Joy to the World

# Joy to the World



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray.

C: God of wonder, your light lingers among us even as the season turns and the songs grow quiet. Bless these gifts and bless the hands and hearts that offer them. May they carry the warmth of Christ's presence into places still waiting for joy, still longing for hope, still needing the gentleness of your love. As you once sent shepherds to share good news with all who would hear, send us now— to shine, to serve, and to love in the name of Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

#### LESSON 13—LIGHT SENT INTO THE WORLD

**SCRIPTURE** 

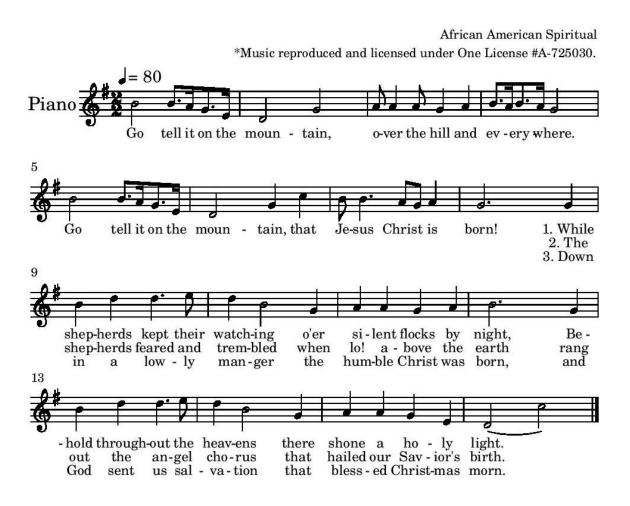
Luke 2:17 (CEB)

Matthew 28:19 (CEB)

\*SENDING CAROL NO. 154 (red hymnal, see below)

Go Tell It On the Mountain

## Go Tell It on the Mountain



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

#### \*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

L: Go now, children of the Light—for the Light has come and dwells among us.

C: This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine—with wonder and grace.

L: Where will you shine your light?

C: On ourselves, our families, our friends, and our community.

L: God will use your shining light of wonder to bless all creation. So go, children of the Light, and know that the Light of the World goes with you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.** 

POSTLUDE In Jubilate Deo Traditional

Thank you to our Advent Team: Elaine Bevivino, Deb Herlocker, Lana Fritz, Cindy Hogentogler, & Melody Stine for arranging the beautiful decorations in our sanctuary!

Thank you to Lee & Patsy Brown for donating our beautiful Christmas Tree and the Christmas wreaths!

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

<u>Welcome Team Members</u>—Deb & Terry Barnes <u>Liturgist</u>— Tama Allison & Deb Herlocker <u>Tech Team</u>—

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

