

JANUARY 7, 2024

Preparation for Worship

*God of endless light, you sent a star – rising from darkness,
guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy.
Let the splendor of your dawning light
grow in us and in all the world
until the whole creation shines with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Voluntary

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Introit

Epiphany Alleluias

John Weaver
(1937-2021)

✠ Hymn 152 [\(see page 8\)](#)

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

✠ Prayer of Confession

**God-with-us,
we confess that we have not embraced your love.
Christ has come into the world,
and yet we do not know him.
Christ has called us to be his own,
and yet we do not accept him.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Show us your mercy and truth until we know in fullness
your good news of great joy.**

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the Good News. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response

Canon—4 voices



Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

O.T. pg. 690

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near,
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till Thou inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Ordinary Gifts

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

Offering

Offertory

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist
BWV 614

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

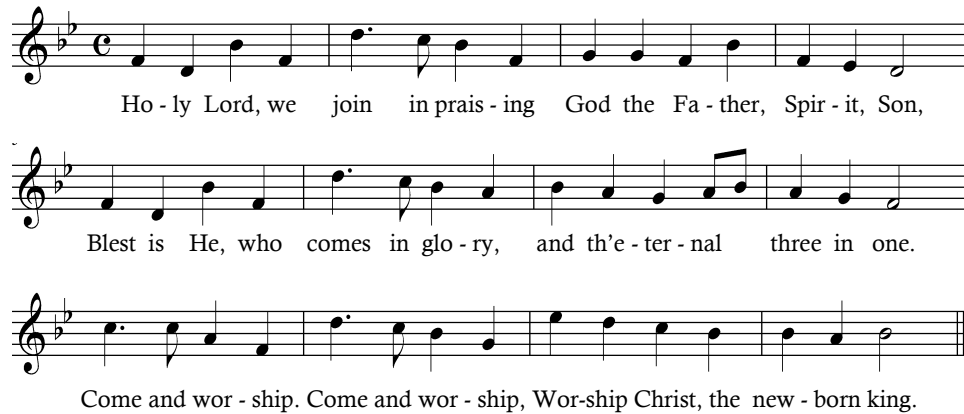
Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God . . . Therefore we join the faithful of every time and place
in singing the endless hymn of praise:



Ho - ly Lord, we join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,
Blest is He, who comes in glo - ry, and th'e - ter - nal three in one.
Come and wor - ship. Come and wor - ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new - born king.

Jesus lived for you. . . We pray, even as we affirm the mystery of faith



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ the Lord will come a - gain.

As the children of God, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

for Thine is the Kingdom,

and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

✦ Prayer after Communion

God of all the nations,
we thank you for the wideness of your table,
where there is room enough and food enough
for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
As we have met the living Christ in this meal,
transform our lives that we may become
the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

✦ Hymn 145 ([see page 10](#))

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Communion offering gifts may be brought to the basket in the front.

✦ Charge and Blessing

Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary

In dir st Freude
BWV 615

J.S. Bach

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgists

Charles Johnson-Kelly | Orlean Anderson

Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Matthew Dirst, organist and interim choir director | Jane Malczewskyj, conductor

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by David and Lorrie Castle in celebration of a dozen years of marriage. They thank everyone for their love and support.

WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle and receive a piece of bread. Gluten-free bread is also available. You may dip the bread in the chalice of grape juice and receive communion by intinction or you may take from the tray a small cup of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Those who have difficulty coming forward may receive communion in their seats by signaling the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. Our communion offering in January will benefit Project C.U.R.E. Project C.U.R.E. provides essential medical equipment and supplies to healthcare facilities in developing countries. This Mission Partner is in urgent need of funding to ship donated supplies for emergency surgeries and maternal care in Malawi, a country in economic crisis. You can find out more about Project C.U.R.E. at www.projectcure.org. Gifts may be brought to the front basket during the final hymn. You may also make a secure contribution through [MyStPhilip](#) and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line.

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Genesis 1:1-5—*Over the deep and formless waters, God speaks: Let there be light.*
- Psalm 29—*Give glory to God; the voice of the Lord is over the waters.*
- Acts 19:1-7—*Paul baptizes new believers in Jesus' name; they receive the Spirit.*
- Mark 1:4-11—*Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: You are my Son.*

MUSIC NOTES

Today's **opening voluntary**, Dieterich Buxtehude's setting of the *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* uses this familiar Epiphany chorale ("O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright," No. 827 in our hymnal) as the basis for multiple variations. Each is premised on distinct rhythmic figuration that grows steadily more joyous throughout, and the tune migrates from voice to voice, sometimes sounding through the texture in long notes and at other times decorated fancifully. The custom of a connecting series of organ versets on the same hymn melody was well established by Buxtehude's day, having been invented by Italian organists who wrote their own contrapuntal elaborations on Gregorian hymns.

Our **offertory** and **closing voluntary** are both drawn from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* (*Little Organ Book*), a repository of more concise chorale preludes. The offertory is based on a New Year's hymn whose first line notes that "The old year has now passed away." Bach mines this

reflective sentiment in a somber and highly chromatic setting, one that reflects the various perils recounted in the chorale text. The closing voluntary offers a more joyful take on the new year, with the Epiphany chorale *In dir ist Freude* ("In Thee is Gladness").

This morning's choral pieces also celebrate Epiphany, with shouts of "alleluia" contrasting with more measured reflection on Christ's manifestation in our world. John Weaver, composer of the **introit**, taught for many years at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia while serving as organist of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Healey Willan, composer of today's **anthem**, was a native of England who spent much of his career in Canada. Best known for his church music, Willan was active in multiple arenas as a composer, from opera to keyboard music.

—Matthew Dirst

IN OUR PRAYERS

Stewart Coffman, Ann Frautschi, and family upon the death of Shirley Coffman on December 29.

St. Philippians and their families – Helen Deleon; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Kelley, Grant, Christine, Samantha and Keith Taylor – family of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Alice Woodall-Chisholm – cousin of Mary McGuire; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians – Stephen Wedemeyer and Ron Landers – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor, Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rower; Magdalena Rustomji – friend of Mickey & Ken Meyers; Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Mary Watters – friend of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Tom Barnett – friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach – friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; and Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

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Preparation for Worship from *Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA). Prayer of Confession and Prayer after Communion from *Call to Worship*, 50.1, Presbyterian Church (USA).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY – Ages 3 – Kindergarten – Room 104

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-5 – Room 105

YOUTH – Grades 6-12 – Room 205

FAITH & LIFE – Room 200 – An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – We resume our study of the Kingdom of Judah at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah in Dr. Robert Alter's *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Jan. 14** – "State of the Denomination and the Presbytery" – From June 25 - July 4 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA will meet in Salt Lake City, Idaho. Rev. Lynn Hargrove will tell us about the issues and topics that will be presented to the assembly. Also, Lynn will give us a report on the state of our Presbytery of the New Covenant. Presented by Rev. Lynn Hargrove - General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process - The Presbytery of the New Covenant. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL – We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing, and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

LAMBETH STUDY – Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP – The next and last meeting of the Social Justice Study Group's discussion of systemic racism will meet on Monday, **Jan. 8**, 7-8 p.m. by zoom. Interested folks can contact Sara Jean Jackson (sjj10223@gmail.com) to join this group list. Beginning in February the study will focus on the growing awareness in this country of "Christian nationalism."

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Wednesday Bible study resumes (re-zooms) next Wednesday, **Jan. 10**, at 9:30 a.m. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Jan. 11** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *Exiles* by Jane Harper. So watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP – Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m. We are studying *They Walked With God* by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that he has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

Save the Date

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*



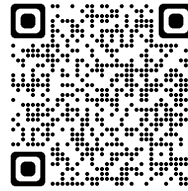
When the Fullness of History Inspires & Infuriates Us:

Settler Colonialism, Slavery & Christianity
in the United States

February 25, 26 & 27 | 2024

Dr. William Yoo

Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History
at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA.



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.net.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,
we seek to be an inclusive,
grace-filled community,
engaging the world with open minds,
willing hands and generous hearts.

WE LONG
for deeper faith,
vibrant hope
and boundless love
for everyone, every day, everywhere.

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A Hearing Loop is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your "T switch" to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY'S HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

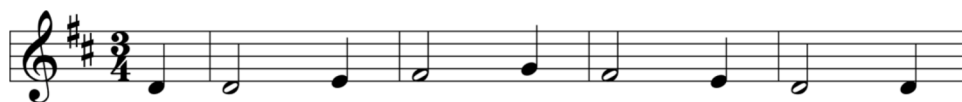
Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -



love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let



sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the



ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

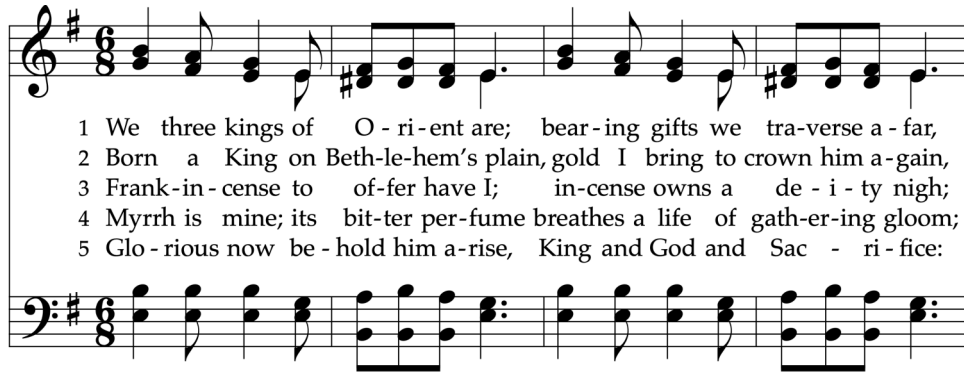
TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

LM


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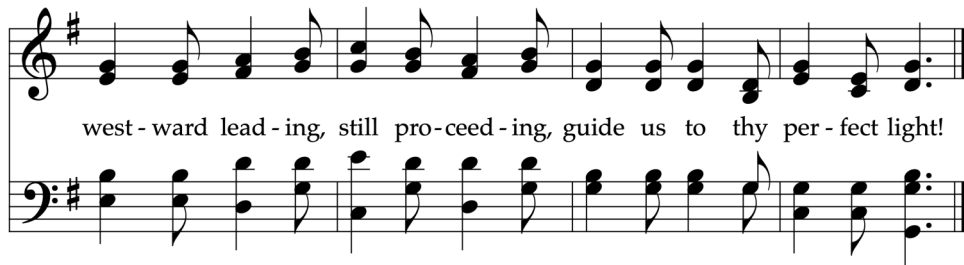
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain


O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

TEXT and MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

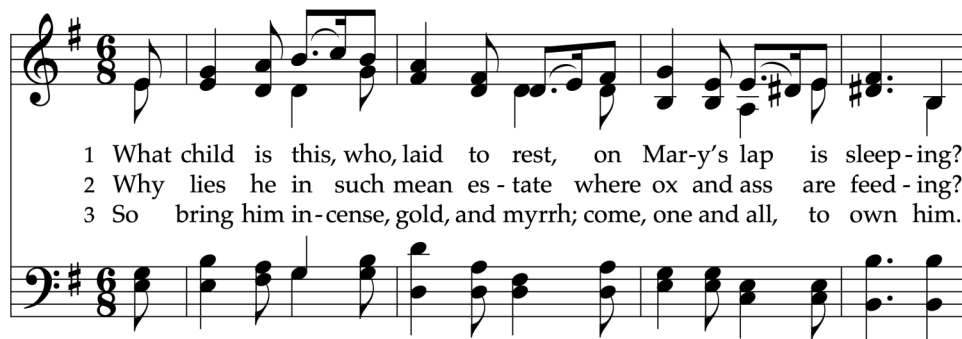
KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.8.6 with refrain

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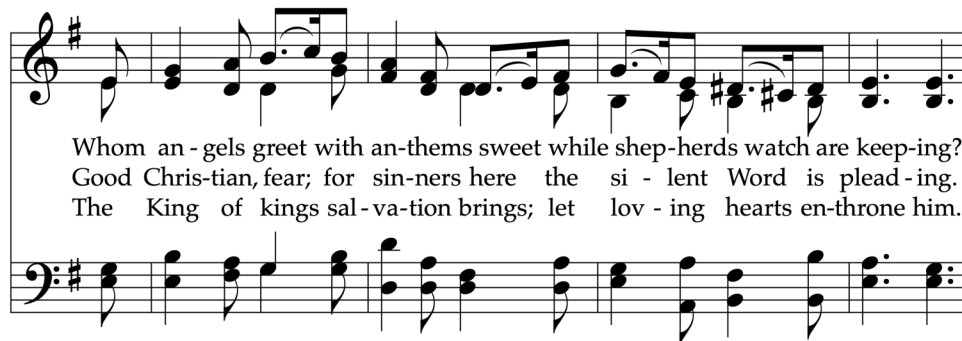
Hymn 145

What Child Is This

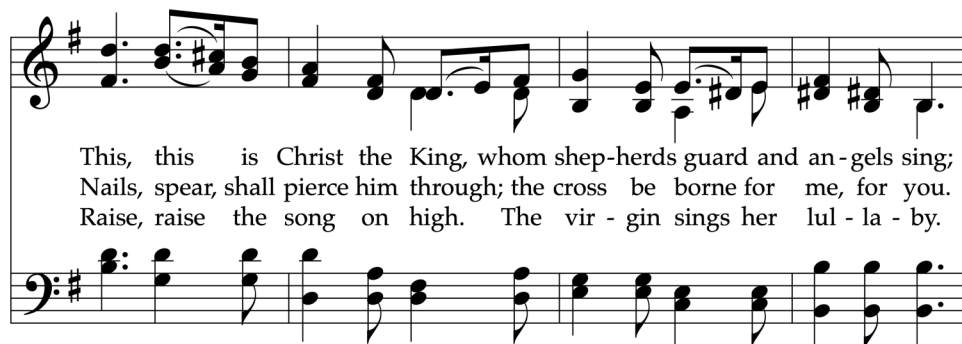
GREENSLEEVES



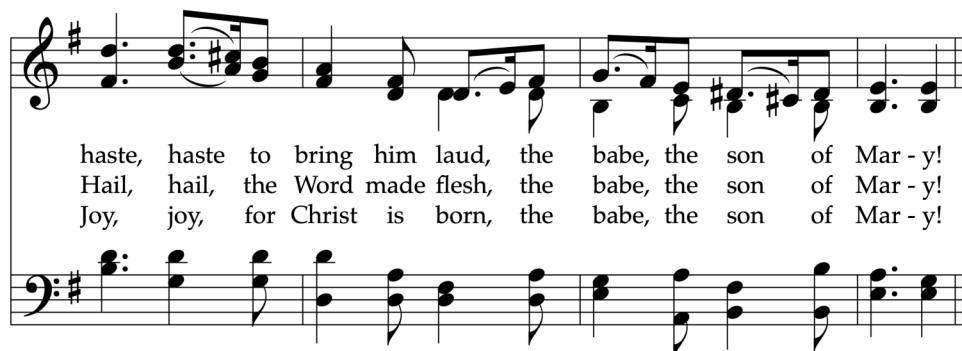
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



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.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
 MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

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