

WORSHIP NOTES

James Montgomery first published the text of *Angels from the Realms of Glory* as a poem titled *Nativity* in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of the paper he edited in Sheffield, England. Then, and for several later versions, it had two more stanzas: the fourth was related to the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22-29), and the fifth encouraged sinners to understand Christ's birth as a promise of mercy. By 1825, the hymn had already been published in two editions of Thomas Cotterill's *Selection of Psalms and Hymns*, and it soon began to appear in hymnals on both sides of the Atlantic, including *The Salisbury Hymn Book*. That hymnal apparently added the present stanza 4 as part of an editorial practice of concluding most hymns with a doxological stanza. This text is remarkable for its organization as a series of directions to diverse constituencies: angels, shepherds, sages, all creation. This imperative mode, reiterated in the refrain, carries an urgent, yet also moderated tone.

The tune for *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* is a Polish melody that may be as old as the 13th century. Its first printing in an English hymnal seems to have been as an equal-note version called *Noel* in 1877 as a setting for *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*, our Processional hymn today. The tune name preserves the opening words of the Polish text and means "He lies in a manger" or "In manger lying."

Phillips Brooks was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, but no sermon Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung his Christmas carol, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. He wrote it in 1868 for the children of the Sunday School at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, where he was then rector. In writing it, he may well have had in mind his own visit to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve in 1865. Traveling there from Jerusalem by horseback, he and his companions visited the fields outside town. Later that evening, he attended a five-hour service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Sir John Milford Rutter CBE (born London, September 24, 1945), composer of *Nativity Carol*, is an English composer, choral conductor, editor, arranger, and record producer. Educated at Highgate School and Clare College, Cambridge, he was Director of Music at Clare College from 1975-1979. In 1981 he founded his own choir, The Cambridge Singers, that is known worldwide for its many award-winning recordings. Rutter's choral compositions are beloved and widely performed. In 1996 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon Rutter in recognition of his contributions to church music.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. (Corinne Ingraham) James Stanley Glanville Piggot.

THE PLANTS in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our fathers, Nathaniel O. Abelson and James G. Talcott from their children, Dr. and Mrs. James Talcott.



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS MORNING'S PREACHER will be the Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton.

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Parish House: 62 East 92nd Street, New York, New York 10128-1398 | On the web at www.brickchurch.org
phone: 212-289-4400 day school: 212-289-5683 email addresses: www.brickchurch.org/contact

MINISTERS

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton, *Transitional Senior Minister*
The Rev. Douglas T. King, *Senior Associate Minister*
The Rev. Adam D. Gorman, *Associate Minister*
The Rev. Michael L. Lindvall, *Pastor Emeritus*
Anthony B. Jones, Jacob D. Kennedy, Margaret L. Poteet, *Student Ministers*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Keith S. Tóth, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Amanda Page Smith, *Director of Children's Music Ministries*
Meg Cutting, *Wilson Family Yale Sacred Music Intern*

USHERS

Officer-in-Charge: Frederick A. Ehlert; *Team Captain:* Robert D. McCrie, Christopher A. Carroll, Luc M. Dowling, Anke K. Ehlert, Maxime C. Guignand, Leigh W. Hoagland, Alex G. Li, Helen M. Lynch, Margaret E. Pennoyer, Paul W. Shaum, Jonathan D. Stone, John D. Tuttle, Christopher R. Wight.

GREETERS

Leader: Cynthia Watson; Linda R. Arnold, Elizabeth J. Green, Mimi K. Hah, Grace Sarno, Cynthia A. Wiltshire, William B. Wiltshire, Elizabeth S. Wiltshire.

ORDER OF ST. PAUL

Michael J. Appleby, Nathan P. Appleby, Leah C. Lee, Deborah M. Li, Caroline C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman, Christopher L. Allen, *Beadle*.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano: Isabella Livorni, Tonna L. Miller-Vallés, Artemisz Polonyi, Elizabeth Van Os. *Alto:* Sónia Batten, Agueda Fernández-Abad, Erica Koehring, Melissa Raymond. *Tenor:* Sean Clark, Johnny Maldonado, Jeffrey Taveras. *Bass:* Buddy Crutchfield, Daniel Hoy, Ryan Stoudt, Nathaniel Sullivan.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Kate Abelson, Nicholas Anderson, Spencer Batten, Anders Caspersen, Lars Caspersen, Letitia Caspersen, Westby Caspersen, Holly Miller, Avery Myers, Caroline Pickering, Alexander Rahman, Caroline Reinstadtler, Kai Sergeant Soto, Sonia Sergeant Soto, Camila Taylor, Neil Van Cott, Ella Wickham.

SESSION

Sallie J. Abelow, Raj J. Alva, David M. Blais, Colette O. Bryce, Susan P. Crary, William S. Crutchfield, Paul J. Elmlinger, R. Scott Froehlich, Scripture Z. Gonzalez, Harold P. Hope III, Anne R. Huneke, Stefan Kruger, Michael F. Magsig, Robert D. McCrie, Oliver T. Moses, Helen B. Pennoyer, Clare C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman (Youth Elder), Richard H. Stowe, Conor S. Tochilin, Margaret H. Tranbaugh, Katherine G. Vosters, Ryan E. Widener, Suzanne W. Wilson, Victor L. Wu, Mario J. Verdolini Jr., *Clerk of Session*, Debra N. Seraphim, *On-Call Clerk of Session*.

DEACONS

Nathan P. Appleby (Youth Deacon), Beth A. Bell, Arthur W. Bingham, Nancy T. Blair, Stephana Bottom, Paige M. Cali, Christopher A. Carroll, Tenley L. Chepiga, Olivia V. Cranshaw (Youth Deacon), Carl C. Cordova III, E. Graham Clark, David M. Darst, Mark E. Dingle, Helen T. W. Elmiger, William J. Gambrell, Sylvia A. Gower, Kate S. Hrobsky, Amy E. Johnson, Loren E. Kittilsen, Christopher Lanning, Katrina K. Masterson, Amelia McDonald, John P. Muller, Grace Sarno, Andrew R. Skobe, Oscar T. Sloterbeck, Kristin S. Steen John D. Tuttle, Tanya S. Wells.

TRUSTEES

Charles S. Anderson, Kenneth W. Austin, David E. Barrett, Patrick D. Barrett, Jonathan S. Bean, Erik M. W. Caspersen, Kevin R. Greene, Linda B. Gridley, Katherine E. Stitch, Valerie S. Mason, *Secretary*, Richard A. Miller, *President*, Drucilla A. Richards, Louisa J. Palmer, *Treasurer*.



— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —
Fourth Sunday in Advent
— ELEVEN O'CLOCK —

Schedule of Worship for Christmas 2019

December 24, 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Family Service and Christmas Pageant

December 24, 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Prelude Music Begins at 9:30 p.m.

December 25, 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Communion Service

December 29, 11:00 a.m.
Hymn Sing and Reflections

WELCOME The moments before worship are a transition from "getting here" to "being here." Since it usually takes a few minutes to quiet one's mind, and to become open to the Spirit, it is most appropriate to give one's friends a silent wave of the hand, a nod of the head, or a friendly smile in lieu of initiating a conversation.

AFTER THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, in order not to disrupt the worship service, latecomers will be seated by the ushers only at times when the congregation is standing, either during the Congregational Response following the assurance of forgiveness or during the second hymn.

VISITORS, please know how welcome you are. Please sign the Friendship Book when it passes you during the service of worship and identify yourself with a name tag to be found in the book. You are also cordially invited to attend Coffee Hour following worship.

IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP that follows, an asterisk (*) invites all to stand; items in bold type face indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY
Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, *BWV 645*”

Meg Cutting, *organist*

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT

“People, Look East”

Ian Tracey (b. 1955)

People, look East, no longer fear, await the Lord, his time is near.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER *(Hymnal P. 16, Traditional)*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord; let it be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! It is too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse evil and choose good.”

-Isaiah, Chapter 7, verses 10 - 15

Kate W. Abelson, and Caroline E. Reinstadtler

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 22

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

Regent Square

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we humbly confess our sins and seek Your forgiveness. We fail to trust You in all things and to follow You in all ways. We become timid and afraid in the face of hardship or uncertainty. Too often, we place our own comfort before the welfare of others. Forgive us, we pray, and strengthen us in faith, love, and hope. Help us to listen for Your call in our lives and to respond with believing hearts. As Advent waiting turns into Christmas joy, we pray in the name of Christ, who came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. Amen.

KYRIE 574

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Hymn 53, verse 3)*

Greensleeves

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh: Come, one and all, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

ANTHEM

Traditional Irish Carol, arr. Victor Johnson (b. 1978)

“The Wexford Carol”

Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind, a tiny Child to us is born in Bethlehem this blessed morn. Now let our hearts and voices raise a song of gladness this Christmas Day. Let all the Earth rejoice and sing the birth of this, our newborn King. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom the angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear. “Prepare and go,” the angels said, “to Bethlehem; be not afraid, for there you’ll find, this happy morn, a holy Babe, sweet Jesus born.” With hearts of love and hymns of joy, come let us greet the baby boy, and as the angels had foretold, let all the tiny child behold. Within a manger he was laid, and by his side his mother stayed. Let all the Earth sing with delight, the Holy Child is born this night.

The Young Adult Christmas Choir

Cristina Soto, *piano*

THE WORD

After the singing of the anthem, all children are invited to come forward and sit on the chancel steps for the Children’s Message.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

* HYMN 37

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W Żłobie Leży

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 *(Pew Bible, page 1 N.T.)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Margaret D. Stocker

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton

“The Implications of Christmas for Joseph”

THE RESPONSE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Colossians 1:15-20)*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,

the Firstborn of all creation;

in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,

things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through Him and for Him.

He Himself is before all things,

and in Him, all things hold together.

He is head of the body, the church;

He is the beginning, the Firstborn of the dead,

so that He might come to have first place in everything.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things,

whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace through the blood of His cross. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI 579

Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PETITION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

America

Not for this land alone,

But be God’s mercies shown from shore to shore;

And may the nations see that we must loving be,

And form one family the wide world o’er. Amen.

* INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Nativity Carol”

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; Born ‘neath light of star He who loved us so. *(Refrain)* Far away silent He lay, born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; Over her Son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. *(Refrain)* Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills Worship this Babe so rare, hearts with warmth He fills. *(Refrain)* Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming Babe, make me Thy love to know. *(Refrain)* —*John Rutter*

* DOXOLOGY 592

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 43

Forest Green

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

“Noël VI, sur les jeux d’Anches, sans tremblant, et en duo”

Meg Cutting, *organist*

If you would like someone to pray with you or wish to learn more about the Christian faith and The Brick Church, you may meet with members of our Sunday Prayer Team after the service near the pulpit at the front of the Sanctuary.