

WELCOME TO  
THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE —  
Christmas Day Service  
of Holy Communion  
— ELEVEN O’CLOCK —

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LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98:1-9  
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

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DECEMBER 25, 2021

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THE GATHERING

PRELUDE La Nativité, from *Trois poèmes évangéliques*, Op. 2 *Jean Langlais (1907–1991)*

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *Polish carol, arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)*  
*Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us go to see the miracle that we’ve heard about. Let us go with the shepherds.

**People: Let us go to find a Savior.**

Leader: Let us go with the wise ones.

**People: Let us go to find Emmanuel, God-with-us.**

Leader: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

**People: Let us go to find a Savior, Christ the Lord.**

\*HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste fideles*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 52:7–10

An asterisk (\*) invites all to stand; items in bold typeface indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

There is no childcare nor Children's Church.

We're glad for the children to be with us celebrating Christmas in the Sanctuary today!

La Nativité (Prelude)  
 This beautiful piece is one of the earliest published compositions by Jean Langlais, a blind organist who worked at the church of Ste.-Clotilde in Paris for most of his life. It is in three sections, depicting the Christ Child, the angels, and the Holy Family gathered around the crib. The final section is very orchestral in texture, with a long melody played in the pedals on the French Horn stop, against a lush background of strings.

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
 Phillips Brooks was inspired to write this poem by a visit to the Holy Land in 1865. He intended to use it at his Sunday school in Philadelphia during Advent of 1868, and tasked the church's organist, Lewis Redner, with writing the music. He recalled, "Mr. Brooks came to me on Friday, and said, 'Redner, have you ground out that music yet to "O Little Town of Bethlehem"?' I replied, 'No', but that he should have it by Sunday. On the Saturday night previous my brain was all confused ... But I was roused from sleep late in the night, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the tune, and on Sunday morning before going to church I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet You come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts when You alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of the Christ child, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing Your praise with the angels and remake our lives, that we may witness to Your transforming love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 28 v. 2

*Good Christian friends, rejoice  
 With heart, and soul, and voice;  
 Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
 Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 He hath opened heaven's door,  
 And we are blest forevermore.  
 Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born for this!*

*In dulci jubilo*

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4

\*HYMN 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*St. Louis*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-14

HOMILY

Sing a New Song

*Rev. Caroline S. Unzaga*

\*HYMN 56

The First Nowell

*The First Nowell*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GRADUAL HYMN 519 v.1

Thee We Adore

*Adoro te devote*

*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, Thee, Who at this blessed feast art pleased to be; Both flesh and Spirit in Thy presence fail, Yet here Thy presence we devoutly hail.*

*Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274)*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

\*GLORIA 23 v.1

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

*In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan; Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him Nor earth sustain, Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom Cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk And a mangerful  
of hay; Enough for Him, whom Angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.*

*What can I give him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him, Give my heart.*

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING

\*HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

In the Bleak Midwinter  
Harold Darke worked as organist at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill in London for over 50 years. In his long and successful career that included many compositions for choir, he struck melodic gold exactly once, in this setting of words by Christina Rossetti. Later in life, he was reportedly a bit irritated to be known for only one piece, and according to those who knew him, he seldom performed it himself!

Hark! The Herald  
Angels Sing

It is often amazing how many changes and alterations have gone into what we think of as "traditional" Christmas carols. The first line of Charles Wesley's poem was originally, "Hark! how all the welkin rings" – an obscure reference to the sky, or celestial spheres. Ted Campbell, professor at Southern Methodist University, comments: "I have wondered if anybody but Charles knew what a welkin was supposed to be ... 'It's ever so lovely, Charles, but whatever on earth is a 'welkin'?" Thankfully, George Whitefield made a number of alterations, which were only the first of many by successive editors and committees that produced the familiar version we know today.

## MINISTERS

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Evans, *Senior Minister*  
The Rev. Adam D. Gorman, *Associate Minister*  
The Rev. Caroline S. Unzaga, *Interim Associate Minister*  
The Rev. Michael L. Lindvall, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Luke Bultena, Denise Carrell, Richard Davis, *Student Ministers*

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

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Dr. Raymond Nagem, *Minister of Music*  
Cristina Soto, *Interim Director of Children's Music*  
Isaac Lee, *Wilson Family Sacred Music Intern*

## CHANCEL CHOIR

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Hannah Goodman, Erica Koehring, Jeffrey Taveras, Nathaniel Sullivan.

## GREETERS

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Thank you to our volunteers!

## USHERS

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Thank you to our volunteers!

## ORDER OF SAINT PAUL

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Michael Appleby, Ethan Jung, Leah Lee, Holly Miller, Caroline Pickering, and Christopher L. Allen, *Beadle*.

## SESSION

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Bret M. Barasch, S. Michael Barnes, Amanda B. Bellows, Nicholas M. Berry, David M. Blais, Elizabeth Boehmler, Colette O. Bryce, Theodore D. Clement, William S. Crutchfield III, David Darst, Karen Fang, Pamela Ferguson, Mimi Hah, Amanda Heath, Lindsay Higgins, Jill W. Lampe, David Morgan, Oliver T. Moses, Jane K. Muqaddam, Addison E. Nelson (*Youth Elder*), Caroline C. Pickering (*Youth Elder*), Margaret D. Stocker, Christopher Thorpe, Conor S. Tochilin, Cynthia Watson, Victor L. Wu, Thomas Robinson, *Clerk of Session*, Debra N. Seraphim, *On-Call Clerk of Session*.

## DEACONS

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Susan B. Appleby, Stephana Bottom, Julie T. Chang, Tenley L. Chepiga, Marilyn T. Dikkers, Mark E. Dingle, Luc M. Dowling, Sylvia A. Gower, Henry Greene, Maxime C. Guignand, Tiffany Hoke, Amy E. Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Alexander W. King, Loren E. Kittilsen, Christopher Lanning, Marisa Leichtling, John P. Muller, Sam Puopolo, Christopher L. Randall, David R. Rose, Willis G. Ryckman IV, Whitney Schwartz, Oscar T. Sloterbeek, Kristin S. Steen, Kate Thorpe (*Youth Deacon*).

## TRUSTEES

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Charles S. Anderson, *President*, Kenneth W. Austin, *Secretary*, Henry C. Barkhorn III, *Treasurer*, David E. Barrett, Patrick D. Barrett, Jonathan S. Bean, Erik M. W. Caspersen, Kevin R. Greene, Cathy Leonhardt, Elizabeth Philipp, Richard D. Rippe, Katherine E. Stitch, Susan P. Webb.

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THE FLOWERS in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
of our parents, Nathaniel O. & Elaine Noyes Abelson and Mr. & Mrs. James G. Talcott  
from their children, Dr. & Mrs. James A. Talcott.

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# O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)  
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)  
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,  
 \*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

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

\*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

## 44 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



# 56 The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

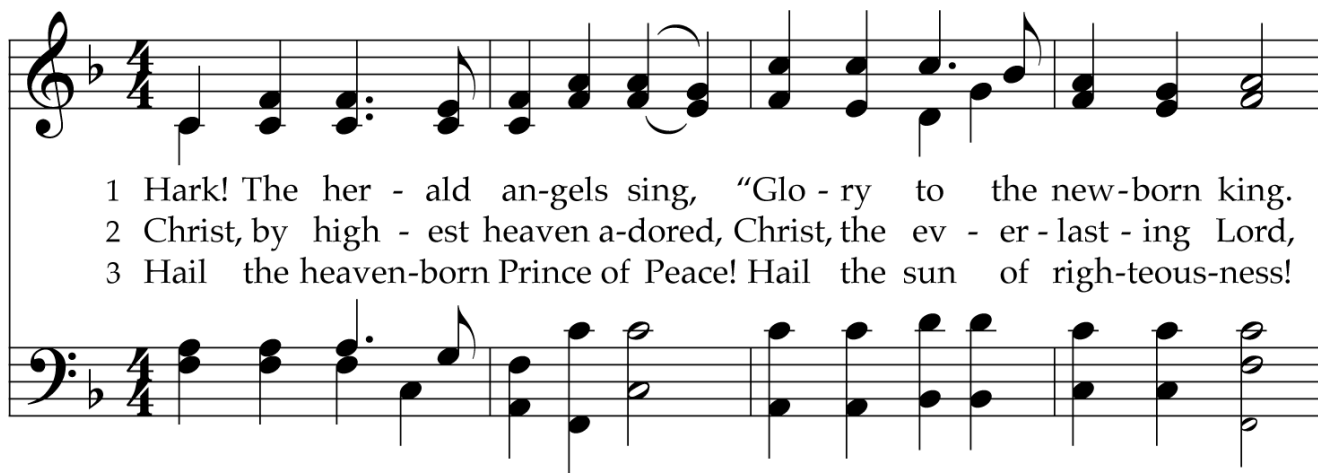
their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

*Refrain*

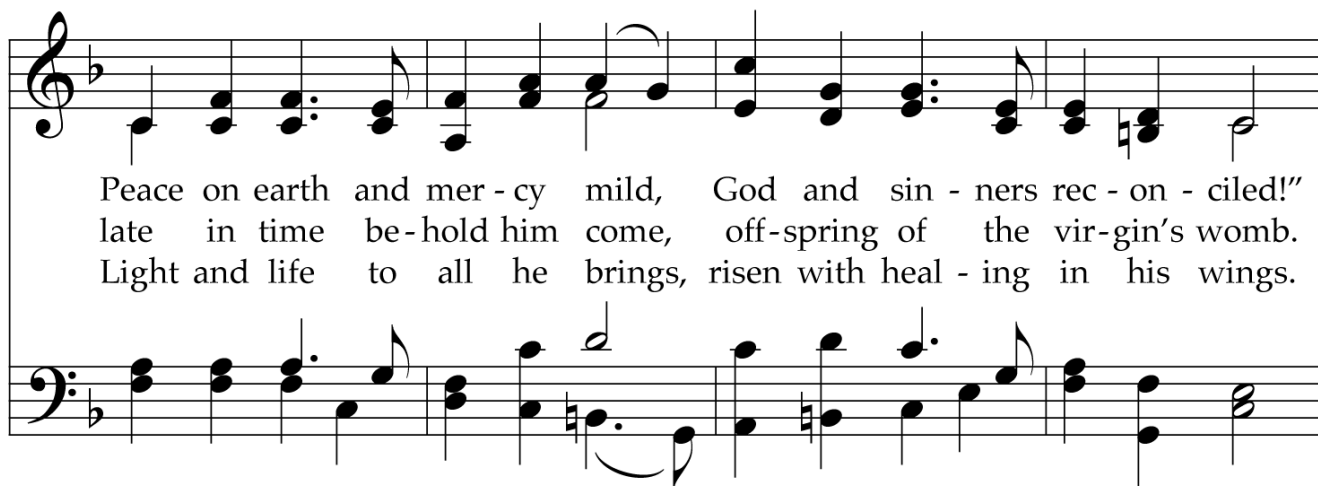
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

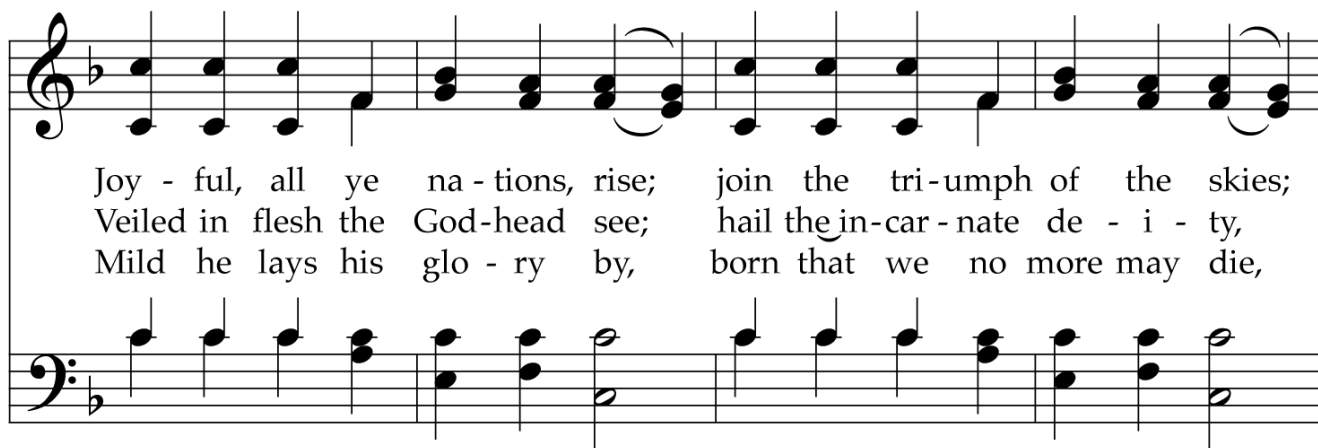
# 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



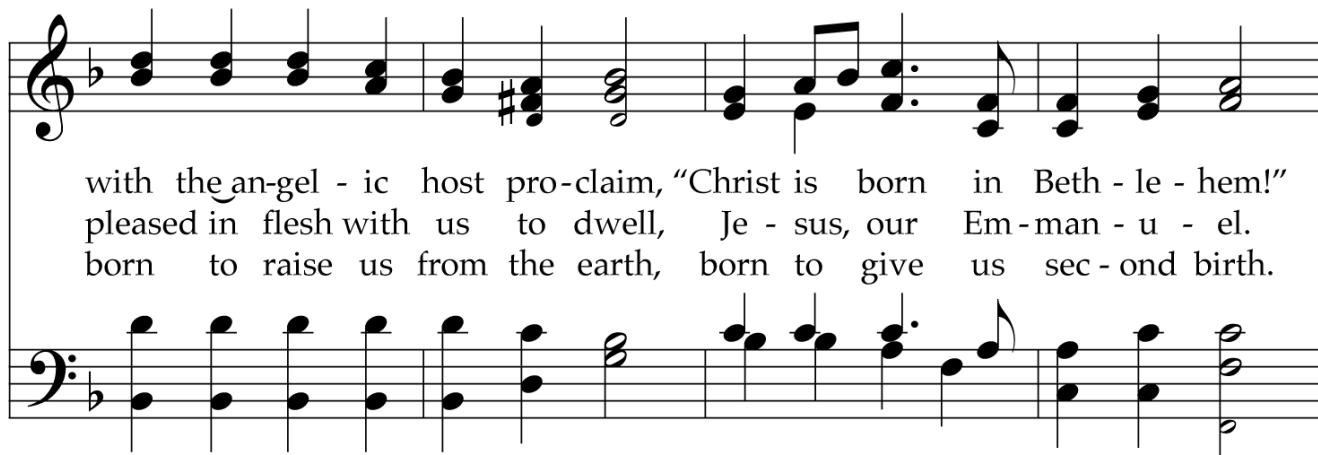
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.