



A Service of Lessons & Carols

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350

(209) 523-4531 ■ www.emanuellutheran.org

Staff

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Lyn Crase

Pianist/Organist

Barbara Vukich

Administrative Assistant

Paula Braxton

Day Care Director

Laura Marquez

Bookkeeper

Maria Ojeda

Council Officers

President

Dennis Strand

Vice President

Chris Paulsen

Treasurer

Bob Reuter

Secretary

Janice Watkins

This Week's Assistants

Assisting Minister:

Barbara Crawford

Ushers: Connie Petersen

Mary Lou Dieterich

Welcome to Emanuel

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by introducing yourself to those you encounter and please be sure to sign our guest book (located on the stand in the Narthex).

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available. •

Children/Youth & Family/ELDC:

Council member – Brett Owen

Spiritual Life:

Council member – Chris Paulsen

Worship:

Council member – Martha Strand

Outreach:

Council member — Chris Paulsen

WELCA

Pat Smith

Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship —

Property — Dennis Strand

Fellowship:

Council member—Janice Watkins

Social Media:

Council member – Brett Owen

Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Pastor Lyn, Dennis Strand,
Chris Paulsen, Janice Watkins

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday - 8 am to 3 pm

Friday - 8 am to 2 pm

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

OPENING HYMN

The Bells of Christmas

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CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P: Holy One,
the beginning and the end,
the giver of life:
Blessed are you,

C: for the birth of creation.

P: Blessed are you,
in the darkness and in the light.

P: Blessed are you,
C: for your promise to your people.

P: Blessed are you,
C: in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

P: Blessed are you,
C: for Mary's openness to your will.

P: Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
C: the Word made flesh.

P: Sing to God a new song!
C: A song of hope, joy, and peace throughout the world.

P: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

P: Let us pray.
Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

P: Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

Suzanne Wilke

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

FIRST READING CAROL

What Child Is This
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SECOND READING: Psalm 98

Pat Smith

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
²O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.
⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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THIRD READING: Hebrews 1:1-12

Lois Owen

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

THIRD READING CAROL

The First Noel

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FOURTH READING: John 1:10-18

Donna Vickroy

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

FOURTH READING CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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FIFTH READING: Luke 2:15-21

Chris Paulsen

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

GOSPEL CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Emanuel Singers

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.....congregation responds with **"Your mercy is great."**

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

On Christmas Night

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In the Bleak Midwinter

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you.

We practice continuous communion. All are welcome. White grape juice is available for those who prefer that instead of wine. Gluten free wafers available.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

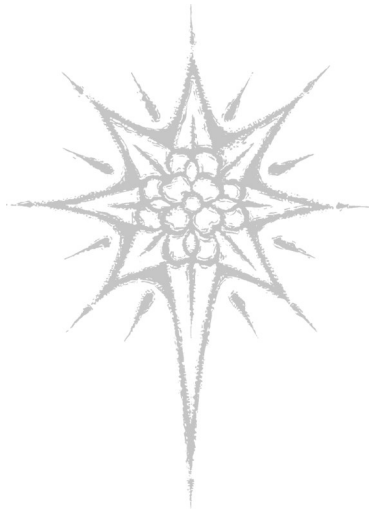
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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



REMINDERS

- **The office and day care will be closed tomorrow, January 1, 2024. Happy New Year!**
- **The Prayer List will be reset January 7th. Please contact the office with any updates for names to keep on the list.**

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Ongoing Announcements

Food For Faith (FIGS) now has a **location** to accept donations of non-perishable food. We will collect food for them every 1st Sunday.

Text Study: Every Tuesday, year-round, in Luther Hall at noon. We discuss the lessons for the next Sunday. Come anytime you are available, leave early if you need to, bring your lunch. Generally, this lasts about an hour and 15 minutes....give or take.

The Men's Bible Study Group meets at 7 am on Wednesday mornings at The Secret Garden Restaurant, 2401 Orangeburg Ave.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study — 1:30 pm in Luther Hall. Join anytime. **On break until January 10th.**

Hosts are needed for Coffee Hour. Please see the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall.

We are asking for donations to help support the Coffee Hour. A donation container will be available on a table in Luther Hall.

Coin Jar -- Your spare change makes a difference! Proceeds go to Outreach.

Quilting Bee -- meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 am. All are welcome & all skill levels as well. If you can use scissors and/or tie a knot, there will be a job for you!

Lydia Circle — usually meets the 2nd Monday of each month, at the home of Marsha Waggoner - 916 Kenilworth Ct. at 1:00 pm. Please be sure to check the weekly calendar in the bulletin for any updates! We use the GATHER magazine as our Bible Study. All women of Emanuel are invited to join us.

Leah Circle meets on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm at The Park Independent Senior Living Community in Modesto.

Rebecca Circle meets every 3rd Thursday at 1:30 pm in member's homes. All are welcome!

Miriam Circle meets every 4th Monday at member's homes. See Melissa Molina for more information.

The Shower Shuttle and Laundry Shuttle are actively taking care of our homeless communities, and the needs remain the same: personal hygiene items, etc. *Thank you all for your contributions to this Ministry, Marilyn and Chuck Rowland*

Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief directed donations go directly to the people most in need.

ENTRANCE HYMN

The Bells of Christmas



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.

Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

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FIRST READING CAROL

What Child Is This



- 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, peas - ant, king, 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

SECOND READING CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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 - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
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 tid - ings 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 the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

THIRD READING CAROL

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

FOURTH READING CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
- 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

GOSPEL CAROL

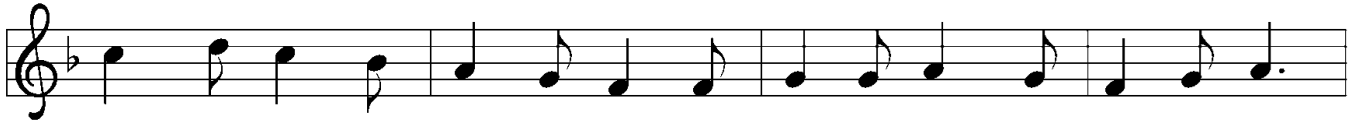
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



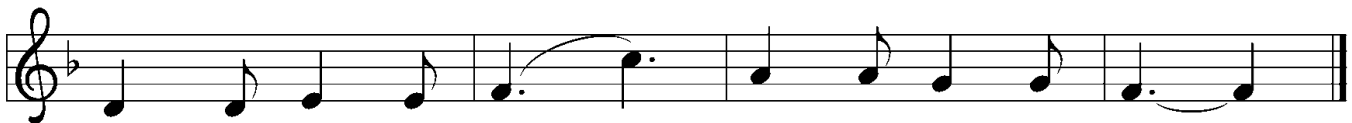
- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christ is born to - day! | Christ is born to - day! |
| Christ was born for this! | Christ was born for this! |
| Christ was born to save! | Christ was born to save! |

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

COMMUNION HYMN

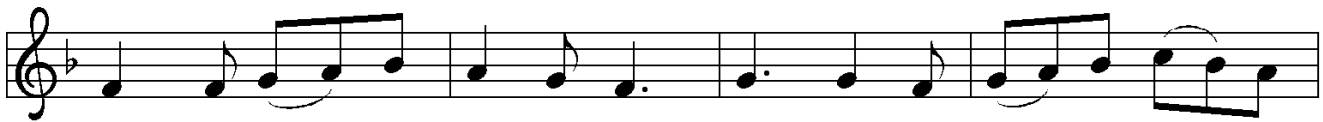
On Christmas Night



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est

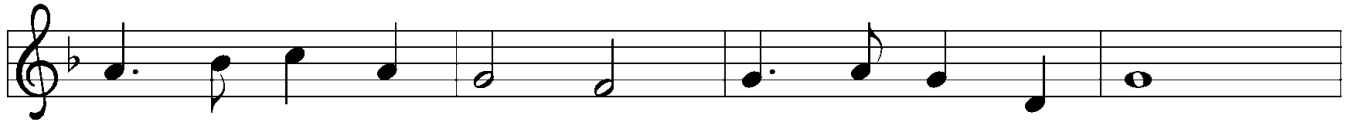


mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

COMMUNION HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter



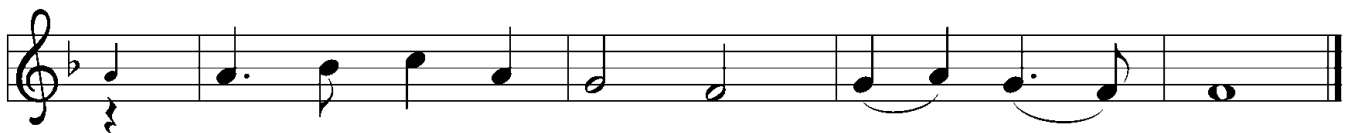
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



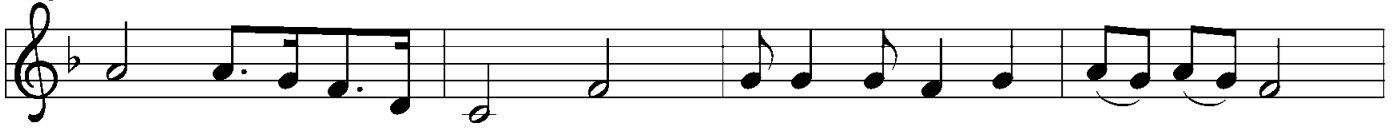
in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

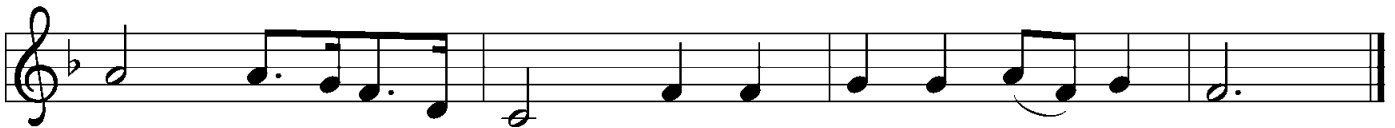
SENDING NYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



Our Mission

To share Christ's unconditional love with everyone.

Our Vision

Emanuel's vision is to be loving, supportive, and welcoming, as we reach out in service and in witness to our neighborhood and the city beyond.

We share a passion to nurture people in all stages and circumstances of life.

We, as disciples of Christ, minister to our changing community in challenging cultural times.

God is calling us to joyfully follow the Holy Spirit in ministry to others.

