



Titusville Presbyterian Church

48 River Drive
Titusville, NJ 08560
609-737-1385

December 15th, 2024, Third Sunday of Advent

*Please stand if able

***Call to Worship** (John 3:14-17)

Leader: As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

People: That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Leader: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

People: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

All: But that the world through Him might be saved.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Scripture: Romans 8:38-39

I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Lighting of the Third Candle

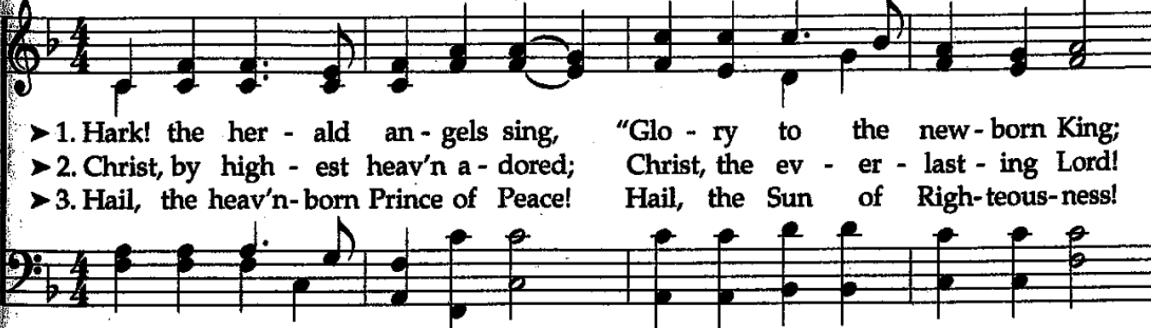
We light the CANDLE OF LOVE in thanksgiving for the love of God in Christ Jesus – the love that inspires us, encourages us, and strengthens us and from which nothing in all creation can separate us.

Prayer (in unison)

O Heavenly Father, we thank you for the love you have poured out so abundantly on us and on all people. Help us to love you with all our heart and soul and strength and to love one another as Christ has loved us

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing 277

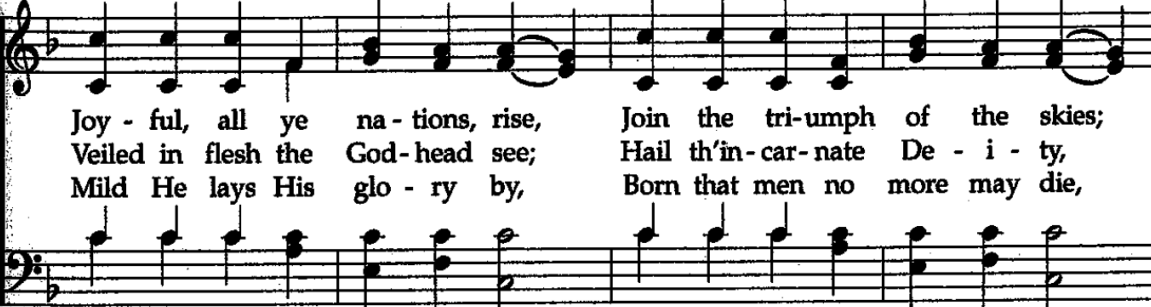
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14



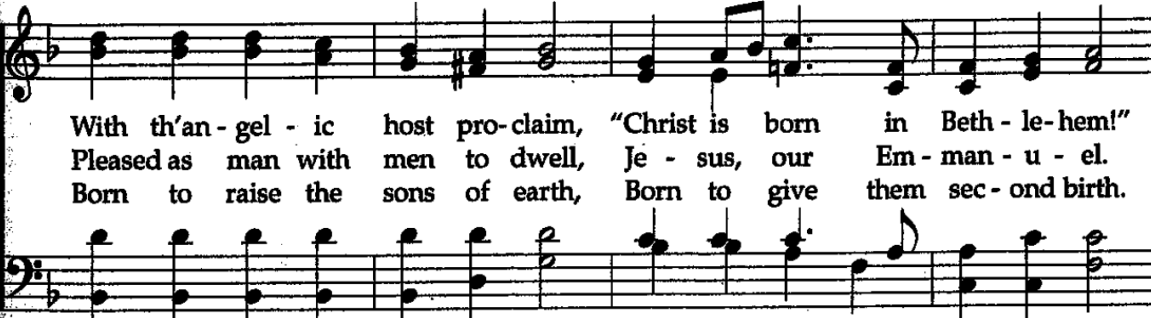
> 1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
> 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
> 3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



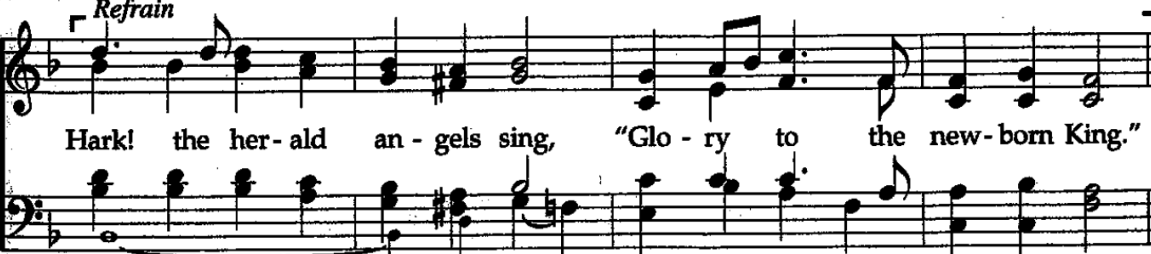
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that men no more may die,



With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Optional segue to "Angels We Have Heard on High." No transition is needed.

Please be seated.

Call to Confession (Luke 3:3-6)

And he (John) went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make His paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled

And every mountain and hill brought low;

The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough ways smooth;

⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Prayer of Confession

Father, thank You for the faithful prophets like John the Baptist. He reminds us that we must repent and turn to You for forgiveness. May we be faithful and not foolish and ignore his message. Thank You for Your mercy and grace. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen!

[Silent confession]

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Luke 5:30-32)

And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹ Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

***Gloria Patri**

**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.

***Prayer for Illumination**

Giver of Light and Life, may Your revelation to us today renew our faith, hope and love for You and the world in which we live. Give us Your perspective concerning Your will and our responsibility. In Christ's name we pray, Amen!

Old Testament Lesson (Isaiah 9:6-7)

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

New Testament Lesson (John 3:13-17)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

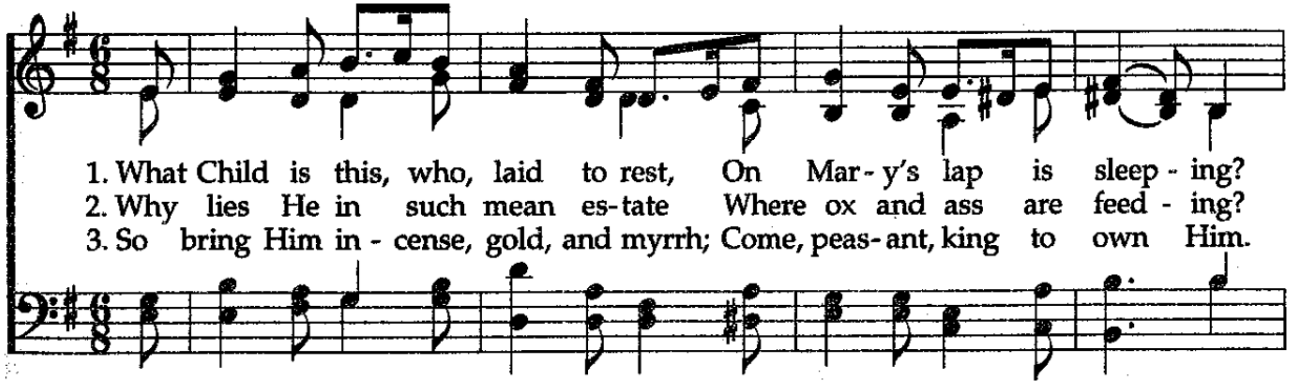
Prayer for the Children

Loving Father, Children seem to enjoy Christmas time more than anyone. May each Christmas mean more and more to our children as they grow, and may their love of Jesus increase in their lives as You embrace them with Your love and care each year. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

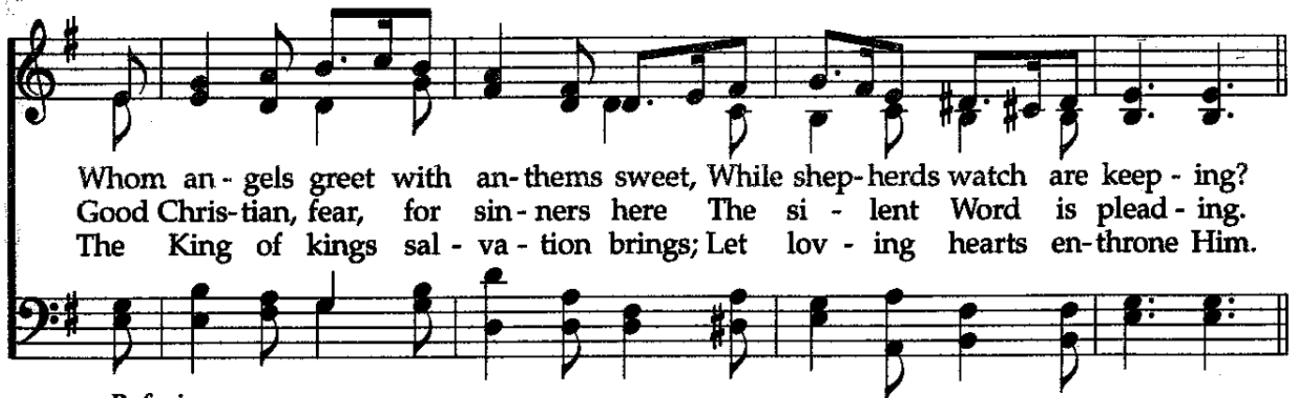
Sermon: "The Greatest Christmas Verse"

What Child Is This? 281

They spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child. Luke 2:17

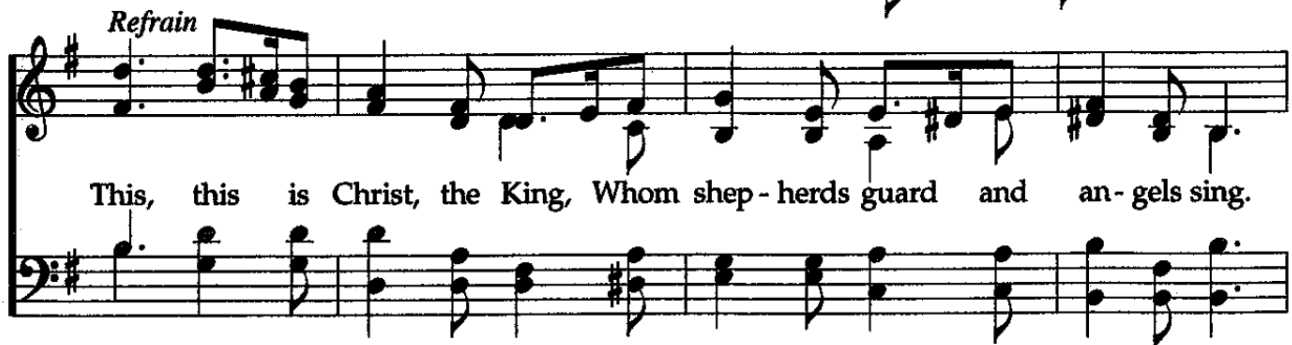


1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas-ant, king to own Him.



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.

Refrain



This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry.

TEXT: William C. Dix
MUSIC: Traditional English melody, 16th century

GREENSLEEVES
8.7.8.7. with Refrain

***Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Announcements

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

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

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

Dedication

There's a Song in the Air

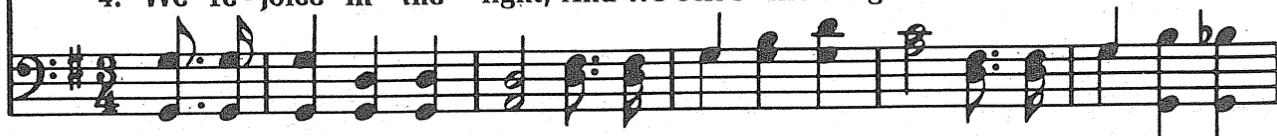
554

Josiah G. Holland

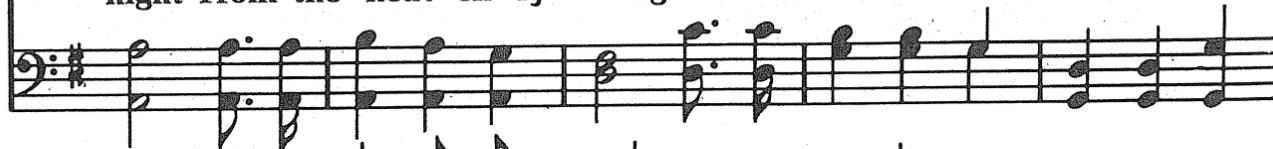
Karl P. Harrington



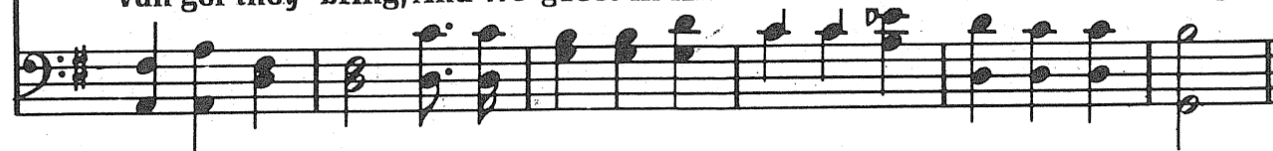
1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep
2. There's a tumult of joy O'er the wonderful birth, For the Virgin's sweet
3. In the light of that star Lie the ages impearled; And that song from a-
4. We re-joice in the light, And we echo the song That comes down thru the



prayer, And a baby's low cry! And the star rains its fire while the
boy Is the Lord of the earth. And the star rains its fire while the
far Has swept o-ver the world. Ev-'ry hearth is a-flame, and the
night From the heav-en-ly throng. And we shout to the love-ly e-



beau-ti-ful sing, for the man-ger of Beth-le-hem cra-dles a King!
beau-ti-ful sing, for the man-ger of Beth-le-hem cra-dles a King!
beau-ti-ful sing, In the homes of the na-tions that Je-sus is King!
van-gel they bring, And we greet in His cra-dle our Sav-iour and King!



*Benediction

Announcements

- Immediately following worship join us in the Heritage Room for refreshments and fellowship.
- **Christmas Eve Service at 6pm**, Join us for a candlelight service as we celebrate Jesus' birth.
- **River Church Potluck Luncheon, Sunday, 1/12/25, 1pm. This event will be held at Titusville Presbyterian.** Please join our friends from Kirkpatrick, Mt. Airy, Lambertville and Stockton churches as we join together for fellowship and a meal. In addition to the potluck, we will be collecting monetary donations or Walmart gift cards to help those in need. Bring a favorite dish to share. To help with seating planning, RSVP to office@titusvillechurch.org letting us know how many will be attending and what you will be bringing to the potluck.
- Collecting Non-perishable food items. We continue to collect food for two local families in need. Please leave your donations in the narthex. If you would prefer, you may give a monetary donation and Barbara Matlack will purchase Shop-Rite gift cards for the families.
- Children's Sunday School. The children will leave worship right after the Children's Message for their lesson.
- We have a prayer team that will pray for your joys, celebrations, and concerns. If you would like prayer, please send an email to bmatlack@titusvillechurch.org and a prayer request will go right out. Also, if you would like to pray for those on our prayer list, please let Barbara Matlack know. She will add you to the prayer team email list.

Deacons

Class of 2024

- Andrew Niederer

Class of 2025

- Gail Butterfoss
- Judy Niederer

Class of 2026

- Joan Niederer
- Marianne Strickhart

Session

Class of 2024

- Patti Manz
- Barbara Matlack
- Randy Niederer

Class of 2025

- No members

Class of 2026

- Mark Niederer
- Kristine Schmidt

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church
Pastor: Rev. Stephan Nash
Worship Assistant: Gail Butterfoss
Accompanist: Kristine Schmidt

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

The Game Changer! Jesus Christ is the ultimate game changer.

Summary of the film, "The Game Changer"

1. Revolutionizing Values and Ethics

- Jesus' teachings introduced radical ideas of love, forgiveness, humility, sacrifice and servanthood. The film highlights how these values overturned societal norms, offering a new way of life focused on compassion and grace.

2. Transforming Lives

- Personal testimonies of people's lives being changed through an encounter with Jesus and His teachings are central to the film. Examples could include characters finding hope, purpose, or redemption through faith.

3. Challenging Power Structures

- Jesus confronted the religious and political powers of His time, showing that true authority is rooted in humility and service. Followers are to first obey God and other authorities who follow the moral law of God. The film might illustrate how this approach shifted historical paradigms.

4. Fulfilling Prophecy and Establishing Salvation

- By fulfilling hundreds of Old Testament prophecies and offering Himself as a sacrifice, Jesus changed humanity's relationship with God. The film might frame this as the ultimate "game-changing" event in history.

5. Impact on Global History

- The story of Jesus has inspired movements, shaped cultures, and influenced billions of people. The film highlights Jesus enduring legacy as unparalleled in its influence.

6. Empowering Others

- **2.5 billion followers!**
- Through His resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit, Jesus empowered His followers to continue His mission. The film portrays this empowerment as central to His game-changing impact.