

Epiphany Sunday

January 2, 2022



Welcome! Are you a guest with us, or interested in connecting with us?

Text “New” to 559-425-4050 and fill out the Connect Card.

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/Congregation/all**)**

Prelude

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

Welcome

Rev. Raygan Baker

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Rosalie Brown

One: In our search for deliverance from all that destroys life,
Many: God draws us into the heart of Love.

One: Guiding us through lands unknown,
Many: God companions us on the journey.

One: With the Holy as our guide,
Many: we will encounter Christ enfleshed.

***Prayer of Confession**

***God of Justice,
We confess that ours is still a world
In which Herod seems to rule:
The powerful are revered,
The visions of the wise are ignored,
The poor are afflicted
And the innocent are killed.
You show us that salvation comes
In the vulnerability of a child,
Yet we hunger for the “security” of weapons and walls.
You teach us that freedom comes in love of service,
Yet we trample on others in our efforts to be “free.”
Forgive us, God, when we look to the palace
Instead of the stable,
When we heed politicians more than prophets.
Renew us with the spirit of Bethlehem,
That we may be better prepared for your coming.***

(A silence is held for personal prayer and reflection)

***Words of Assurance**

***Hymn** "The First Nowell" vvs. 1-3 #139, pew hymnal

Scripture Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 Liturgist: Rosalie Brown

Choral Anthem "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" - John Rutter Chancel Choir
Matt Horton, piano

Time for Discovery

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;
let this be our song — no one stands alone,
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

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Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Liturgist: Rosalie Brown

Sermon

***Hymn** "What Child Is This" #148, pew hymnal

Invitation to Prayer

Sung Call to Prayer

**Lord, listen to your children praying:
Lord send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

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Prayers of the Church

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Hymn of Preparation

"Who Would Think
That What Was Needed"

#153, pew hymnal

Holy Communion

Invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The peace of Christ be with you,
Many: and also with you.

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,
the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.*

Breaking, Pouring, Feasting

Thanksgiving After the Meal

Holy God,

This meal we shared together is a remembrance of your radical embrace of all of us. May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#154, pew hymnal

***Blessing and Sung Benediction**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world will see
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude

**"Noël Suisse"
- Louis-Claude Daquin**

Scott Horton, organ

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-12


Traditional English carol; alt.

Descant

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,
 2 They looked a - bove and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star shone bright in the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,
 three sag - es came from coun - try far;
 o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,
 and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 To seek for a king was their in - tent,
 And there it did both stop and stay,
 They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,



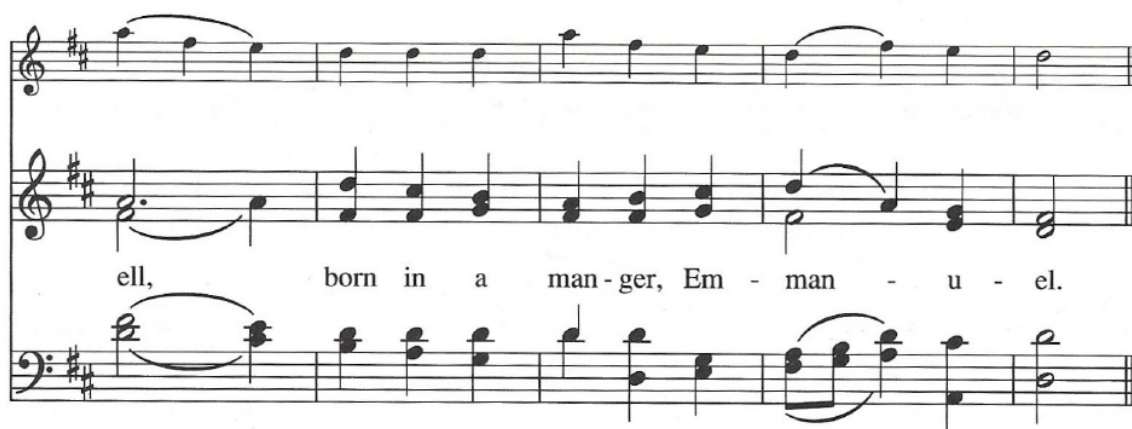
on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain



Refrain

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



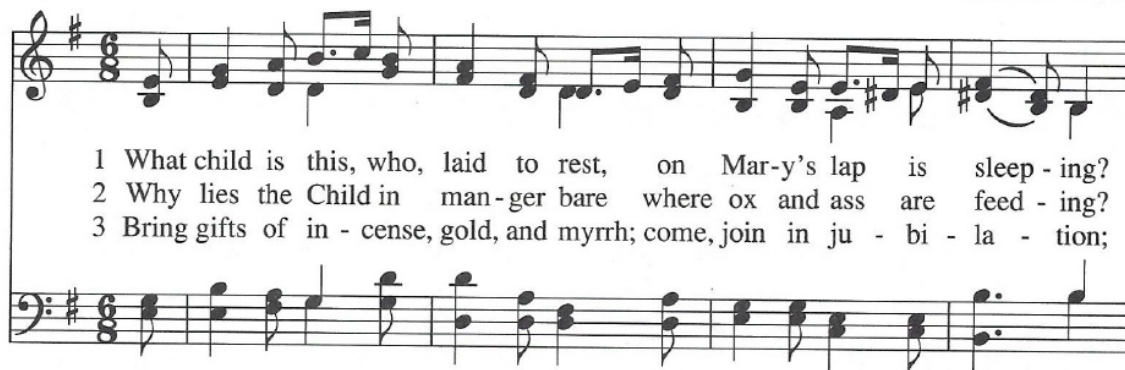
ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

Though perhaps of earlier origins, this anonymous English carol first appeared in print in the nineteenth century. "Nowell" stems from the Latin novellae (news) and is used as a joyous greeting to celebrate Jesus' birth.

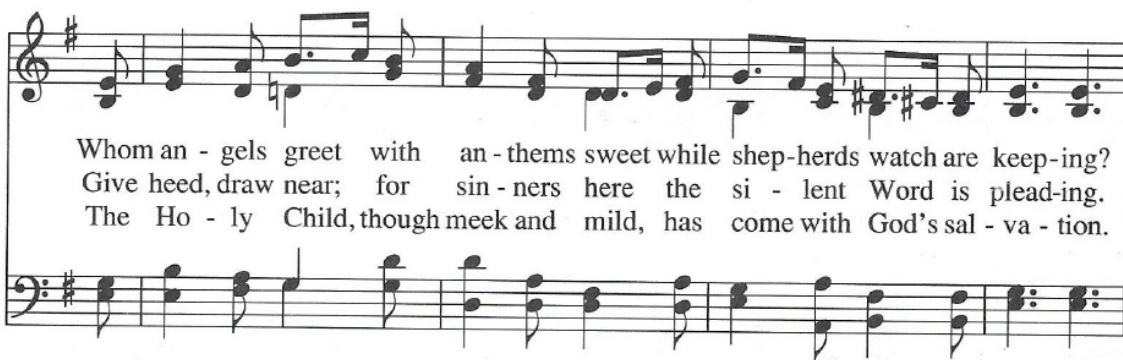
Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL Irr. with refrain
Traditional English melody
Harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871
Descant, Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

What Child Is This

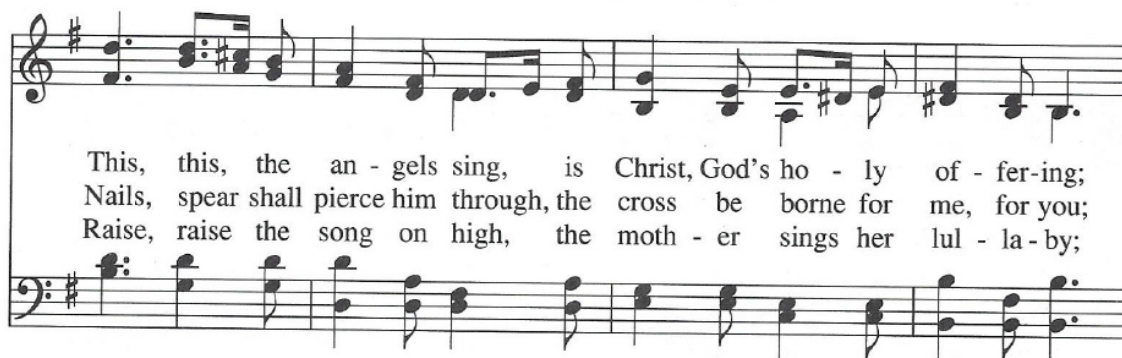
148

*William C. Dix, 1865; alt.**Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34*


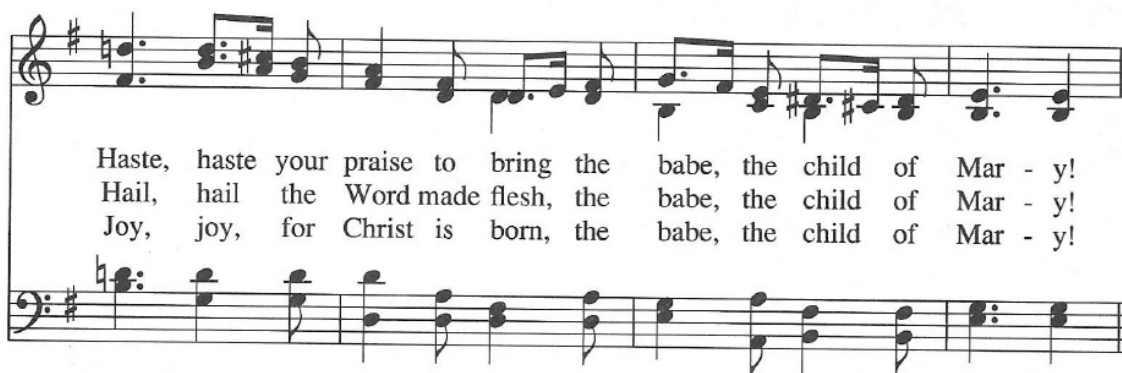
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

*Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century*

153 Who Would Think That What Was Needed

*Isa. 11:1-6; Matt. 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-14**John Bell and Graham Maule, 1990; alt.*

1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag-es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an-gels sing;
 3 Cen-tu-ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,

might not be a plan or ar-my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?
 such a place as none would reck-on hosts a ho-ly, help-less thing;
 yet ex-per-i-ence ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im-prove.

Who would think, de-spite de-ri-sion, that a child should lead the way?
 Sta-ble-d beasts and pass-ing strang-ers watch a ba-by laid in hay:
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,

God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.
 God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.
 God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

This song was written by The Iona Community in Scotland, which frequently develops hymn texts through a collaborative process, often employing traditional tunes from the British Isles such as "Scarlet Ribbons."

Tune: SCARLET RIBBONS 8.7.8.7.D.
English traditional melody
 Arr. John Bell and others, 1990

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Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual
 Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8–20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain
 G . D7 G

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

G Em C G/D D7 Last time, end G

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

G D7 G

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 low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G A7 D7 to 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.

This is one of the few spirituals heard inside as well as outside African-American churches. It was adapted by John Wesley Work II, who is remembered as the director of the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University.

Tune: African-American spiritual
 Adapt. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

This Week at Big Red

Monday, Jan. 3

- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)

Friday, Jan. 7

- ♦ No Events

Tuesday, Jan. 4

- ♦ No Events

Saturday, Jan. 8

- ♦ No Events

Wednesday, Jan. 5

- ♦ **8:00am:** Bible Study (Zoom)
- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)
- ♦ **6:00pm:** Handbell Rehearsal
(Music Room)
- ♦ **7:00pm:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
(Sanctuary)
- ♦ Grapeleaf Submissions Due

Sunday, Jan. 9

- ♦ **9:30am:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- ♦ **3:00pm:** Organ Artist Series
Concert (Sanctuary)

Thursday, Jan. 6

- ♦ No Events

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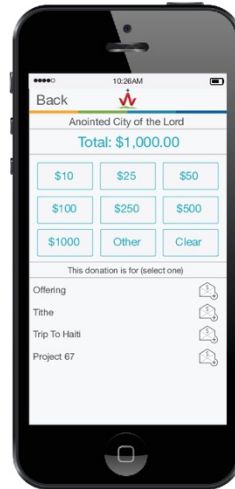
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First Congregational Church of Fresno

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9:00am-3:30pm

First time worshipping with us? Text "New" to (559) 425-4050 and fill out the Connection Card.

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Gregory Chavarria

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Liturgist: Rosalie Brown

Music Director/Organist: Scott Horton

Ushers: Harold Householder, Lester Leas,
Richard van Wyhe

Technician: Brad Jenkins

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.