

**Welcome**  
**to**  
**Kirkwood!**

# **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

*Glory to God #121*

# **Opening Hymn**

**“O Little Town  
of Bethlehem”**

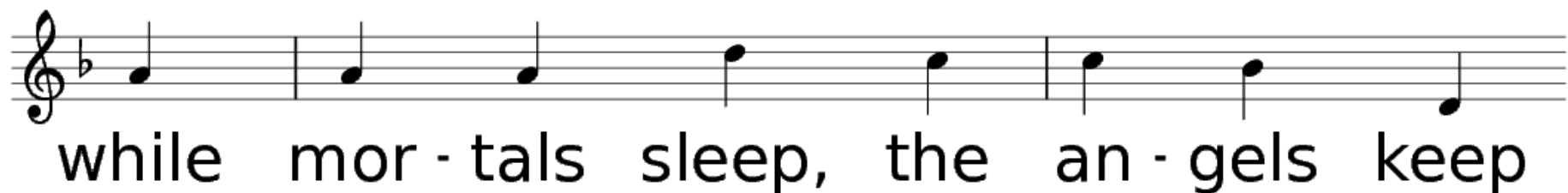
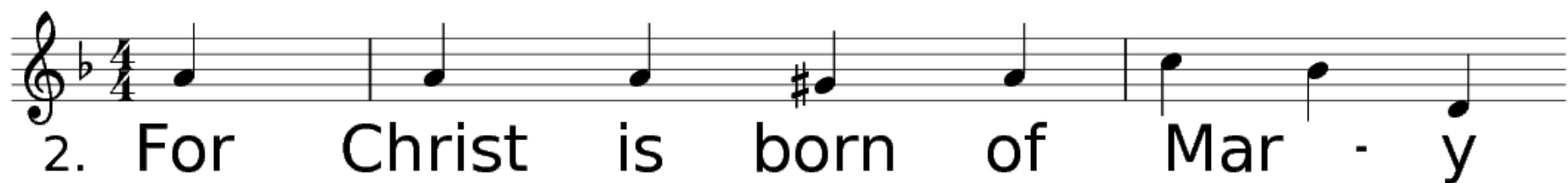
*TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868*

*MUSIC (ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6): Lewis Henry Redner, 1868*

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep  
the si - lent stars go by.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem,". The second staff continues: "how still we see thee lie!". The third staff continues: "A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep". The fourth staff concludes: "the si - lent stars go by.".



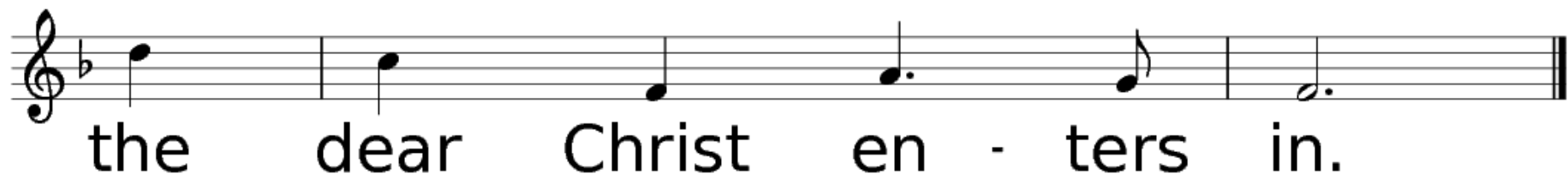




3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly,  
the won - drous gift is given!  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts  
the bless - ings of his heaven.

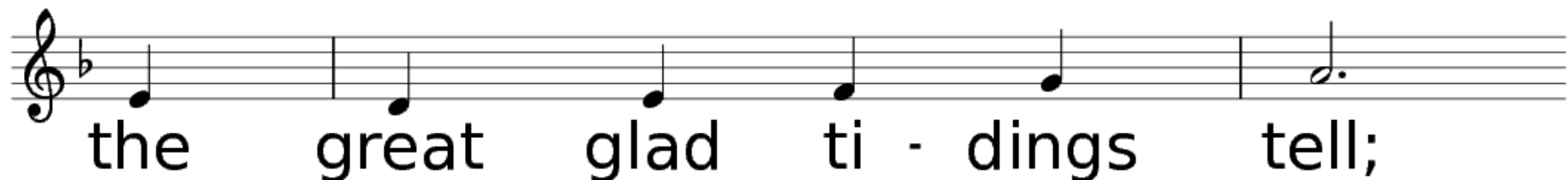
The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: '3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given! So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.' The music is written in a simple, clear style with a treble clef and a single flat.





4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem,  
de - scend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and en - ter in;  
be born in us to - day.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a "4." indicating the start of a new section. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The second staff notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The third staff notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The fourth staff notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The lyrics are: "4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day."



# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Tell of the greatness of the Lord.

**People: We will rejoice in God our  
Savior.**

# **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**“Joy”**

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. [*Light the first candle*].

We light this candle for peace. [*Light the second candle.*]

We light this candle in joy! [*Light the third (pink, if used) candle.*]

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news.



A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20.

*Reader 1:* Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

*Reader 2:* “I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Let us pray:

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust  
and not be afraid, for the Lord is my  
strength and my might; God has become  
my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Sing praises to the Lord. Amen.

# **Gathering Prayer**



# **Call to Confession**

# **Prayer of Confession**

**People: Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have experienced our humanity. We admit that we are not yet holy in spirit, soul, and body.**

**Our worship is not always  
wholehearted. Our hearts and minds  
can be arrogant and unchangeable.  
Our bad habits jeopardize our health.**

**Forgive our faults and fulfill your  
promise through the communion of  
the Holy Spirit that we may be faultless  
when our Lord Jesus comes.**

Leader: Please continue in silent  
confession....Amen.

# **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, hear the good news!

God's mercy is sure from generation to generation.

**People: God will not forget to show mercy to their children's children.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

# **A Time for Children**

# **Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**



The wilderness and the dry land shall  
be glad, the desert shall rejoice and  
blossom; like the crocus it shall  
blossom abundantly, and rejoice with  
joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They  
shall see the glory of the Lord, the  
majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak  
hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with  
terrible recompense. He will come and  
save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall  
return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and  
sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



# **New Testament Reading**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes?

Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# **Message**

**“Can You See It  
from Here?”**

*Glory to God #115*

# **Middle Hymn**

**“Away in a Manger”**

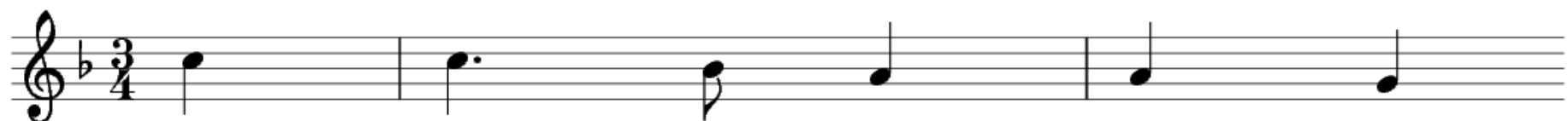
*TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, Little Children’s Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885; stanza 3, Gabriel’s Vineyard Songs, 1892  
MUSIC (MUELLER 11.11.11.11): James R. Murray, 1887*



1. A - way in a man - ger,  
no crib for his bed,  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus  
laid down his sweet head.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Away in a Manger'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1.' indicating the start of the first stanza. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with stems pointing up. The lyrics are: '1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.'

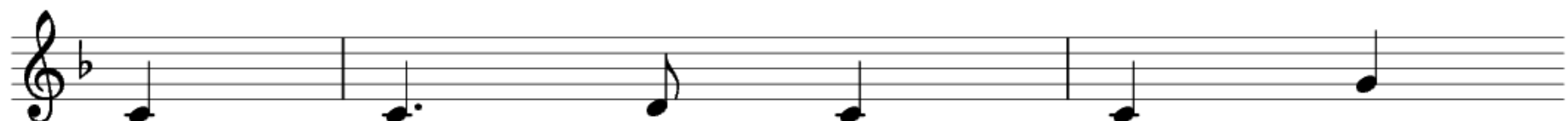




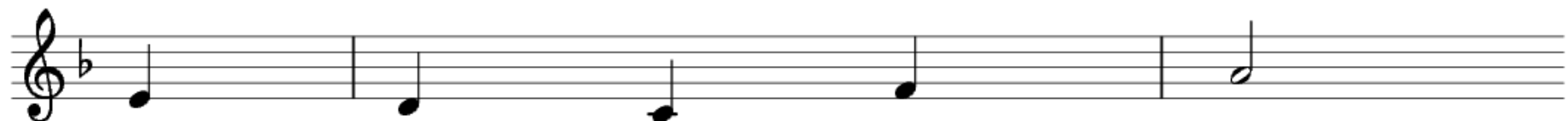
2. The cat - tle are low - ing;



the poor ba - by wakes,




but lit - tle Lord Je - sus,



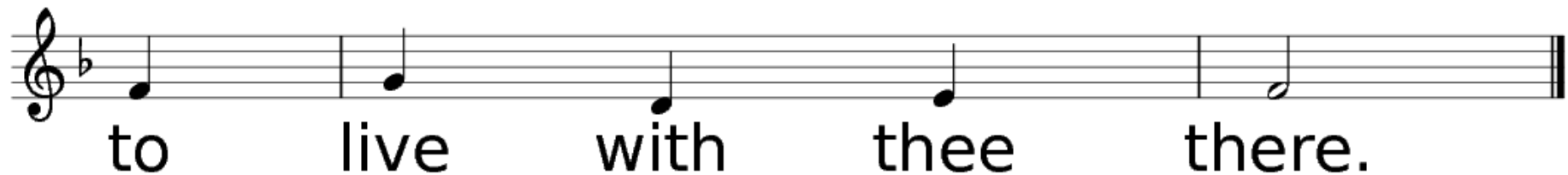
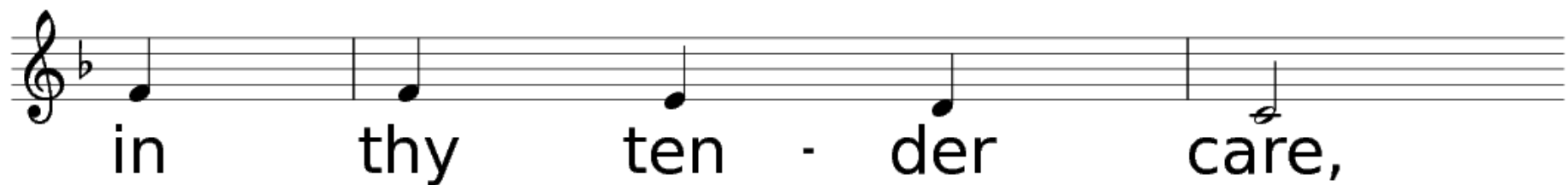
no cry - ing he makes.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Away in a Manger'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'I love thee, Lord Je - sus;'. The second staff contains 'look down from the sky,'. The third staff contains 'and stay by my side un -'. The fourth staff contains 'til morn - ing is nigh.' and ends with a double bar line. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and half notes.

I love thee, Lord Je - sus;  
look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side un -  
til morn - ing is nigh.



3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus;  
I ask thee to stay  
close by me for - ev - er  
and love me, I pray.



# **Affirmation of Faith**

## **(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;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on**

**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.**

# **Prayers of the People**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Giving Thanks to God  
with Our Tithes and  
Offerings**

**Offertory Song**

# **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom  
all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures  
here below;**

**Praise God above,  
ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son  
and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**(repeat Amen 6 times)**

# **Prayer of Dedication**

**People: God who promised to come, has come, and has promised to come again. We are preparing ourselves for your return and offer our gifts and ourselves to make the way straight for Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



*Glory to God #147*

# **Closing Hymn**

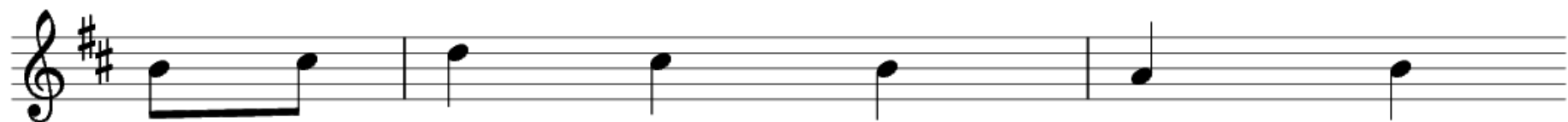
**“The First Nowell”**

**v. 1-4**

TEXT: *English carol; Some Ancient Christmas Carols, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.*  
MUSIC (*THE FIRST NOWELL, Irregular*): *English carol; Sandys' Christmas Carols, 1833*



1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say



was to cer - tain poor shep - herds



in fields as they lay,



in fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,



on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.

The first line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of six measures. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics "on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep." are aligned under the notes.



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

The second line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. It consists of six measures. The notes are: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (half), E3 (half). The lyrics "Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell," are aligned under the notes.



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The third line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. It consists of six measures. The notes are: G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (half), G2 (half). The lyrics "born is the King of Is - ra - el." are aligned under the notes.



2. They look - ed up and saw a star



shin-ing in the east be - yond them far;



and to the earth it gave great light,



and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.



3. And by the light of that same star



three wise men came from coun-try far;



to seek for a king was their in-tent,



and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.



4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;



o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,



and there it did both stop and stay,



right o-ver the place where Je - sus lay.



Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

# **Charge and Blessing**

