

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Christmas in July

On the Go with Emmanuel

July 20, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Barbara Sabath

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

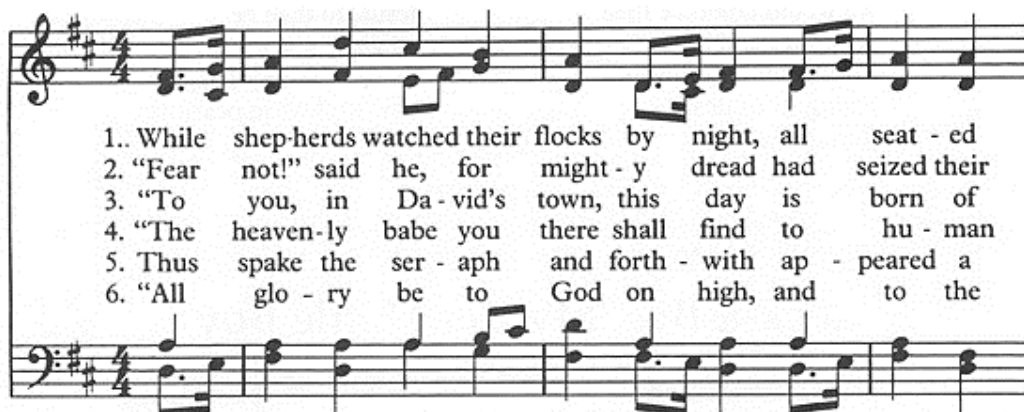
People: **We come, ready to worship the one who inspires us to be on the go!**

Leader: Come, give honor, glory and praise to the one who gave us the great journey of life.

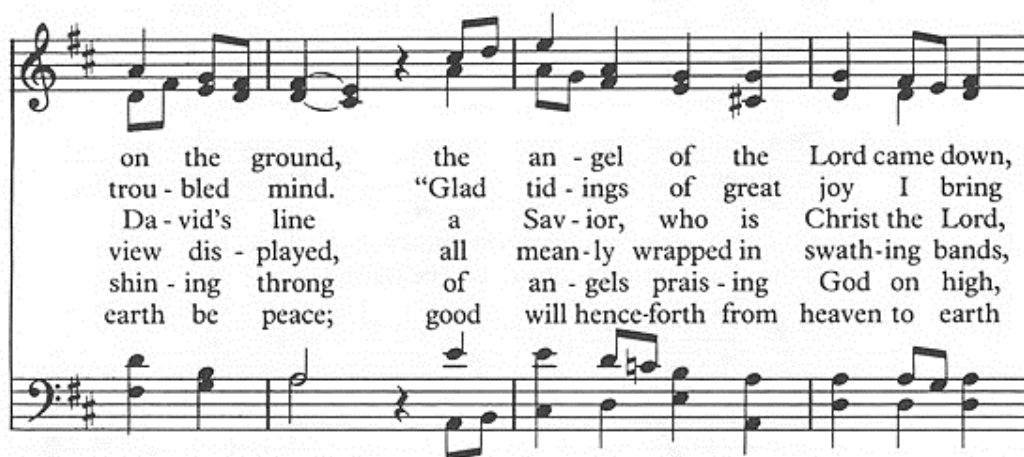
People: **We come, ready to go make disciples of the one who joins us every step of every journey.**

Hymn

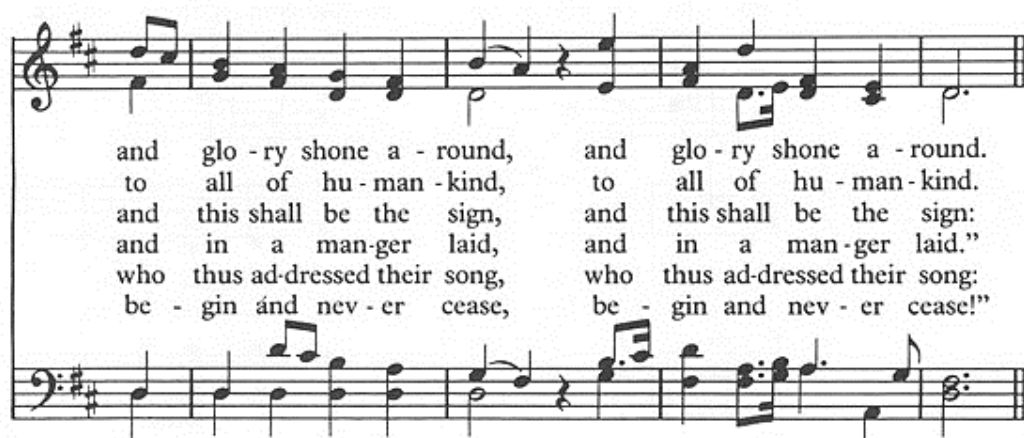
While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks



1. While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed
 2. "Fear not!" said he, for might - y dread had seized their
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of
 4. "The heav-en-ly babe you there shall find to hu - man
 5. Thus spake the ser - aph and forth - with ap - peared a
 6. "All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the



on the ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down,
 trou - bled mind. "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring
 Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord,
 view dis - played, all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands,
 shin - ing thron'g of an - gels prais - ing God on high,
 earth be peace; good will hence-forth from heaven to earth



and glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 to all of hu - man - kind, to all of hu - man - kind.
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid."
 who thus ad-dressed their song, who thus ad-dressed their song:
 be - gin and nev - er cease, be - gin and nev - er cease!"

Opening Prayer

Lord, you are the one who goes before us, walks beside us, and leads us forward. You are Emmanuel; God with us. Not watching from a distance, but right here with us. Because of you, we know we never walk alone. You brought the magi from the East to Bethlehem. You brought the holy family to Egypt for safety. Guide us, too, and keep us safe as we prepare to fulfill our callings. Amen.

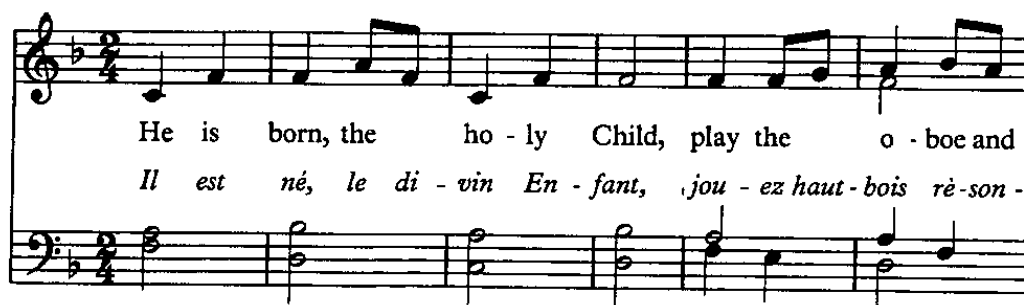
Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

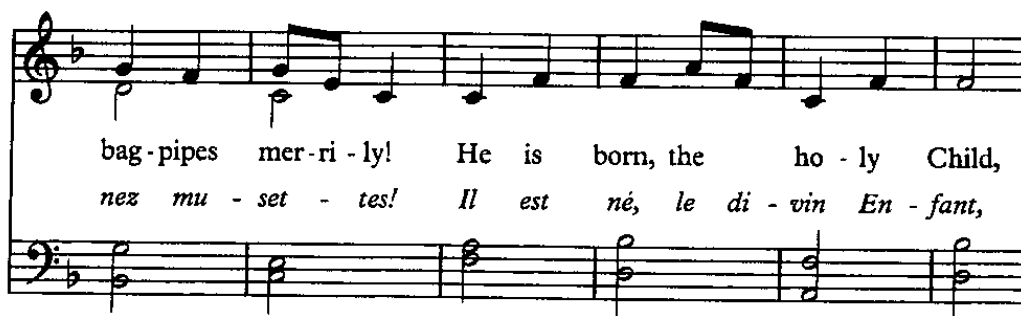
Hymn

He Is Born

(verses 1 and 3)

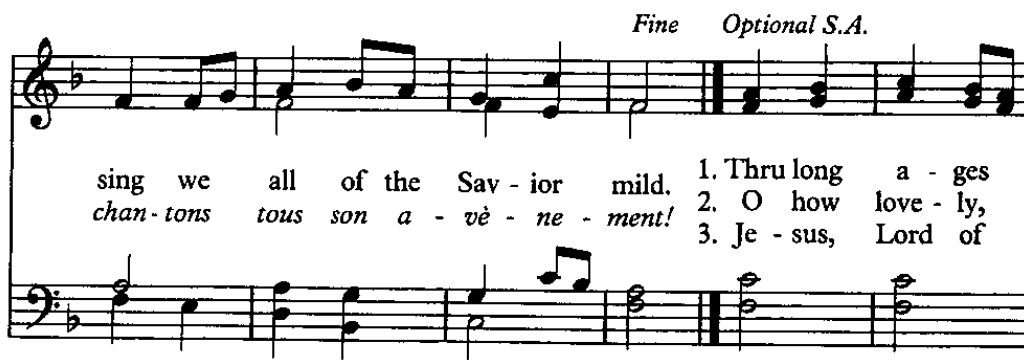


He is born, the ho - ly Child, play the o - boe and
 Il est né, le di - vin En - fant, jou - ez haut - bois rè-son -



bag-pipes mer-ri - ly! He is born, the ho - ly Child,
 nez mu - set - tes! Il est né, le di - vin En - fant,

Fine *Optional S.A.*



sing we all of the Sav - ior mild. 1. Thru long a - ges
 chan - tons tous son a - vè - ne - ment! 2. O how love - ly,
 3. Je - sus, Lord of

of the past, proph - ets have fore - told his com - ing;
O how pure is this per - fect child of heav - en;
all the world, com - ing as a child a - mong us,

thru long a - ges of the past, now the time has come at last!
O how love - ly, O how pure, gra - cious gift to hu - man - kind!
Je - sus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heav - en - ly peace.

D.C.

Special Music

Little Yeshua
Jim Goodrich

arr. Mark Hayes

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-15

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,

until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

On the Go with Emmanuel

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Little Baby Jesus

Blaine H. Allen

Offertory Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Fine

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

D.C.

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

Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

Albin C. Whitworth