

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVERETT

Online Worship Bulletin
December 21, 2025 – 10:00 am

Welcome to Worship Today! Please take a moment to fill out our Friendship Pads found in the pews. This is a great way to get to know who's worshipping with us and to connect you to our community.	Nursery Care Supervised care is available for children birth to 5 years old in our nursery room on the 2 nd floor. Please pick up by 11:05 am or 10 minutes after service.
For our liturgy this morning, BOLD text invites all to join in the reading.	

Prelude	<i>There's a Song in the Air</i> – Karl Harrington	Gary Norris, Organist
Ringling of the Bell		Leslie Sutin
Welcome		Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway
Chancel Bells	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	Directed by Jan Weakley

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Love Candle Psalm 80:1-2, 17-19 John Gebert

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Children of God, we come, tired of waiting, burdened by the weight of watching. We surrender to God's holy "not yet," embracing the stillness. We come, and God-with-us is present in our longing. Today, we light four candles on our wreath. One for hope, peace, joy, and love. (light the candles)

Let us pray: **In a world where care is mocked by the powerful, we stand as those who know the life-giving force of your love. Your love guides us to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. You call us to be fierce in love, bold in tenderness. You enable us to be protectors of compassion, guardians of mercy in a world in need. Amen.**

Hymn	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	#5
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<u>Prayer of Confession</u>	John Gebert
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In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

Great God, as we witness the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory. Yet, we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

Take a moment for silent personal confession and reflection.

Anthem *Angel's Carol* – Rutter Directed by Lorilee Brasseur

Assurance of Pardon John Gebert

From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is our salvation. This is the good news: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ, be with you! **And also with you!**

FPCE Sings *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* #10

Anthem *Child of Peace* – trad./Besig Directed by Lorilee Brasseur

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Love Incarnate* Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Anthem *Away in a Manger* – Kirkpatrick/Fischer Directed by Lorilee Brasseur

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #22

Benediction Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Postlude *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* – Felix Mendelssohn Gary Norris, Organist



This Week...

Adult Sunday School – Today at 11:30am in hybrid format, both in-person in Calvin Lounge and on Zoom. This is a review & discussion of a 24-lecture Great Courses course on The City of God. Join Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82666606593?pwd=y2bNwTCfCjQzY0E7Z0BFbXJkDRmfdv.1>

- Meeting ID: 826 6660 6593

Lunch with Alan – Join us for lunch with Pastor Alan tomorrow at 12 pm.

Thursday Bible Study – Thursday Bible Study is on break until January 8.

Next Sunday we will have hybrid worship at 10am.

- All videos are linked to our Facebook page, website, app, and YouTube channel.

Announcements

The church office will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd.

Advent at the First Presbyterian Church of Everett

We are celebrating and learning about different cultures and how they celebrate Christmas. Today we will explore the fun world of crackers from Great Britain. On Christmas Eve we will search for the pickle ornament.

Be a Part of New Lenten Banners!

New Lenten banners will adorn our sanctuary this coming February! To complete these banners, the Women's Association is looking for the whole congregation to be a part of this project by donating:

CLEAN, PURPLE, 100% COTTON OR COTTON BLEND FABRICS

The fabric can be in any purple hue, plain or printed, and will be used to create a mosaic motif to be incorporated into the banners. They can be scrap fabric, full yardage, or an old garment (you will not get back).

Donations of fabric can be dropped off at church anytime between now and January 11, 2026. Donation baskets will be provided in Westminster Hall and in the church office.

Any questions, contact Leslie Sutin in person or at missleslie50@comcast.net

Prayer List Update

We want to continue to pray and support our members and friends. To help us refocus in 2026, we will be updating our prayer list. If you would like a prayer request that is currently on the list to remain, please email Pastor Alan and we will keep it. However, we will be restarting the list on Sunday, January 11th.

Christmas Joy Special Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The Christmas Joy Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

- 50% supports the PC(USA) Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical financial assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.
- 50% supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to provide education and leadership development.

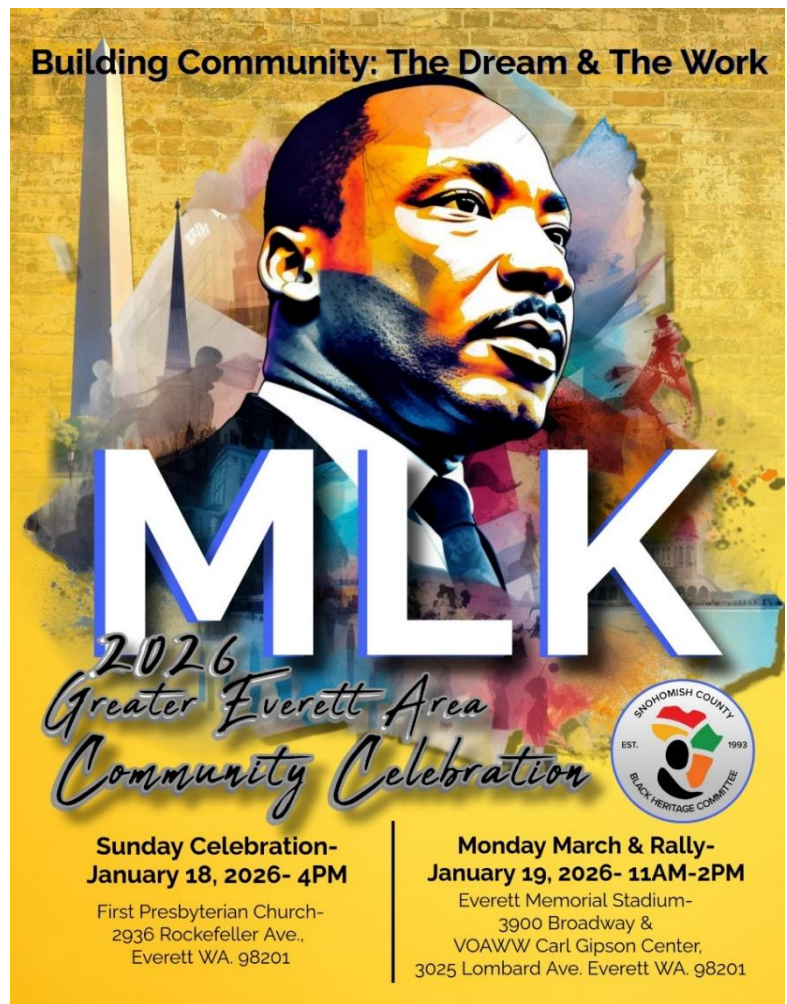
Historically we collect this offering on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. There are designated envelopes in the pews to make it easy or simply note Christmas Joy Offering on your check. Or visit the PC(USA) Special Offering website to donate online today. Please give generously, for when we all give a little, it adds up to a lot.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble meets on January 7th and 21st at 1:00 pm in Westminster Hall for fellowship, fun and SCRABBLE. The north door will be open from 12:50pm to 1:00pm.

Join the Choir!

Calling all singers, past and present, to join the choir. Rehearsal is on Sundays from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm. The choir is open to all people who want to grow in their faith and lead our congregation in glorifying God. If you have questions, please talk with Lorilee, our new Director of Music Ministry, for more information.



Youth Sunday School

The First Pres Youth will resume meeting on January 11th.

Hearing Assistance

A limited number of hearing devices are available to amplify the worship service. To use one, please ask an usher.

VOA Food Donations

We gathered 419 pounds of food for the Volunteers of America in November as part of our Deacons food challenge. We took in \$1,465 in cash donations. \$400 went to the Salvation Army and \$1,065 went to the Volunteers of America. Great job! Let's keep up the good work by bringing in non-perishable food items for our next food drive on Sunday, January 4th.

Catch a Sunday Worship Rerun

Did you know that our Sunday worship services are recorded? You can watch past worship services on our FPCE website, mobile app, YouTube channel, and Facebook page. Links to all these channels can be found on our website at: www.firstpreschurch.com.

Lay Leadership

On Sundays, we are blessed to have wonderful people guide us in worship through the leading of the call to worship, prayer of confession, and other parts of our service. If you'd like to be added to this list to lead, please talk with Pastor Alan or scan his QR code.

No experience necessary, just a willing and open heart.

Calling New Members

Are you interested in joining the First Presbyterian Church of Everett? Want to learn more about our congregation and our organizational structure? We want membership to be accessible, fun, and a way to deepen your faith. If this seems like where you are and what you'd like to explore, then scan Pastor Alan's QR code or talk with Pastor Alan.



Pastor's QR Code

Prayer Requests – December 21, 2025

- Roy Yates' memorial is today at 2:00 pm. Please keep his family in your prayers.
- Seraphina, 6-year-old grandniece of Scot & Barb Roetcisoender, is in Children's Hospital with very bad pneumonia. She is expected to be hospitalized until after Christmas. Please pray for healing and for her family.
- Martha Klingler has been struggling with excruciating back pain which makes moving almost impossible. Please pray for relief for her. From Lisa Villesvik.
- Angela, the granddaughter of Annette King's friend Kathy, died last week after several brave years of liver transplant challenges. Please continue praying for Angela's family and friends. Thank you all for your concerns and prayers.
- Marsha Lueth is home and recovering from her recent heart issue. We pray for comfort and healing.
- We pray for John, Jean Rankin's son, who broke his jaw and is awaiting surgery.
- We pray for Jean Kanter who is in rehab. We pray for comfort and peace.



**This year, the Women's Association asked for donations to the
Everett Gospel Mission in Honor or Memory of loved ones.
This was in lieu of purchasing live poinsettias.
Silk poinsettias now add to our Christmas décor.**

Donations by...

Annette Gerry Shoemaker King

Teresa Good and the
Good family

Mike & Susan Davis

Mary Davis

Alan & Dottie Villesvik

Marilee Richards

Jeff & Doreen Solberg

Terry Walker

Dorothy Nerison

Ray Smith

Emilee Mackey

In Memory and In Honor of...

In Memory of my parents Del & Pat Gerry and my
two husbands, Bob Shoemaker and Weston King

In Memory of Dale & Janet Good

In Memory of our loving parents

In Memory of Lin Davis

In Memory of our son, John R. Villesvik
In Honor of our church staff – especially for our
new Director of Music Ministry, Lolly

In Memory of the family and friends of Marilee
and George

In Memory of our loving parents

In Memory of Paul Kniest and Peter Boonstra

In Memory of Roy Mackenzie, David Mackenzie,
and Ken Nerison

In Memory of my parents, Ken & Helena Smith
In Honor of my children, Amanda, Eli, Erin, & Cole

In Memory of Everett & Maurine Murray and
Ralph Mackey

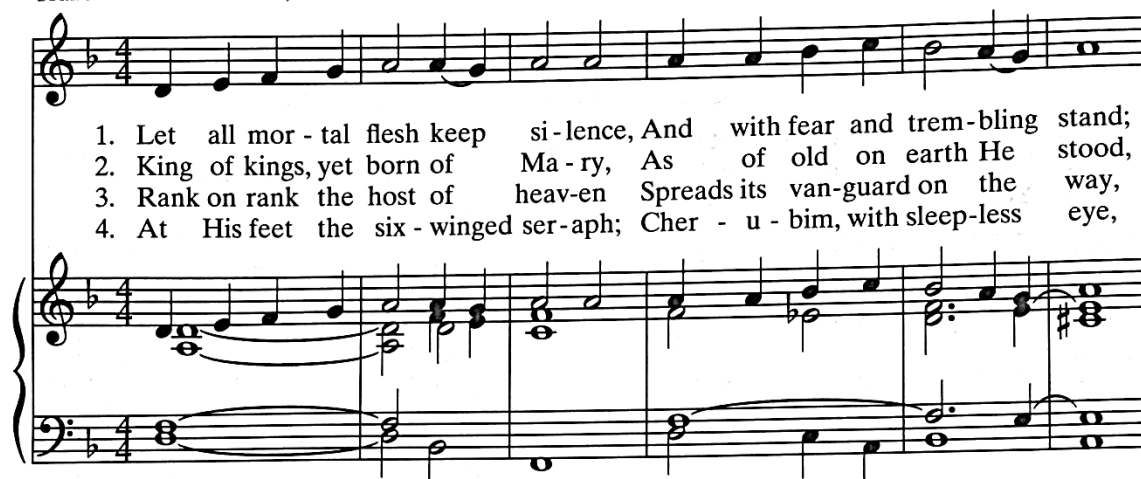
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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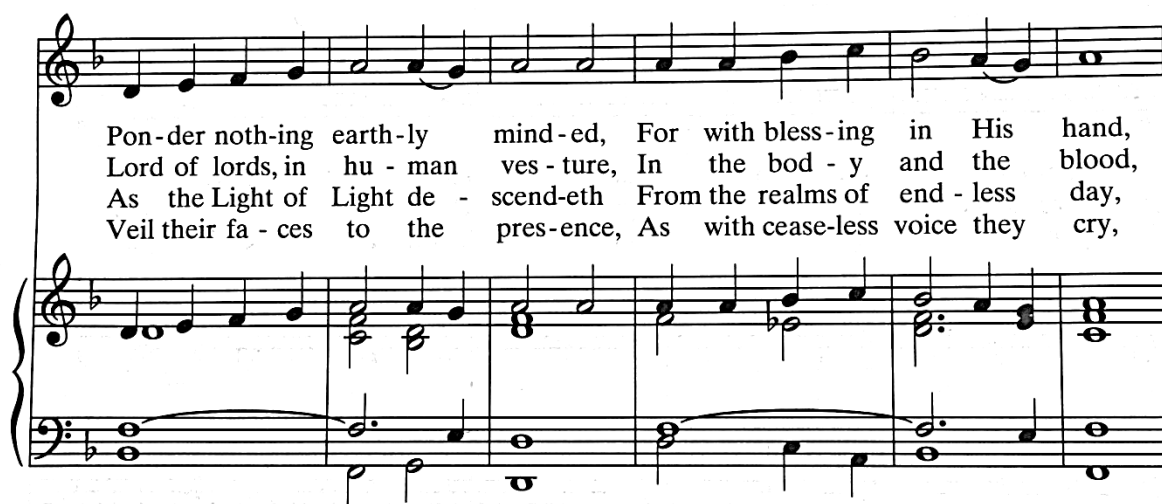
PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7

From Liturgy of St. James, 4th century
Trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864

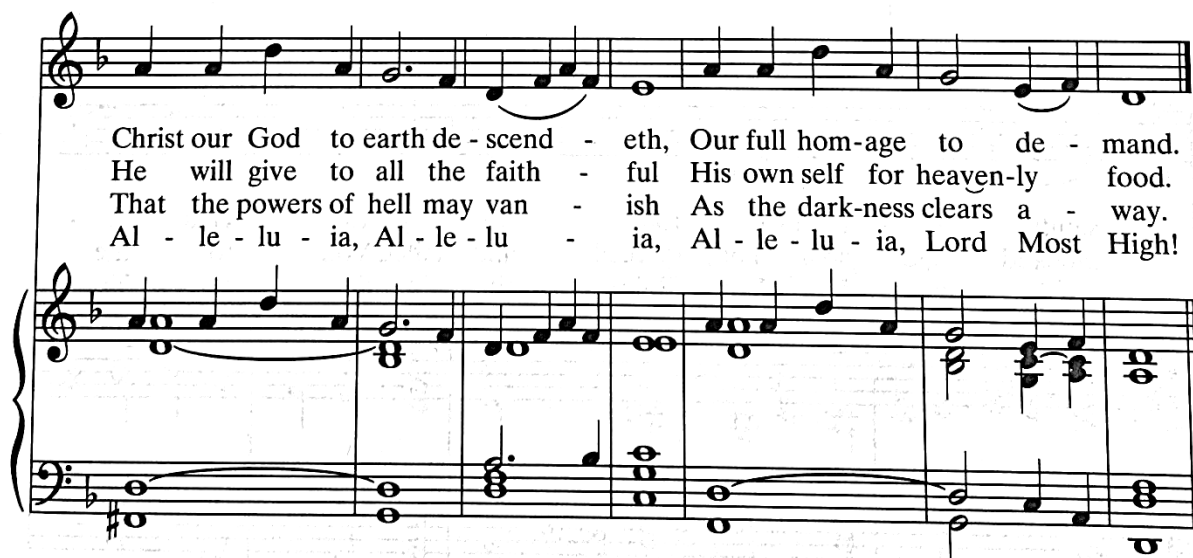
French carol
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906



1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, And with fear and trem-bling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, As of old on earth He stood,
3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en Spreads its van-guard on the way,
4. At His feet the six-winged ser-aph; Cher-u-bim, with sleep-less eye,



Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly mind-ed, For with bless-ing in His hand,
Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture, In the bod-y and the blood,
As the Light of Light de-scend-eth From the realms of end-less day,
Veil their fa-ces to the pres-ence, As with cease-less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de-scend-eth, Our full hom-age to de-mand.
He will give to all the faith-ful His own self for heaven-ly food.
That the powers of hell may van-ish As the dark-ness clears a-way.
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!

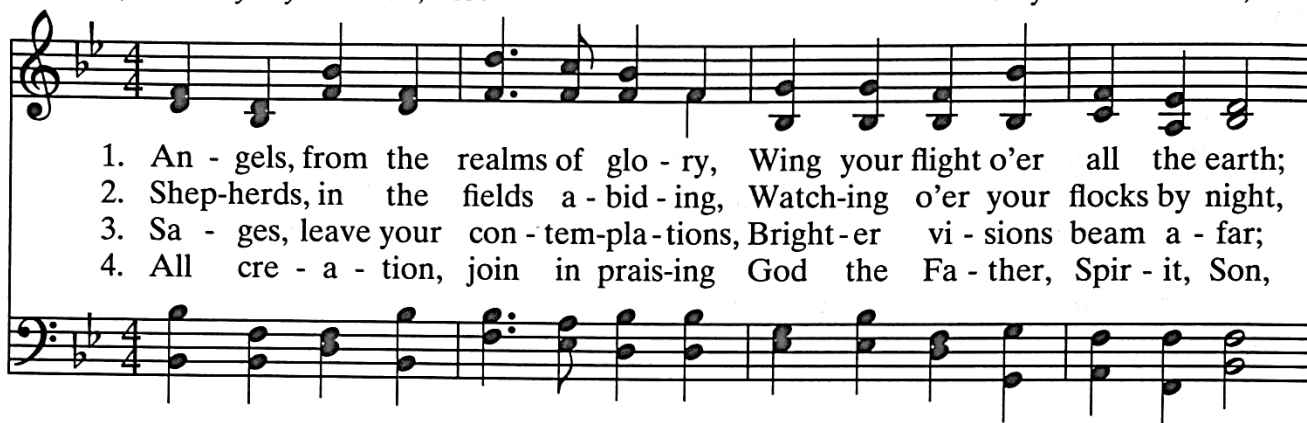
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

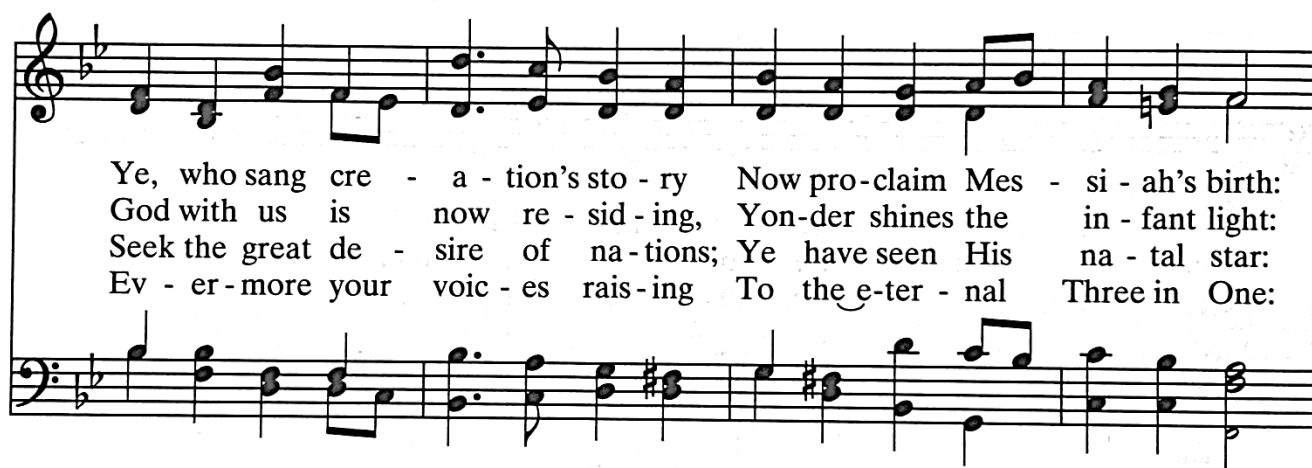
Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

Stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

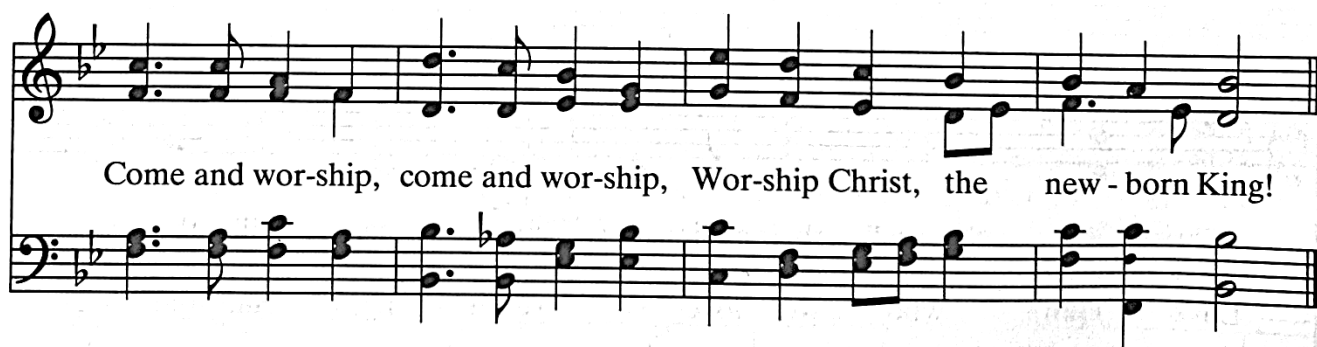
Henry Thomas Smart, 1867



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



Ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon-der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great de - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star:
 Ev - er-more your voic - es rais-ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One:



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new - born King!