

**Carmel Presbyterian Church**  
**Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2022**  
**10:00 AM**



*The birth of Christ...*

**Order of Worship**

*We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.*

*\* Please stand, as able.*

*Congregation voices **Bold** responses.*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

*We gather as a community of faith to meet God in new ways and reflect on the hope and promise of God's gift to us through Jesus Christ.*

**Welcome and Greetings**

**Prelude**

***In dulci jubilo***

***J. S. Bach***

**\* Call to Worship (Spoken responsively)**

Rejoice! Happy Christmas to everyone!

**Happy Christmas to you also!**

Christ our Savior is born.

**God's Light is poured into the world.**

O Come, let us celebrate this wonderful gift.

**Let us praise God with shouts of joy and singing!**

**\* Hymn 23**

***"Angels We Have Heard on High"***

***Gloria***

**Prayer of Confession (In unison)**

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate the birth of our newborn savior. Yet we find the suffering and despair of our world depressing. Our hearts grow hard with hopelessness. What reason is there to rejoice? We question your power even on this Christmas day. Emmanuel, return us to faith. Help us resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. Lift our spirits so we can see and appreciate the gift of God-with-us...

*(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)*

Amen. Amen.

**Response 40 (All sing stanza 3, seated)**

**Joy to the World!**

**ANTIOCH**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Read responsively.)**

Hear the Good News! Jesus, Savior from sin, is present with us in the painstaking work of the Reign of God, opening our hearts and our eyes, rebuilding our relationships, restoring our joy.

**Let us celebrate this great grace!**

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* Gloria 23 (Refrain in unison) "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**Gloria**

***Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**\* Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively)**

This Christmas morning, we pray God's presence to us brings a sense of peace in our lives and in the lives of all God loves; in every troubled heart, home and community.

**These days, we have been rushed and busy, as it must have been in Bethlehem long ago.**

Let there be peace enough in our hearts and minds to receive the good news in light, in word, in song, and in the faces of others.

**Help us to treasure the blessings of this day, and consider God's wondrous love each time we share God's blessings of peace with our neighbors.**

Share God's peace with one another – "Peace be with you!"

**Peace be with you!**

*(Greet one another sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)*

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

*We hear the stories of our faith in scripture, song, prayer, and sermon.*

**Children's Message**

*(Following the Children's message, children in third grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)*

**Unison Prayer for Illumination (In unison)**

**Glorious God: in Jesus, your grace appears bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, so that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace, and welcome Christ in our world. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

*The first reading from the lectionary is Isaiah, chapter 63, verses 6-12; p. 651. Salvation comes; Jerusalem is restored; the people are redeemed. Listen now for the Word of God to you!*

Upon your walls, Jerusalem,  
I have appointed sentinels.  
Continually, all day and all night,  
they won't keep silent.  
You who call on the Lord, don't rest,  
and don't allow God to rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem,  
and makes it the praise of the earth.  
The Lord has promised  
with raised hand and strong arm:  
I will never again give your grain  
as food for your enemies.  
Foreigners won't drink your wine  
for which you labored.  
Those who harvest will eat it  
and will praise the Lord;  
those who gather will drink it  
in my holy courtyards.  
  
Pass through, pass through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people!  
Build, build the road;  
clear away the stones!  
Raise up a signal for the peoples.  
This is what the Lord announced  
to the earth's distant regions:  
Say to Daughter Zion, "Look! Your deliverer arrives,  
bringing reward and payment!"  
They will be called The Holy People,  
Redeemed By the Lord.  
And you will be called Sought After—  
A City That Is Not Abandoned.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God!***

### **New Testament Reading**

*The second reading from the lectionary is Titus, chapter 3, verses 4-7; p. 203. We are justified by the grace of Christ, reborn in the Holy Spirit. Listen now for the word of God to you!*

But “when God our savior’s kindness and love appeared, he saved us because of his mercy, not because of righteous things we had done. He did it through the washing of new birth and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, which God poured out upon us generously through Jesus Christ our savior. So, since we have been made righteous by his grace, we can inherit the hope for eternal life.”

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Gospel Reading**

*The gospel reading is Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20; p. 54-55. To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Listen now for the Word of God to you!*

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**"To You Is Born This Day"**

**Pastor Peter**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Inspired by the promise of God's Word, let us give our thanks and praise – so we may continue God's work as we move into God's week.*

**\* Hymn 29**

**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Go Tell It**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (Using 'debts' & 'debtors')**

**Invitation to the Offering**

*(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church in the local and global community. Please place your offering on the offering plate at the usher's invitation, give it online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)*

God is all about abundance: Love that never wavers, mercy that never fails. Let us offer our gifts generously, and in abundant love, as a thanksgiving to God. The ushers may come forward.

**Offertory**

**"The Wexford Carol"  
David Campbell, soloist**

**Traditional Irish Carol  
arr. Mark Hayes**

*Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind  
what our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
in Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.*

*The night before that happy tide, the noble virgin and her guide  
were long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things came to pass. From every door repelled, alas!  
As long foretold, their refuge all was but an humble ox's stall.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
for there you'll find, this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,  
and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger He was laid and by His side the virgin maid,  
attending on the Lord of life, who came on earth to end all strife.*

**\* Doxology 592**

**"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**Old Hundredth**

*(Ushers will bring the Offering Plate forward, returning it to the rear of the Sanctuary.)*

**\* Prayer of Dedication (In unison.)**

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love made known in your Son. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and do your transforming work among all who are vulnerable and in need. Amen.

**WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD**

*Renewed and refreshed by our experience with God and God's congregation, we go into the world to share God's love.*

**\* Hymn 31**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**Mendelssohn**

**\* Benediction and Charge**

A child has been born for us.

**God's grace has been given to us.**

From a stable, in Bethlehem, our savior has come. We have seen the glory of the Lord,

**Revealed in the face of the Christ child. We can hardly contain our amazement.**

Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your heart.

**We will glorify and praise God, for all we have heard and seen!**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!

**Amen!**

**Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)**

**Postlude**

**"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"**

**Wilbur Held**

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***Announcements***

***Guests: You Are Welcome Here***

**WE CORDIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO ARE VISITING TODAY.** We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We'd like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will gather with us again soon. Should you wish for Hearing Devices and/or Large Print Bibles & Hymnals, they are available from an usher. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for a weekly email of future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with the Pastor if you are interested in membership. Restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building.

**CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS** of our congregation by offering **Nursery Care** and **Children's Worship (Grades K-3)** during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. We request that if you desire **nursery care** for your child during Sunday worship, please call the **Church Office by Friday noon**, so that the nursery is staffed. **Children's Worship** does not require reserving ahead. Children leave the Sanctuary for Carmel Hall after the **Children's Message**. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; or Melissa MacFarland, Children's Worship leader.

**THIS MORNING, THE FESTIVE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY** witness to the glory of God and God's creation and to Christ's gift of redemption as well as in loving memory as reflected on the bulletin insert.

**A MOMENT OF REFLECTION** – This Christmas Day Sunday morning, reflect on these words attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby:

*"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."*

**YOUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING IS STILL WELCOMED** – The **Christmas Joy Offering** is a special offering Carmel takes each year to support young people of color to further their college education and to support older pastoral servants who encounter unusual financial difficulties. Be sure to include your 2022 envelope number. Special envelopes and pew envelopes are available.

**A PAUSE IN CHILDREN'S WORSHIP FOR THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS** – There will be **NO** Children's Worship on **Christmas Day (12/25/22)** or on **New Year's Day (1/1/2023)**! And, we are now using the **Children's Worship Room** on the left side in the back as you enter the Chapel instead of Carmel Hall. Thank you! There will be Children's Worship this Sunday and it will resume **after** New Year's Day. Children are invited to sit with families during this time.

**YOUR 2022 PLEDGE AND GIVING ENVELOPES** – Be sure to pick up your Stewardship offering envelopes. A financial pledge to Carmel is an expression of your faith, investment, and commitment to our mission. Pledges provide stability to budgeting so planning is possible for the year ahead.

**CARMEL YOUTH MINISTRY (CYM) INVITES YOUTH IN GRADES 3-8!** – **Carmel Youth Ministry (CYM)** welcomes all kids in Grades 3-8. It meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:30 in Carmel Hall. Fun, fellowship, and growing together as a group guides the group and leaders. **CYM leaders** Joyce, Katey, Melissa, and Jed look forward to seeing you. **NOTE:** there will be no group meeting this Wednesday.

**MUSIC NOTES FROM CARMEL'S BALCONY** – Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs. Join us in the new season of singing and ringing.

- **Children's Choir**, for anyone in Grades K-2, meets Wednesdays, from 5:00 PM -5:40 PM.
- **Junior Choir**, for anyone in Grades 3-8, meets Wednesdays, from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
- **Youth Choir**, for anyone in Grades 9-12, meets Sundays, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.
- **Sanctuary Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Thursdays, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.
- **Handbell Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Mondays, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

For questions about any choirs, please contact **Abby Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music**.

**WONDER “WHAT’S GOING ON?” CHECK OUT CARMEL’S WEBSITE!** Explore the wealth of information at [www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org). Easily find links for the current Livestream worship, past services, and the daily lectionary, or send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and not miss the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

**JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!** Live Streaming Worship is available on **YouTube** or via **Zoom** on the phone for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. You can find our Sunday morning worship live streaming Sundays at 10:00 am with links below:

*YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at*  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJlIDvsRw>  
***Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:***  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409> and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

**SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE** several spots you can assist: liturgist, ushers, greeters, and host for coffee hour. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign up online here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship>

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***Participants Serving the Church in Worship***

*Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor*

*John Diller, Called Senior Pastor (beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023)*

*James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus*

*Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music*

*David Campbell, soloist*

*Lynne Schutt, Liturgist*

*TBA, Usher/Greeters*

*Festive Christmas Flowers, Shepherds*

*Rodney Hackman & Walter Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP)*

*Tom Bohlander, Jay Raulinaitis, and Dave Rice, Live-Streaming Operators*

*No Coffee Hour this morning: Carmel Hall (11:00 AM)*

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***Carmel Presbyterian Church***

*100 Edge Hill Road*

*Glenside, PA 19038*

*215-887-1074*

*[www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org)*

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## COMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

#### **NATIVITY OF THE LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY**

Merry Christmas!

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am

No Coffee Hour, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Church Office is closed for the holiday.

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Nursery School on Break

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Nursery School on Break

No Children's Choir (Grades K-2), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:00-5:40 pm

No Junior Choir (Grades 3-8), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:45-6:30 pm

No CYM (Carmel Youth Ministry), (Grades 3-8), Carmel Hall: 6:30-7:30 pm

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Nursery School on Break

No Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room & Sanctuary: 7:30-9:00 pm

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30**

Nursery School on Break

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

#### **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Happy New Years!

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am

Guest Preacher: The Reverend Robert Emberger, preaching

No Coffee Hour, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am

# Angels We Have Heard on High

23

French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7 with refrain

French carol

Trans. James Chadwick (1813-1882); alt.

Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual

Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

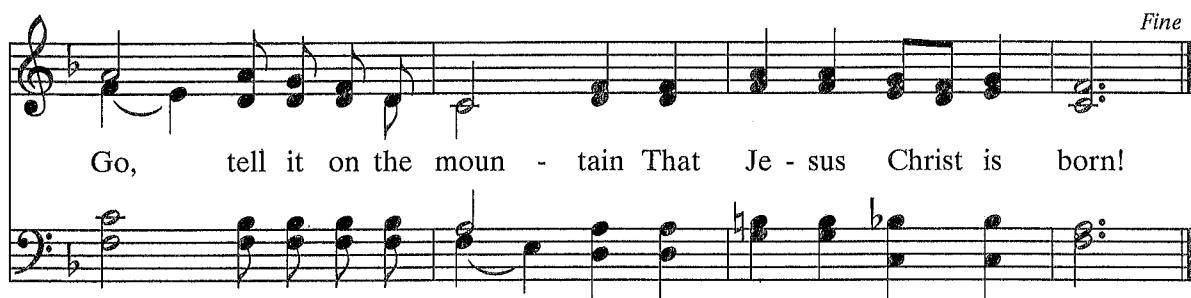
Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

*Refrain*

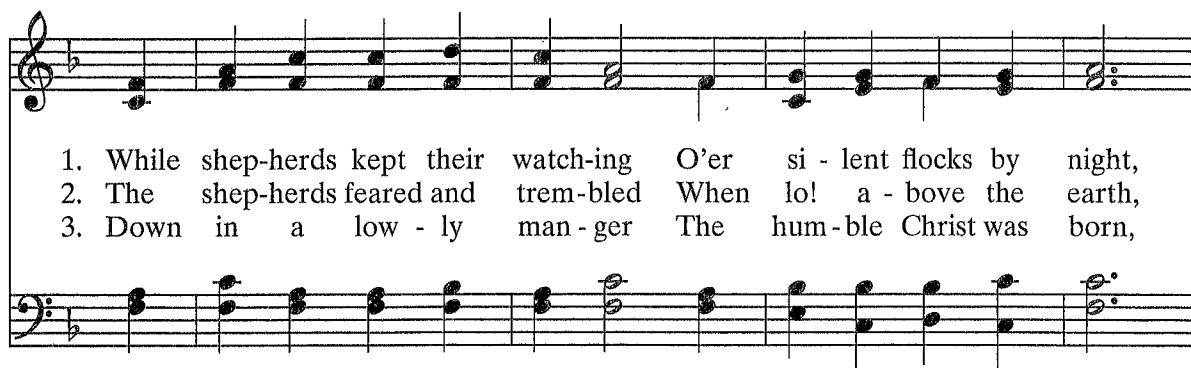


Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



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

*Fine*



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,



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.

*D.C.*

SERVICE MUSIC

# 592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise \*Him, all crea-tures

here be - low; Praise \*Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

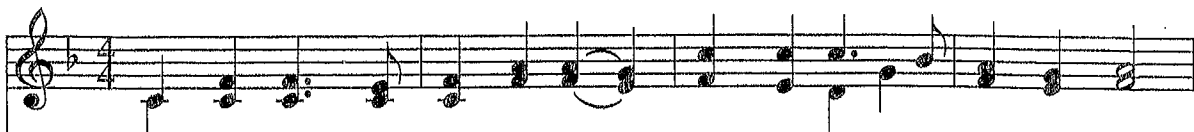
## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav - en a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 \*3. Hail the heav - en-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, Risen 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 the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

