

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022



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Sunday, December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Love

Christmas Pageant!



Tolling of the Bell

Prelude *O Come Little Children* 18th century, arr. Wood

Call to Worship

Opening Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1,4)

Welcome and Announcements

Scene 1 "The Annunciation" *Luke 1:26-38*

Scene 2 "The Decree" *Luke 2:1-3*

Advent Candle Lighting

God of Love, we set out lives on course with your commandment. We will love this baby with all our heart, soul, mind and with all our strength. We will love our neighbors and ourselves in the same manner.

1 Corinthians 13, Matthew 1, Mark 12

Sung Response *Softly Tenderly, Jesus is Calling* (chorus)

The Peace of Christ

Sr. Choir Anthem *See, amid the Winter's Snow* arr. Haan

Scene 3 "No Room" *Luke 2:4-7*

Carol *Away in a Manger* (v. 1, 2)

Scene 4 "The Queens Follow the Star" *Matthew 2:1-8*

Scene 5 "The Shepherds Receive the Good News" *Luke 2:8-26*

Jr. Choir Anthem *Star Carol* John Rutter

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *We Three Kings* Hopkins

Doxology *Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Closing Carol *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Christmas Prayer for the World

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.*

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, Amen.

Jr. Choir Anthem *Child of God* *arr. Crocker*

Pageant Finale

Benediction

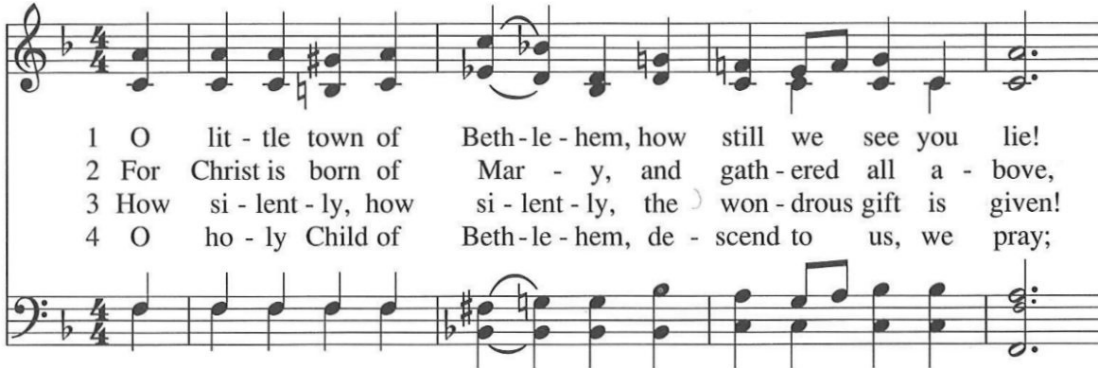
Postlude *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* *arr. Wood*

Following the Benediction, the congregation is encouraged to enjoy the entire Postlude.

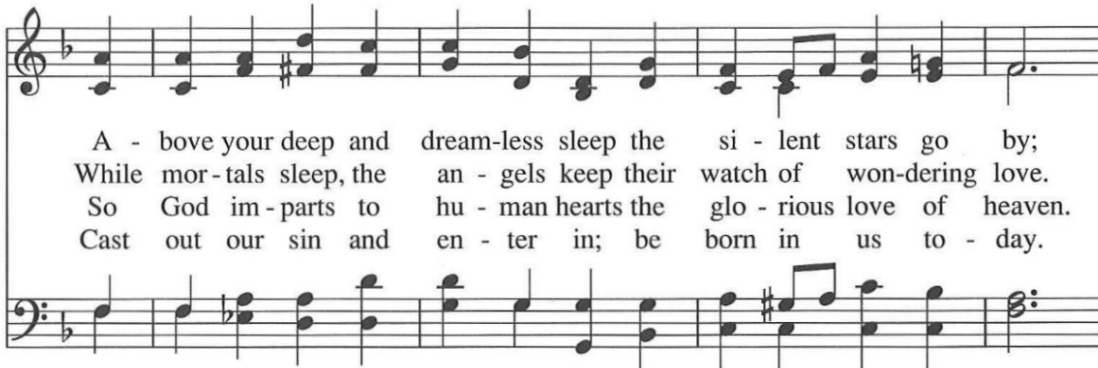


Front cover artwork by Cora Allen

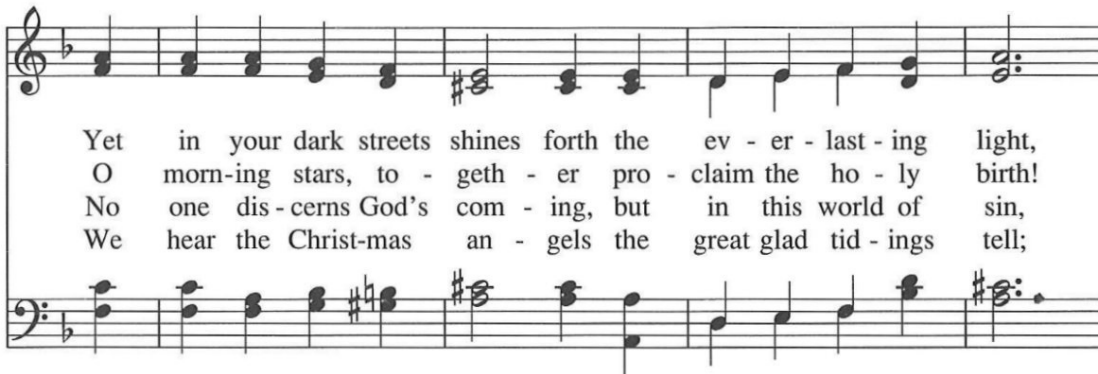
Back cover artwork by Jackson Augusto

*Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7**Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.*


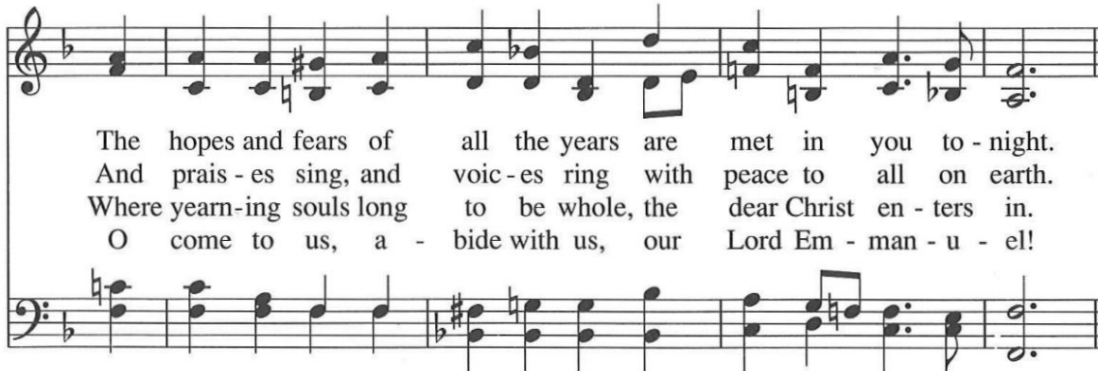
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN

Away in a Manger

137

Anonymous

AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.

Anonymous



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look



down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.



BIRTH

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Luke 2:10-11, 25-32; 24:46-51;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Isa. 60:19-20

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.

Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

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

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"

Bulletin Reminders for December 18, 2022

PLYMOUTH CHURCH'S 2022 ON-LINE AUCTION: A GREAT SUCCESS!

Bidding was brisk and competitive. By auction's end, we cleared over **\$6,500!** Many thanks to everyone who donated items and services. We couldn't have done it without you. Also, please remember to frequent and thank all the local businesses who donated gift cards, items, and services. Know that many of these businesses have supported us in every one of our past ten biannual auctions! Finally, for those who jumped in and bid, we appreciate your participation. Thank you!

Your 2022 Auction Team:

Co-chairs: Sue Tonkiss, Sydney Turner

Business donor solicitations:

Beth D'Agostino, Mattie Schadt

Photographer/Content Editor: John Tonkiss

FRAMINGHAM TOGETHER

Framingham Together consists of organizations that stand in solidarity against racism and discrimination of any kind and look to create and to foster an inclusive community for all. Launched in 2020, Framingham Together is a coalition of over 40 nonprofit and community partners, committed to ensuring the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion is honored and celebrated in our community. Check out their website and, especially, the extended PSA on the Community page.



ORDER YOUR PLYMOUTH CHURCH CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ONLINE

We are now taking orders via our website for poinsettia plants given in memory, in honor, or in celebration of a special person (or persons) to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service. Please place your order no later than **Monday, December 19**. Like last year, we are purchasing our poinsettias from Frugal Flower. The price remains the same, at \$20/plant, in a 6-inch pot. *To order yours, visit the "News Center" page on our website.*

NEED A RIDE TO "THE LONGEST NIGHT"?

The Longest Night is a unique service that explores themes of light and shadow, and encourages into a period of contemplation before all the lights and noise of Christmas Day. As this service takes place at night, several Deacons are offering to provide rides for anyone who might not wish to drive in the dark. Please contact Greg if you would like to be picked up on Wednesday, **December 21**, for the 7:00 p.m. service.

WAYFARER: A MONTHLY EXPLORATION

A wayfarer is a person who travels, a pilgrim on a journey. A wayfinder is a sign or marker that helps orient travelers on the road. This course invites you to consider becoming both: one who journeys and one who guides others. Each month, there are three offerings.

Self-study: a video to watch, an article to read, with guiding questions; something you can do on your own.

Class Discussion: a large gathering of all participants on Zoom, to discuss and react to that month's topic.

Small Group: participants will be assigned to a smaller group for more intimate story sharing and reflection.

Use your *Realm Connect* app to sign up! Or, email Greg at revmorisse@gmail.com.



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