

Presentation in the Temple, serigraph
John August Swanson, Atlanta, Georgia

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Faith Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Audrey Trapp

Joys and Concerns

Prelude *Riu, Riu Chiu*
(Catalan Carol)

setting Richard Lind
(b. 1943)

Call to Worship

Audrey Trapp

One: We have come as pilgrims,

All: Journeying through the season of Advent.

One: We sought to prepare our hearts, minds, and
lives for Christ's coming.

**All: Waiting with hope for our promised
Savior.**

One: Now we rejoice this Christmas season,

**All: Praising our God, who came and walked
with us. Let us worship God together.**

Hymn 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, giver of all good gifts, you offer us new
life through the birth of the babe in Bethlehem. But
we confess that we have settled for a small
Christmas, hiding the miracle of the incarnation in
tinsel and twinkle lights. Help us receive the gift of
your Word made flesh, and to share his light and
life with the world. Amen.**

Kyrie 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem
verse 4

ST. LOUIS

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Assurance of Grace

Gloria 583 *Glory to God*

GLORY

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Music *Once in Royal David's City*

Lloyd Larson
(b. 1954)

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Ekama Eni

Hymn 137 *He Came Down*

HE CAME DOWN

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Terry Osman
(b. 1956)

Dedication of Self and Substance

Hymn 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Charge & Benediction

Postlude *Postlude on "Mendelssohn"*

David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

Passing of the Peace

Leading Worship Today

Ekama Eni, *Guest Preacher*

Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*

Audrey Trapp, *Liturgist*

Ayanna Freelon, *Soloist*

Karen Burd, *Zoom Moderators*

Dawn Shirey, *PowerPoint*

In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 ‡ wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.
 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM
 Irregular

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

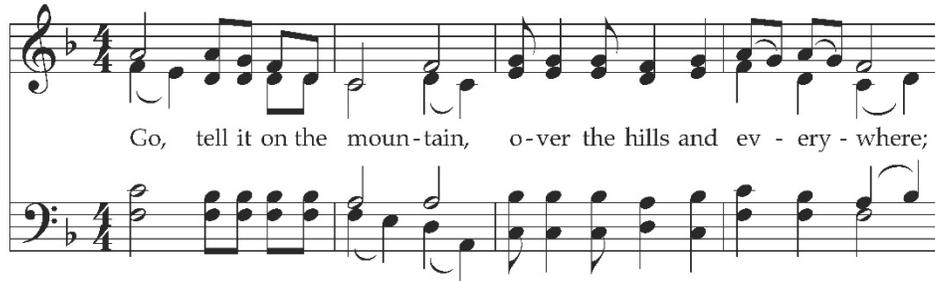
- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

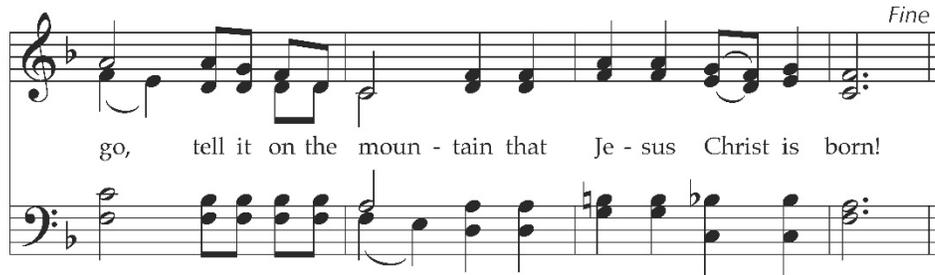
TEXT: Cameroon song
 MUSIC: Cameroon melody; transcr. and arr. John L. Bell, 1986
 Music Arr. © 1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

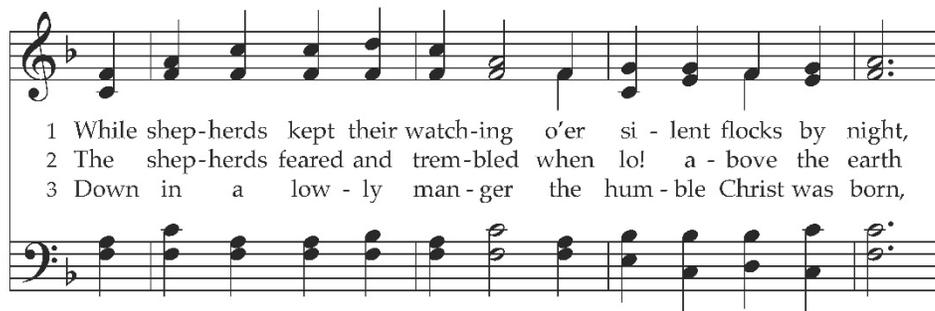


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

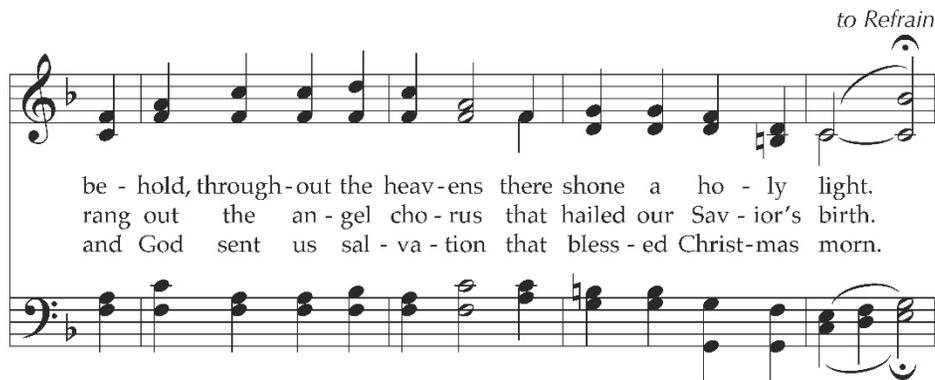


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

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,



to Refrain

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.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Music I arm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT

7.6.7.6 with refrain