

December 28, 2025



WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

****Please stand as you are able***

Prelude: "The Christmas Drummer"
arr. Marilyn Ham

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
Senior Pastor

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Judy Shipley, *missions chair*

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to a king's son. May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice.

People: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

Leader: May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

People: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

All: In this worship may His incarnation become a fresh revelation to Your heart and mind.

***Hymn #141: "On This Day the Earth Shall Ring "** (located in this bulletin)

Prayer of Confession

Judy Shipley

Eternal Light, shine in our hearts; Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil; Eternal Power, be our support; Eternal Wisdom, scatter the shadows of our ignorance; Eternal Compassion, have mercy on us, that with heart and mind and soul and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to the Holy Presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.

Amen.

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Walls

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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Children's Message

Judy Shipley

***Hymn #136:** *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"* (located in this bulletin)

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ 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." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"Being Led"*

Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Offertory: "Child of the Poor/What Child Is This?"

Scott Soper and William C. Dix

Kate Clemens and Emma Baker, *soloists*

*Helpless and hungry, lowly afraid
Wrapped in the chill of mid-winter
Comes now among us
Born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world*

*Who is this who lives with the lowly
Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
In the eyes of a child, a child of the poor*

*What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary*

*So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant, King to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him*

*This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Walls

***Hymn #134: "Joy to the World"** (located in this bulletin)

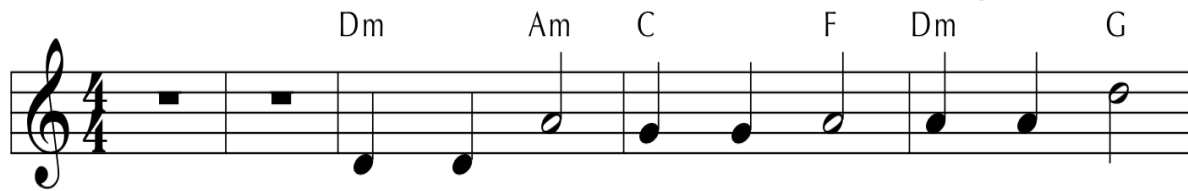
***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "Joy to the World"

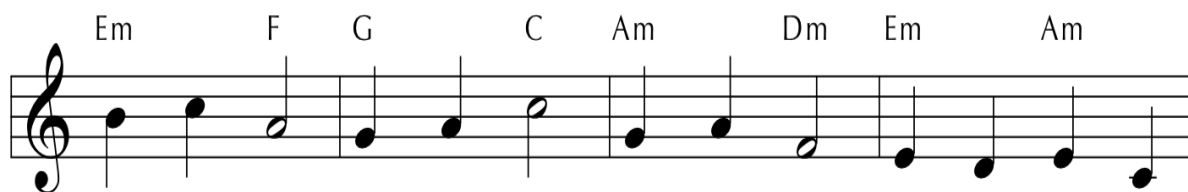
Handel; arr. Franklin Ritter



141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

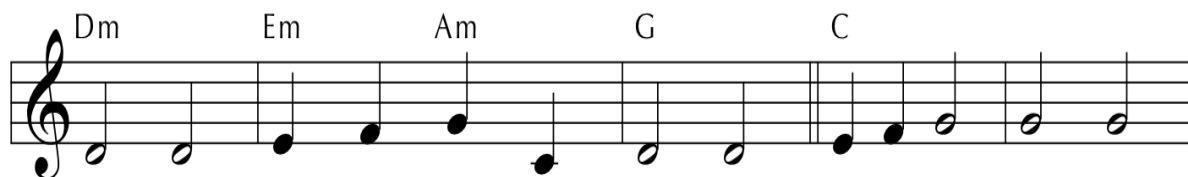


1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song

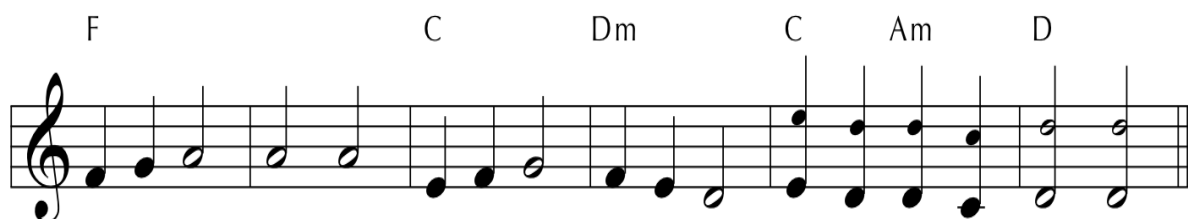


chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to

Refrain




save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him. *Id - e - o - o - o,
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



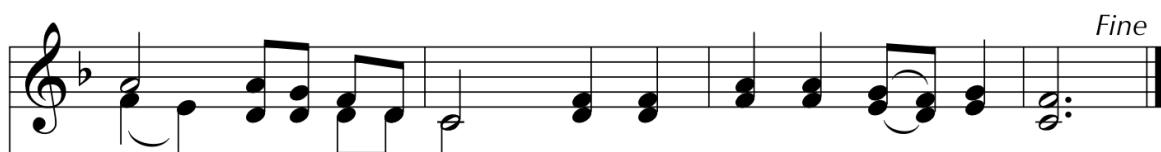
id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

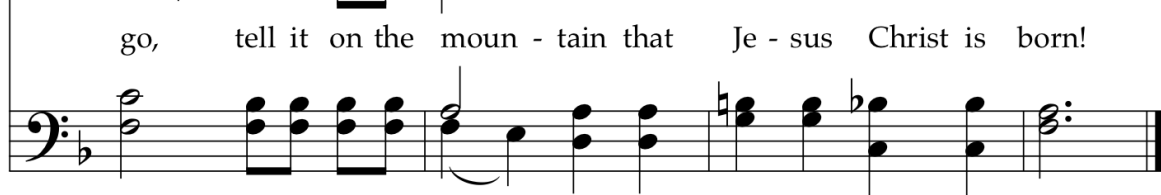

Refrain 



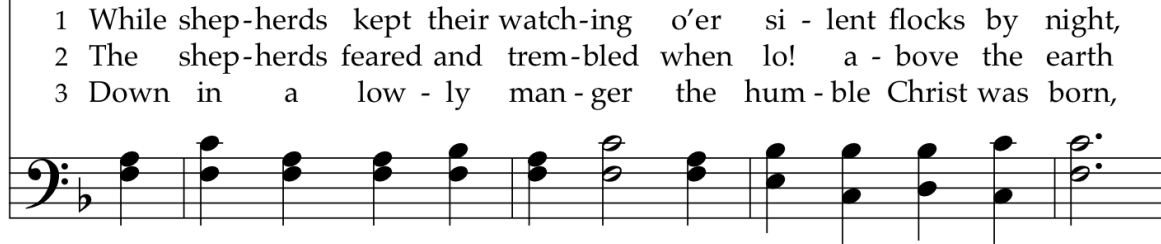

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

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

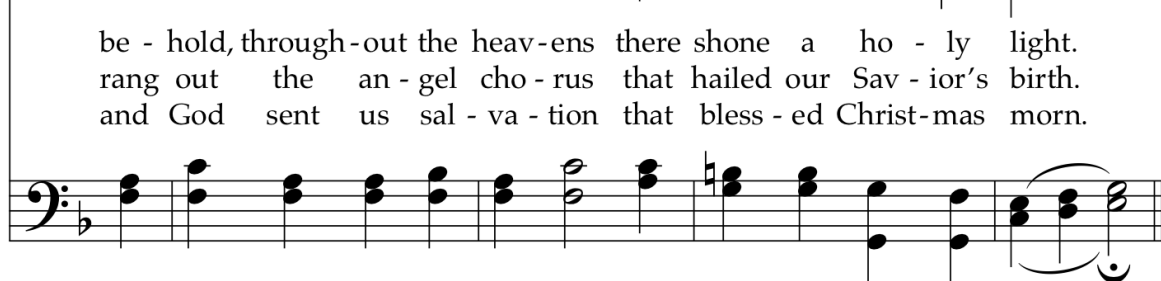



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

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.

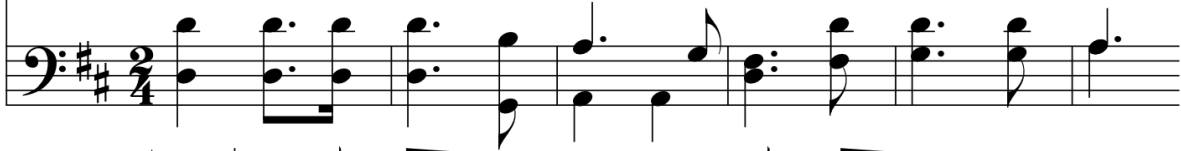


134

Joy to the World



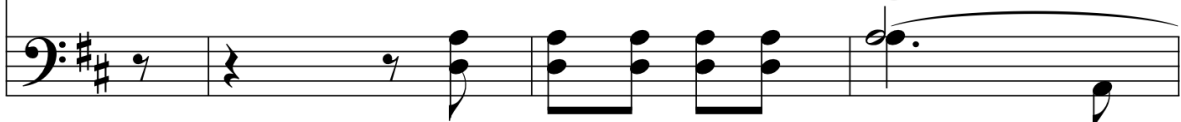
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**. The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon at 412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children are invited.

State of the Church – Sunday, January 11

On Sunday, January 11, Pastor Craig Walls' sermon will focus on the state of First Church. Come learn more about where we are and where God's plans are leading us.

Installation Service – Sunday, January 18

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls will be officially installed as the 16th senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh at worship on January 18. Representatives from the Pittsburgh Presbytery will be worshipping with us and Jessica McClure Arch, General Minister, will be delivering the sermon. Plan now to join us on this historic occasion.

New Sermon Series begins January 25

Beginning January 25, Pastor Craig will lead us through a series entitled: *"This Old House: Spiritual Renovation 2026"*. Plan now to join us, as together we explore where we are spiritually and how we can grow.

New Member Classes

Have you been visiting with us for a while and are perhaps considering joining First Church? Or, would you like to learn more about our ministry? If so, we are planning New Member classes for 2026 with the first taking place on January 25. Stay tuned for more details.

END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS

Want to know how your donations made an impact in 2025?

At First Church: 30-40 people attend a weekly Tuesday evening bible study; 70+ students attend *The Cellar* three days a week (served by two staff members); church staff and volunteers prepare 3,200+ meals for Walk-In Ministry weeks, keep the organ in good working order, commission and feed the Ligonier counselors and staff before the start of camp, provide children's education and supplies, greet hundreds of people from all over the globe who visit our building and want to know its history, as well as host many school students, bible studies, CPR classes, weddings – and the list goes on. Know that when you donate to FPCP you are *helping* people in need, *keeping* this building beautiful for the next generation and *spreading* the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Prayerfully consider making your end of year donation to FPCP.**

*A donation to FPCP is a Qualified Charitable Donation when sent directly from your IRA. Stock donations are also welcomed and there is no Capital Gains tax when you donate your stock directly to FPCP. If you need more information, please contact your financial advisor. ****All 2025 donations must be postmarked by Dec 31, 2025 or in the offering plate by Dec 31, 2025.***

First Church Staff and Clergy

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Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver**, **Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.

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