SAINT JOHN the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

To Know, Torkove, and To Serve God in M. Charch and Our Community.

the EAGLE

Christmas Blessings: A Gospel Reflection from Father Tom

Have you ever noticed how even the most serious of individuals can't help but smile in the presence of a newborn baby? No matter the tension, the stress, and the burdens we carry in this fast-paced world of ours, the smile, the giggle, and the joy that bubble forth from an infant cause us to slow down, to pause, and to notice – to let go, to let loose and to laugh.

Perhaps the sight of a newborn baby reminds us of the joy and simplicity we've long forgotten. Perhaps the sight rekindles in us a desire to dream, to dare, and to imagine the hope and promise of what we can yet become, no matter what lies in our past. Whatever the case, there's nothing like the power of a newborn baby to stop us in our tracks, to melt our cold exteriors, and to touch our hearts at their core.

Could this be the reason that when, in the fullness of time, God decided to let the Word, who was God and was with God from the very beginning, take on flesh, He entered our world in the form of an infant? This surely got the attention of many people, from simple shepherds to wise men to the most powerful of kings. And it's the same infant Jesus who continues to attract and sustain our attention all these thousands of years later, and who draws us here today to celebrate once again the mystery by which God came to dwell among us.

Reflecting on this mystery of the Incarnation, its implications, and its meaning has filled many volumes. But if we were to stop at simply marveling at God's bold decision to become one like us, walking in our shoes and living in our skin, we would possibly miss the main point of the mystery – God became like us so that we might become like God! God did not only take on flesh in a newborn babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. No, the truth is that God deeply desires to take on flesh in each of us – right here, right now, today – so that through us, the presence of the Word made flesh may continue to be made known and made real in our world today, and we might know our identity and dignity as children of God.

God wants to make a home in our hearts so that we will share Him with the world by the way we live our lives in conformity with that of Christ. By the way we love, forgive, and reach out to others, we will draw others' attention and lead them

Continued on Page 3

A Prayer for World Peace

Dear God, thank You for all creation. In the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth and all teachers of peace who inspire the many faith traditions, help me and all the people of the world learn how to replace hate, war, oppression, and division with love, peace, freedom, and reconciliation. Help me to embody Your love in my relationships with my family, friends, strangers – even my enemies. I commit myself to this sacred task throughout my life. So let it be. Amen.

What's Happening at SJECC:

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Parish Information



MASS SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Mass times are:

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m.

Saturday

8:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Administrative Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saint John the Evangelist is blessed to be able to provide the opportunity to receive the healing sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in the Church Sacristy (line forms in the Narthex) on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church 625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL 34108

Phone: 239.566.8740 • Fax: 239.566.9117

www.sjecc.com

PARISH CLERGY AND MINISTERS

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Deacon Frank Paniccia, Senior Status

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Director of Religious Education

Natalie Campbell: natalie@sjecc.com

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, etc. in your family, please notify the front office at 239.566.8740 or email: info@sjecc.com.

Thank you!

PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish Registration Forms are available on the tables in the church narthex, in the parish office and on the website: **www.sjecc.com**.



Scan this tag with your smartphone to view our mobile website.

Mass Intentions



Thursday, December 24, 2020

Eric F. Vierling 3:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m. Fr. Tom Glackin 5:00 p.m. Kevin Ferreira 5:15 p.m. Bill Pulte

SI The Basler Family 7:00 p.m.

SIE Staff Midnight

Fridav. December 25, 2020

7:00 a.m. Catherine Perry 9:00 a.m. Ioe Reid 9:15 a.m. Ronald Reuss 11:00 a.m. Patricia Sullivan 11:15 a.m. SI The Stift Family 1:00 p.m.

Walter & Selma Bocwinski

5:00 p.m. Sara Hill

Requested By

Polly Vierling Fr. Tom Zalewski

Family

Fr. Tom Zalewski Fr. Tom Zalewski Deb Marsh

Requested By

Louis Perry Jr. Kay Reid Fr. Tom Zalewski Dick Sullivan Fr. Tom Zalewski Elena & David Acerbi

Fr. Tom Zalewski

Readings for the Week

Thursday, December 24, 2020 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79 (200)

Friday, December 25, 2020 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Solemnity [Holyday of Obligation]

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt

1:1-25 or 1:18-25 (13)

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or

1:1-5, 9-14 (16) Pss Prop

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Sacrament of Baptism. The Diocese requires that parents seeking baptism for their child attend a baptism preparation class. To schedule a baptism class, please call the office at (239) 566-8740.

Sacrament of Matrimony. Those who wish to be married in our parish must complete the Marriage Preparation Program. The Diocese requires a six month notice. Tricia Schwarz: tricia@sjecc.com.

Anointing of the Sick/Funeral Arrangements. Call the parish office. If the office is closed the answering machine will provide an emergency phone number for you to reach a priest.

Christmas Blessings: A Gospel Reflection from Father Tom

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closer to Christ, just like a newborn babe commands the attention of all in the room.

The Word made flesh - whose birth we celebrate today - lived, suffered, was crucified, and buried, then rose from the dead and returned to the Father, and yet He remains with us now in the bread that we break and share, in the face of the person next to us, and in our efforts to be and to bear His presence to others. We've already received the greatest gift of all.

As we celebrate Christmas during these difficult times, I pray that you will experience the warmth and brightness of the light <mark>of Christ through your family, relatives,</mark> friends, our beautiful parish family, even if we are unable to be together i<mark>n</mark> person. May the light of Christ bring you joy, peace, and much needed hope.

Have a blessed Christmas,

Fr. Tom

Christmas Giving



Giving This Christmas

Just when we all thought we had seen as many challenges as could be thrown at a Parish, God provided us all yet another opportunity to come together as an even stronger and more resilient community with the current COVID-19 Pandemic. Our response was immediate and proactive. Our streaming of Masses began the very first day the Bishop suspended public access to the Church. It is now seen as the preeminent local Parish virtual Mass environment in the area, and we are watched in 18 different countries and in 45 of the 50 states. Our priests continued to visit the sick, aged, and dying, even at the risk of their own exposure. Our offices never closed. The dedication and devotion of our staff shown through our actions by developing and executing a safe, healthy, and faith-engaging environment, including visitation and then Masses for hundreds a weekend, spread out over multiple locations, serving over 400 youth weekly (both in person and virtual options), and ensuring essential programs can recommence on campus. We are a truly blessed Parish Family.

One component of this environment that has been significantly impacted, however, is the giving of the community. Recently, we have had weeks where our collections are nearly 50% lower than the year before. There are many reasons for this reduction, and we have responded by lowering our expenses as a parish dramatically so we can stay "in the black." However, we would ask, especially now at Christmas, a season of giving, that you prayerfully consider supporting our Parish Family.

If you happen to be watching virtually this Christmas, or would like to make a gift via credit card once you decide, please visit our online giving site: https://stjohntheevangelist.weshareonline.org/Christmas

Giving online is a great way to serve our Parish Family, even when you are not able to attend in person, or if you are one of our friends that do not normally come to Naples. If you have any questions on how to set up persistent online giving, please contact our Front Office during our Business Hours, and we can assist you.



Vigil Mass Readings



Scripture Readings for the Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Eve

Reading 1 Is 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk. At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

He shall say of me, "You are my father, my God, the rock, my savior." Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.' From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'"

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Savior of the world will reign over us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Mt 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

Mass During the Night



Scripture Readings for the Nativity of the Lord – Midnight Mass

Reading 1 Is 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13.

R. (Lk 2:11) Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Reading 2 Ti 2:11-14

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly

desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

Alleluia Lk 2:10-11

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Lk 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Mass During the Day



Scripture Readings for the Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day

Reading 1 Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

R. (3c) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Reading 2 Heb 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by

his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my son; this day I have begotten you? Or again: I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me? And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.



Hymns for the Nativity of the Lord December 24-25, 2020

Prelude Songs: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Angels We Have Heard on High

Entrance Hymns: O Come, All Ye Faithful

(Verses 1, 4 (Latin) - Adeste Fideles, 2 & 3)

Preparation of Gifts: Away in a Manger

O Little Town of Bethlehem

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Communion Hymns: Silent Night

What Child is This?

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World

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Merry Christmas!

From the entire St. John the Evangelist Music Department, we wish you a very Holy and Blessed Christmas Season. Thank you for your support of our music, your kind words, and most of all for lending your voices in worship of the God we all serve. May the peace found at the manger be yours in abundance!





HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; adapt. by William H. Cummings, 1831–1915.

Glo

Glo



ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH/ ÁNGELES CANTANDO ESTÁN

GLORIA 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; 4. See him in man-ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove; Án - ge - les can-tan-do es-tán Tan dul - cí - si - ma can-ción; pas - to - res sin ce - sar Sus can - ta - res dan a - nun-cian con fer-vor Que ha na - ci - do el Sal - va - dor; Hoy ve - nid pron-to a Be-lén Pa - ra con-tem-plar con Oh. Ech - o back their joy - ous strains. 1. And the moun-tains in re - ply 2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in-spire your heav'n-ly song. 3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King. 4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in 1. Las mon - ta - ñas su e - co dan Co - mo fiel con - tes - ta - ción. 2. Cuán glo - rio - so es el can - tar De su me - lo - dio - sa 3. Los mor - ta - les go - za - rán Paz y bue - na vo - lun - tad. Je - sús, Au - tor del bien, ΑI re-cién na - ci - do Refrain Glo ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo ri - a a Dios en el cie-lo.

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French Carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. Crown of Jesus Music, II, London, 1862; English tr. by James Chadwick, 1813-1882; Spanish tr., anon. Music: trad. French Carol.

ri - a

ri - a

in ex-cel-sis De -

a Dios en el cie -



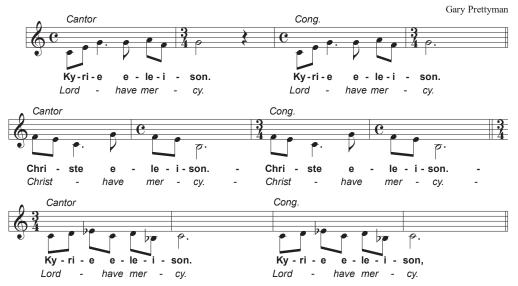
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt. Music: John F. Wade.

Kyrie eleison (Lord Have Mercy)

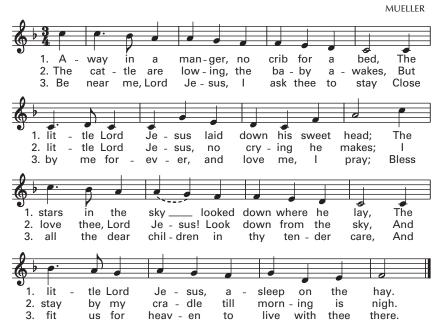
Based on 'Conditor Alme Siderum' (Creator of the Stars of Night)



Music © 1995. All rights reserved.







Text: 11 11 11 11; verses 1–2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, ca. 1885; verse 3, John T. McFarland, 1851–1913; Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892, alt. Music: attr. to James R. Murray, 1841–1905.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



Text: 86 86 76 86; Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

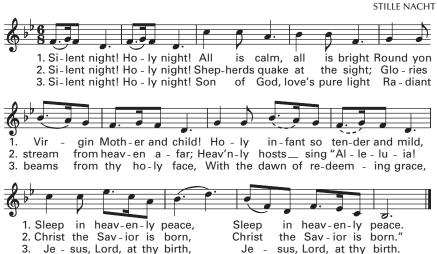






Text: CMD; Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt. Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900, alt.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT



Text: 66 89 66; Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. by John F. Young, 1820-1885. Music: Franz X. Gruber, 1787-1863.

2. plains

1. sing,

3. love,

joy,

And

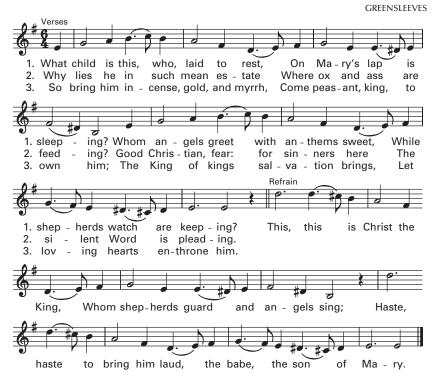
Re

And

ness,



WHAT CHILD IS THIS



Text: 87 87 with refrain; William C. Dix, 1827-1898. Music: English melody, 16th cent.

JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH

joy, Re - peat the sound-ing

na - ture

his

the sound-ing

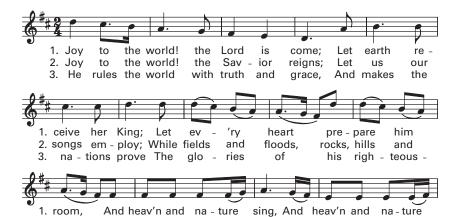
of

won - ders of

sing.

joy.

love.



Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759.

his

and heav'n

re - peat

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