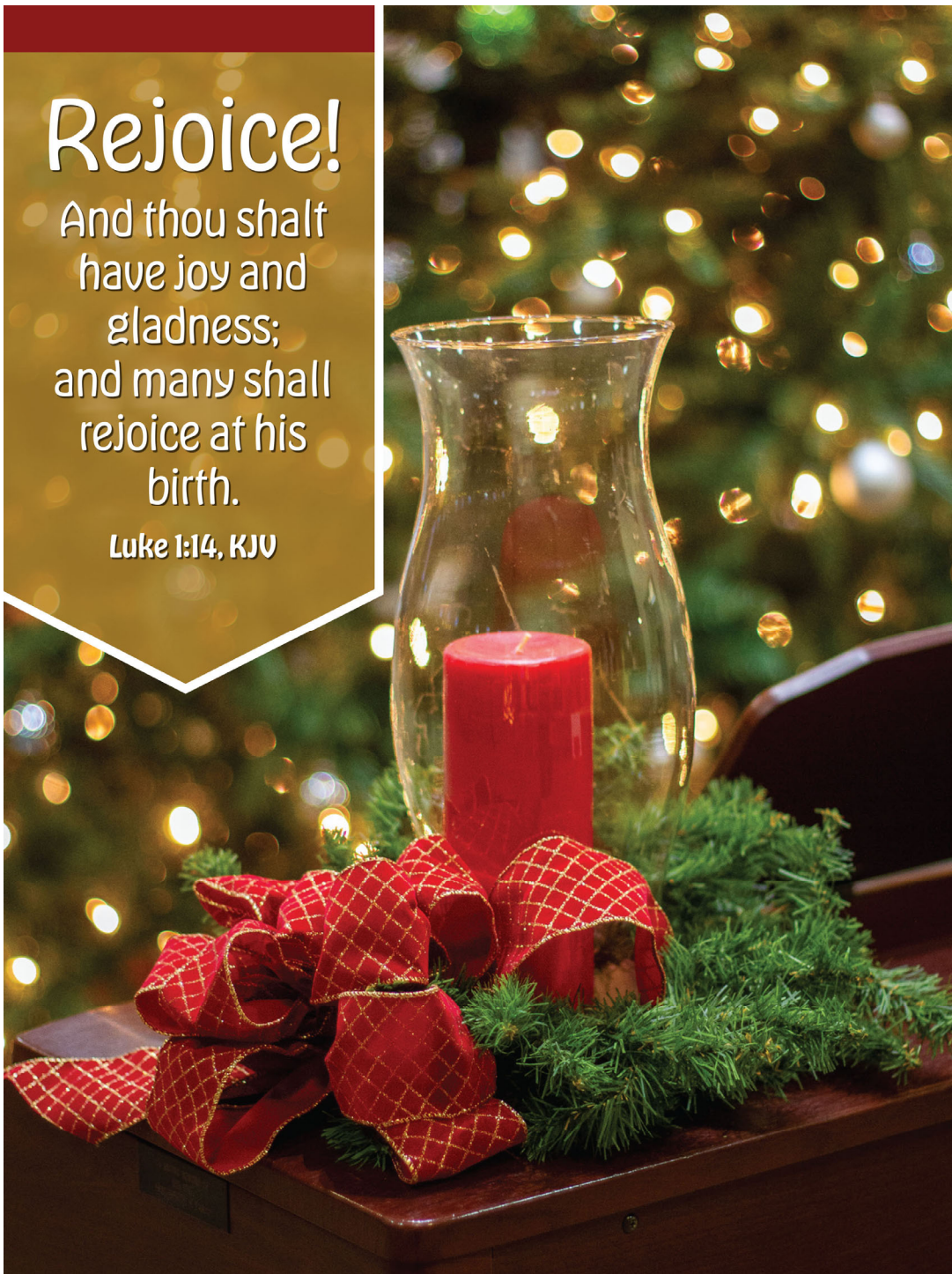


Rejoice!

And thou shalt
have joy and
gladness;
and many shall
rejoice at his
birth.

Luke 1:14, KJV



**United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York**



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Norwich, New York 13815**



An Open and Affirming Church

December 29, 2024

10:00 a.m

First Sunday of Christmas

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let all of creation praise God.

ALL: **Let the mountains and hills, wilderness, deserts and oceans praise God.**

ONE: Let the wild animals and all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds praise God.

ALL: **Let all rulers, prime ministers, presidents, and governors praise God.**

ONE: Let people of every age and every status praise God.

ALL: **Let all the firmament of heaven, sun and moon, shining stars and distant galaxies praise God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Source of all light, we celebrate this day the coming of your Word made flesh, your light of life to dwell among us. Bless these holy flames we have lit this Advent and Christmas season. Let them remind us of your constant presence and your unwavering care. Bless us, so we might reflect the light of Christ in our daily lives and in your world so desperate for the love, peace, hope and joy this season brings. We ask all this in the name of Jesus the Christ, the light of the world! Amen.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

***OPENING HYMN** *What Child is This*

#148

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Erika Tyler

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Journey*

words by Carol M. Hodge
Music by Lloyd Larson

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please greet one another in a manner most comfortable to you.

SUNG RESPONSE *Bind Us Together*

Insert

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible NT p. 58

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#133

**RESPONSIVE CHRISTMAS PRAYER ON DISCIPLESHIP AND
GENEROSITY**

ONE: More than all of the gifts we offer,

ALL: More than all the time we give.

ONE: More than the talents we share,

ALL: More than the work for justice.

ONE: More than the achievement of peace.

**ALL: More than all of these is God's gift of a little child at
Christmas. Thank you, loving God. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen**

*Offering plates are at both Nave doors for your convenience.
Or give online at www.uccnorwichny.org/give.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SERMON Taking It on Faith

Rev. James K. Boodley

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-33

Pew Bible NT p. 60

HYMN *Once in Royal David's City*

#145

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

December 29, 2024

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

Pew Bible NT p. 59

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#125

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Link to Online Giving
www.uccnorwichny.org/give

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist: To Be Determined

Usher: Jane Prime

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Livestream Director: Jennifer Mallozzi

Livestream Staff: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour: Naomi Mahaffey

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Closed 12 - 1 for lunch)

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIFI IS AVAILABLE

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest

NURSERY is available for children up to age 5, upstairs at the front of the church.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER on a Sunday, please don't take any risks to get to church. You can always tune in to the livestream www.uccnorwichny.org/livestream. If we cancel the service, we will post on Facebook and Instagram and with a message on the church phone.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Closed January 1 for New Year's Day.

Open by appointment only through January 3.

THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE invites you to the ***New Beginnings Worship Service and Potluck Luncheon on Sunday January 12, 2025***. Pastor JK Boodley will lead us, both individually and as a congregation, in bringing closure to 2024 and welcoming new possibilities in 2025. After the service we will have a potluck luncheon followed by "undecorate the church". The Co-Chairs, Michael Moren and Miranda Hunter, will report on the committee's progress to date and will invite you to respond to some thought-provoking questions. More details on that will come **Sign up in the church office** to let us know that you will be attending and if you would like to help with set up, clean up, undecorating, and if you will be bringing a dish to share.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1- NEW YEAR'S DAY

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion, Nave

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

12:30 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs

1:00 p.m. Service at Chenango Valley Home

Bind Us Together

©1977 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

F Dm7 Gm

Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

6 C7 F Bb/C F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

11 Dm7 Gm C7 F Fine

bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love.

17 F C7 F C7 F

We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine.

25 C7 F F/C C7 F D.C. al Fine

We are God's cho - sen de - sire, we are the glo - rious new wine.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:22-33

²² 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 ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

What Child Is This

148

William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.

This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century

Word alterations Copyright © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

Bind Us Together

©1977 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love. We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine. We are God's cho - sen de - sire, we are the glo - rious new wine." The score ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

F Dm7 Gm
Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

6 C7 F Bb/C F
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

11 Dm7 Gm C7 F Fine
bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love._____

17 F C7 F C7 F
We are the fa - mily of God,_____ we are the prom - ise di - vine._____

25 C7 F F/C C7 F D.C. al Fine
We are God's cho - sen de - sire,_____ we are the glo - rious new wine._____

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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 - bid 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.

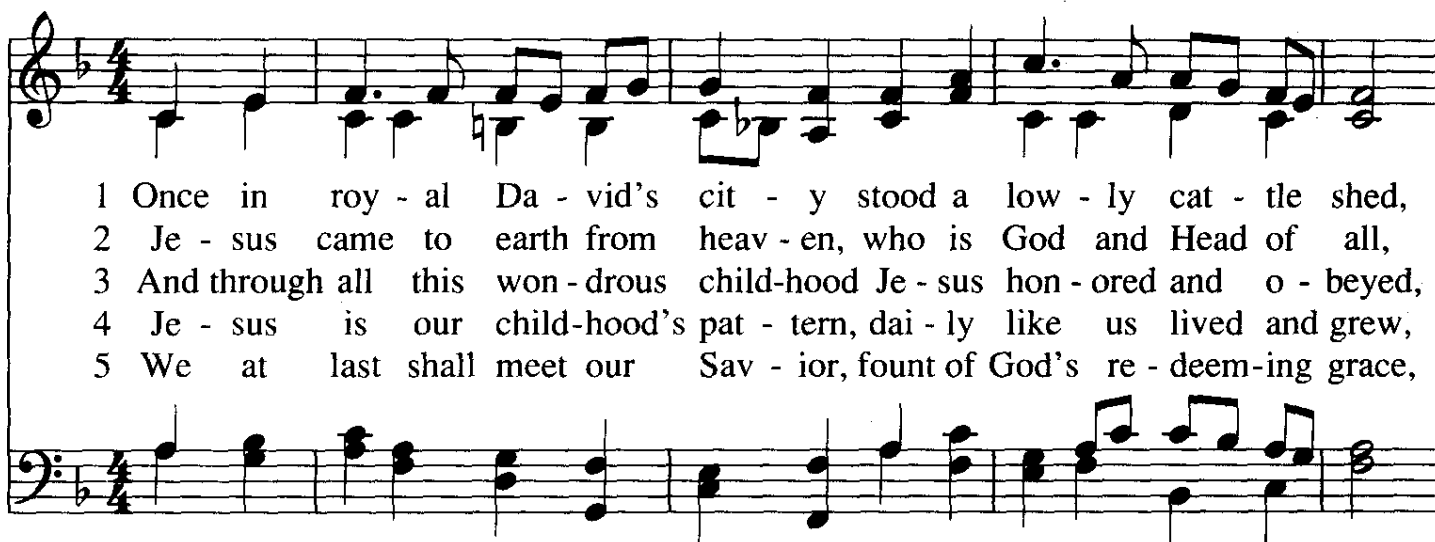
Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.
 Lewis H. Redner, 1868
 Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN

Once in Royal David's City

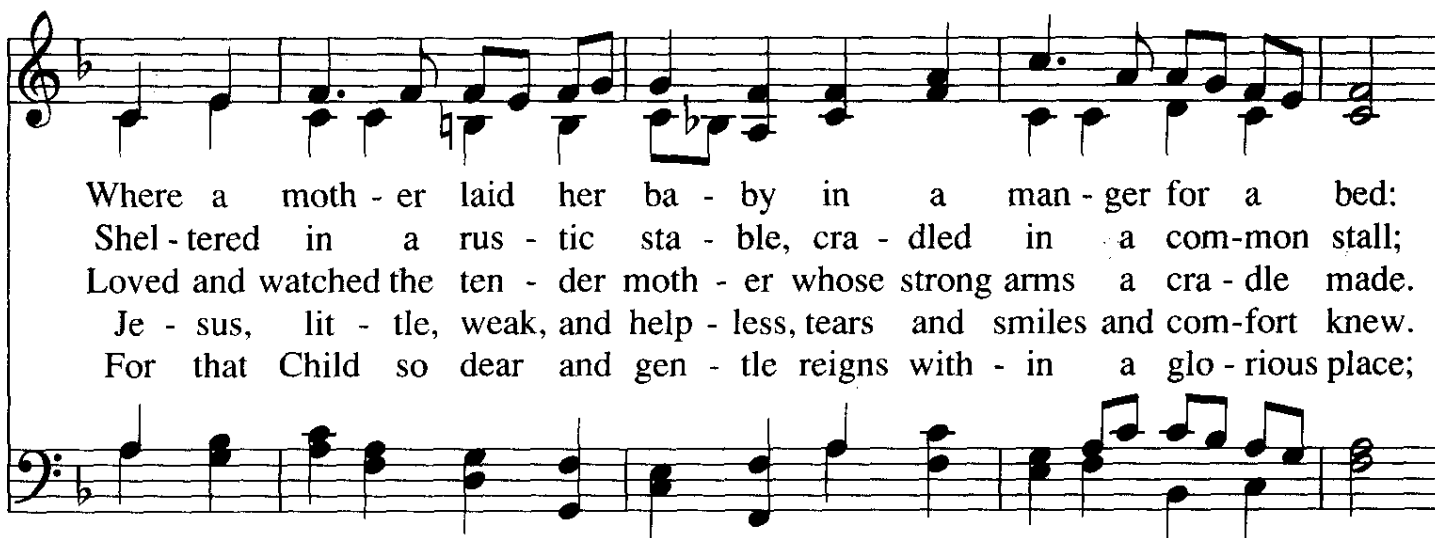
145

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.


Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
3 And through all this won - drous child-hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
4 Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem - ing grace,



Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the bishop of Ireland, wrote a series of children's hymns commenting on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn, elaborating on the words "... born of the Virgin Mary," tells the whole life of Christ.

Tune: IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
Harm. A. H. Mann, 1919

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol

Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.
St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.

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 Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heavenly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

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