

He is named
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6



Welcome to worship at
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Nativity of Our Lord
4:00 PM

**The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor
Nicole Young, seminarian minister
Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry
Lindsey Waltermeyer, Grace band leader**

We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!

**All worship can be viewed online at
newhanoverlutheran.org
[facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)
and on YouTube.**

**May your worship experience strengthen you
with God's love and grace.**

Welcome Statement

You are always welcome at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a growing community of believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in God's love and guided by Christ's example. We strive to reach out with compassion, offering a place where you can grow in faith, experience God's grace and feel safe and celebrated. At New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, we want you to gather with us at our table. Rooted in our Lutheran faith and belief that we are all children of God and made in God's image, we welcome all people with dignity and love.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

By this belief, we are committed to intentionally following Jesus' example of unconditional hospitality, love and justice. Here, you are not only included, you are respected. We affirm and value people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, cultures, ages, abilities, body sizes, relationship statuses and economic or immigration statuses. We are committed to the ongoing work toward racial equity and inclusion in all we do. You are invited to fully participate in our worship, sacraments, leadership positions, gatherings, and ministries. In our identities, we are united by the common faith we hold, and recognize we each offer unique gifts and perspectives. We believe that this transforms lives and deepens the faith of our community.

Christ's door is open to all, so is ours.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Preludes *Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)* KFC Band

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Heavenly Hosts Grace Band

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Midnight Clear Grace Band

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Welcome Pastor Scott

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day Pastor Scott

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please rise as you are able.

Gathering Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW #283

Please be seated.

Children's Choir *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

KFC and J.A.M. Choirs

Children's Message

Nikki Young

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Sam Young

A reading from the book of Isaiah

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Here ends the reading.

Please rise as you are able.

Live Nativity

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Scott

The holy gospel according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

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.

“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)” Words and music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts and Matt Gilder. © Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Ryan House Music; Wondrously Made Songs Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing, Music Services, Inc., Reservoir Media Management, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried:
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Please be seated.

Offertory

Choir Anthem

Sounding Joy

Kids for Christ Band

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The offering will be taken at this time.

You can donate to NHELIC’s ministry electronically.

Tithe.ly QR Code



Simply Giving QR Code



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please rise as you are able.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Table, open to everyone. The usher will direct you when to come forward. Communion glasses are found on the stand at the front of the line to your right. Take an empty glass if you are choosing to commune with wine or a pre-filled glass (with grape juice) if you will be communing with grape juice. Receive your bread from the pastor, gluten-free bread from the plate, and the wine, or blessing over the grape juice from the lay assistants. There are two wine stations, so please, choose the open station. Persons not communing may receive a personal blessing (simply keep your hands down at your sides or folded across your heart).

The body of Christ, given for you. Take and eat.
(The response is "Amen", then eat the bread).

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Take and drink.
(The response is, "Amen", then drink the cup).

Communion Hymns	<i>What Child Is This</i>	ELW #296
	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	ELW #282
	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ELW #279

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Candle Lighting

To light a candle, tilt the candle to be lighted to the lit candle.

Solo

Cantique de Noel Diana Hazel, soprano

Congregation to sing the last refrain

Refrain

Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim

"Cantique de Noel" by Adolph Adam. © 1935 by G. Schirmer, Inc.

Hymn

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace,

sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,

heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

"Silent Night (Stille Nacht) Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885. Text in public domain.

Please rise as you are able.

Sending Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW #289

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Go get'em!!!

Postlude

Tu Scende Della Stelle

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Announcements

Christmas Trees

A Christmas tree is sponsored to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband Walter (Buddie) Wolfe, parents, siblings, in-laws and nephew by Nancy Wolfe.

A Christmas tree is sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of their parents, Chester and Helen Moser and Melvin Weidner, and in honor of Steve's mother, Erna Weidner, by Steve and Faye Weidner.

The poinsettia tree is dedicated to Pastor Scott in gratitude for his faithful ministry to the congregation at New Hanover Lutheran Church and the light he has shared with our community.

Serving Today: Marty Hauser, head usher; Steve Weidner, George Trowbridge and Zach Quigley, ushers; Sam Young, lector; Nikki Young, children's sermon; Hannah Walermeyer, Acolyte; Nikki Young and Leslie Gates, communion assistants

Live Nativity

Mary - Miller Quigley

Joseph- Landon Woods

Jesus - Baby Doll provided by Kaydence Singley

Three wise people - Alivia Singley, Sam Young, Collins Quigley

Guiding Star - Kylie Ewing

Shepherds - Caleb Woods, Richard Garcia, Tanner Quigley

Angels - Hannah Waltermeyer, Maddie Artim, Charlotte Moser, Alexa Moser

Animals in the stable – Kaydence Singley, Aubrey Woods, Lainey Soupik

The communion is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Pastor Scott and Marsha. NHELCC has been blessed to have them in our lives! Sponsored by Steve and Faye Weidner.

Altar Guild members serving this month: Deb Solazzo, Barb Eisenhart, Corrine Bartholomew and Judy Sloan

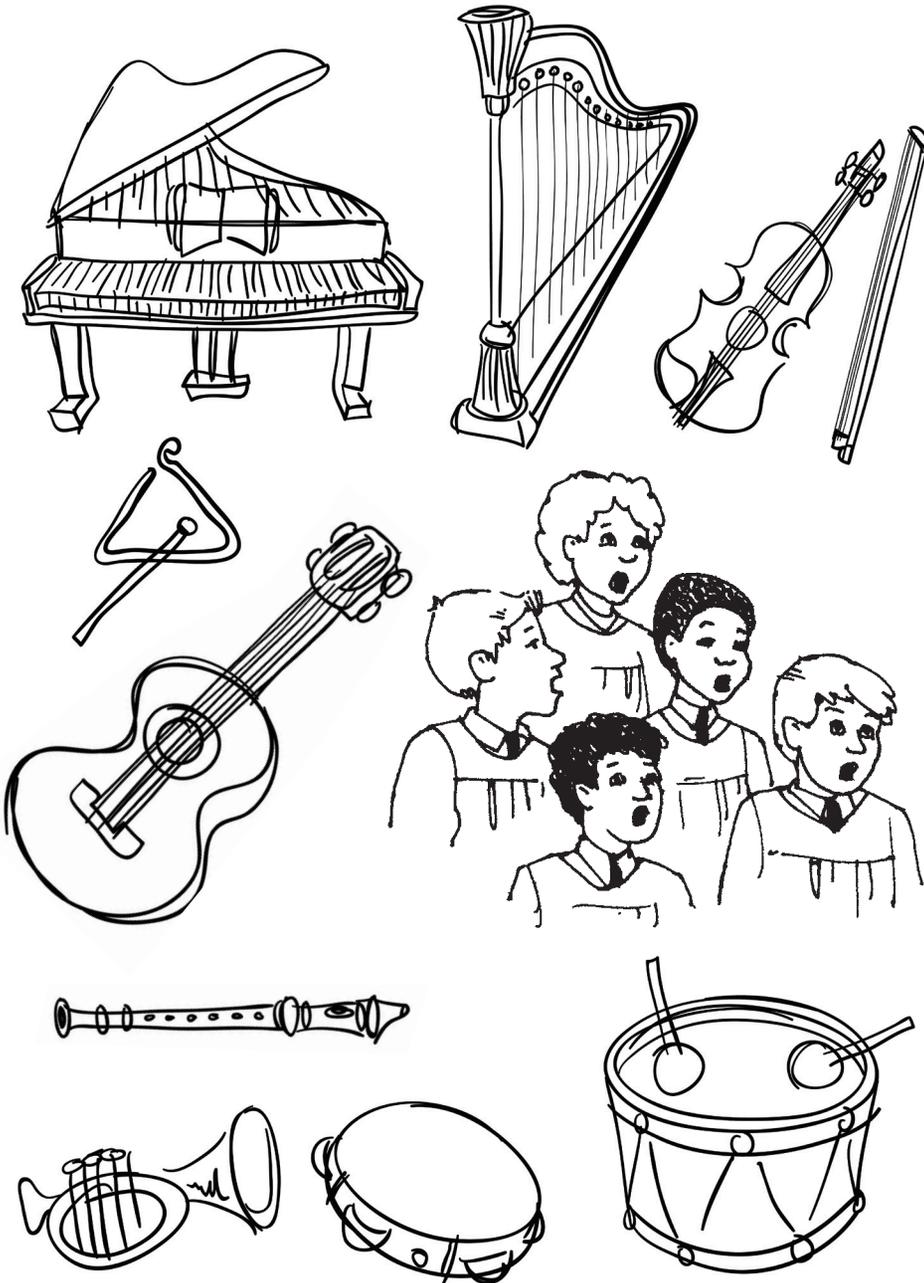
The Nursery room is located between the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall. Parents are welcome to use the room during worship as needed. The room provides for a comfortable play area in a joyful environment; toys and books are included. The room has access to a changing room and a private nursing room next door.

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 25th - 26th, for the Christmas holiday.

Pastor Scott's Last Service Join us for a very special final service for Pastor Scott on Sunday, December 28th. (This will not be a lessons and carols service – that will be on January 4th.) Worship will begin at 9:00, followed by a reception. You will not want to miss this!

During the season of Christmas, people sing and play special music to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

What music do you hear today?

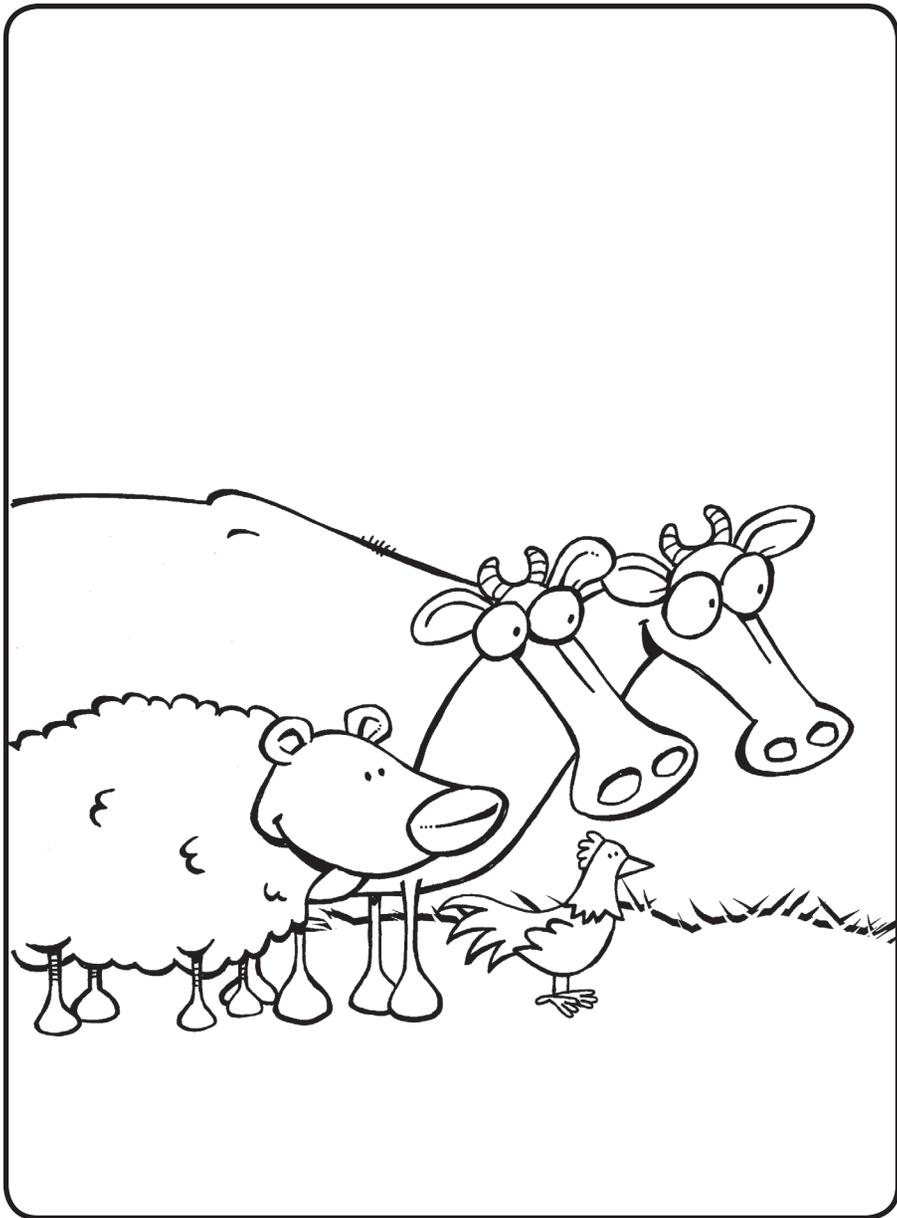


PRE-READER

Christmas Eve

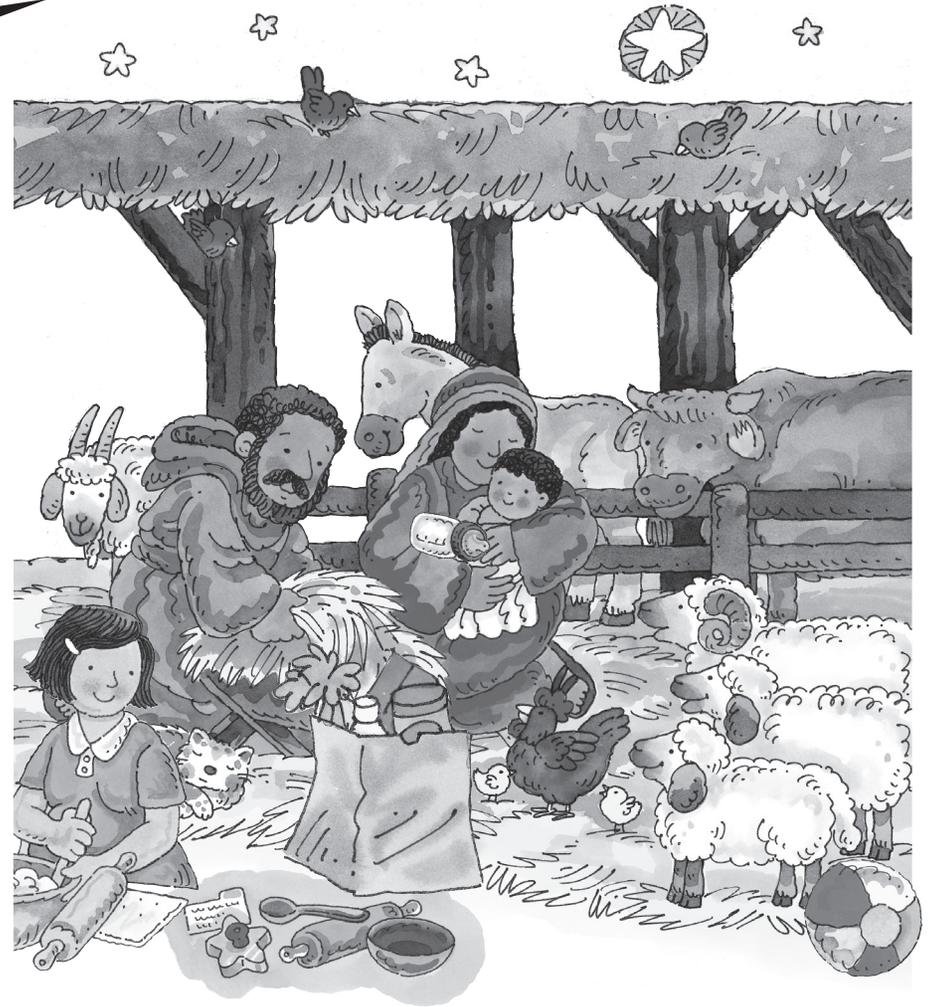
- On **Christmas Eve**, we celebrate—Jesus is born!
- During the season of Christmas, we **celebrate** the **birth** of Jesus.
- The symbol we see for Christmas is a **baby** in a **manger**.
- A **manger** was the first bed to hold **Jesus**.





But this is a stable. Would God be born here among the animals?

For Christmas, God gave us a special gift—**Jesus!**
Jesus was born in a **stable**.
His bed was a **manger**, where animals eat.
Jesus came to share God's **love**.

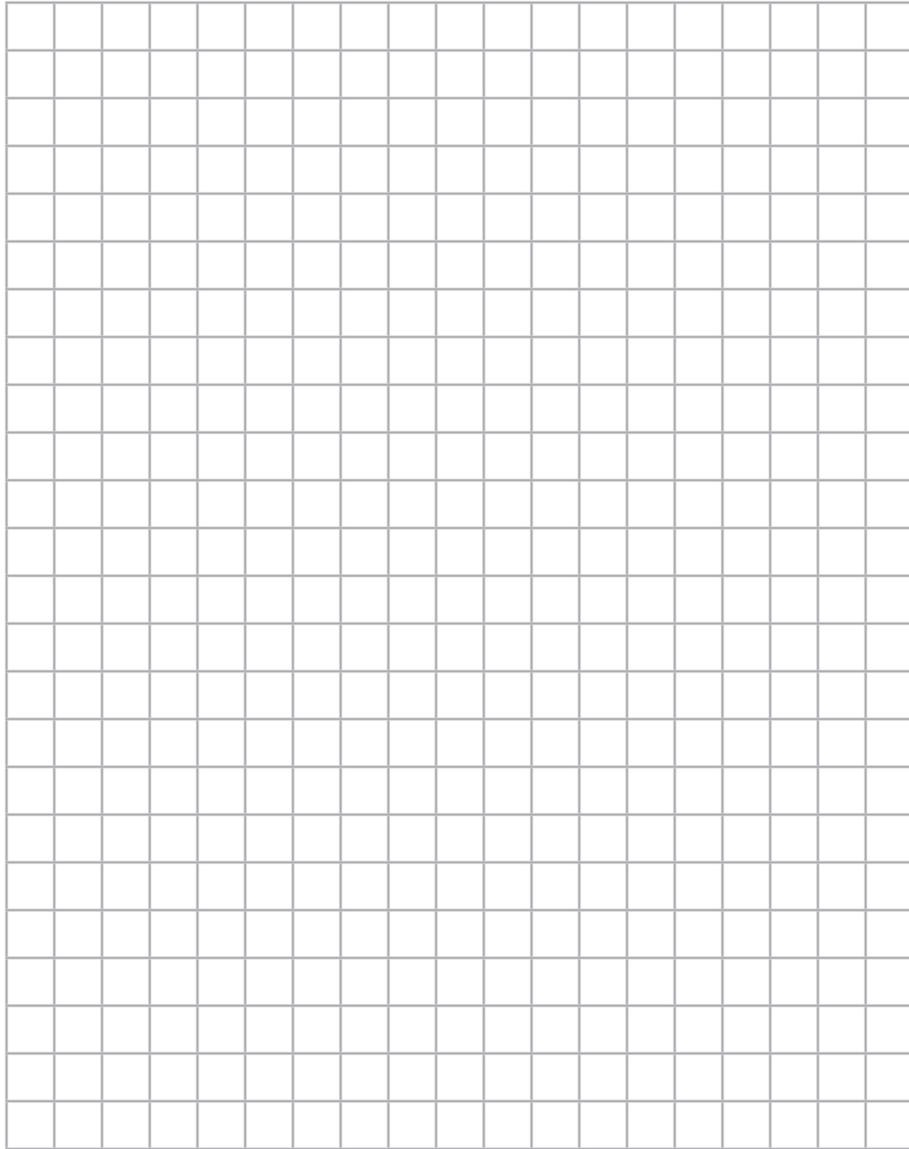


Jesus was born in an unusual place—a stable.

Circle all the things that don't belong in the stable.

My (Christmas) Space

During **Christmas**, the worship space probably looks different from how it looks the rest of the year. There may be a **nativity** and a tree with ornaments! Use the space below to design the ideal worship space for Christmas.



READER

Christmas Eve

- On Christmas Eve we **celebrate** the **birth** of our savior, Jesus.
- One symbol we see for Christmas is a **baby** in a **manger**.
- A manger is a **box** that holds **food** for animals.
- A **manger** was Jesus' first bed.



What's in Christmas?

We get the word Christmas from Christ. Christ is one of the names for Jesus. What other words can you make with the letters in Christmas?

CHRISTMAS

CAT _____

MISS _____

Use the pictures on the right to finish this memory verse.

And suddenly there was with the

_____ a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on _____

_____ among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:13-14

Memory Verse



Family Count

Cesar Augustus ordered a **census**. In a census, the government counts all the people who live in a certain place. During a Bible time census, everyone had to go to their hometowns. Families had to be counted together. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown. While they were there, Mary gave birth to Jesus! **Try a census of your own. Put your name in the space below. Then write names of your parents, siblings, and other relatives. How many people are in your family?**

Me	Siblings
----	----------

Parents	Grandparents and Great-grandparents
---------	-------------------------------------

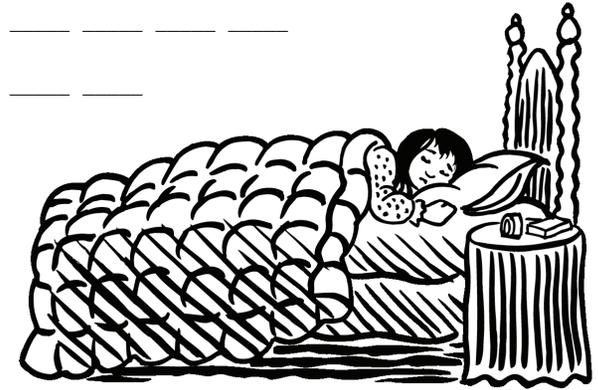
Aunts and Uncles	Cousins
------------------	---------

A census of my family shows this many people:

Bedtime Scramble

Have you ever stayed in a hotel? Does your family go camping? The bed you sleep in when you're away from home may be very different from your own bed. Unscramble the letters below to discover some different types of beds. Circle the type of bed baby Jesus had on the night he was born.

- NIPGEELS GAB _____
- LENDRUT DEB _____
- NUKB EBD _____
- MMOCKHA _____
- GRAMEN _____
- DCALRE _____
- TUFNO _____
- TCO _____



Did You Know?

Have you ever heard the saying "Sleep tight—don't let the bedbugs bite?" Long ago, mattresses were laid over criss-crossed ropes and tied to bed frames. Tightening the ropes prevented the mattress from sagging. Bedbugs have been around for at least 2000 years. (Eww!) The philosopher named Pliny the Elder wrote about them in his book on natural history.

BEDTIME SCRAMBLE answers: Sleeping Bag (NIPGEELS GAB), Trundle Bed (LENDRUT DEB), Bunk Bed (NUKB EBD), Hammock (MMOCKHA), Manger (GRAMEN), Cradle (DCALRE), Futon (TUFNO), Cot (TCO)

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2. Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade. Text and music are in public domain.

Away in a Manger



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
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



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.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

“Away in a Manager” Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905. Text and music are in public domain.

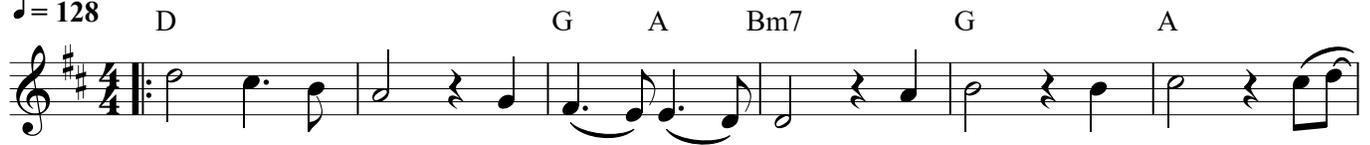
Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)

Words by
Isaac Watts, Chris Tomlin,
Ed Cash and Matt Gilder

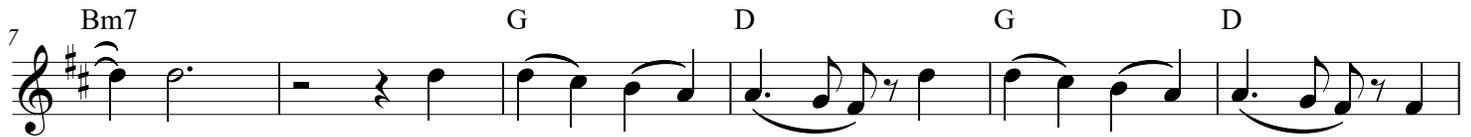
Music by
George Frederic Handel, Chris Tomlin,
Ed Cash and Matt Gilder

VERSE 1 & 2

♩ = 128



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs em -



King. Let every heart prepare Him room, and
play. While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re -



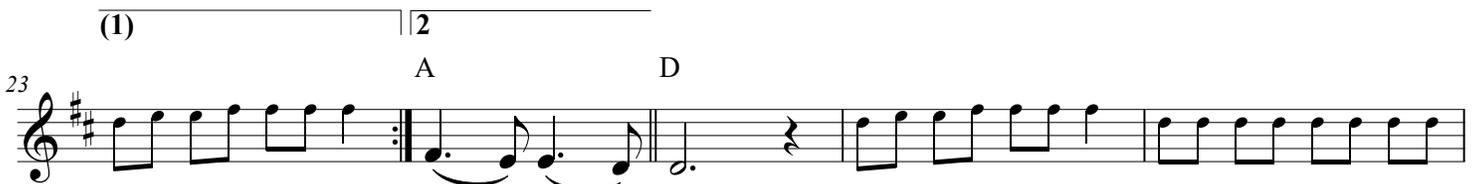
heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and
repeat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -

TURNAROUND 1



heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
peat, re - peat the

TURNAROUND 2



sound - ing joy.

CCLI Song # 5607039

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CHORUS 1a

28 G D

Joy, un - speak - a - ble joy! An o - ver - flow -

33 A G

ing well; No tongue can tell! Joy,

38 D A

un - speak - a - ble joy! It ris - es in my soul, nev - er lets

VERSE 3

43 Em G E A B C#m7

me go! 3. He rules the world with truth and grace and

49 A B C#m7 A E/G#

makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries of His

55 A E/G# C#m7 B

right - eous - ness and won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His love,

60 A F#m B E

and won - ders, won - ders of His love!

CHORUS 1b

A E B

Joy, un - speak - a - ble joy! An o - ver - flow - ing well;

71 A E

No tongue can tell. Joy, un - speak - a - ble joy!

77

It ris - es in my soul, nev - er lets me go!_____

ENDING

E A E A E A

87

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

"What Child Is This" Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. Text and music are in public domain.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876. Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900. Text and music are in public domain.

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his 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 thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Text and music are in public domain.

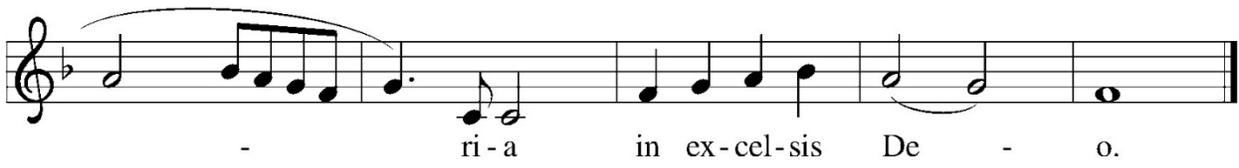
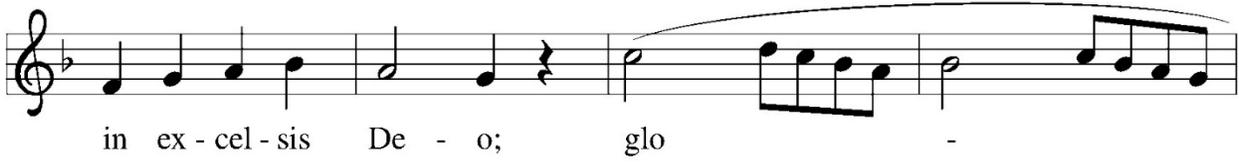
Angels We Have Heard on High



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 him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



“Angels We Have Heard on High” Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864. Music: GLORIA, French carol. Text and music are in public domain.