

# **Peacham Congregational Community Church**

56 Church Street, Peacham, VT 05862  
802-592-3330



Photos provided by Linnea and Selene  
**From the Peacham Children's Academy**



*We are an Open and Affirming Church*

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

[www.peachamchurch.org](http://www.peachamchurch.org)

**Christmas Eve Service**

630 p.m. December 24, 2025

Gathering Music

- Kevin Colosa

Greeting

- John Marshall

We would like to thank Kevin Colosa for joining with us as musical director and pianist for our Community Christmas Service! We truly appreciate your talent & help! Thank you!

Welcome: Community Children's Chorus and Kevin Colosa - Bruce Maclean  
Community Children's Chorus – Kevin Colosa – Musical Selections

Responsive Call to Worship      Isaiah 40:3-5

Leader      Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival!

**People      Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.**

Leader      Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks.

**People      Then God's bright glory will shine and everyone will see it.**

**ALL      Yes. Just as God said.**

**\*Hymn #134      Joy to the World, vs. 1 & 2**

**Lighting of the Advent/Christ Candles –**

*Patrick & Kate & Family White and all the children please come forward.*

**Advent Candle Litany**

Patty Gardner

L:      We re-light the HOPE candle, as we look forward in expectant hope to Jesus the Christ's coming again.

**P:      We re-light the LOVE candle, out of the commitment to love as God first loved us.**

L:      We re-light the JOY candle, to celebrate the joy that a relationship with Jesus brings.

**P:      And we re-light the PEACE candle to remind us that true peace is found in Jesus the Christ and God's Holy Spirit who lives in us.**

L:      Tonight, we also light a new candle, the CHRIST CANDLE, to inspire us to keep Jesus, the Light of the World, forever in our hearts.

**All:      Behold him now where he comes –**

**Not the Christ of our subtle creeds,**

**But the light of our hearts, of our homes,**

**Of our hopes, our prayers, our needs. Amen.**

**For the Children – “The Animals' Christmas Eve,”** read by -Dart Thalman  
By Gale Wiersum, Illus. by Alex Steele Morgan

**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.

Gathering the Christmas Offering  
Church Choir Sings, Carols Around – Carl J. Nygard, Jr.

**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**With these offerings, O God, we dedicate ourselves to telling the story of your grace everywhere. May they be blessed and multiplied by the power of our collective witness to your love in Jesus Christ. AMEN**

**Community Choir & Children**– “This is My Wish” – Kevin Ross

**Lessons & Carols**

**Lesson:** The Birth of Jesus Foretold – *Luke 2:1-7*

**Carol #151 O, Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1 & 2**

**Lesson:** The Angels & the Shepherds – *Luke 2:8-14*

**Carol #150 Away in a Manger, vs. 1 & 2**

**Lesson:** The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem – *Luke 2:15 & 16*

**Carol #153 What Child is This, vs. 1 & 2**

**Lesson:** The Magi Arrive in Bethlehem – *Matthew 2:1-2*

**Lesson:** The Visit of the Magi – *Matthew 2:9-11*

**Carol #162 We Three Kings of Orient Are, vs. 1**

Keeping Christmas – Henry VanDyke

– Bruce Maclean

**Benediction**

O God, who sent your Son in the likeness of a little child,  
accept our gratitude for your wonderful gift.  
May he be born in us and formed in us – the hope of glory –  
so that we may share his peace, his victory, his exaltation,  
and his eternal union with you. Amen.

**[Instructions on Candle lighting]**

- John Marshall

**\*Closing Hymn #142** Silent Night, Holy Night

Lights come on and you are invited to greet your neighbor.

**Merry Christmas** and May the Peace of the Season Fill Your Hearts!

### **Jingle Bell Rock**

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock  
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring  
Snowin' and blowin' up bushels of fun  
Now the jingle hop has begun

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock  
Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time  
Dancin' and prancin' in Jingle Bell Square  
In the frosty air

What a bright time, it's the right time  
To rock the night away  
Jingle bell time is a swell time  
To go glidin' in a one-horse sleigh

Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet  
Jingle around the clock  
Mix and a-mingle in the jinglin' feet  
That's the jingle bell rock

### **Thank you to all who participated in this service:**

Our musicians: Kevin Colosa and the Peacham Congregational Church choir\*, and the Community Choir Members: Dave Edwards, Chuck Gallagher, John Marshall, Bruce Maclean, Dart Thalman, Rick Witt, Mercy Browne, Susan Chandler, \*Rhoda Donovan, \*Carolyn Deasy, \*Patty Gardner, Clarissa Kendall, Katherine Siner, \*Nancy Toney, \*Anita Vann, Leslie Witt, as well as the community Children's Chorus.

Greeters: Matthew Langmaid & Wendy Mackenie, Collectors & Candle-Lighters: Susan Chandler, Dave Edwards, Ann Goss, John Marshall, Bruce Maclean, Jonathan Potter, Brad Toney

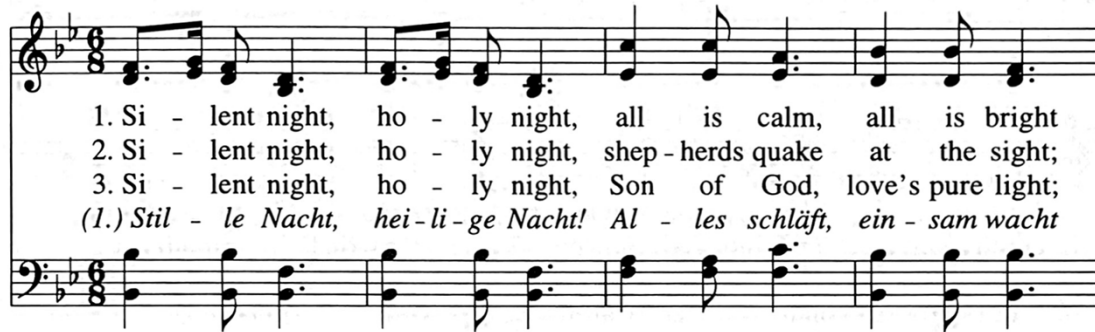
Our readers: Susan Chandler, Dave Edwards, Patty Gardner, Nicole Klosterman, Bruce Maclean, John Marshall, Dart Thalman, Rick Witt

Thanks to our webmaster for recording and streaming: Jonathan Potter  
And all who helped behind the scenes to help put this evening together.




# Silent Night, Holy Night

142



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
 (1.) Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht



round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar. Hol - der Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,



sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, c. 1863  
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT  
 Irr.

# Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come 134



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: let earth her  
 3. Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 songs em - ploy; let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heaven and na - ture sing and  
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re -  
 and won - ders of his love, and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

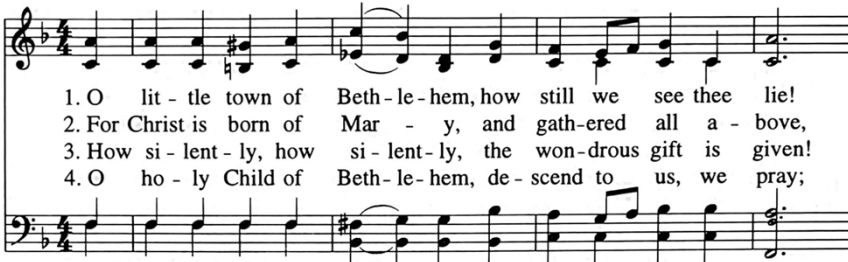
heaven and na - ture sing.  
 peat the sound-ing joy,  
 won - ders of his love,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.  
 MUSIC: Attr. Georg Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

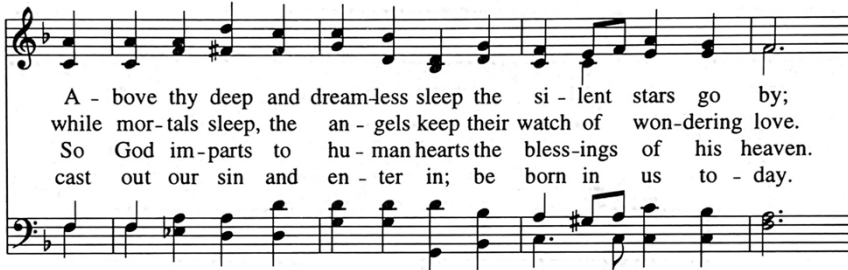
This is Congregationalist Watts' paraphrase of Psalm 98.  
 His free paraphrasing helped wean churchgoers from  
 singing only literal renditions of the Psalms.

ANTIOCH  
 CM w. repeat

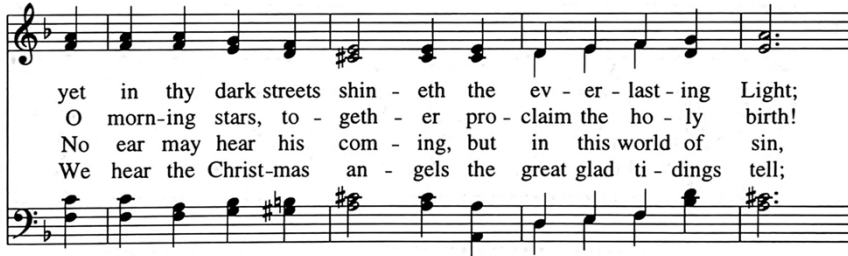
BIRTH



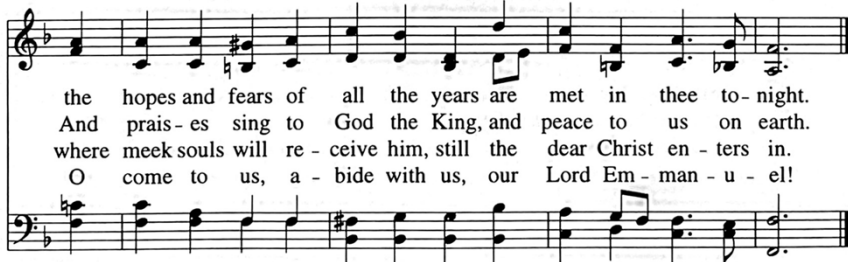
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy 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 bless - ings of his heaven.  
 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 ti - dings 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 us on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.  
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

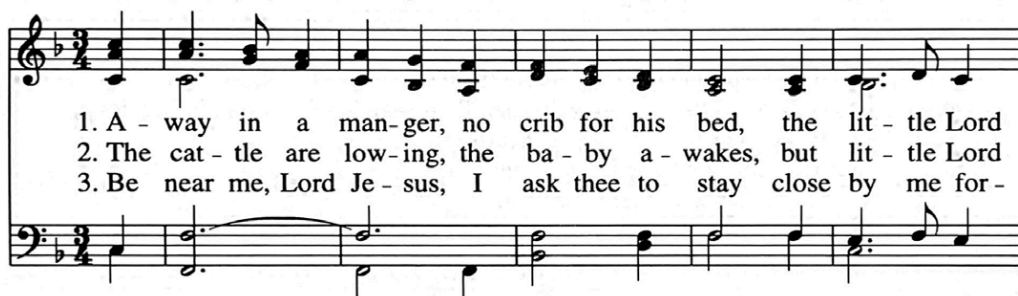
ST. LOUIS  
 86.86.76.86

Brooks, American Anglican prelate, wrote these words for the children of his Sunday school after visiting the Holy Land in 1866.

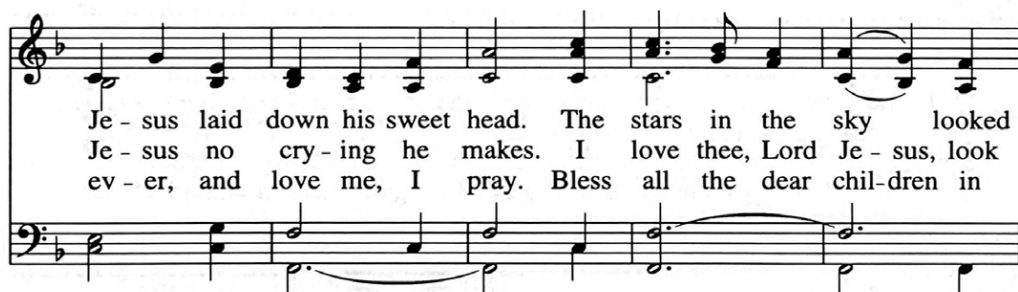
*BIRTH*

# Away in a Manger

150



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 thee to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked  
 Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, 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.  
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav-en to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous (19th century)  
 MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887


AWAY IN A MANGER  
 11 11.11 11

The first two stanzas of this much-loved text appeared in a Lutheran collection *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families* (c. 1885). The third stanza is from C. H. Gabriel's *Vineyard Songs* (1892).



BIRTH




# 153 What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest




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. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him;



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 King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.




*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:

Haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe, the son of Mar - y.



WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1865, alt.; st. 2, *The New Century Hymnal*, 1995  
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody, 16th century

GREENSLEEVES  
 87.87 w. refrain

(For author William Dix see 'As with Gladness.') GREENSLEEVES,  
 a popular English ballad tune, was first sung to a love-song text.

St. 2 alt. © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

## BIRTH



WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.  
 MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

KINGS OF ORIENT  
 88.86 w. refrain

Vermont reporter, law student turned teacher, editor, then Anglican  
 priest, John H. Hopkins, Jr. wrote this carol, now sung and loved  
 throughout English-speaking Christendom.