

ACT 4 Shepherds & Angels

\* HYMN 23

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. [Refrain]

ACT 5 The Wise People Visit Jesus

\* HYMN 29

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Ringers & Singers

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. Behnke

\* You are invited to stand if able.

Welcome to  
Riverside  
Presbyterian Church

December 23, 2018  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Ask an usher for audio hearing units.

Please silence your cell phones.

Childcare is available for children 1st grade  
and younger in the upstairs childcare room.

Sermons available at  
<https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian>



CHIMING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

*Joyous Angels*

Raney

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE (Responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Light of Hope*

Patterson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who brings peace.

**God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.**

Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

**God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.**

Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

**God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.**

\* HYMN 8

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

\* INVITATION TO PRAYER

\* PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (Unison)

**Patient and forgiving God, you know how we want to be people of peace and justice, but when opportunities come to participate in groups working for justice, we turn our backs and walk the other way, or we give a token pledge and then ignore further pleas for assistance. We hide our names from appearing on rolls of supporters of justice-seeking organizations. Forgive us, O God, when we give only lip service to ministries of justice rather than pledging our lives to helping all people in need. Free us from our selfishness. Banish our fears and move us in ways of peace and justice, bringing your love and hope to all God's children.** (Silent prayers)

\* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

\* HYMN 602 vs. 1

*Song of Zechariah*

**Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.**

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM

*Ring the Bells*

Behnke

\* HYMN 23 Refrain

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

ACT 1 Setting the Stage

HYMN 44 vs. 1 & 3

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.**

ACT 2 The Journey

HYMN 49 vs. 1 & 3

*Once In Royal David's City*

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.**

ACT 3 The Birth

HYMN 27 vs. 1 & 3

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

**Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger:  
Such a Babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.**

**Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger:  
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!**