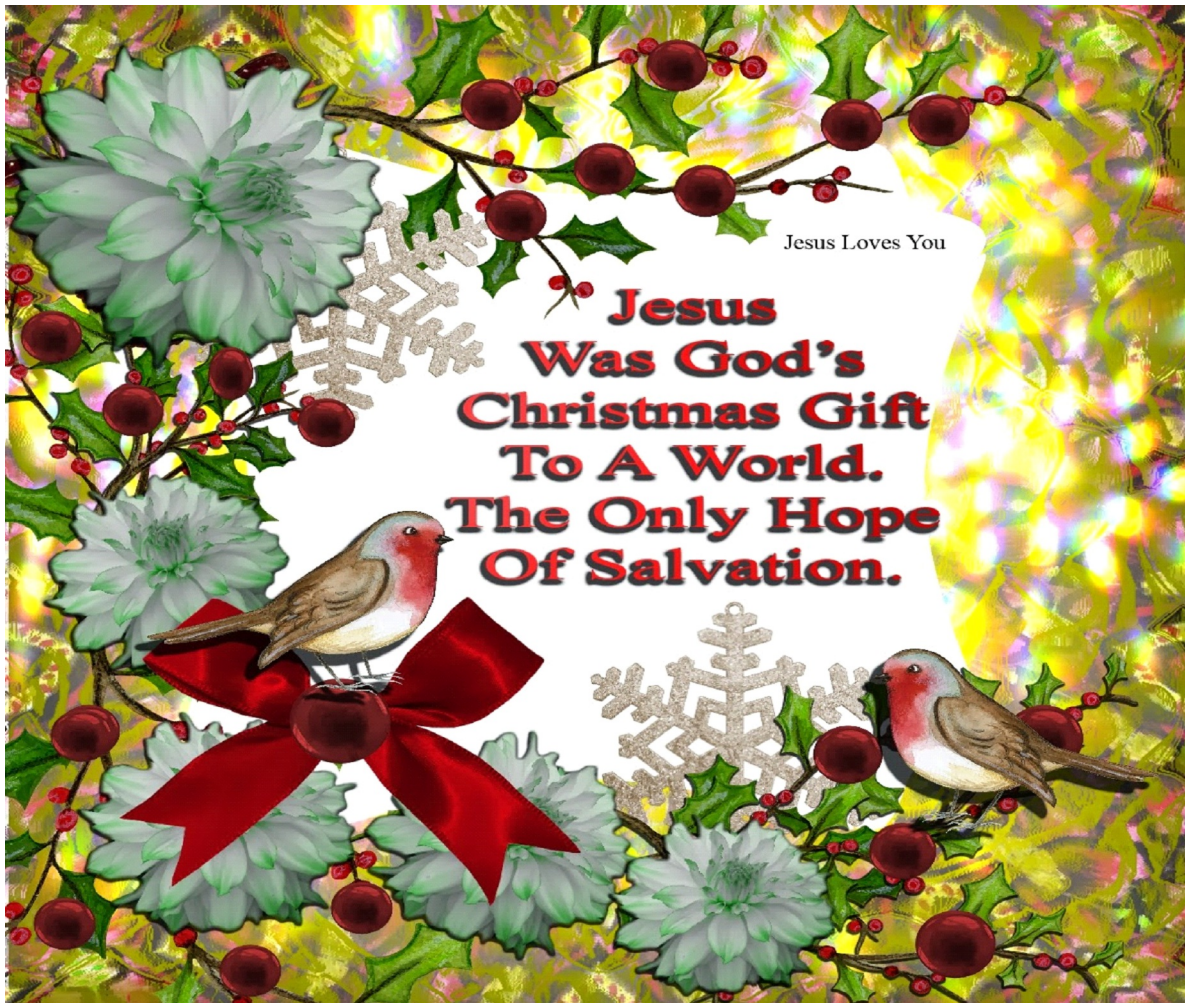


**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Zion United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

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



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*Welcome to our Combined
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*



**Sunday, December 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas**

Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
That will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.

(Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: * = if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♫# = Blue Hymnal Page}*



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on **St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel**
Facebook Live (St. Paul's) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later
Zoom: Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

Masks are required today for the whole service except for the leaders and under age 2.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

*{To center your hearts and minds,
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently
during or before the Prelude}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP[®] (*Silently Before Worship Begins*)

Lord Jesus, from little babe to adult man, your whole purpose was to bring salvation to earth, to release us from our sins. Each Christmas we are renewed with this gift of a sweet little baby coming to love us and redeem us. Thank you!

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

(all verses) NCH # 198
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*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Isaiah 29

Leader: Soon the forest of Lebanon will become a field with crops, thick as a forest.

People: The deaf will be able to hear whatever is read to them.

Leader: The blind will be freed from a life of darkness.

People: The poor and needy will celebrate and shout because of the Lord, the holy God of Israel.

Leader: Everyone who is confused will understand.

People: All who have complained will obey my teaching.

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader)

We come before the altar of God to confess our sins and to be restored fully to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

*Confession of Sin (Unison)

Being reminded of the innocent babe, born in the silence of night, we confess that our noisy and busy life is not fitting here. Help us, O God of seventh-day rest, to retreat from the loudness and the frantic way of living to the silence and the stillness as we rest in you. May we seek your healing in the stillness. May we praise God as did Simeon in that moment of meeting his Savior in this little child.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

Red #518

Leader (*spoken*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*):

Christ, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*):

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*):

Lord have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Leader)

People of this world, this baby as Savior, is the way to our personal peace. This Savior of the cross brought salvation long ago and brings salvation to us now, each day, each moment. Our sins are forgiven. We are made new once again and forever.

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us offer our praise to the Lord.

People: May Jesus Christ be praised.

*SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE *"Let's Worship and Adore Him"*

Blue # 247

**Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

*Music: Wade's Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke
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{Please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson: [Psalm 13:5-6](#)
New Testament Lesson: [Acts 4:8-12](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: [Luke 2:22-38](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

vs. 1, 3, 4 W&R #180
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Children's Message

Sermon - "The Baby's Gift To Us Is Salvation"

We Respond with Thanks

We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped, we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by re-affirming our faith in God, praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world,

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and Earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

{please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

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.**

}
PRAYER RESPONSE *"Let's Worship and Adore Him"* ♪ Blue # 247
**We lift our prayers up to Him,
We lift our prayers up to Him,
We lift our prayers up to Him,
Christ our Lord.**

*Music: Wade's Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke; Text: Benjamin D. Motz
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OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

{Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements}

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Leader: To the manger we come,

People: bringing our gifts,

Leader: bringing our time,

People: bringing our hearts.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.*

*Whether worshipping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through St. Paul's UCC secure [Online Giving](https://www.sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org). [St. Paul's UCC Click Here](#)
or Zion UCC's online giving at www.1zion.org - [Zion UCC Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Let’s Worship and Adore Him”

♫ Blue # 247

**For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord.**

*Music: Wade’s Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke
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*OFFERTORY PRAYER (Leader)

Little Baby in the Manger, we bring our gifts to you. Little One in the Temple, we adore you, as did Simeon and Anna. Young man in the Temple, we respect and worship you. Accept these gifts, dear Jesus. **Amen.**

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God’s love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God’s Good News
through our words and actions.*

*COMMISSION

Leader: Let us go into the world being saved from our own sins.

People: Let us do this with joy.

Leader: Let us pray for the circle of souls around us in the name of our Jesus.

People: Let us do this with eagerness.

Leader: Let us be alert for the effect of our prayers.

People: May our salvation be contagious!

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♫ Red #558

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*SENDING HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

vs. 1,2,4 W&R #183

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*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God’s light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited

to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship
in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall



The Altar Flowers are Sponsored by

The Bulletins are Sponsored by



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

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- ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- ③ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
- ④ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2021). Augsburg Fortress.
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- ⑦ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
- ⑧ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
- ⑨ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
- ⑩ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
- ⑪ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- ⑫ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- ⑬ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
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Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest **Password (for both):** iamheretoserve

About Today

Church Season: Advent - is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: (1) the second coming of Christ; (2) the preparation for the anniversary of Jesus' birth on Christmas; and (3) the reminder to be daily aware of Christ's presence for the Kingdom of God is near. The season of Advent takes place during the four weeks before Christmas.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern):

Blue - symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

Violet - symbolizes royalty and penitent preparation for Christ our King, who offers forgiveness

Rose/Pink - symbolizes joy, as expressed by Jesus' mother Mary

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, December 26 -- Lectionary Reading for the 1st Sunday After Christmas

from Isaiah 29 Psalm 13:5-6 Acts 4:8-12 Luke 2:22-38

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 13

This OT hymn is a prayer for individual help in a time of trouble, which concludes with praise and an expression of confidence in God to provide help.

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

The Gospel According to St. Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, January 2 -- Lectionary Reading for the 2nd Sunday After Christmas

Sirach 24:1-12 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events



December 26, 2021

... ***all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*** ...

Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Luke 3:8

For the last many months, I have counseled with men of the relapse addiction unit at the Caron Foundation. It is more continuing education than I could have asked for. But the lessons have been invaluable mostly for the ways I have been witness to people struggling to make deep, fundamental changes to their lives; to repent, to turn around in the words of John the Baptist. And not just once. I am in awe of those I meet who have failed to stay clean or sober but who come back again and again to the seemingly impossible work of being the person they want to be and the hope of freedom by which they wish so desperately to live.

At some point, all the men I meet have reached the outer limits of their own capacity to live differently and have come to call on a power greater than themselves. Father Richard Rohr once defined addiction simply as our refusal to ask for help. If that is true, and I believe it is, then we are all addicted — not just to coffee or consumerism or cell phones but to a self-reliance that keeps us locked in isolation and loneliness — two seeds of addiction. The gift of the pandemic (or of addiction), if we can call it that, has been to pull back the veil of carefully constructed lives (and systems) that aren't life giving and, in some cases, life taking. Its not a gift easily received or appreciated.

Enter John the Baptist who in his own way attempted to pull back the veil of carefully constructed lives (*We have Abraham for our ancestor!*) that weren't necessarily life giving. His prescription was to let go of things, to honor limitations and invite God into that space — three seeds

of sobriety. Left to ourselves, this is hard medicine to swallow. The men at Caron, who reside there for up to a month, draw strength, courage and grace from each other in supportive community. They often lament having to come to treatment and eventually, having connected in life giving ways with others, fear having to leave those connections behind.

My deepest hope for the church has always been that we can receive and appreciate John's message that pulls back the veil of carefully constructed lives that aren't necessarily life giving. That we can help each other take his prescription to let go of things, honor limitations and invite God into that space. That we can draw strength, courage and grace from each other. Connect meaningfully and never have to fear leaving those connections behind. I am convinced that in so doing, *"all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

May it be so for you and me and the people we love.

Pastor Bill

Rev. William Worley, PSE Conference Minister

RE-SCHEDULED !!!



**Connect,
Reconnect,
Staying Connected**
w/ Rev. Cean James

Building and Maintaining Fellowship during the prolonged Covid Pandemic

**TWO workshop options available.
Choose the one you are comfortable with!**

January 22nd—VIA ZOOM

Register at: <https://pseconnect0122.eventbrite.com>

January 29th—IN PERSON @ First UCC, Schuylkill Haven

Register at: <https://pseconnect0129.eventbrite.com>

198 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

all verses

F Bb F Bb F Bb C F Bb F Bb F Bb C

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

E Bb C C7 F C7 F Gm7 F C7 F Gm F

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this;
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save;

F Bb F C7 F C7 Dm F Gm7 F C7 F Gm F

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 he has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Dm A7sus A7 Dm C F Dm Gm7 C F

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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O Little Town of Bethlehem 180

verses 1, 3, 4

F Fdim7 F $\frac{F\#dim7}{Bb}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, 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;

F $\frac{F}{Eb}$ D D7 Gsus Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

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.

F $\frac{Edim}{G}$ $\frac{G\#dim7}{A}$ N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ A

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;

F Fdim7 F Bb+ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

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 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.

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Once in Royal David's City

verses 1, 2, 4

F C7/G A F E/C C7 F Dm E/A F Bb E/C C

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

F C7/G A F G7/D G7 C7 F Dm

shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 grew; he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and
 love; for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

E/A F Bb E/C C F Bb Bb/D F C7sus C7

man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall: with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew: and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove: and he leads his chil - dren

F Bb Bb/D Fsus F Bb E/C C F

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he has gone.