

Est. 1749; Lititz, PA



# Christmas Vigil Service

As a gift to our planet, please leave this ode on the pew after the service to be reused

## THE PRELUDE (See insert)

CHOIR: Stille Nacht (Silent Night)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht nur das heilige Elternpaar das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war, bei dem himmlischen Kind.

Glänzende Pracht strahlt durch die Nacht. Hirten wird's kund gemacht, durch der Engel Hallelujah, tönt es laut von fern und nah: "Christ, der Retter ist da."

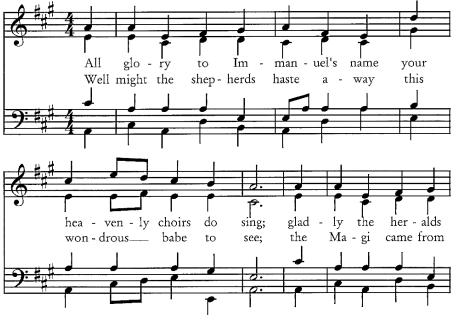
Licht statt Nacht hat gebracht heil'ges Kind, deine Macht. Lieblich liegst du gebettet auf Stroh O, wie macht uns dein Antlitz so froh, froh dein kommen auf Erd'. Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Silent night, holy night all sleep, only awake are the Holy parents who are in the stable in Bethlehem with the heavenly child.

Glowing splendor shines through the night; to the shepherds it is told. The angels' Hallelujahs resound loud from far and near: "Christ the Savior is here."

Light instead of night,
Holy Child, your might has brought.
Lovely you lie on a bed of straw.
O, how happy your Countenance
makes us; glad for your coming to earth.

# **CONGREGATION** (All standing)





#### **PRAYER**

# **OFFERING AND OFFERTORY** (See insert)

#### THE SCRIPTURES:

Luke 2:1-20

2 <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And 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 for them in the inn. 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>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!" <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

# CHILDREN'S CHOIR (See insert)

# THE LOVEFEAST IS SERVED DURING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS.













#### A MORAVIAN BLESSING

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be,
And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee,
Bless our loved ones everywhere,
And keep them in Thy loving care.
Amen.

#### CHOIR:

Thou Child Divine Johann Abraham Peter Schultz (1747-1800)

Thou child divine, Immanuel, welcome unto Thy humble manger, With heartfelt joy Thy birth we hail, and greet with songs the heavenly stranger!

Our doubts and fears and sadness are turned to joy and gladness, Good will to men and peace on earth are now declared by a Savior's birth,

Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

# Benedictus, from XII Messe

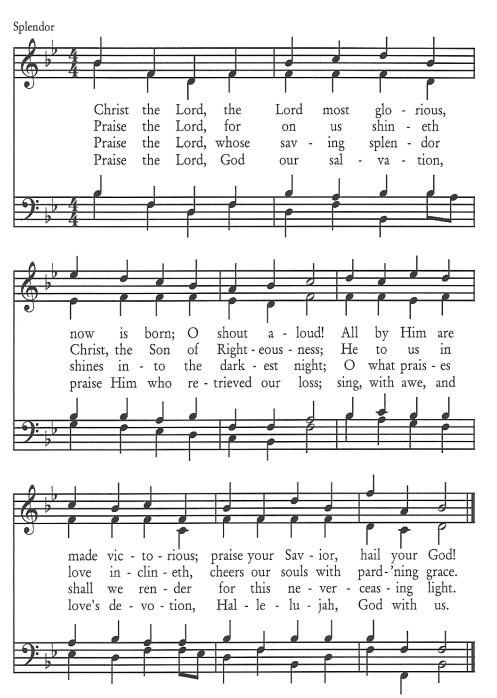
(Harmoniemesse, 1802)

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord!

#### THE CUPS ARE COLLECTED DURING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS.





Music by the congregation's pastor, Rev. Johann Christian Bechler (1784-1857)



**MEDITATION** 





#### CHOIR:

## Mache dich auf

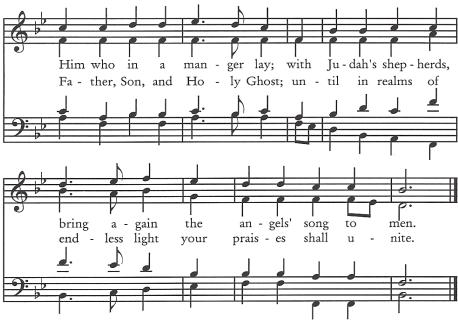
Mache dich auf, werde Licht! Denn dein Licht kommt, Und die Herrlichkeit des Herrn Gehet auf über dir. Karl Gottlieb Reissiger (1798-1851)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. -Isaiah 60:1



#### \*PLEASE STAND FOR THE FINAL HYMN





Music written in Lititz (1824) by the congregation's pastor, J. C. Bechler Stanza 1: Christmas stanza for Lititiz congregation (c. 1944) by Rev. Louis Heubener, elder and choir member.

#### BENEDICTION AND SILENT PRAYER

(Worshippers are asked to bow in prayer as the pastors and children's choir leave the sanctuary.)

# **POSTLUDE**

# **CHRISTMAS HYMNS AND CAROLS**

Trombone Choir on Church Square following the service.

#### In the Spirit of Conservation

We appreciate the donation of your beeswax candle to be re-melted and formed for next year. Containers are located at the exits or please hand to an usher as you leave.

Additionally, the Vigil bulletins are reused from service to service and from year to year. If you do not need yours, please leave your bulletin on the seat. Thank you.

Printed 2016

# 1s God in Heaven now our friend?



Then mercies countless He will send