

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church: An Inclusive Spiritual Community. We welcome all who long for meaning, hope, and belonging. Our faith & practice are rooted in the way of Jesus and enriched by wisdom from all sources. We are committed to being and becoming people of radical compassion, working for justice and wholeness in ourselves and the world.



• **Christmas Day**
Church Office Closed

Dawn: *Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20*
Day: *Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]; John 1:1–14*

Friday, December 26
Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27
1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads Group Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 28 • First Sunday of Christmastide
Isaiah 63:7–9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10–18 Matthew 2:13–23
11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Zoom

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING. SPC will collect our Christmas Eve offering during both Christmas Eve services. This year’s offering will benefit Mountain State Justice.

MOUNTAIN STATE JUSTICE (MSJ) is a West Virginia-based non-profit which provides free legal services to all marginalized West Virginians fighting for their homes, their health and safety, and their jobs. Our SPC immigrant support team specifically works with MSJ’s immigration attorneys to connect legal resources locally to our immigrant neighbors and friends. For more information about MSJ, go to <https://mountainstatejustice.org/>.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Sheila Melendez (she/her) Choir Director • sheilamelendez@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Travail

Out of the depth and quiet
of this chill, stark night,
a gnawing ache, a yearning
deepens, rising
like a threatening wave.

The young woman trembles.
Every inmost part of her is
shaken, all comfort broken.
Her hand gropes for something firm to grasp,
but all that was certain has become
obscure, all encompassing,
racked with pain.
Scarcely able to catch her breath,
she feels each wave larger, more
frightening than the last.
And as the great wave breaks over her,
she is broken,
momentarily forgetting what she accepted,
what love she bears,
yet choosing to believe when all seems lost.

Suddenly and completely
she, still bathed in sweat,
enfolds love in her arms,
knows joy as one victorious,
sees clearly as one who has been
stretched and changed,
that peace is always
born of travail.

Jane M. Schultze

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established 1743
Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome

A child has been born for us. **Isaiah 9:6**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it. **Psalm 96:11**

The grace of God has appeared! **Titus 2:11**

She gave birth. **Luke 2:7**

- Assistants**
The Gonano Family
Eli Dillow
Michael Joyce
Isabella Tuzzio
Donald Sykes
Brian Dettling
Frances Marshall
Brad Toole
- Special Music**
Terry Tucker
Sheila Melendez
- Choir Director**
Sheila Melendez
- Accompanist**
Sam Jannotta
- Organist**
Jayne O’Hara
- Autoharp/Recorder**
Terry Tucker
- Tech Support**
Mark Nutwell

To Our Guests
We are glad you are with us. Please sign the guest book by the front door and fill in a visitor’s card from the pew pocket.

Gathering Music
WE GATHER for the BIRTH
† † †
Welcome
Choral Processional 91, (7x)
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
The Christ Candle
Isaiah 9:2
***Response 133, v. 1, 3**
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Proclaiming Sabbath With Us
Isaiah 9:6
***Carol 158, v. 1-2**
“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”
First Pew
Friendly Beast (see insert)
***Carol 158, v. 3-4**
“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”
WE PROCLAIM THE BIRTH
† † †
Seeking Sabbath With Us
Luke 2:1-5
***Carol 121, v. 1, 3**
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Cradling Sabbath With Us
Luke 2:6-7
***Carol 115, v. 1, 2**
“Away in a Manger”
Announcing Sabbath With Us
Luke 2:8-11
***Carol 147, v. 1, 2**
“The First Nowell”
Singing Sabbath With Us
Luke 2:12-14

***Carol 113, v. 1, 3**
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Finding Sabbath With Us
Luke 2:15-16
Carol 134, v. 1, 2
“Joy to the World”
Pondering Sabbath With Us
Luke 2:17-20
***Carol 136, v. 1, 3**
“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
WE CONTEMPLATE THE BIRTH
† † †
Reading
Interlude
“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”
Lesson
Titus 2:11-14
Meditation
“Birthing Sabbath With Us”
***Carol 145, v. 1, 3**
“What Child Is This”
† † †
WE RESPOND TO THE BIRTH
Prayer for Birthing Sabbath
Offering
Offertory
“What Star Is This?”
Birthing The World!
John 1:1-6, 14
***Carol 122, v. 1-3** (see insert)
“Silent Night, Holy Night!”
***Blessing**
† † †
***Postlude**

All forms of birth — physical, intellectual, spiritual or emotional — bring one to the depths. The power to give birth originates in the creative life spirit birthing all, the seen and the unseen.
Amy Wright

**Please rise in body and spirit.*

- Isaiah and Luke Translations**
New Revised Standard
Version Updated Edition
- Titus Translation**
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist
- Gospel of John Translation**
King James Version

Prayer for Others
Marjorie Burke

Blessing
Hildegard of Bingen

Sermons & Information
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

“Friendly Beasts”

Jesus our brother, kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother kind and good.

I, said the donkey shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother up hill and down,
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town
I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

I, said the cow, all white and red,
I gave him my manger for a bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.
I, said the cow, all white and red.

I, said the sheep with curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.
I, said the sheep with curly horn.

I, said the dove from the rafters high,
I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry;
We cooed him to sleep my mate and I.
I, said the dove from the rafters high.

Thus every beast by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel,
The gift she gave Emmanuel.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

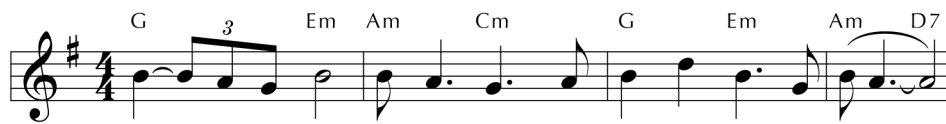
Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Born in the Night, Mary's Child 158



- 1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;
- 2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
- 3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;
- 4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com-ing soon to reign;



com - ing in need, Mar - y's Child, born in a bor - rowed room.
 Light of the world, Mar - y's Child, dawn on our dark - ened day.
 yes, it is true, Mar - y's Child, shown on your cross of wood.
 King of the earth, Mar - y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Carried by a blues-like tune, this text of clustered phrases centers on the core words "Mary's Child," initially linking images that suggest a Nativity hymn, but by the third stanza widening to the full arc of the Incarnation: birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, return.

TEXT: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964, alt.
 MUSIC: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972
 Text and Music © 1964 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

MARY'S CHILD
 7.6.7.6

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



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 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!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

115

Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F




1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.


Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;
stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887


MUELLER
11.11.11.11
(alternate tune: CRADLE SONG, 114)

147

The First Nowell



1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -



shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop



their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

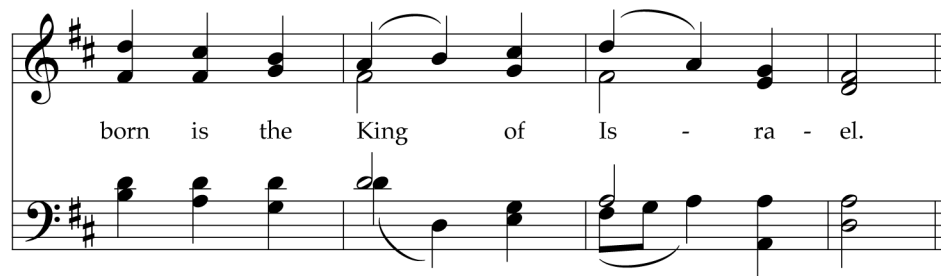
Refrain



Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

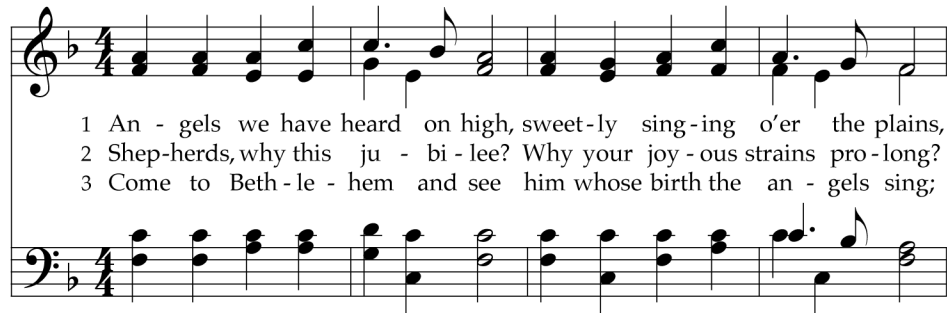
"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus* / *né*) as well to "news" (*nova* / *nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

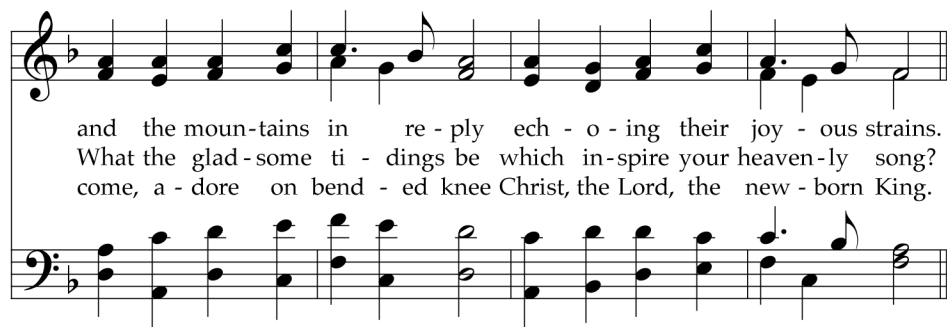


- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.
 frankincense.
Refrain

113 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 ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The musical score is written for a vocal part and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The vocal line begins with a half rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and an eighth note A4, all beamed together. This is followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The piano accompaniment begins with a half rest, followed by a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3, all beamed together. This is followed by a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note B2. The piano accompaniment ends with a double bar line.

- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836


ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

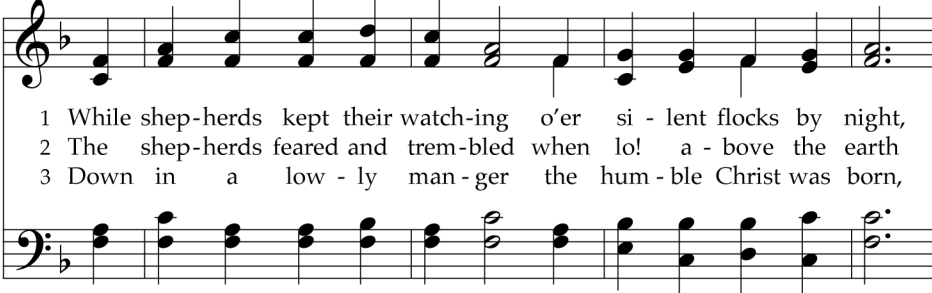


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

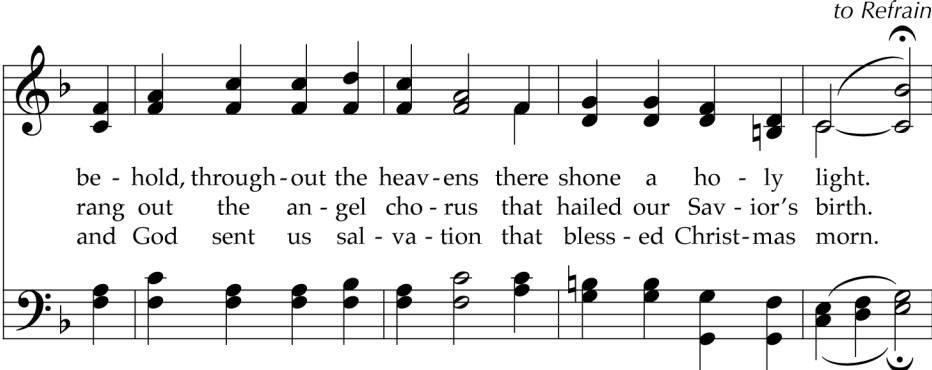


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.


Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen



GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain

145



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, one and all, 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!



This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

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
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.