

# Celebrating Christmas Around the World

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015, 7pm  
Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren

## Organ Prelude



## Welcome & Invitation to Worship (Pastor Pete)



Welcome! Whether you are acquainted with the persons sitting around you, or find yourself amid folks you don't yet know, may all of us together be a community of faith this evening, gathered around an old, old story that is celebrated in many ways around this globe. Whether you believe or have doubts, or have faith even amid your questions, may we be a people who this evening are open to wonder; who listen and perhaps hear something that has not grabbed us before. Again, welcome.

A few reminders before we begin:

First, please turn off your cell phones and other devices. Our task this hour is to be attentive to the presence of God.

Second, as part of our worship this evening we will be taking up an offering. What you give will go toward the ongoing mission of this congregation.

Third, you are invited after this service to join us in the fellowship hall for refreshments. It's a good time to catch up with folks you may not have seen for a while, or make a new friend, as you share your blessings and Christmas wishes.

Finally, all the words you will need will be projected upon the screen. Hymn numbers will be listed at the beginning of each song, in case you wish to use the hymnal in the pew rack in front of you. However, we plan to worship primarily by candle-light this evening.

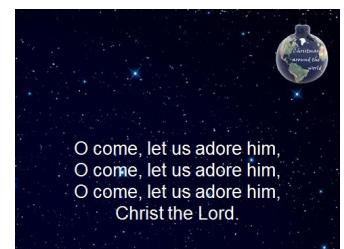
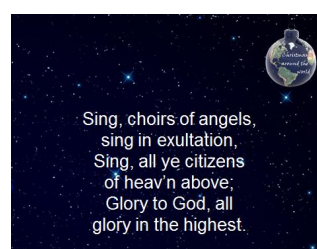
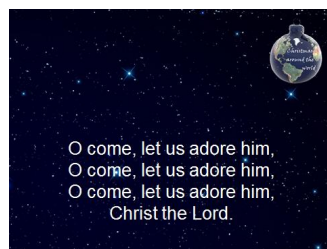
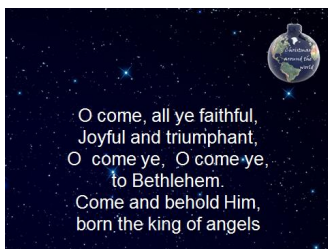
And now, please rise and let us sing to one another and to God a song of invitation, "O come, all ye faithful." Even in a time when fear and hatred threaten, may we be full of joy and a people who overcome evil with good.



## \*Hymn

~O come, all ye faithful #212 ~ verses 1 & 3

*(during the hymn, 5 persons come forward – each bearing a lit candle – and stand at the bottom of the steps in a row. When the time comes, each will climb the steps to light a candle on the Advent wreath, then return to their place at the bottom of the steps, quenching their own candle as they do so.)*



## Praying as we light the candles



Let us pray with our eyes open wide, and our minds and hearts willing to make room for the One who said, *~I am with you always, to the end of the age.~*

*(the first candle-lighter climbs the steps as the pastor prays the following, and lights the candle in the front.)*



With all of creation, we groan inwardly while we wait for your redemption, O Lord. For in **hope** we were saved. Not **hope** that is seen, but **hope** for what we do not see, for which we wait with patience. Trusting in what you have promised, we face the present and the future with **hope**. *(refers to Romans 8:23-25)*

*(As the first candle-lighter returns to his/her place, the second climbs the steps as the pastor prays the following, and lights the candle on the right.)*



May what we speak on this night of nights, O God, not be like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal, full of big words explaining away mystery and big faith lacking compassion. Instead, may your greatest gift flow through every line and among all gathered here. For faith, hope, **love** abide, these three, but the greatest is **love**. (refers to 1 Corinthians 13)

*(As the second candle-lighter returns to his/her place, the third climbs the steps as the pastor prays the following, and lights the pink candle on the left.)*



We sense your nearness, Holy One. Your Spirit moves in our midst. May we discover renewed encouragement in Christ and consolation from love, compassion and sympathy as we share in your Spirit. Help us to seek the mind of Christ, that we might dwell in unity and thus make your **joy** complete. For it is your **ōjoy** to the worldō that we proclaim this evening. (refers to Philippians 2:1-3)

*(As the third candle-lighter returns to his/her place, the fourth climbs the steps as the pastor prays the following, and lights the candle in the back.)*



ōDo not let your hearts be troubled,ō you say to us over and over. ōDonøt be afraid.ō When the time comes for us to depart, may we know deep down that you have left your **peace** with us, given to us by Christ Jesus, a **peace** no earthly power can give, neither can it take away. (refers to John 14:27)

*(As the fourth candle-lighter returns to his/her place, the fifth climbs the steps as the pastor prays the following, and lights the Christ candle in the middle.)*



As we lift up our carols and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves this night, we sing and make melody to you in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord **Jesus Christ**. Amen (refers to Ephesians 5:19-20)



Please be seated.

(The words **Praying**, **Hope**, **Love**, **Joy**, & **Peace** disappear from the ppt, leaving **Christ**)

*(candle-lighters return quietly to their seats)*

## A Time of Preparation

*(Sharon Kagarise)*



We spend a great deal of time preparing for events in the future. We plan our vacations, our children's birthday parties, and surprises for our friends. We know that to share fully in an important event, we must plan and prepare for it. Yet somehow, we don't always act on what we know. We neglect to intentionally set aside time to prepare ourselves spiritually for hearing and receiving the good news of Christmas.

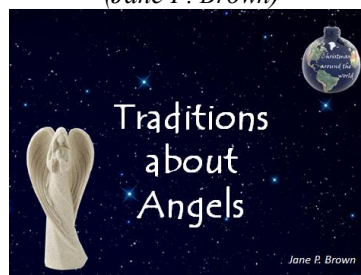
When people learn the art of parachuting they learn how to pack their own chute as well as how to jump and land without becoming entrapped. Why? Because their life depends on the parachute that is strapped to their back. They take time to make sure that they are properly prepared for the big jump.

During Advent, one of the greatest gifts that we have is the twenty-four hours that lie just ahead of us. Time is a precious commodity. We can choose to set aside a portion of each day to prepare ourselves for the journey to Bethlehem. We can choose to take time to read the Bible and pray as if our very lives depend upon it, because they do!

Tonight, we are preparing for an important event—Jesus' birth. Even as we look ahead with anticipation, we also need to look back, and look around. Our theme tonight is "Celebrating Christmas Around the World" I encourage you to listen with an open heart to how some of our friends celebrate Christmas.

## Traditions about Angels

*(Jane P. Brown)*



Throughout history, angels have touched hearts and changed minds. Angels have caused people to reconsider decisions and reflect on their actions. They represent the force of good in a world that sometimes

seems to have gone bad. Angels seem especially real to us during Christmas. During the Renaissance, angels were portrayed as powerful, yet gentle beings. Angels began to appear in Renaissance paintings and their images became more alive to a world that was searching for light after the Dark Ages.

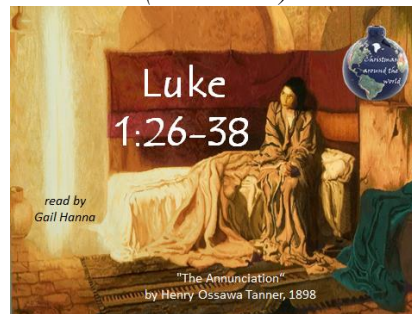
Later, in Germany, children created angel ornaments for their trees. This practice continued through the Middle Ages, and on into England and America. Children in South America were taught that their bedtime prayers were taken to Jesus by angels. During Christmastime, these were the angels that delivered all of their holiday wishes.

As the popularity of angels grew, many hymns were written about them. The songs reflect our fascination and admiration of these beings that heralded the birth of a king in Bethlehem so long ago.

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38

(Gail Hanna)



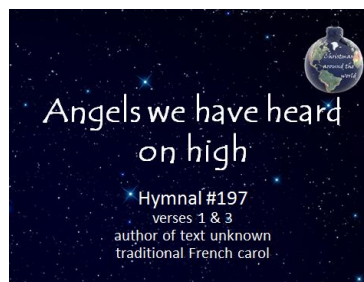
<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

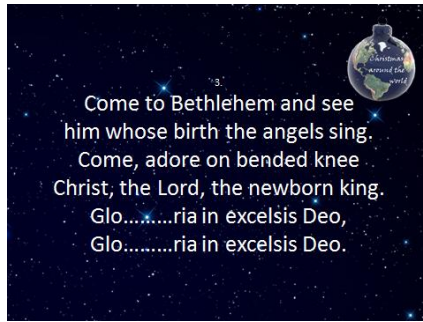
<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



## Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High” #197 ó verses 1 & 3

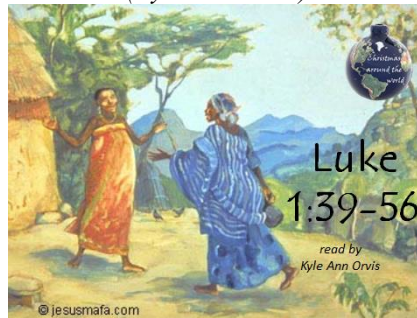




## Scripture

Luke 1: 39-56

(Kyle Ann Orvis)



<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

    "My soul glorifies the Lord  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
         of the humble state of his servant.  
 From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
         holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
         from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
         he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
         but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
         but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
         remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
         just as he promised our ancestors."

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

# Traditions in Africa

(Eugenia Nwaehiri & Lydia Eze)



Christmas is the time when Christians all over the world, including those in Nigeria, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. During the time before Christmas, families and friends gather together in towns and villages. But Christmas Eve is not as big a celebration as it is in America. Customs, like Santa Claus, Christmas trees and gift giving are not really part of the Nigerian Christmas celebration. But, of course, there has been some influence— children are bought new clothes and shoes, but no toys.

Christmas is not nearly as commercial as it is in America. The emphasis is on the religious aspect of celebrating the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Day, Christians go to church to worship and sing. Afterwards, most people celebrate with dancing, wrestling, parades, drumming, and feasting with friends and family. The most common thing that is purchased for Christmas is a new set of clothes, which is worn to church. Many Africans are too poor to afford gifts for their children. If gifts are exchanged, they are usually school books, cloth, candles, soap, and other practical goods.

The following story from Gerald Horton Bath illustrates these views:

The African boy listened carefully as the teacher explained why people give presents to each other on Christmas Day. “The gift is an expression of our joy over the birth of Jesus and our friendship with each other,” she said.

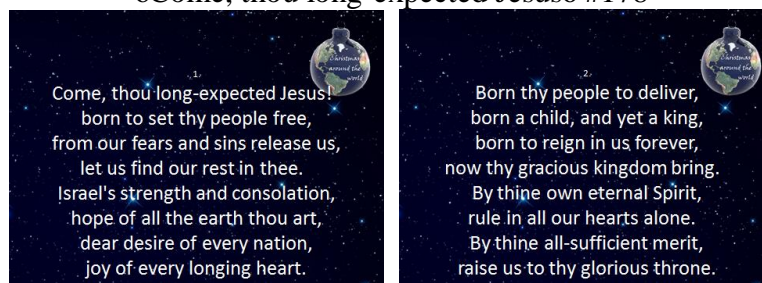
When Christmas Day came, the boy brought the teacher a seashell of lustrous beauty. “Where did you ever find such a beautiful shell?” the teacher exclaimed. The youth named the spot— a bay several miles away. The teacher was touched. “Why. . . why, it’s gorgeous. . . wonderful, but you shouldn’t have gone all that way to get a gift for me.”

His eyes brightening, the boy answered, “Long walk part of gift.”



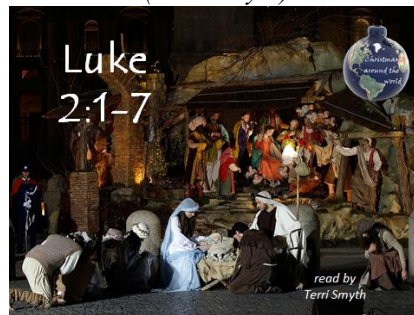
## Hymn

“Come, thou long-expected Jesus” #178



## Scripture

Luke 2: 1-7  
(Terri Smyth)



<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## Traditions in Italy

(Georgia & Sarah Smith)



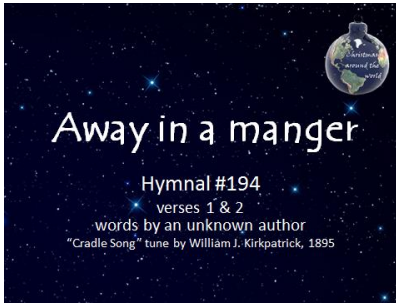
St. Francis of Assisi was born in 1181, the son of a wealthy merchant. Growing up, he had all that he needed and enjoyed many things that only wealth could afford. When he turned 20, Francis became a soldier and he was captured. During his imprisonment, Francis became sick and believed he heard voices. Those voices told him to give up all of his worldly possessions and travel the world to share the word of Christ. Francis obeyed and devoted the rest of his life to helping outcasts and lepers, restoring ruined churches, and preaching about Christ.

While in Palestine, he visited the birthplace of Christ and was so moved by the experience. His greatest desire was to share the wonder and miracle of Christ's birth. He wanted new believers to witness the story as it really happened, to show them that Christ came from poor, humble beginnings, just as they did. Francis sent a message to a nobleman of the region and asked him to help arrange a special celebration. He wanted to show how the infant, Jesus, was born in Bethlehem, how cold it was, how poor the shelter was, and how the infant was warmed in a manger by the breath of oxen and donkeys.

The nobleman loved the plan. He agreed to provide a manger filled with hay and live animals. All of the people from the countryside came, carrying torches and candles. During the service, the friars sang hymns as Francis held a Mass under the stars on Christmas Eve and told the story of Jesus's birth. As he spoke, villagers arrived and acted out the parts of shepherds, Mary and Joseph. They brought sheep, oxen, and a donkey. The participants must have felt like they had been transported back in time to the original manger scene. Francis gently placed a small wax figure of Jesus into the manger. He was so moved by the beauty of the whole experience that he wept with joy.

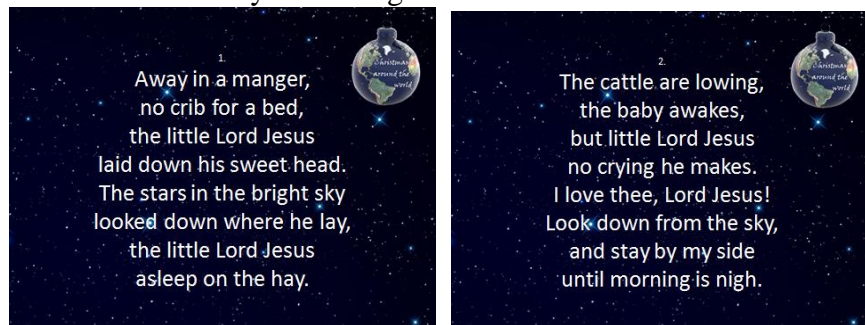


Francis died in 1226 and was declared the patron saint of Italy two years later. His humble re-enactment of Christ's birth became a tradition that has spread throughout the whole world. In France, it is called a *crèche* and in Spanish, a *nacimiento*. Our Savior came to earth as a tiny baby to bring peace, hope, and joy to our world. This wondrous event is cause for celebration, whether it is the year 1200 or 2015.



## Hymn

### öAway in a Mangerö #194 ö verses 1 & 2



## Scripture

Luke 2: 8-20  
 (Beth Kagarise)



<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, öDo not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.ö

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> öGlory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.ö

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, öLet's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.ö

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.  
<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

# Traditions in Britain

(Nancy Rosas)



Caroling is one of Britain's oldest customs, dating back to the Middle Ages. At Christmastime, beggars would wander the streets singing songs in return for money, food, or drink. Carols were often sung between the acts of plays. Minstrels traveled from castle to castle singing Christmas songs. In Britain, nearly everyone goes a-caroling during the Christmas season. They sing at schools, civic groups, homes, on street corners, and in every church. In London, Christmas music is shared daily in midnight services at Westminster Abbey and at midnight mass at St. Paul's. The well-known songs include "The Twelve Days of Christmas", "Good King Wenceslas", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In".

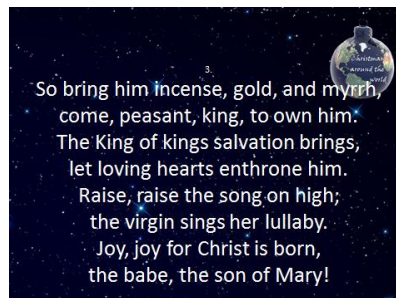
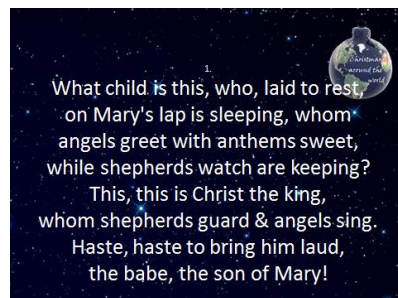
Another well-known hymn from the English is "What Child is This?" It was written as a poem by William Chatterton Dix in 1865, titled "The Manger Throne." The poem gives a unique view of the birth of Christ, as it is written from the point-of-view of a confused observer. Dix imagined how the shepherds felt as they looked upon the tiny infant in the manger. He wrote about the infant's birth, life, death, and resurrection and declared the infant's divine nature.

Dix published "The Manger Throne" in England just as the U.S. Civil War was ending. It quickly grew in popularity as a poem in both the Northern and the Southern states. Though it was used in newspapers and magazines, it wasn't until it was joined with the fragile, yet haunting melody of "Greensleeves" that it became popular on both sides of the Atlantic. Dix lived long enough to see his "Manger Throne" poem become the well-loved Christmas carol "What Child is This?" Its unique melody lends itself well to guitar and a cappella singing, as well as to grand choirs and orchestras, making it an unforgettable song.



## Hymn

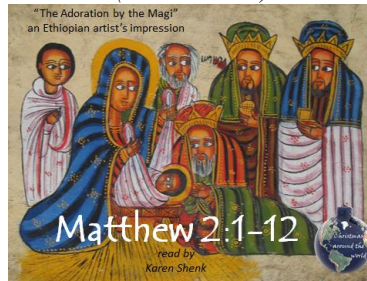
"What Child is This?" #215 ó verses 1 & 3



## Scripture

Matthew 2: 1-12

(Karen Shenk)



<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## Traditions in the Philippines

(Roxanne Eilers)



The symbol which captures the heart of the Filipino Christmas season is the bamboo parol, or star lantern. The parol has its beginnings in the Mexican piñata. The piñata originated in Italy during the 1300s and then spread to Spain, Mexico, and the Philippines. The Filipinos changed the piñata so that the inner pot holds a candle instead of sweets. The shape became a five-pointed star to represent the star of Bethlehem. Over the years, the lantern designs have become more elaborate—wire has replaced the wood, lightbulbs replace the candles. Each star has so many lanterns that they often have their own generators and safety boxes. The lantern frame is often lined with gold or silver foil and then wrapped with colorful cellophane which has been crumpled to give just the right effect. Rotors in the lanterns make 1,500 light bulbs blink to the music of brass bands. These labors of love are paraded through the streets during festivals before the

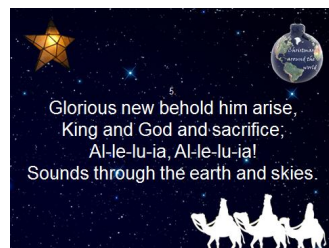
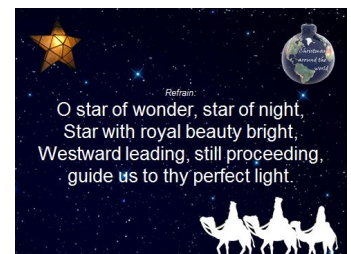
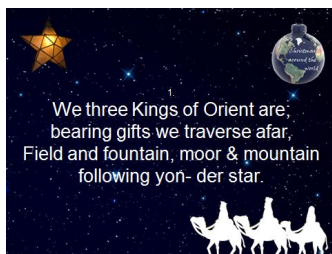


Christmas Eve mass. Parols are on display everywhere during the Christmas season to brighten Filipino homes. Their warmth and spirit spread to every corner of the nation, reminding everyone of the star of Bethlehem that guided the magi so long ago.



## Hymn

ōWe Three Kings of Orient Areö ö verses 1, 2, & 5



## Traditions in China (Ruoyun Liu & Grace Miller)



(In Chinese, then English):

Christmas is not an official holiday in China. Most people in China are not Christian and they don't celebrate it. But you can see many Christmas trees in shopping malls, Santas on restaurant windows, and Christmas decorations in hotels. There is a special service on Christmas Eve at church and non-Christians also go to church to participate in the service and watch the performances.

In Yangquan, Shanxi, people give apples to friends on Christmas Eve Day. In Chinese, the word for apple -pingguo- sounds like peace and the name given to Christmas eve, -Ping'an Ye-

## Christmas Offering



(Erin Eilers)



Just as the wisemen brought gifts to the infant Savior, it's our turn now to give a portion of what God has given to us. Will you please pray with me?

Gracious God, You have given us so much this Advent season. You have given us joy, peace, love, and hope. Now, it is our turn to give you the gifts and resources we have so that all people everywhere may come to know you, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ushers, will you please come forward to receive our offerings?

## Offertory

(Ethan Liu)



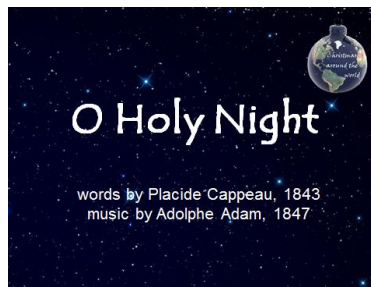
## Traditions in France

(Stacey Campbell)



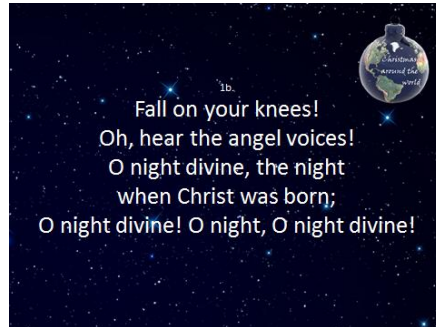
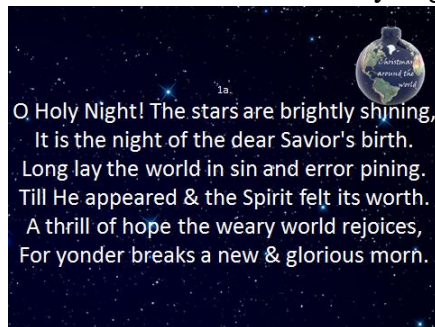
Nöel is the beautiful French word for Christmas. Meaning the birthday of Christ, it shows how the French celebrate this day with deep religious devotion. Religious dramas were first performed in France during the Middle Ages. These plays acted-out Christ's life and were used to teach the Bible to the French people—most of whom could not read or write. The earliest nöels, or Christmas songs, also appeared around this time.

One of the most famous, and most beloved is "Minuit, Chrétiens!" It was written by Placide Cappeau, the mayor of the small town of Roquemare. Cappeau was a wine seller who amused himself by writing poetry. In 1847, the parish priest asked Cappeau to compose a poem for the Christmas mass. He knew that his poem had to be religious, focus on Christmas, and be based in scripture. Cappeau turned to the Gospel of Luke for inspiration. He imagined witnessing the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. These thoughts inspired him to write the poem we now know as "O Holy Night." In France, the song is sung at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve and has become one of the most beautiful Christmas songs ever created.



## Hymn

ÖO Holy Night!ö ö verse 1



## Traditions in Germany

(Wolf family)



Many of our Christmas traditions come from Germany, including Christmas trees, Advent wreaths and calendars, gingerbread houses, the celebration of Epiphany, and Christmas carols. The German carols originated from Latin hymns which proclaimed the birth of Christ. Modern carols, however, are usually more festive than the Latin hymns. For example, Martin Luther wrote öFrom Heaven Above to Earth I Comeö while he was rocking his infant daughter to sleep. He also wrote the well-known song, öO Tannenbaumö or öO Christmas Treeö. In 1599, after a plague killed many members of his congregation, Philipp Nicola, a German pastor, wrote another Christmas carol. In the midst of his sorrow, the words to öHow Brightly Shines the Morning Starö came to him. Some of the German hymns in our own hymnal are öLo, How a Rose Eær Bloomingö, and öHark! The Herald Angels Sing!ö. This second song was written by Charles Wesley of England, but it became popular after it was set to music by the German-born composer, Felix Mendelssohn.

Our final hymn this evening comes from one of Germany's neighbors, the country of Austria. It began as a poem written by Joseph Mohr, a young pastor in the town of Oberndorf. It was the frigid winter of 1818, and Mohr was finishing his plans for the Christmas Eve service, one that he had been writing for months. As he was preparing the sanctuary, he realized that the organ was broken. No matter what he didö pressing pedals, fiddling with the stops, or crawling behind the consoleí nothing worked. Mohr prayed and asked God to show him a way to bring music to his congregation on this holy night. Digging through his

desk, he found a poem he had written about two years earlier. He took the poem to his good friend, Franz Gruber, and asked him to set it to music. The tune had to be one that the choir could learn easily and one that could be accompanied by a guitar. A few hours later, the completed song was rushed to the waiting choir members. In the little time left before the service, Mohr and Gruber taught the choir members the words and the four part harmony to the last two lines of each verse. Just after midnight, Mohr and Gruber stood in front of the main altar and introduced this simple song to their congregation, never realizing that *Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!* would be remembered two hundred years later, and sung around the world.

## Candlelighting Service

(Meghan Knight)

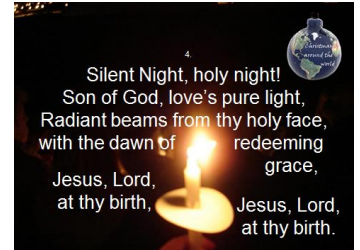
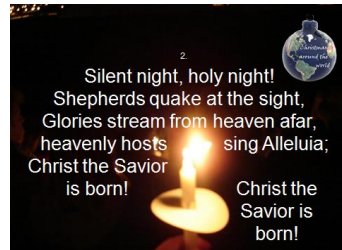


(guitar quietly plays)

As we sing *Stille Nacht*, you are invited into the light which shines in the darkness. When it comes to you, let your unlit candle be the one that bends toward the light. This better prevents wax from dripping. May we be set on fire spiritually, not physically. Let your light shine.

*(While the above is spoken, four persons come forward and begin lighting their own candles off the Advent wreath, then go and stand in the center aisle, two at the first pew – other either side, and two eight pews back – on either side. When the music starts, quietly begin to pass to the light to the first person in the center of each pew. As it says above, it is the person whose candle is unlit who bends their candle to lit it off yours..)*

## Hymn *Stille Nacht* #193





*(leave up 30 seconds, then)*



*(leave up 13 seconds, then)*

## Benediction

*(Meghan Knight)*



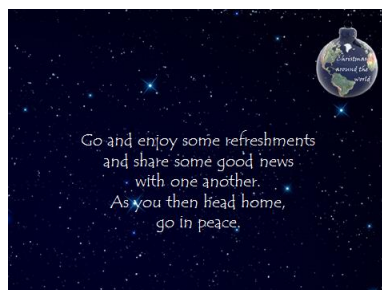
We want to hold on to the old customs and traditions because they strengthen our family ties, bind us to our friends, make us one with all mankind for whom the child was born, and bring us back again to the God who gave His only begotten Son, that ðwhosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.ö

So we will not ðspendö Christmas. . .nor ðobserveö Christmas.

We will ðkeepö Christmasö keep it as it is. . .in all the loveliness of its ancient traditions.

May we keep it in our hearts, that we may be kept in its hope.

óPeter Marshall





Arranged by Sharon Kagarise and Meghan Knight

*Powerpoint™* slides by Peter L Haynes

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