Welcome Home!

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sanctuary & Online

10:00 AM

Announcements!

Choral Call to Worship

Sing We Now of Christmas

Children's Choir

Traditional French Carol

*Call to Worship

Leader: Tell the timid to take heart.

Congregation: The Lord our God is coming!

Leader: We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains

And our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

The hills and the mountains will be singing praise to God.

Every tree in the forest will be clapping its hands. The Lord will come and rule forever. Amen.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Tepley Family

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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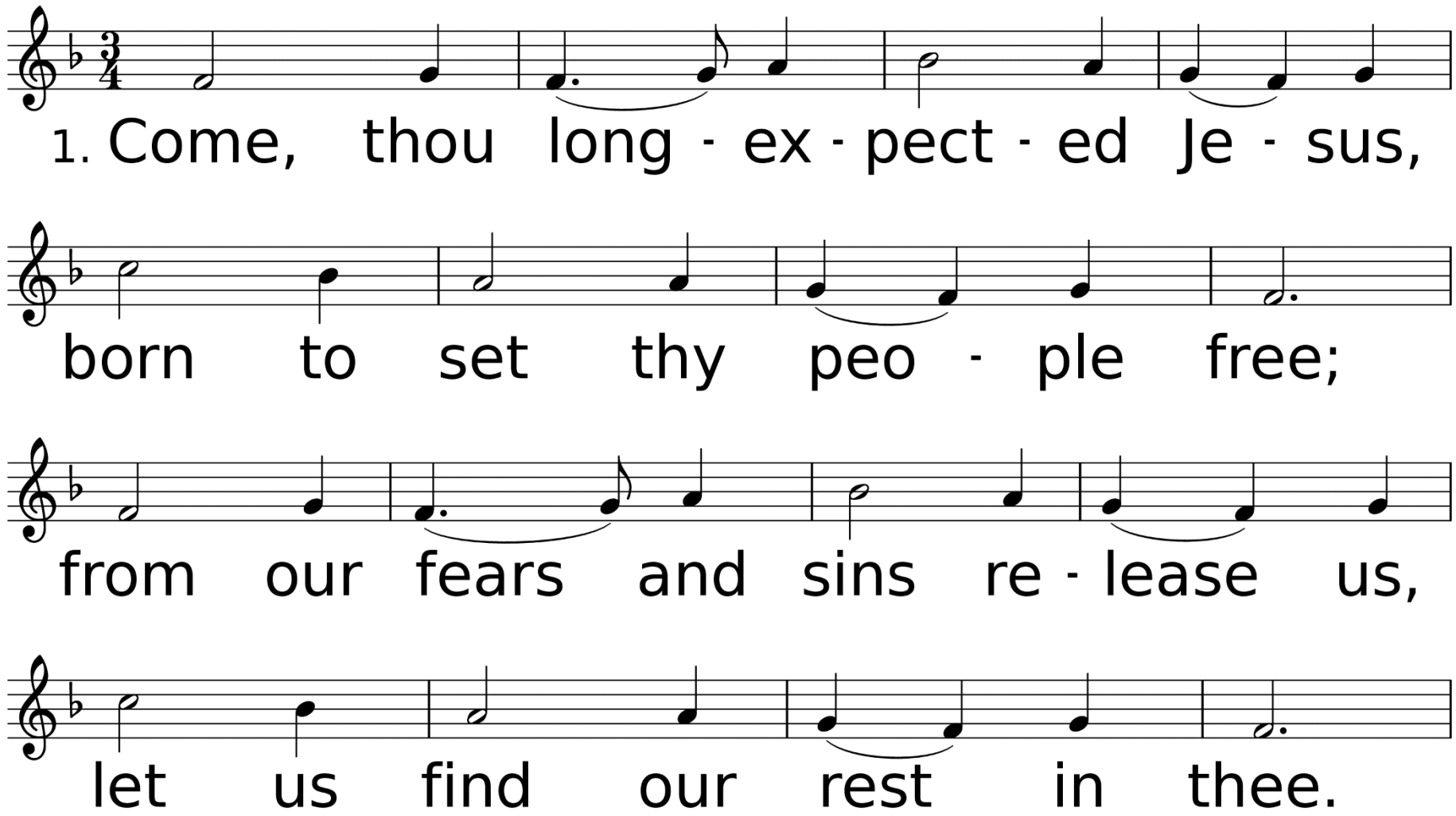
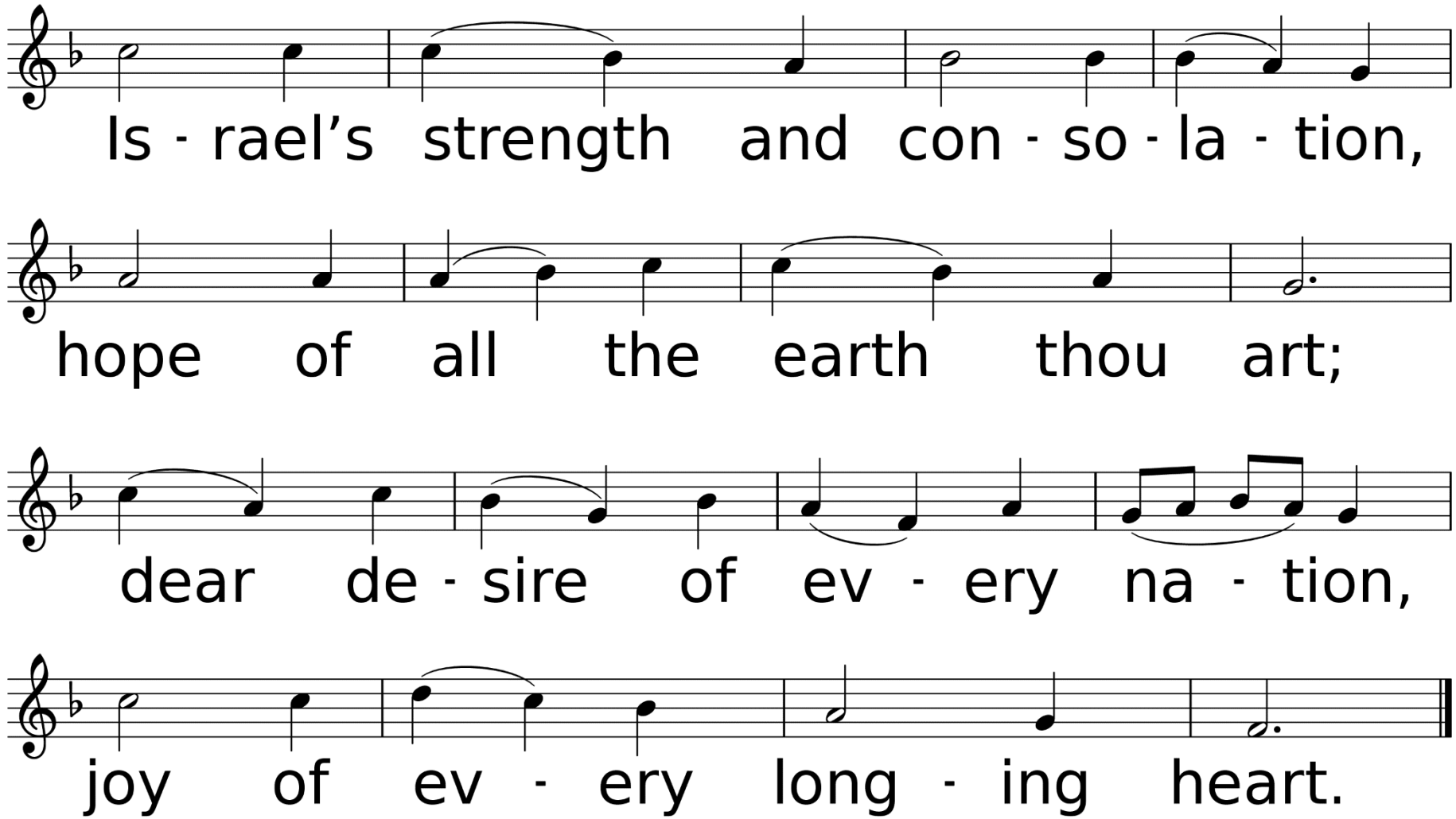
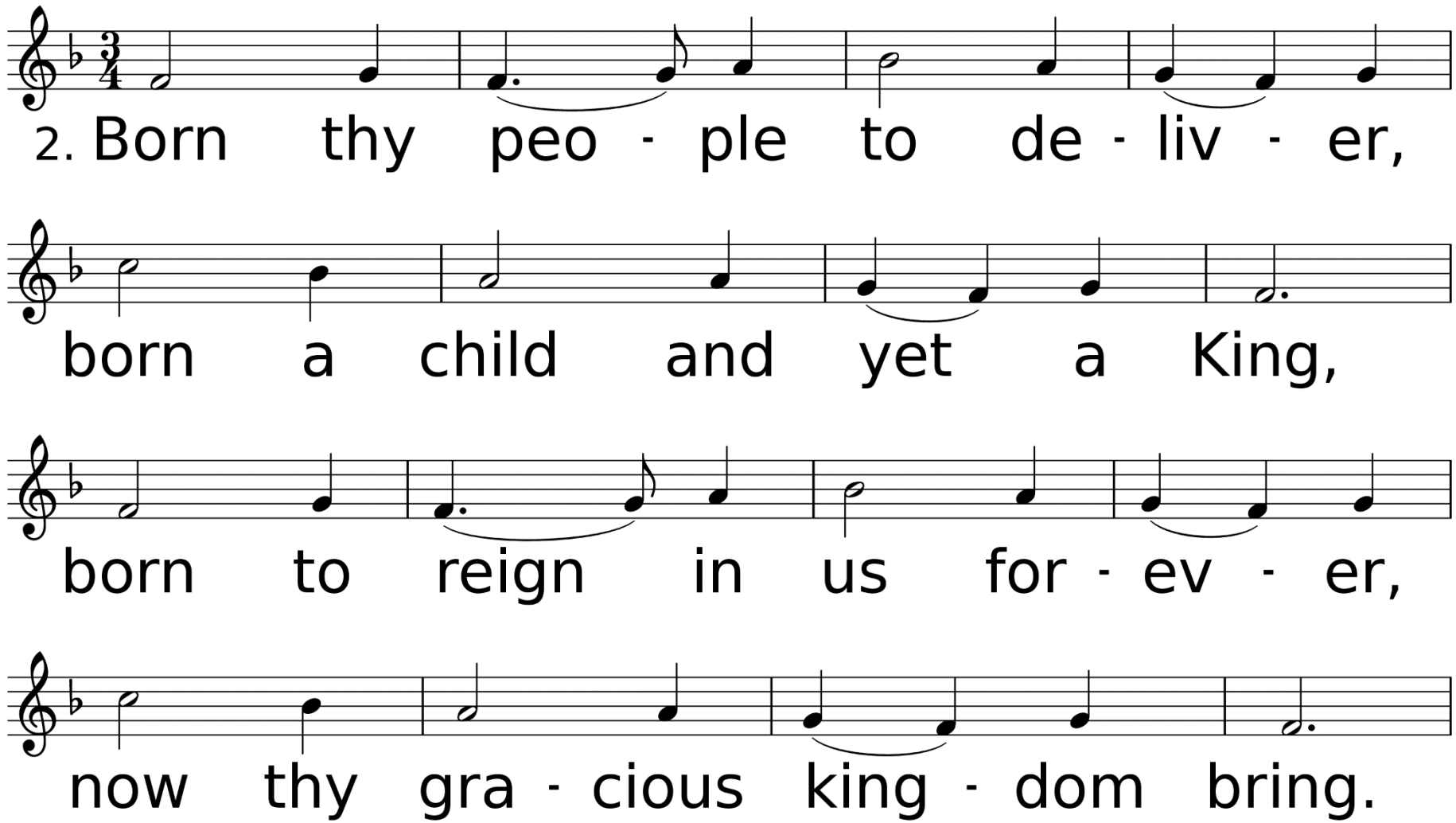
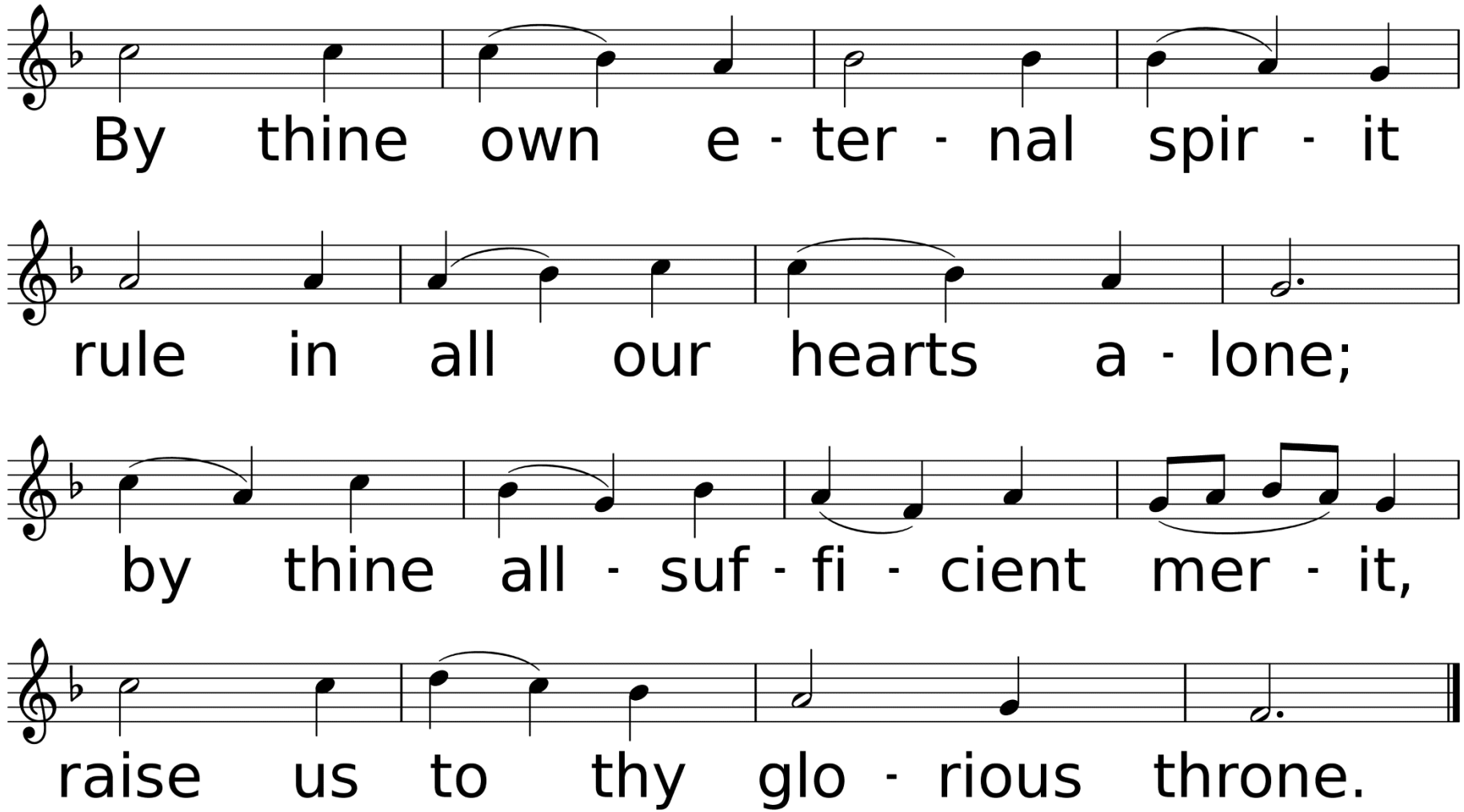


WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC (HYFRYDOL 87.87 D): Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906


Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion,
joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.


2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us for - ev - er,
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.


By thine own e - ter - nal spir - it
rule in all our hearts a - lone;
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,
raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

Congregation: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Merle Stout
Michael Haushalter
Daniel Hicks
Cathy Scott
Mike Harris
Pat Benigno
Billie Kees
Jimmy Hicks
Cindly Iles
Tammy Wiggins & Family
Frances Jouban
Brendan Wells
Bill & Marilyn Kenney

Charles Simpson
Janice Vinyard
Bob Evans
Deborah Kern
Edison Doyle
Natalie Ruano
Anna Wiggins
Libby C.
John Sandlin
Carol Minchew
Sarah Cooley
JoAnna Tanner
Lydia Murray
Ellie Lunsford
Jana Fransen

Marcia & Roy Ades
Phyllis Blanton
Mary Allen
Rodney Faris
Everett Brister
Eva Bebe
Lizzie Simmons
Jimmy Markle
Sandy Blakeway
Jared Jones
Elizabeth Brown Hilborn
Jerry Noland
Glen Reichley
Kelly Bailey Family

John Giles
Margaret Ward
Lorri Woodward
Sarah Biggs
Neely Biggs
Todd Hicks
Gail Hicks
Bart Fazio
Sharon Dukes
Derek Townsend
Brandon Brister
Rita Brewer
Landon Clark
Kimberly Marshall
Joan Mays

Amber Goodwin
Brenda Penney
Barbara Senters
Billy Blancet
Bob Baldares, Sr.
Eleanor Marcello Jones
Grace Cooley
Ruth Wells
Amie Biggs Lewis
John Nelson
MaryAnn Greer
Carol Baldares
Charlene Blevins
Alex Baker

Ukraine, Hurricane Recovery Efforts, All Emergency Personnel, The Military, City of DeRidder, State of Louisiana, The United States of America, Our World, Our Enemies, Our Church, & Those Who Have Hurt Us

Congregational Prayer
&
The Lord’s Prayer

Call To Prayer

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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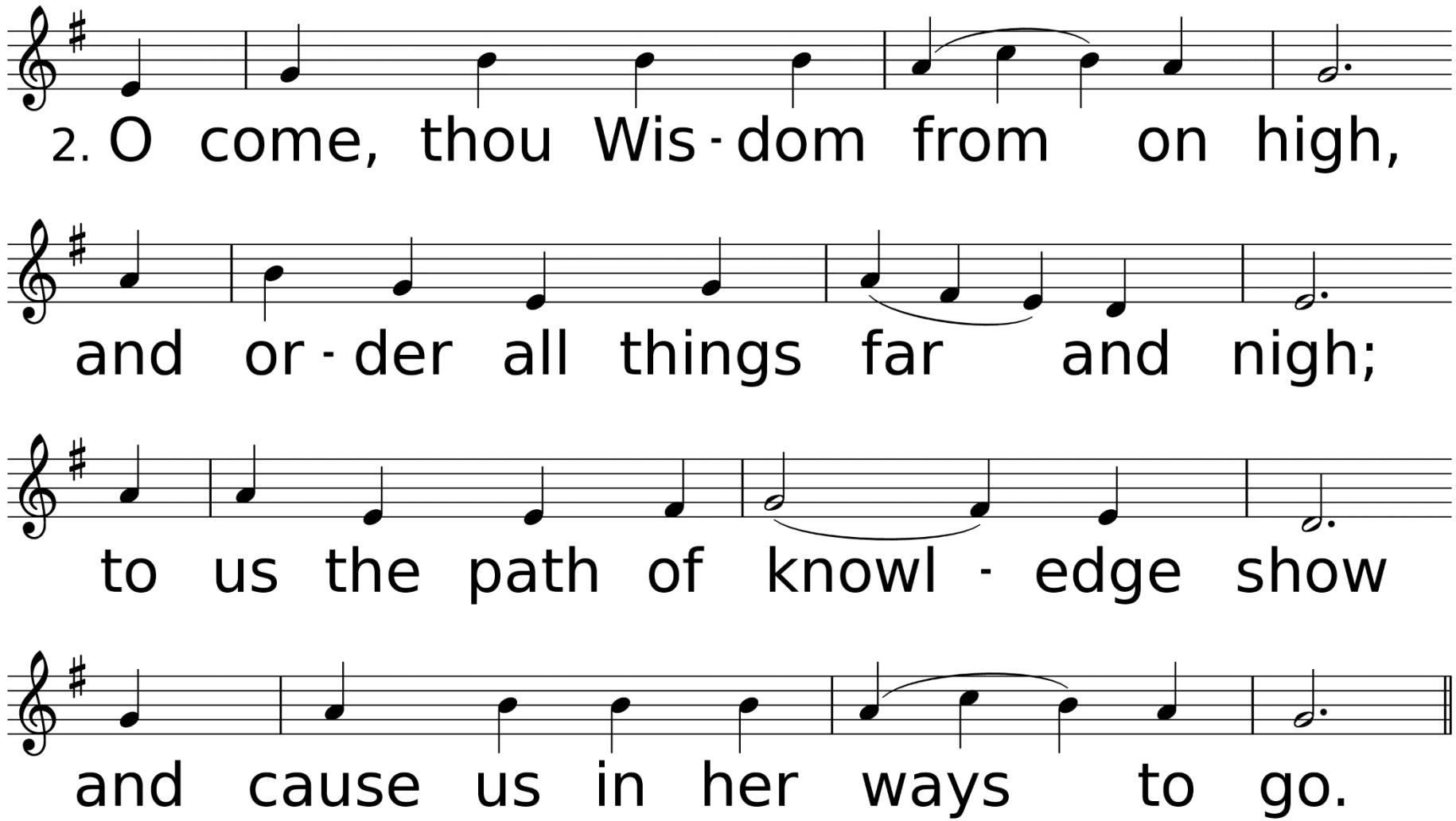
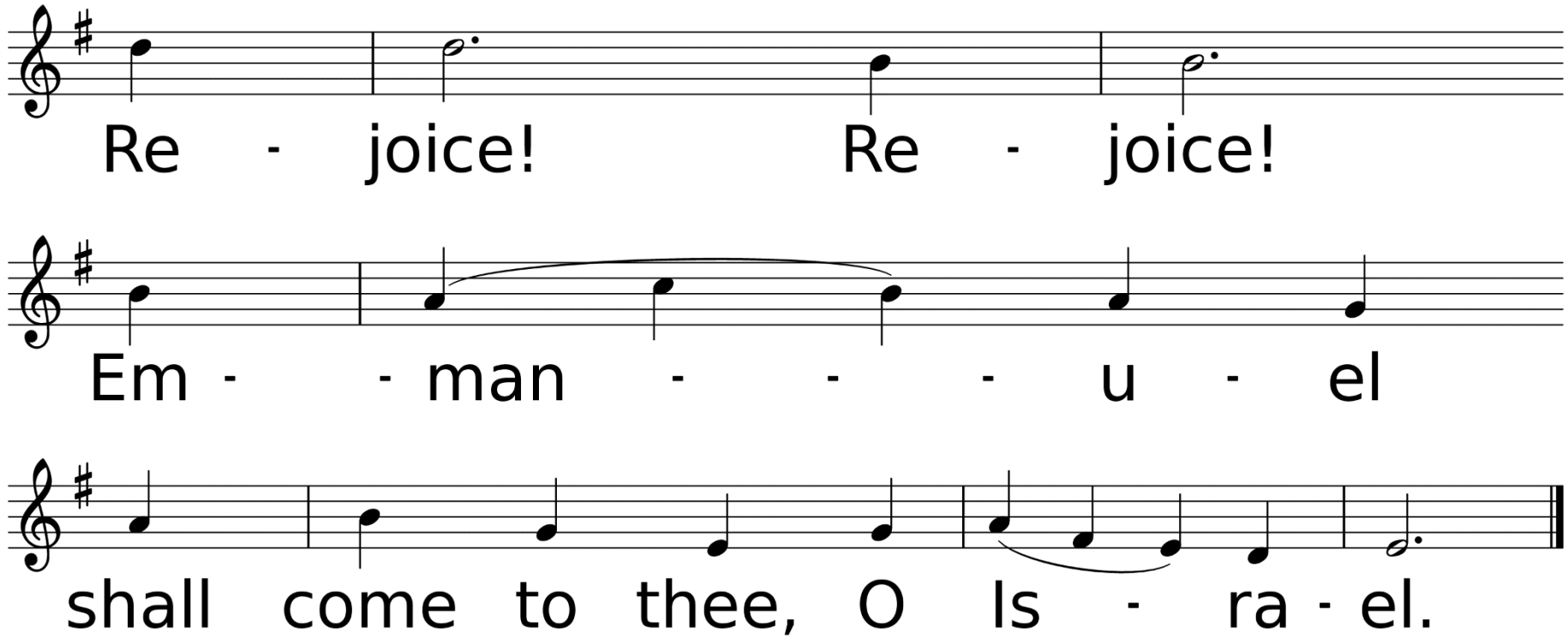
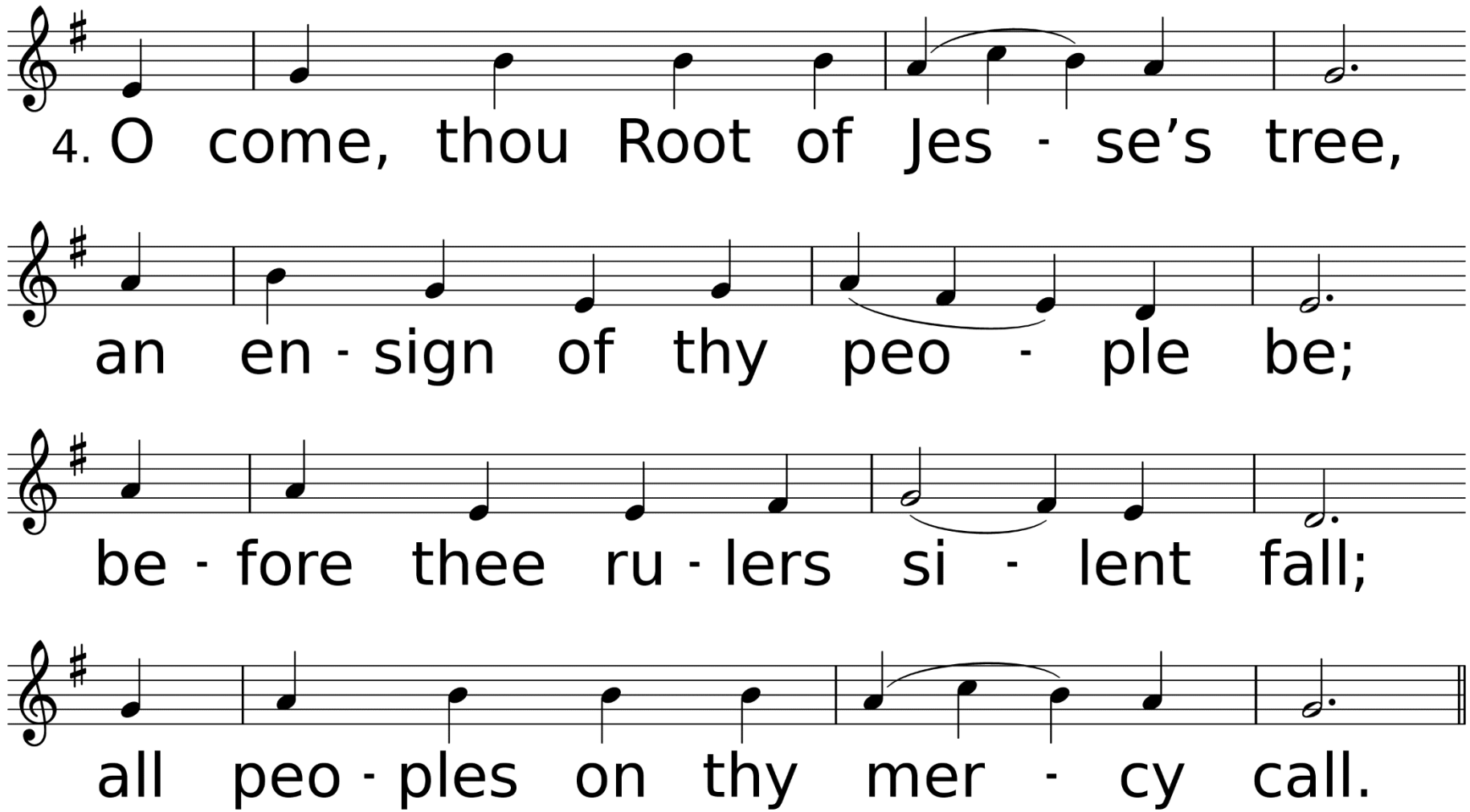
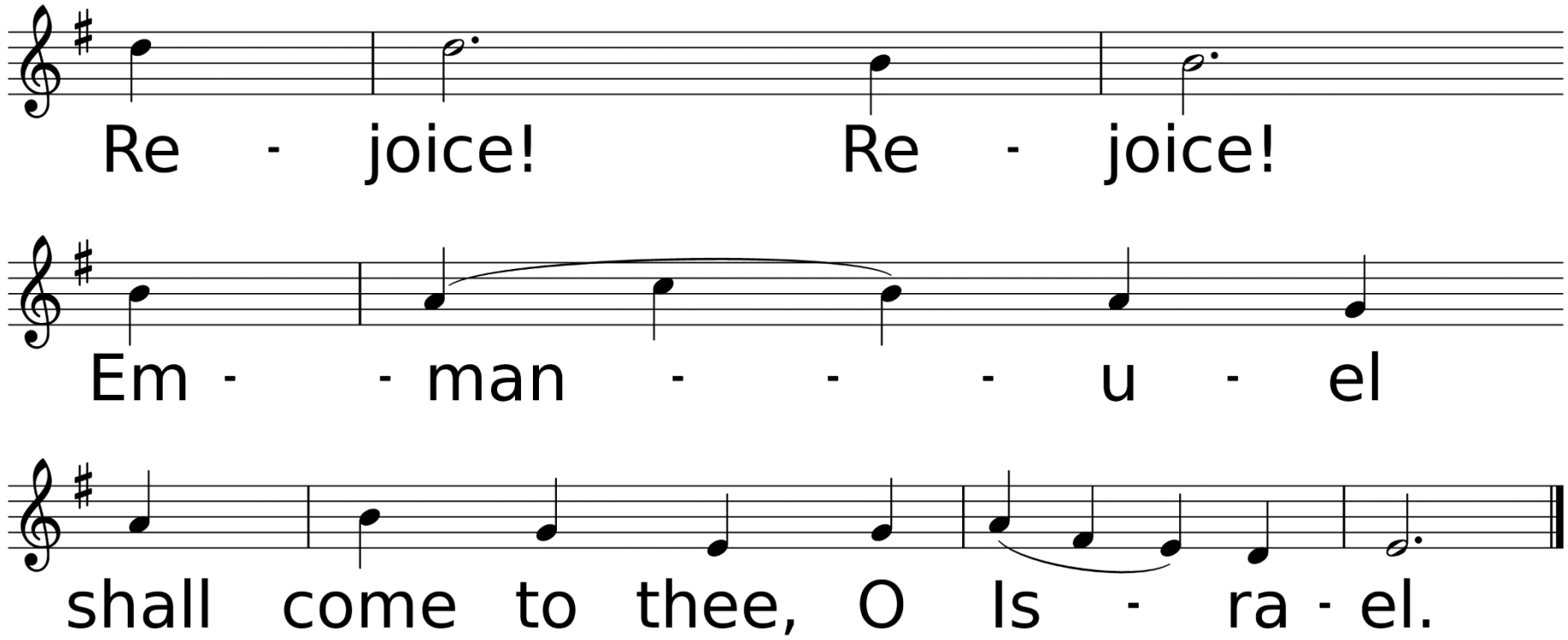

2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high,
and or - der all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowl - edge show
and cause us in her ways to go.


Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - - man - - - u - el
shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.


4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree,
an en - sign of thy peo - ple be;
be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;
all peo - ples on thy mer - cy call.


Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - - man - - - u - el
shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Offering Prayer & Return of God's Tithes & Gifts with Noisy Offering

*Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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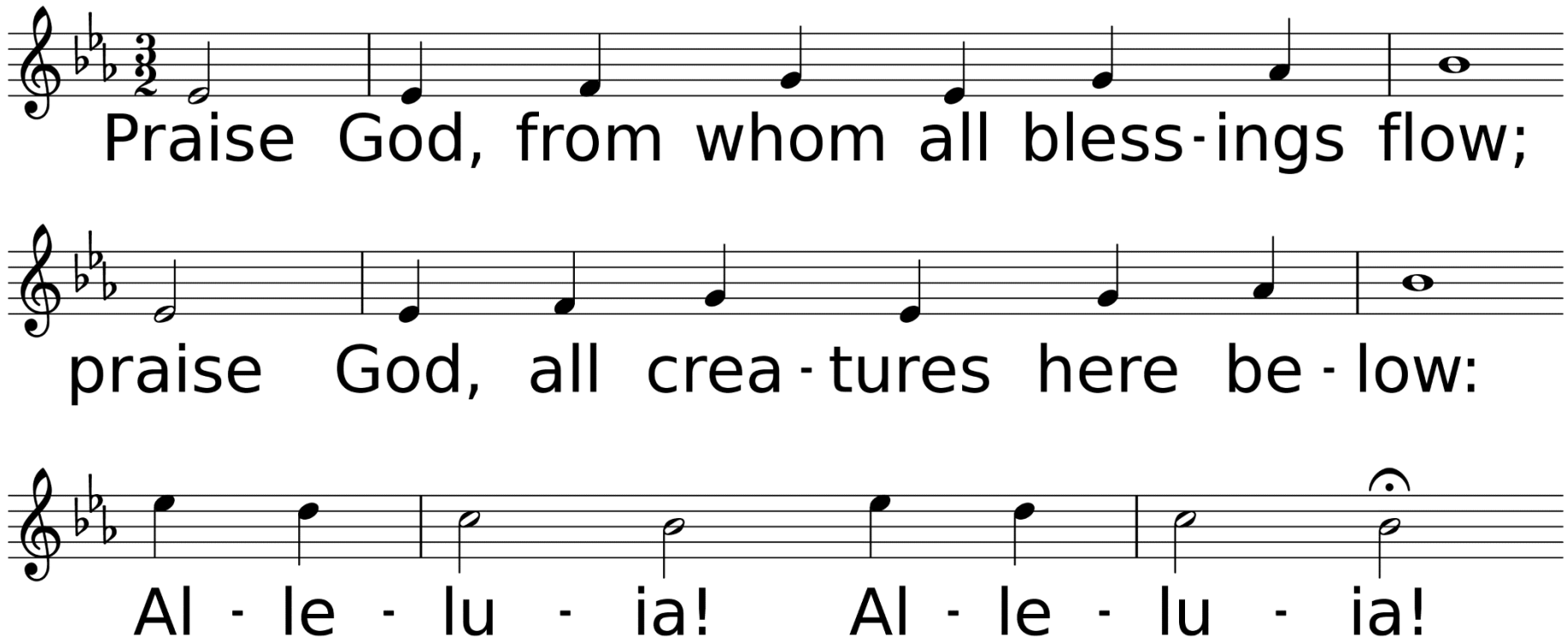
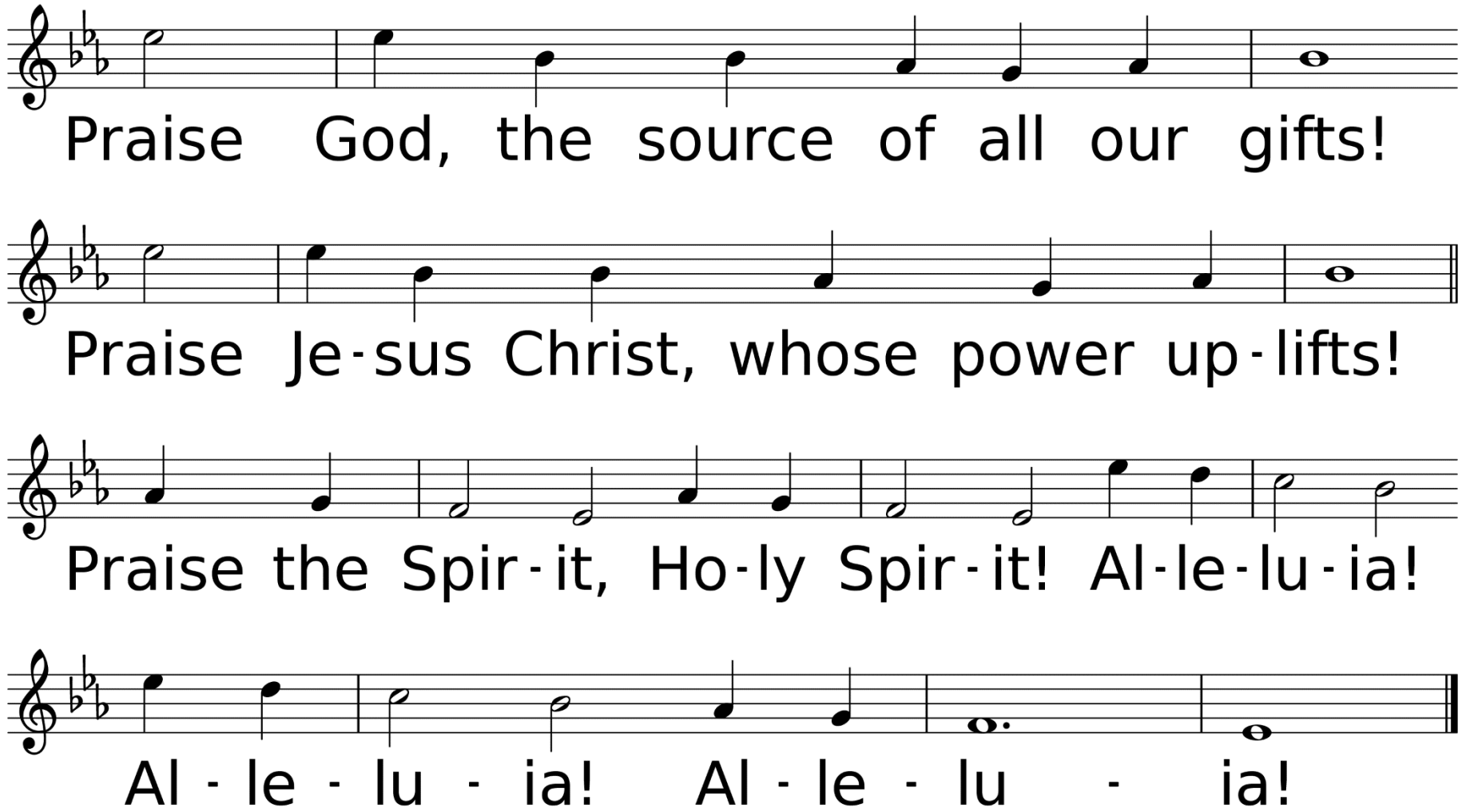


WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978; adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House,
MUSIC (LASST UNS ERFREUEN 88.44.88 with Refrain): Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906


Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Je-sus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it! Al-le-lu-ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Anthem

Still, Still, Still

Children's Choir

Traditional Austrian Carol

Dismissal of Children for Children's Church

Hymn of Faith

Angels from the Realms of Glory

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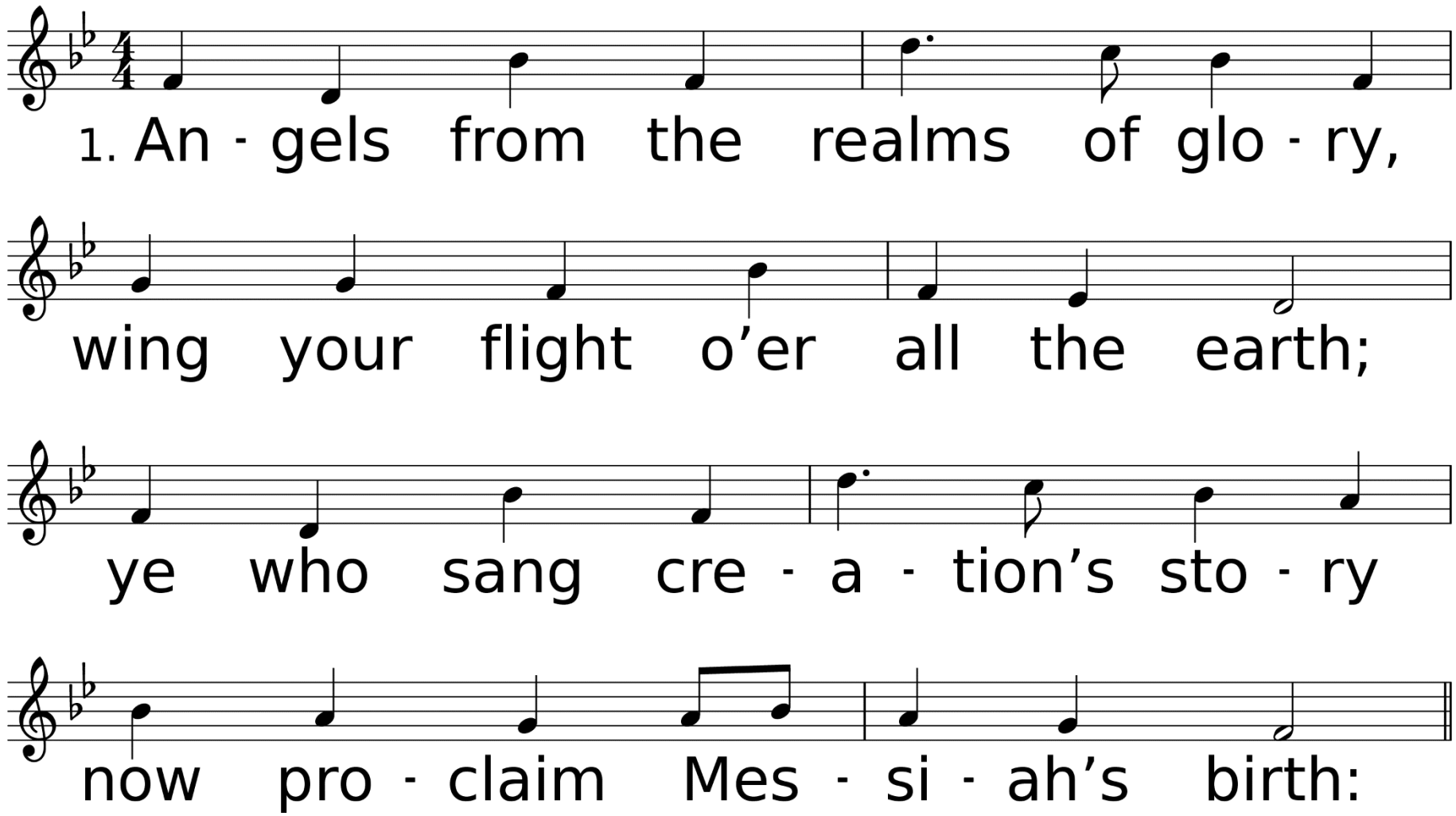
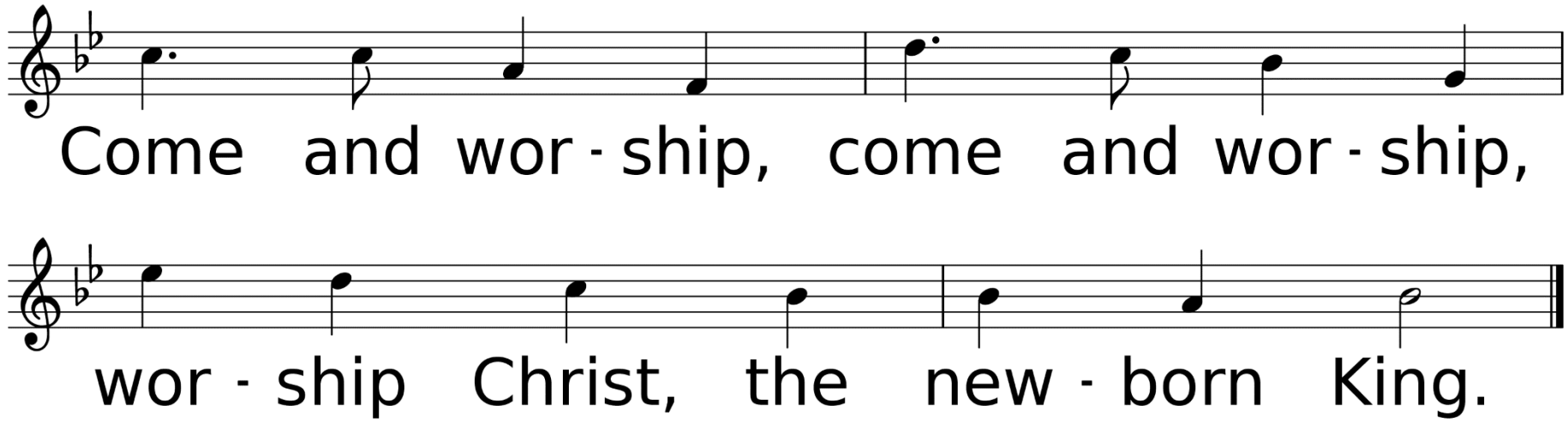
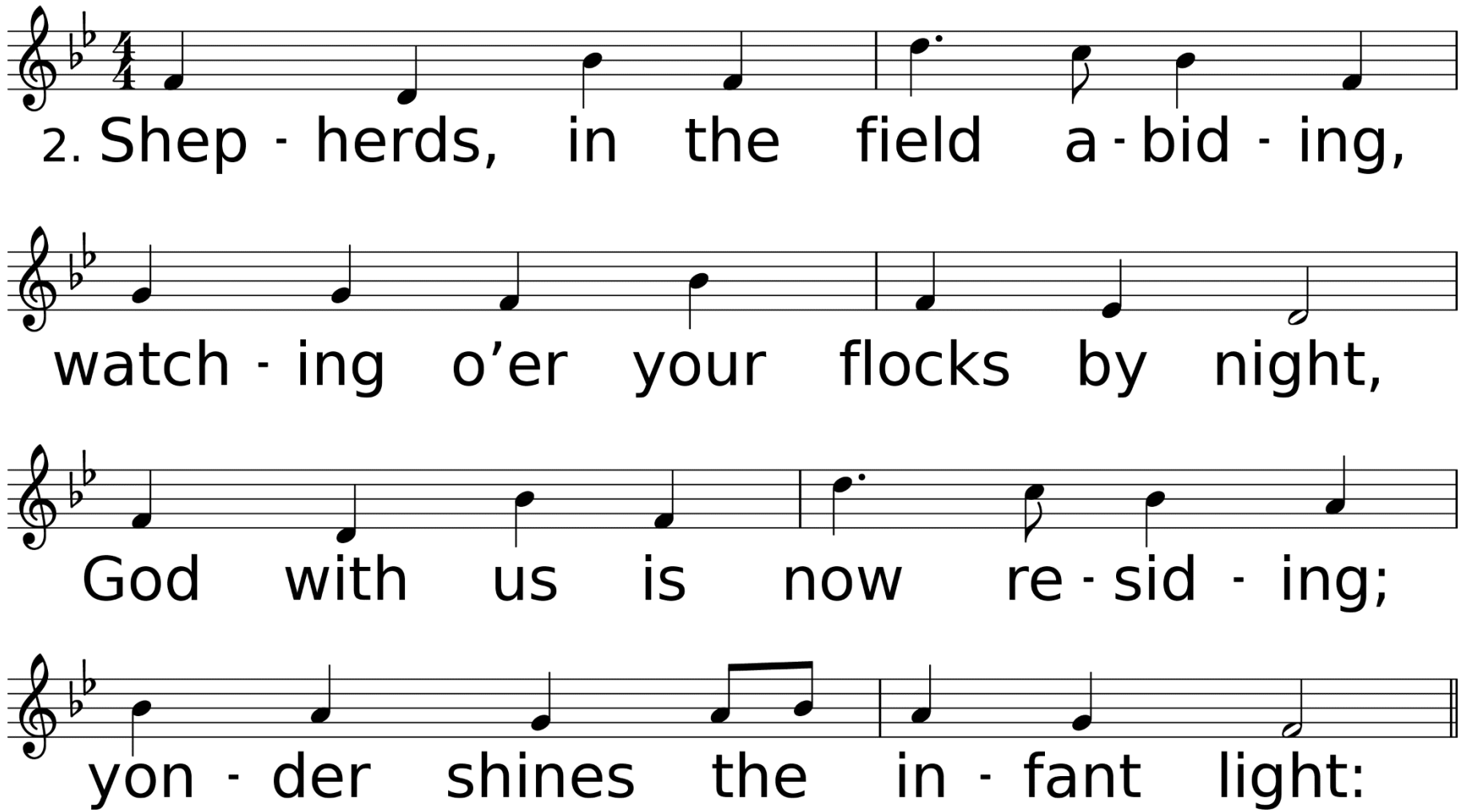
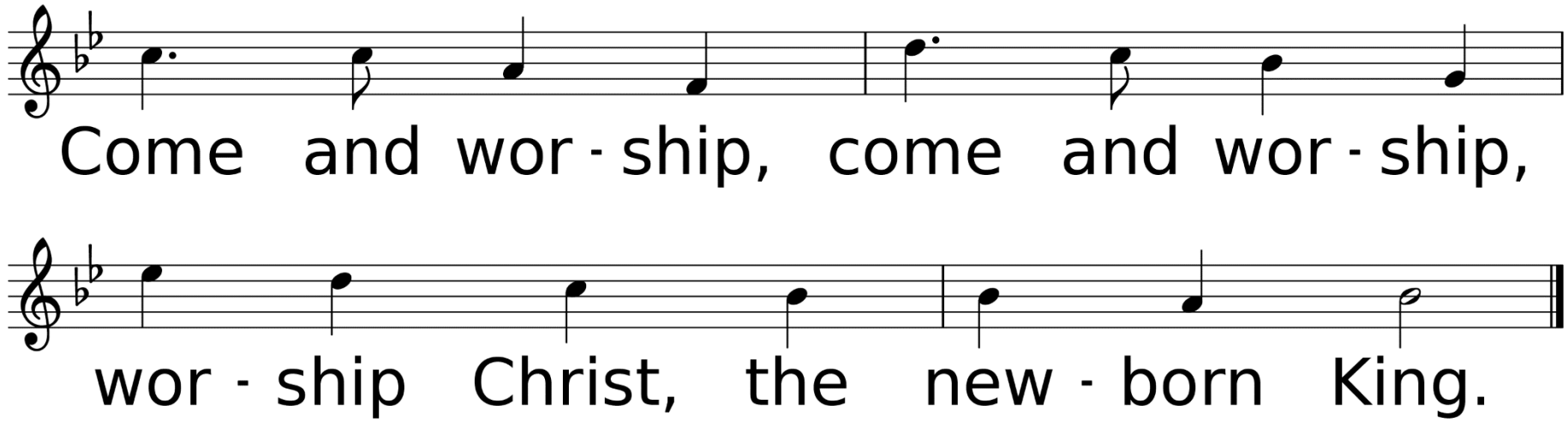


WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 (Lk. 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12; Mal. 3:1)
MUSIC (REGENT SQUARE 87.87.87): Henry T. Smart, 1867


Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,
wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.


2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing,
watch - ing o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now re - sid - ing;
yon - der shines the in - fant light: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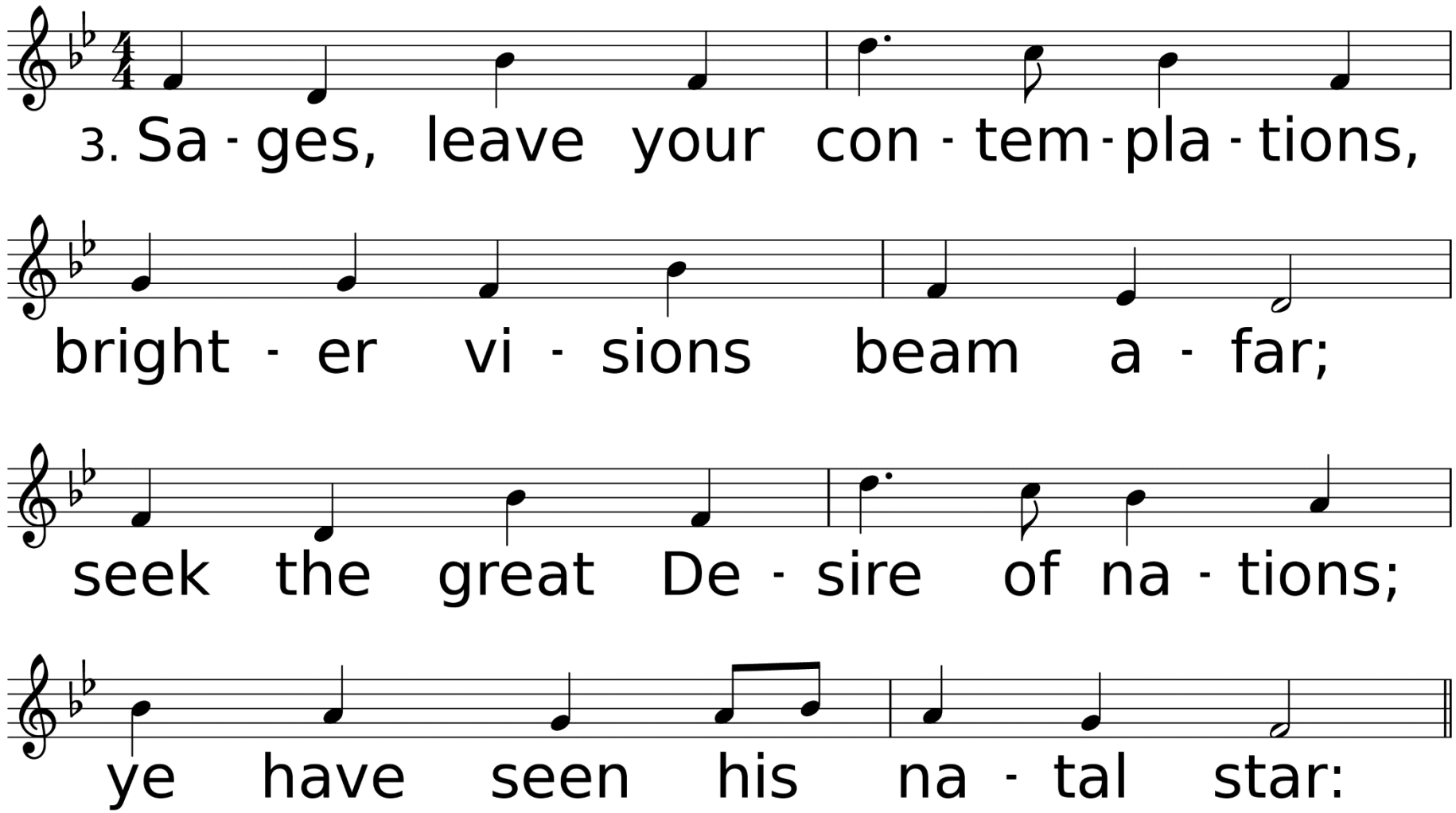
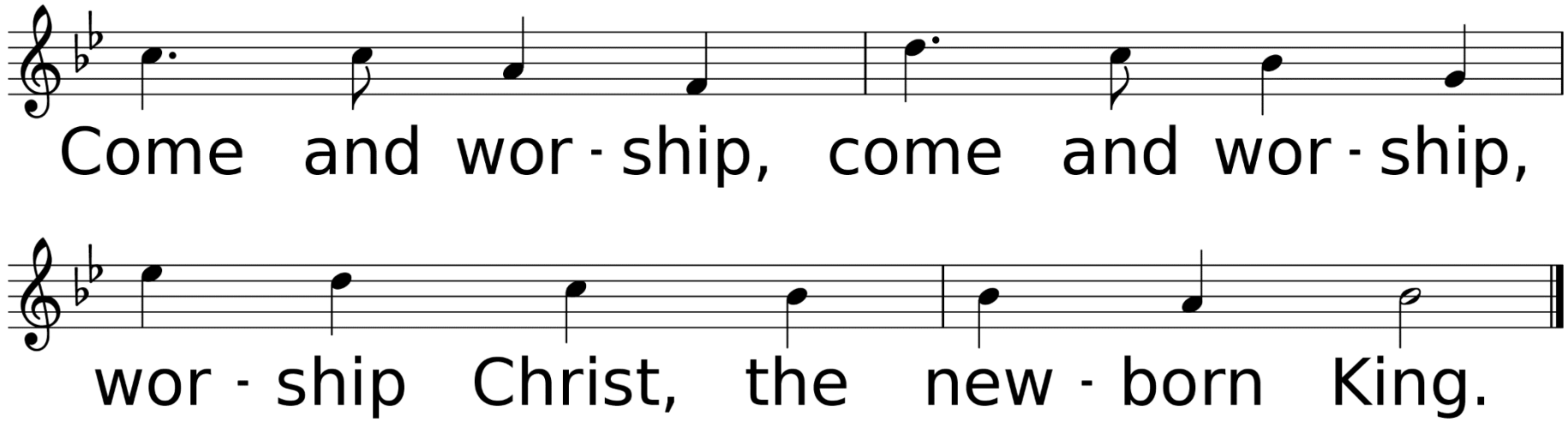

3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions,
bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
ye have seen his na - tal star: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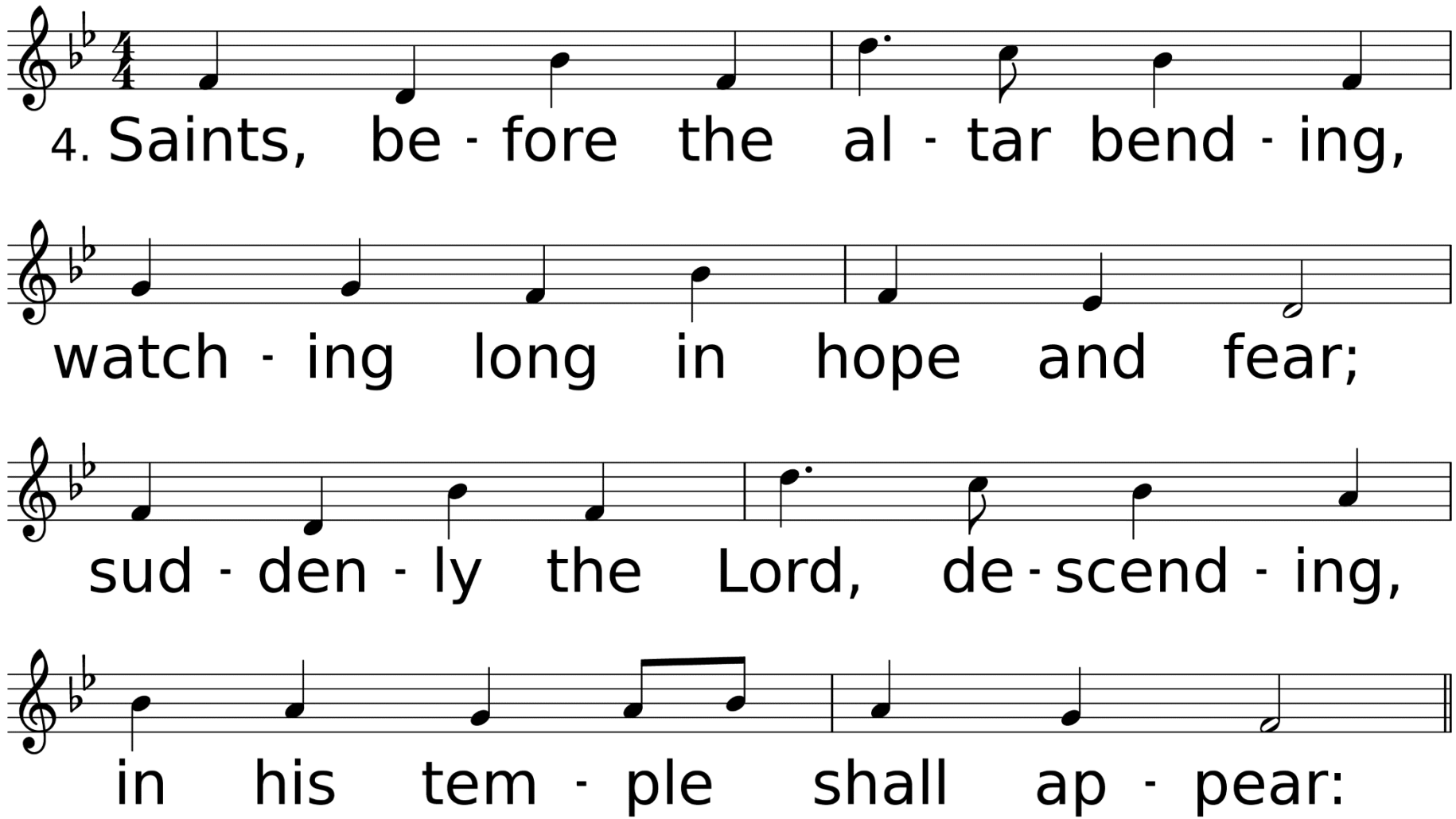
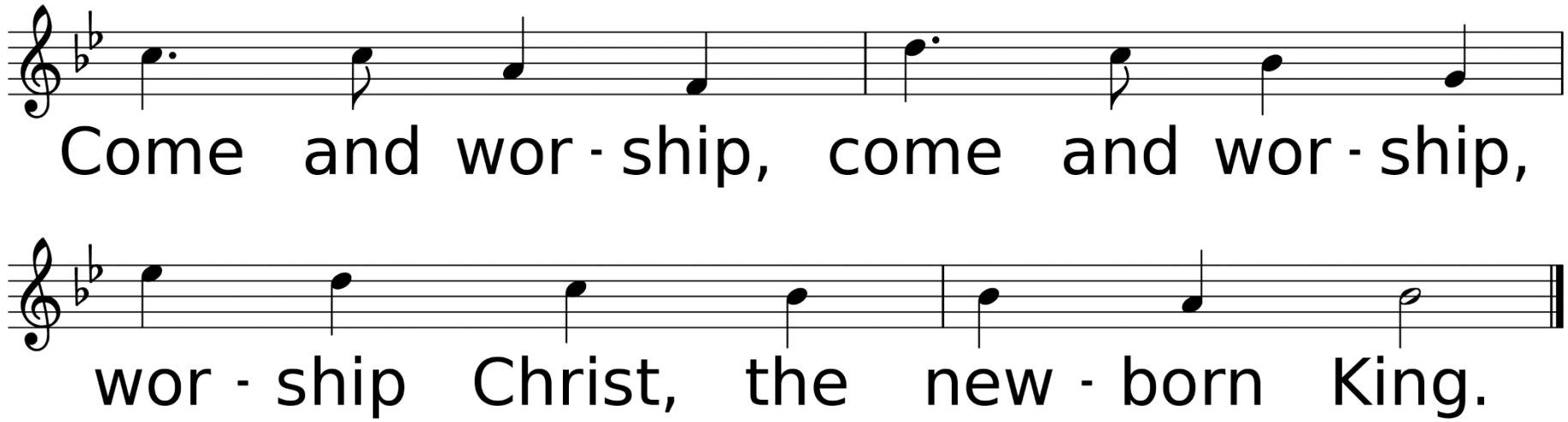
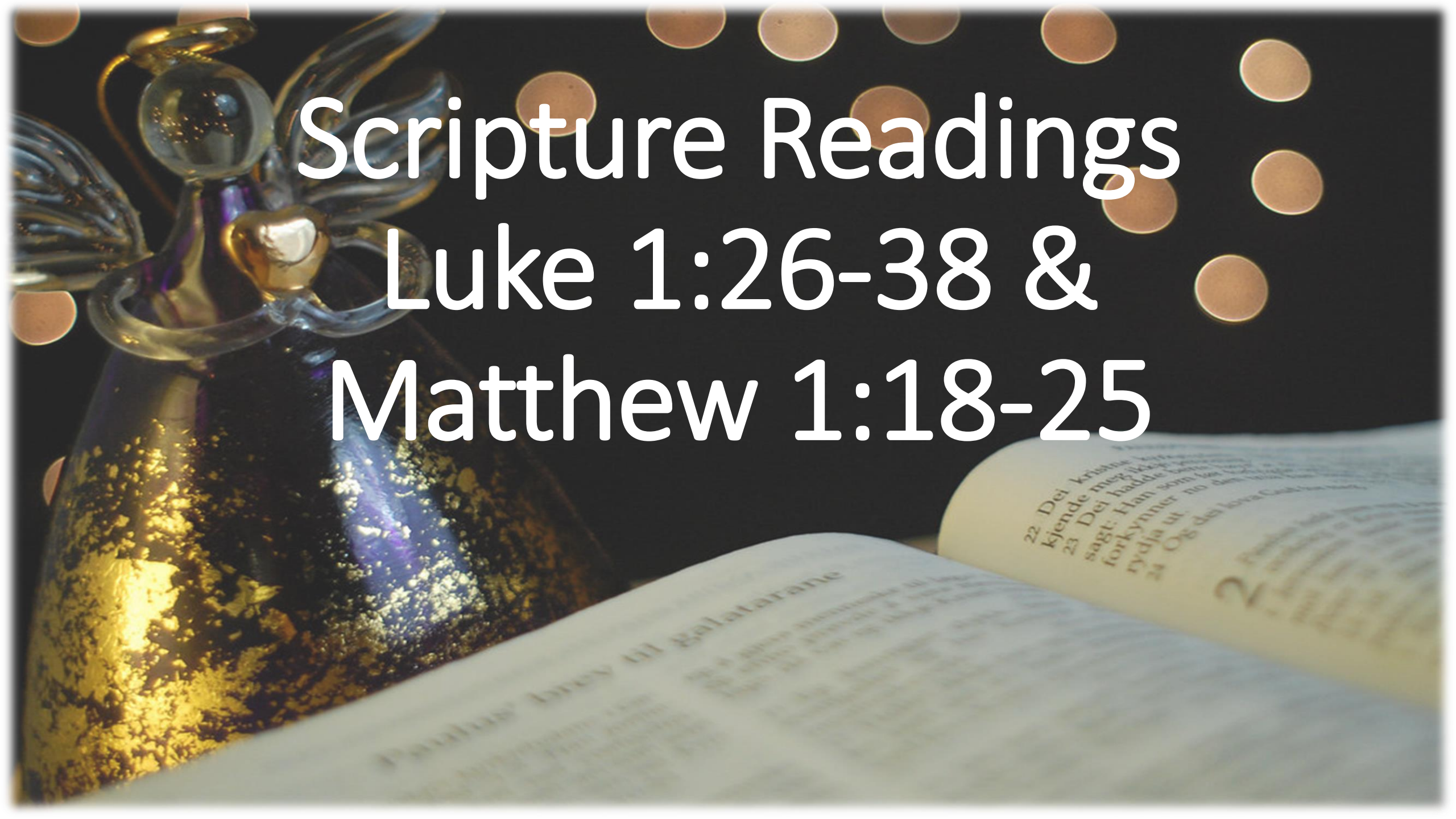
wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.


4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing,
watch - ing long in hope and fear;
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:


Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,
wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.



Scripture Readings Luke 1:26-38 & Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

“Greetings, you who are highly favored!
The Lord is with you.”
Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”
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. 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. For no word from God will ever fail.”
“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son.
And he gave him the name Jesus.

“God’s Relationship with Family – Mary and Joseph”

Sermon

Rev. Laraine Waughtal

*Hymn of Invitation

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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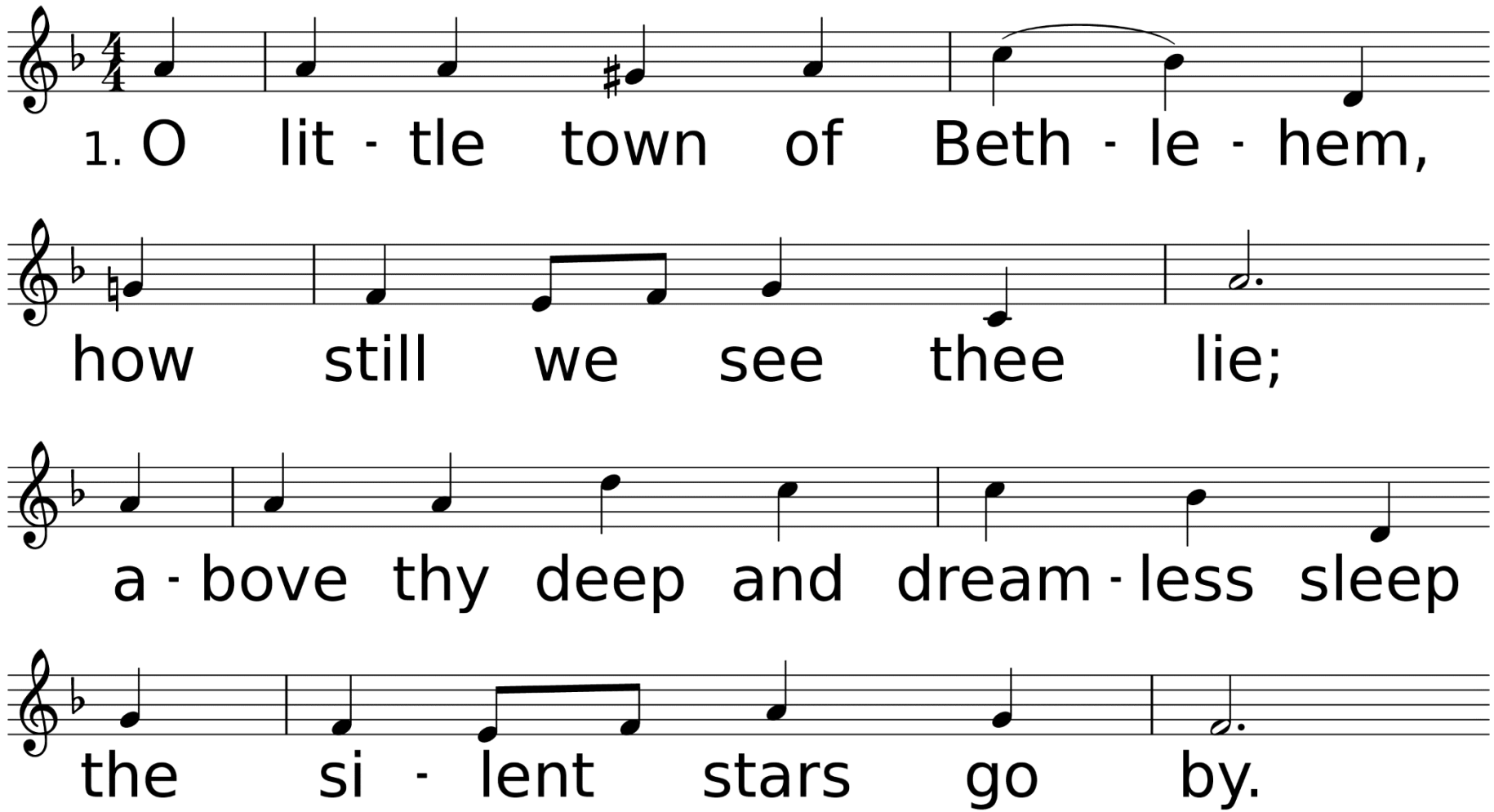
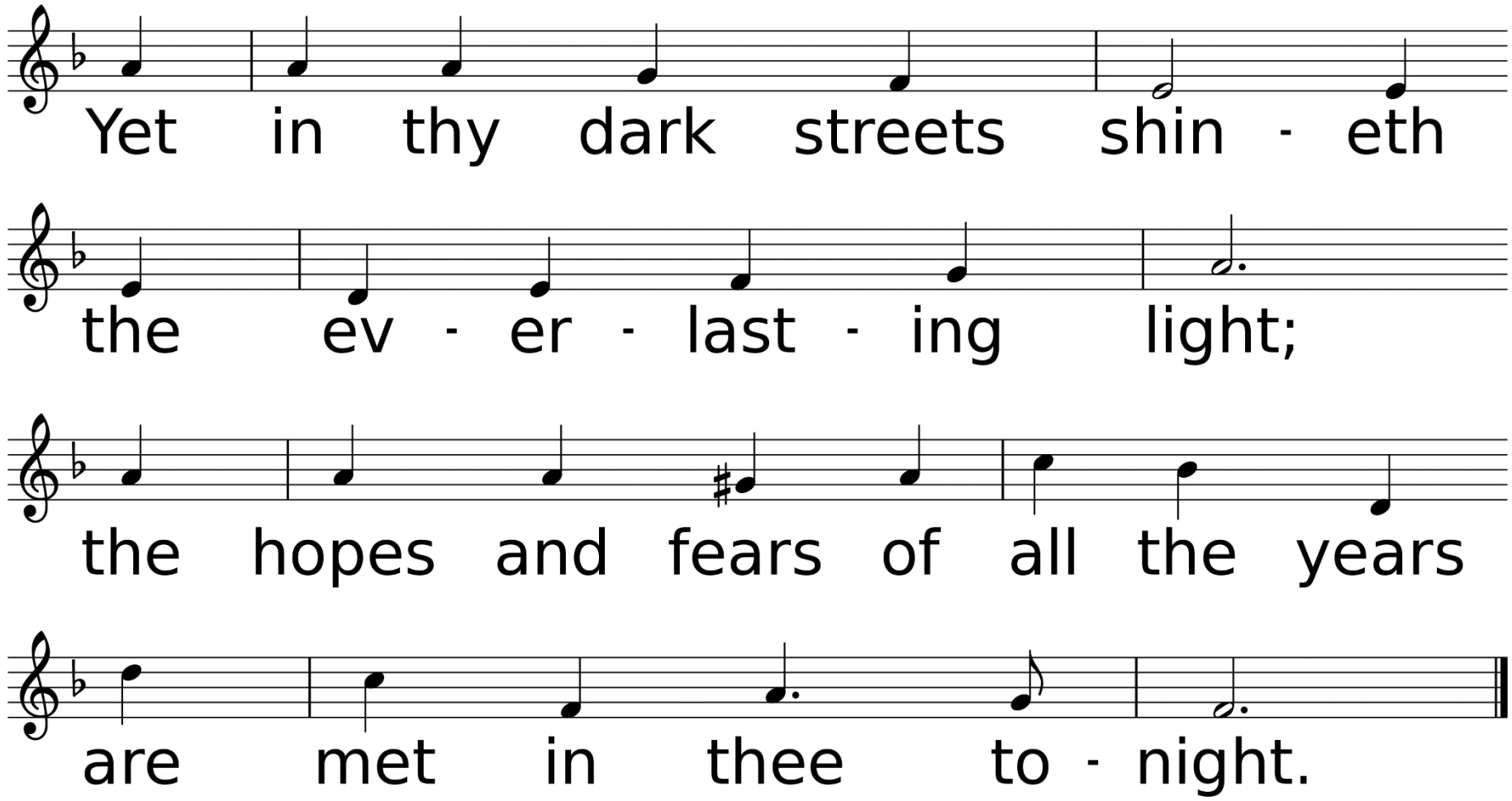
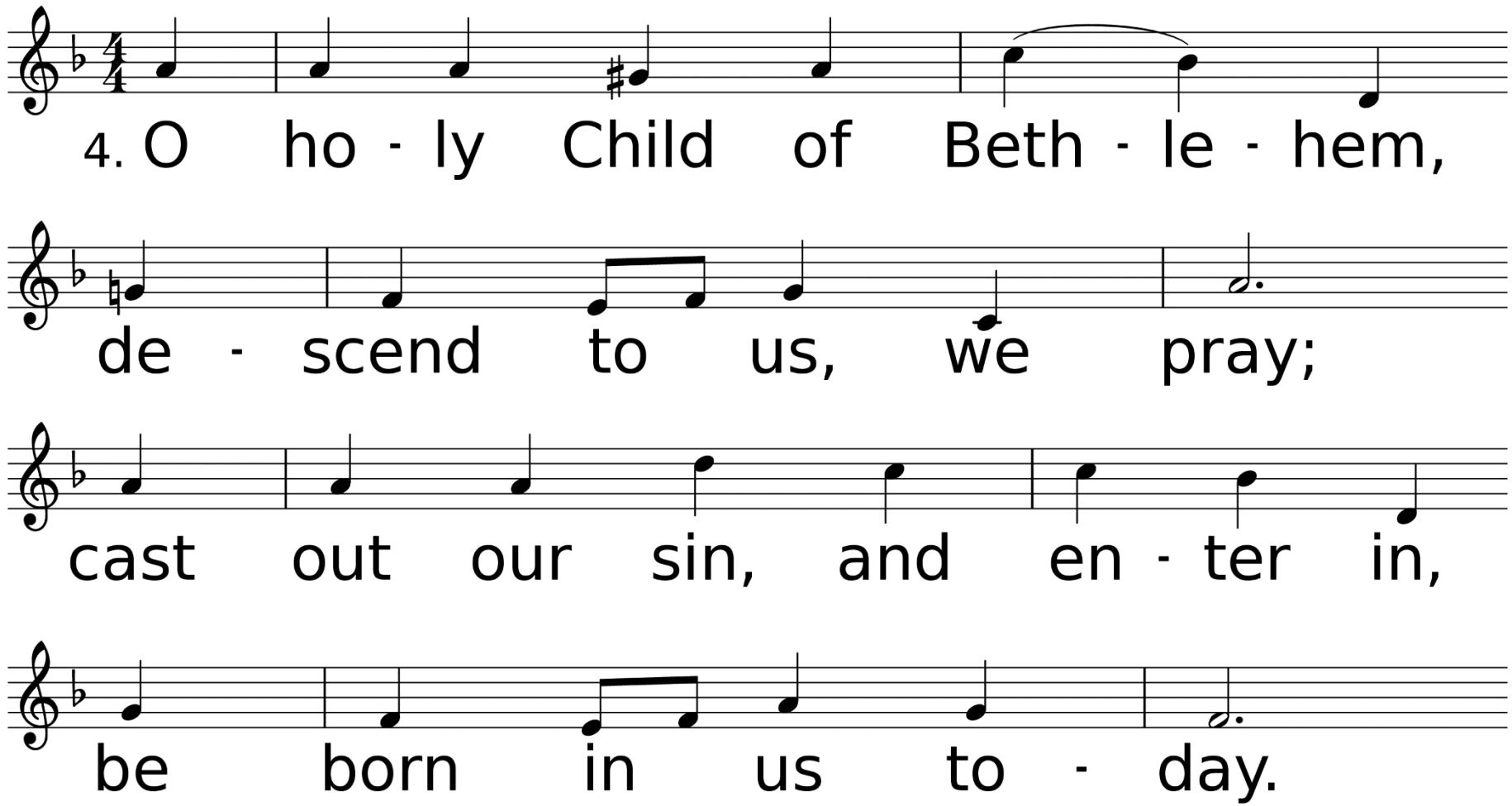
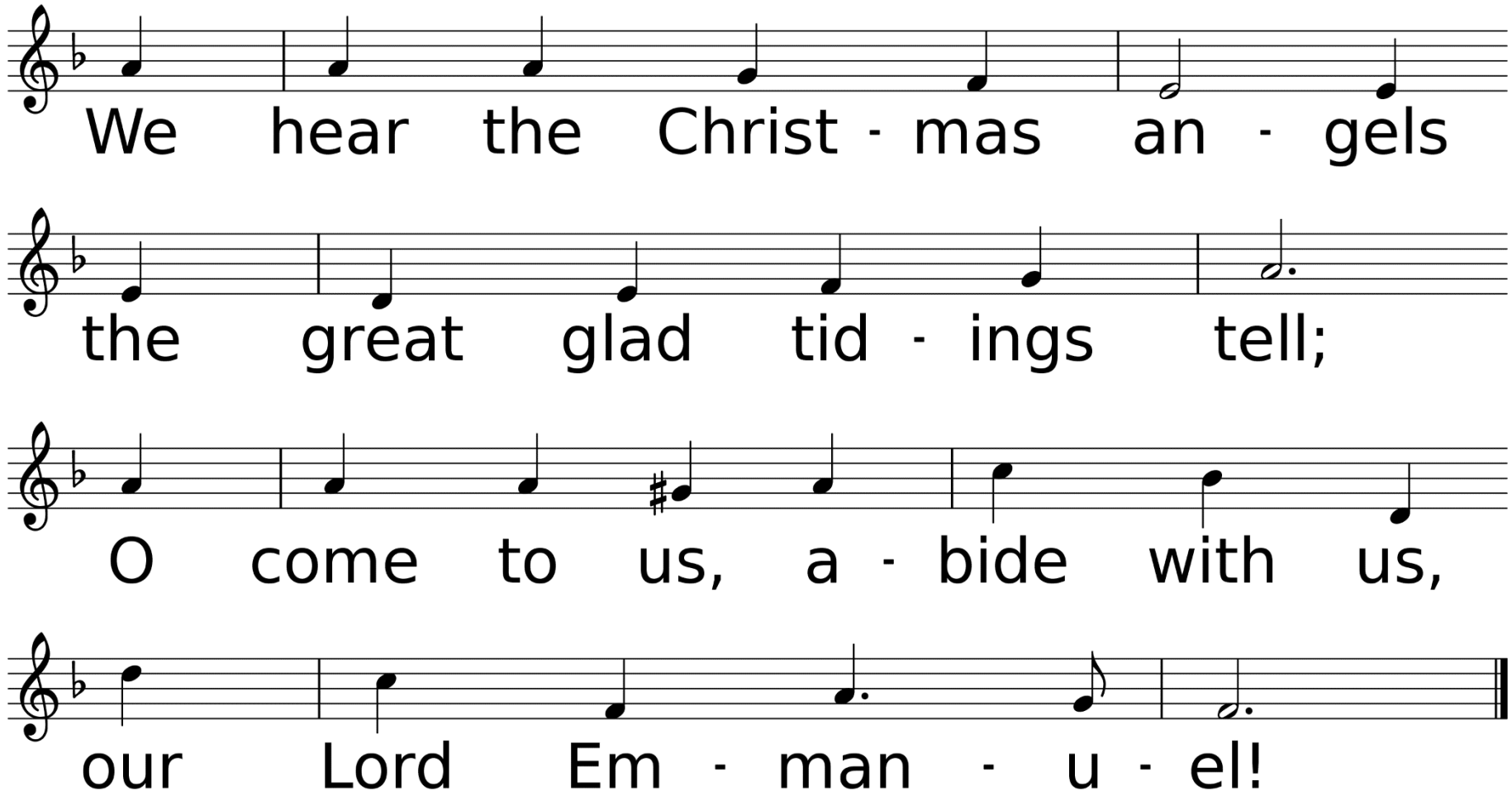


WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
MUSIC (ST. LOUIS 86.86.76.86): Lewis H. Redner, 1868


Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth
the ev - er - last - ing light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee to - night.


4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem,
de - scend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and en - ter in,
be born in us to - day.


We hear the Christ - mas an - gels
the great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us,
our Lord Em - man - u - el!

*Benediction

*Sending Forth *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

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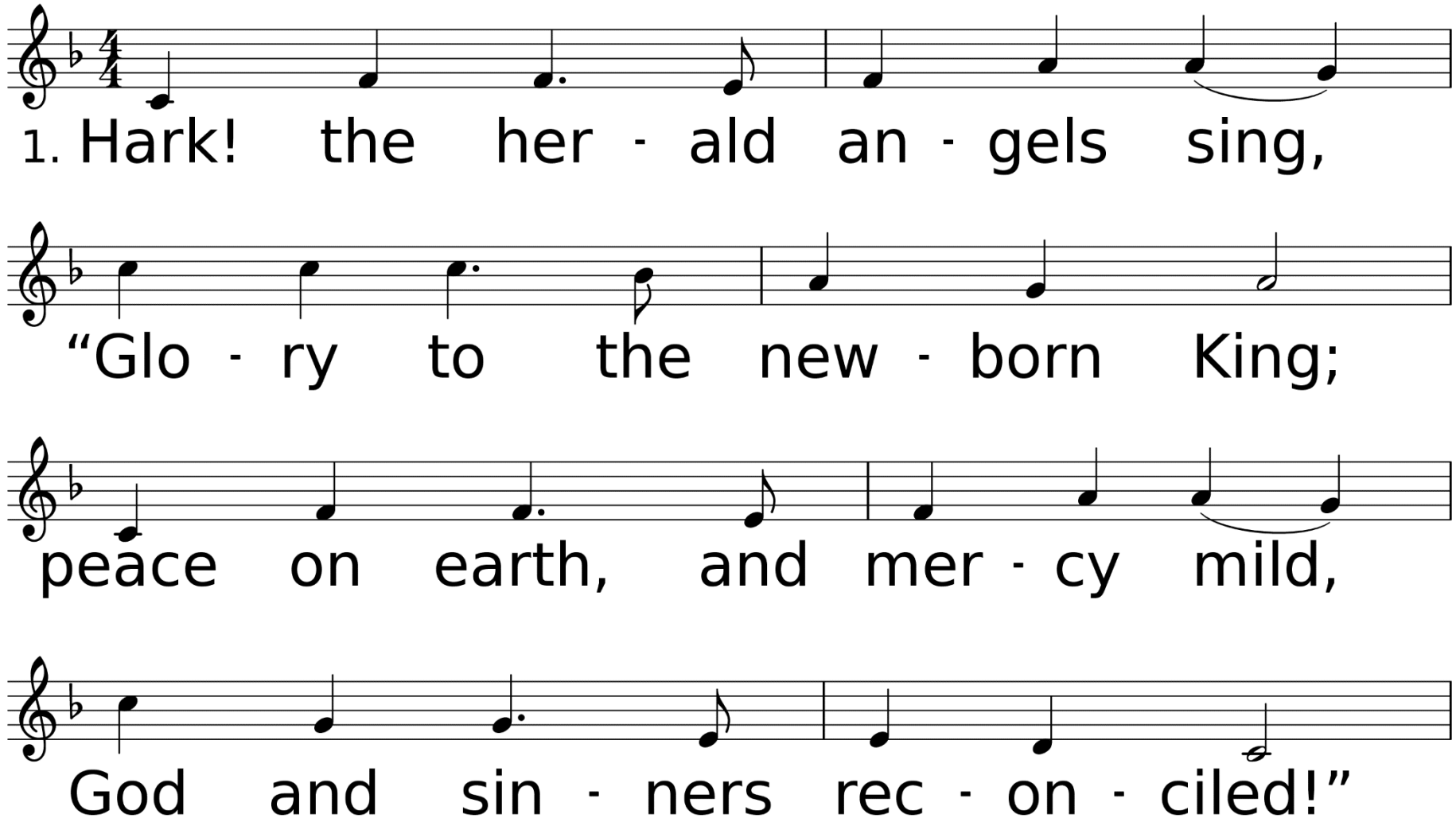
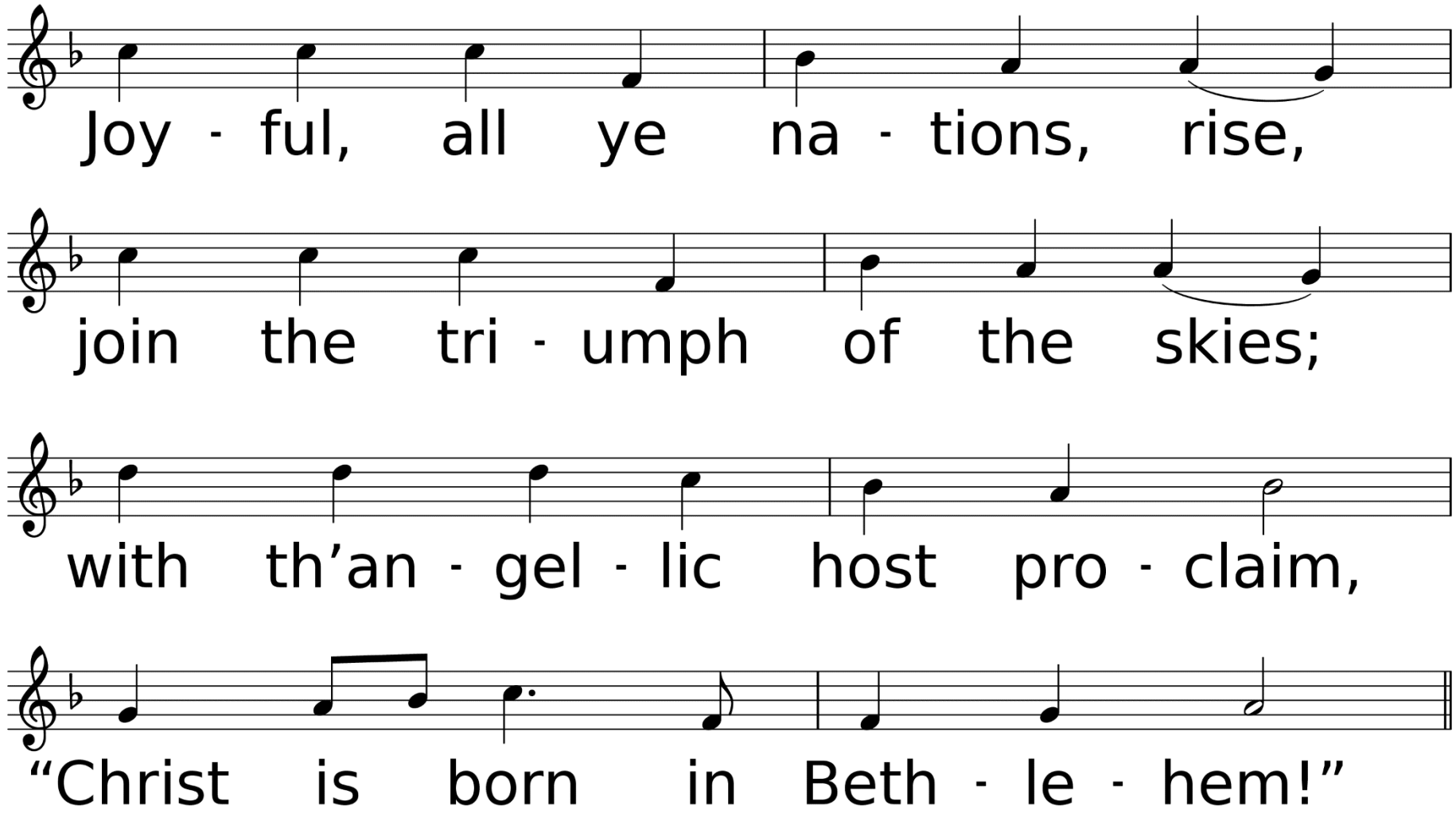
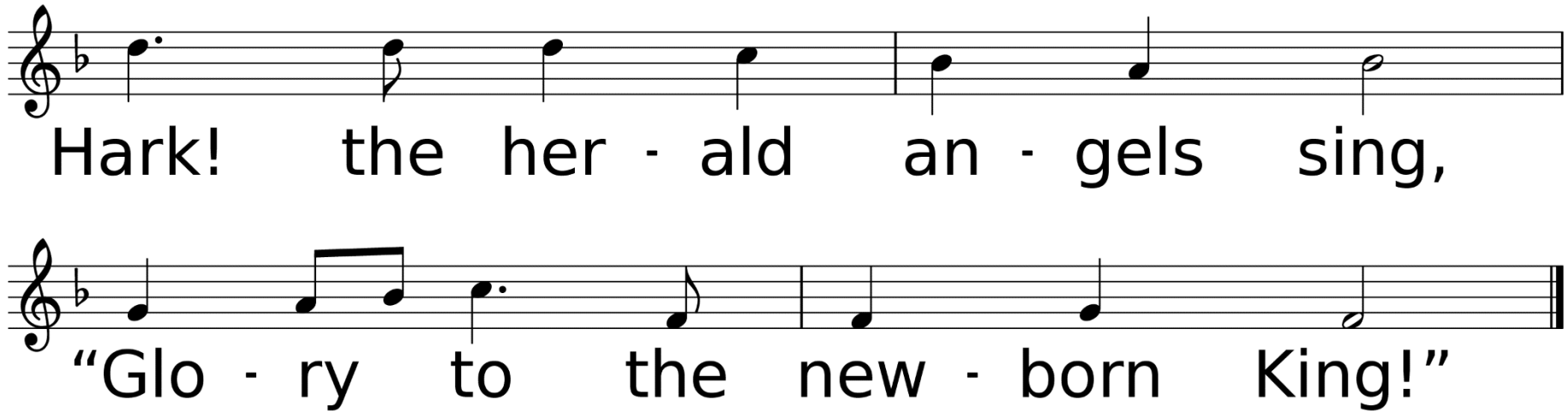
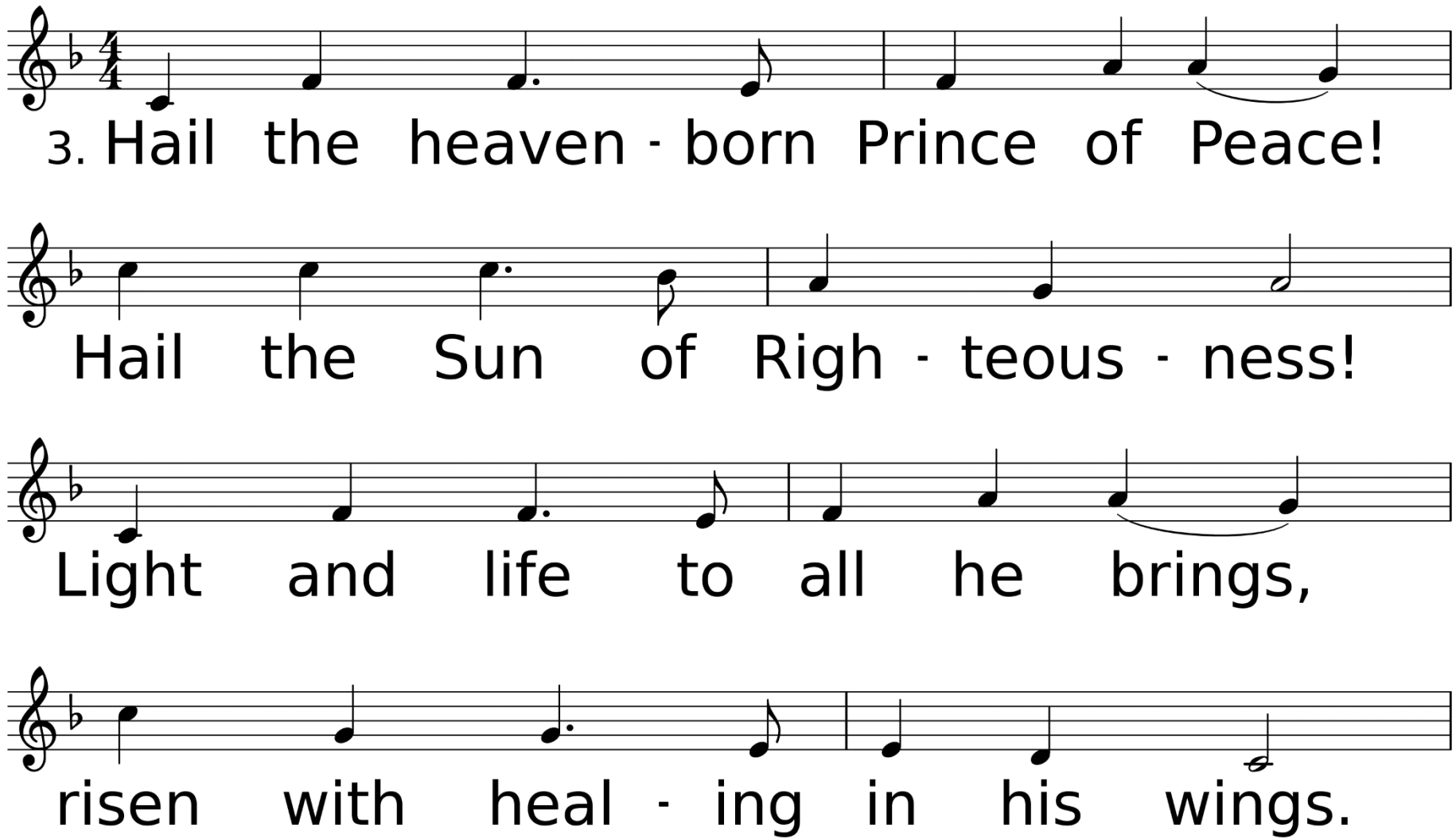
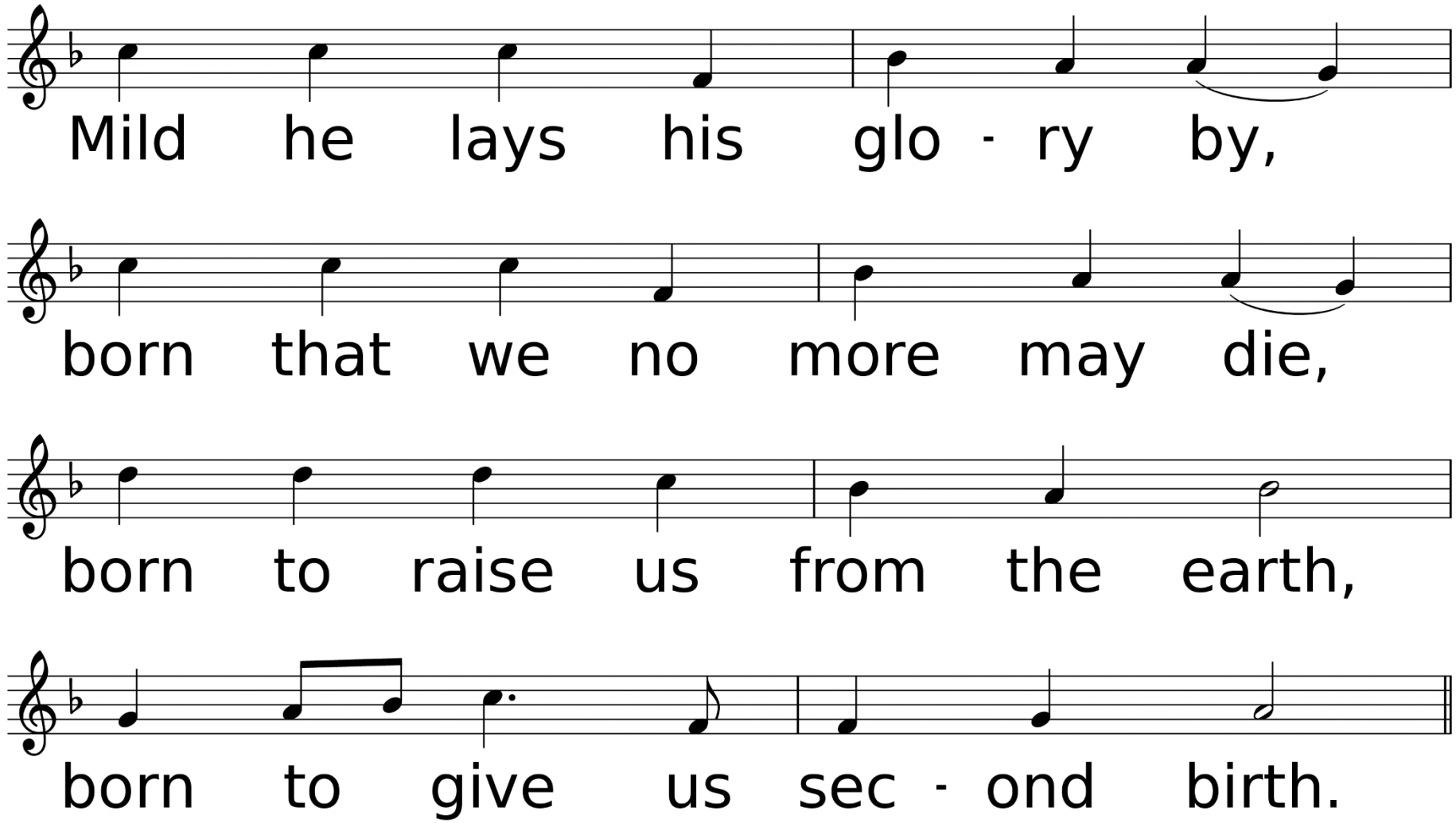


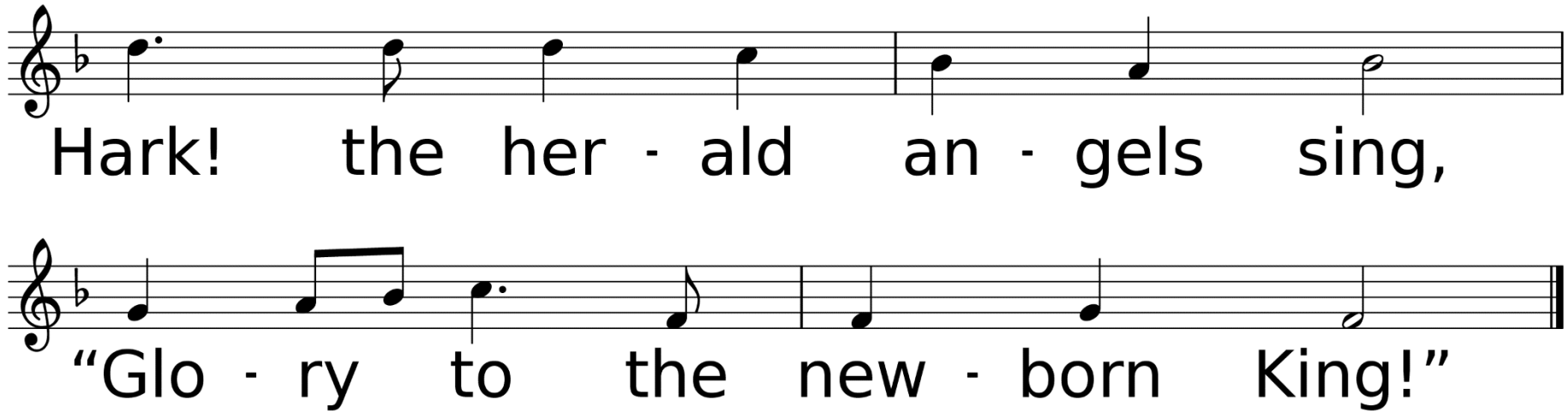
WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753, and others (Lk. 2:8-14)
MUSIC (MENDELSSOHN 77.77 D with Refrain): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
join the tri - umph of the skies;
with th'an - gel - lic host pro - claim,
"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"


Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,
"Glo - ry to the new - born King!"


3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with heal - ing in his wings.


Mild he lays his glo - ry by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us sec - ond birth.


Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,
"Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Thank you for joining us today! Communion is available and the elements have been blessed for anyone who would like to join at the Communion Rail.