

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 31, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

10:30 a.m.

***Please rise, in body or in spirit.**

Gathering Music

Brian, John, and Paul

Welcome

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prelude

The Holly and the Ivy

Susan Brown

***Call to Worship**

Heather Macarthur

Leader: Come, all that are faithful, and all that seek faith.

People: It is the season to sing and rejoice!

Leader: The symbol of new hope and spirit shines, the spirit of peace.

People: And we would follow and find that peace.

Leader: We now have a promise fulfilled by God.

People: That the Christ who is born will call us to a new life of faith and action! Amen

***Opening Hymn**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

No. 143

***Prayer for the Day (unison)**

Heather Macarthur

Living God, moved by the coming of Christ to our lives, we seek to be your people. Help us to live in faithful covenant with you and with one another. Let the peace of Christ guide us, and let Christ's message in all its richness live in our hearts that we may praise you without ceasing. Amen.

Call to Confession

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Oak Hill Community

Eternal God, who can make all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the year now ending. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more of the credit that we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over the past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time for silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 127

Peace

Oak Hill Community

Time for Growing Disciples

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Heather Macarthur

Sermon

Words Matter

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Hymn

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

No. 142

Offering

*You can make an offering online at www.oakhillpcusa.org,
or place it in the plate at the back of the room.*

Oak Hill Community

***Response**

We Give Thee but Thine Own

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.**

Prayers of the People

Oak Hill Community

The Lord's Prayer

Oak Hill Community

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.

Announcements

Rev. Wanda Lawry

***Closing Hymn**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 136

Benediction

Rev. Wanda Lawry

Postlude

He Is Born

Susan Brown

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Thank you for participating today in worship with Oak Hill. Please check our website for more information and updates: www.oakhillpcusa.org.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 you - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

TEXT: Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857
 MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
 8.7.8.7.8.7

127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Jesus, the Light of the World

With a gospel feel

1 Hark! the her - aid an - gels sing, Je - sus, the
 2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise.
 3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;
 4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

light of the world.
 Glo - ry the to
 Join the tri - umph
 Christ, the ev - er -
 Hail, the Sun of

new - born King, Je - sus, the light of the world.
 of the skies.
 last - ing Lord;
 right - teous - ness!

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.

Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright!

O, shine all a - round us by day and by

night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

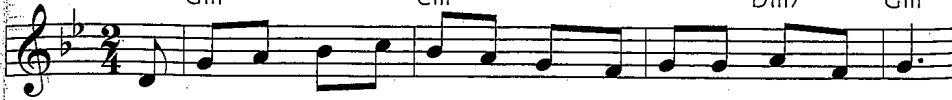
TEXT: Stanzas, Charles Wesley, 1739; ref., George D. Elderkin, 1890
 MUSIC: George D. Elderkin, 1890; arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curennon, 2000
 Music Arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT
 7.7.7.7 with refrain

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'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime 1:42

Capo 3: (Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
Gm Cm Dm7 Gm



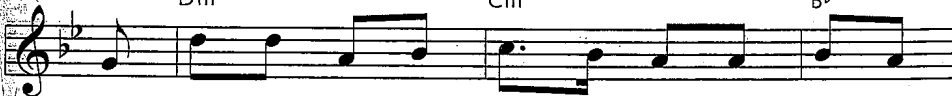
1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had fled,
2 With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found.
3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair
4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel song is true:

(Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
Gm Cm Dm7 Gm



Great Spir-it, Lord of all the earth sent an-gel choirs in-stead.
A rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round.
as was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there.
the ho-ly child of earth and heaven is born to-day for you.

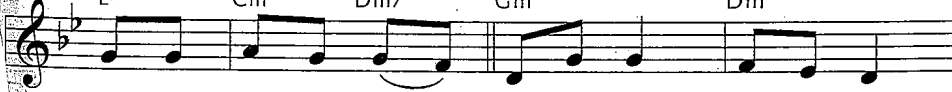
(Bm) (Am) (G)
Dm Cm Bb



Be-fore their light the stars grew dim and wan-dering
But as the hunt-ers brave drew nigh the an-gel
The chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of
Come kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy who brings you

Refrain

(C) (Am) (Bm7) (Em) (Bm)
Eb Cm Dm7 Gm Dm



hunt-ers heard the hymn:
song rang loud and high: Je-sus, your king, is born;
fox and bea-ver pelt.
beau-ty, peace, and joy.

(C) (Bm) (Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
Eb Dm Gm Cm Dm7 Gm



Je-sus is born. In ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This English text preserves the earliest known Canadian hymn, originally written in the Huron language by a missionary, later translated into French, and eventually paraphrased in English. It is set to a French Noël tune old enough to have been used for the original version.

TEXT: Jean de Brébeuf, c. 1641; trans. Jesse Edgar Middleton, 1926, alt.
MUSIC: French folk melody; arr. H. Barrie Cabena, 1970
Music Arr. © 1971 H. Barrie Cabena

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE
8.6.8.6.8.8 with refrain

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$

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!

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,

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

GOTELL II
 7.6.7.6 with refrain