



**CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2018**

WELCOME

*We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!
If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME,
If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.*

Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters.

We offer a digital bulletin that you can download on you tablet at www.mthlc.com/bulletin.html. A nursery is provided for younger children should you want to use it at any time. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome...

PRE-SERVICE CONCERT

- “Night of Silence” Mt Hermon Youth Choir
- “Little Drummer Boy” Guitars, Tanner Addy, Lawson Morris
- “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Mt Hermon Tonechimes
- Mannheim Steamroller Carols: Violin, Sarah Land
- Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Carol of the Bells
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
Ryan Price and Mt Hermon Youth Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.

*Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

PRELUDE

Shepherd’s Pipe Carol

Dale Wood

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.

THE GATHERING

We stand.

We gather on this Christmas Eve in the name of the Father,
✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE

“Alleluia”

J.S. Bach
Chancel Choir

THE WORD

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Gaudete

Arr. Michael Bukhardt
Chancel Choir

A reading from Isaiah continues.

⁶For 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.
⁷His 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.

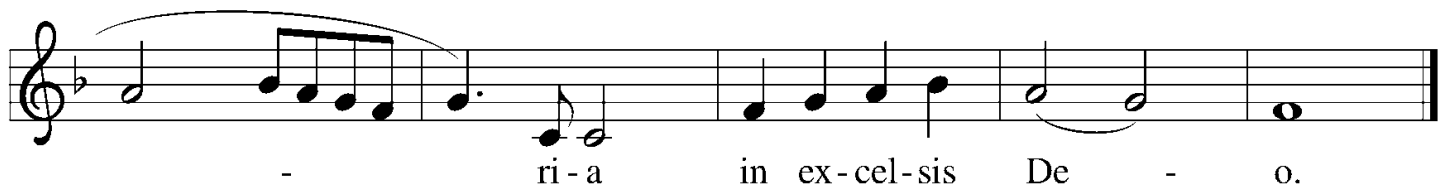
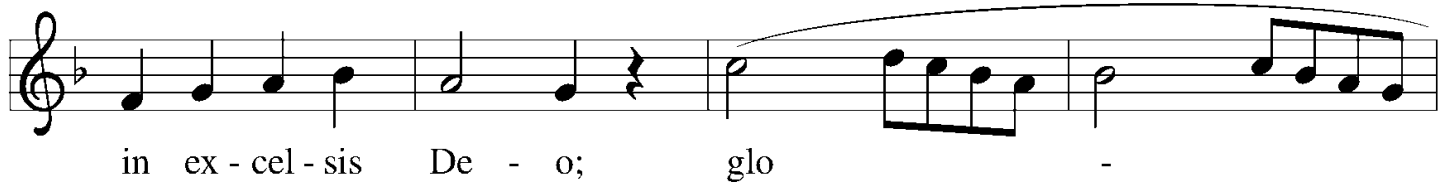
Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.
Thanks be to God!



- 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 tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age

to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

Sweet Little Jesus Boy Robert MacGimsey
Solo, Eleanor Smolen

Please remain seated.

THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH FROM LUKE

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

Luke 2: 1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While 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.

Hush, Now the Baby Lies A-Sleepin' Poorman
Chancel Choir

Luke 2: 8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And 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!”

Mary's Little Boy Child

Jester Hairston
Solo, Wynne Price

Luke 2: 15-20

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

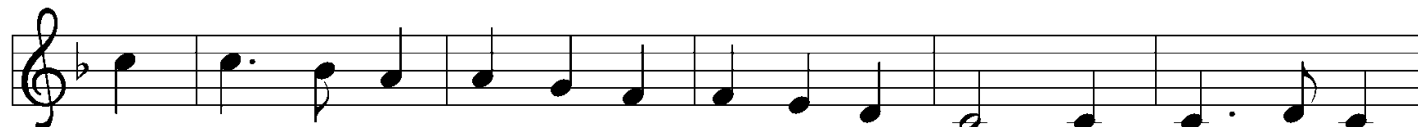
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ!

*The Magnificat from "Holden Evening Prayer" Haugen
Solo, Wynne Price*

RESPONSE HYMN

Away in a Manger

ELW 277



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



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Good News of Great Joy

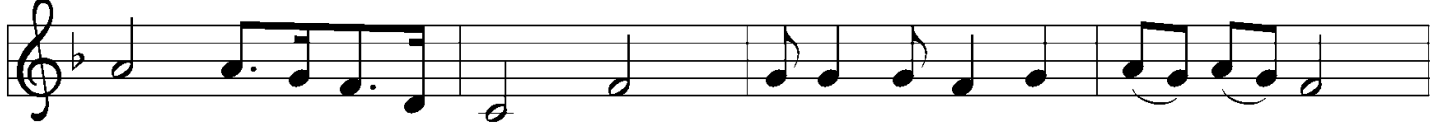
We stand.

HYMN

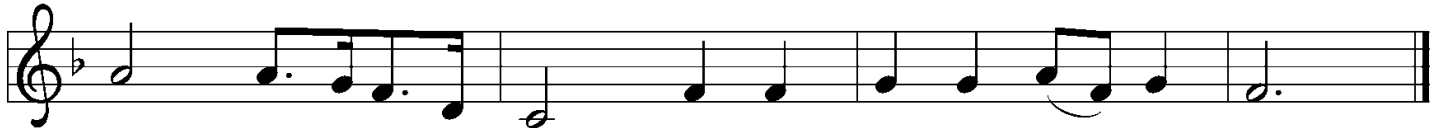
Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

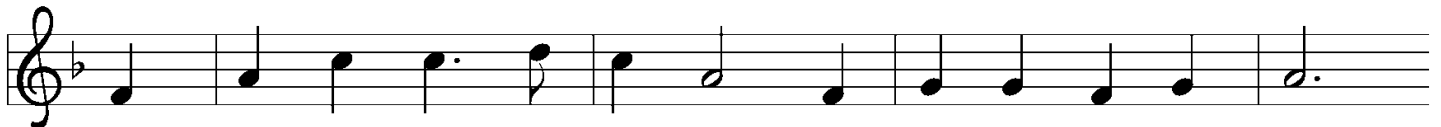
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - 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 lone - 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

After each petition:

Hear us, O God. ***This is good news of great joy.***

The Prayers conclude:

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

We sit.

O Jesu, My Sweet

J.S. Bach
Men's Quartet

THE MEAL

OFFERING

This night we bring our offerings to the manger.

MUSICAL OFFERING *What Child is This*

Tornquist

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may make a contribution any time by visiting www.mthlc.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

Please also take this time in worship to complete the pew registers.

We stand.

OFFERTORY

Love Has Come

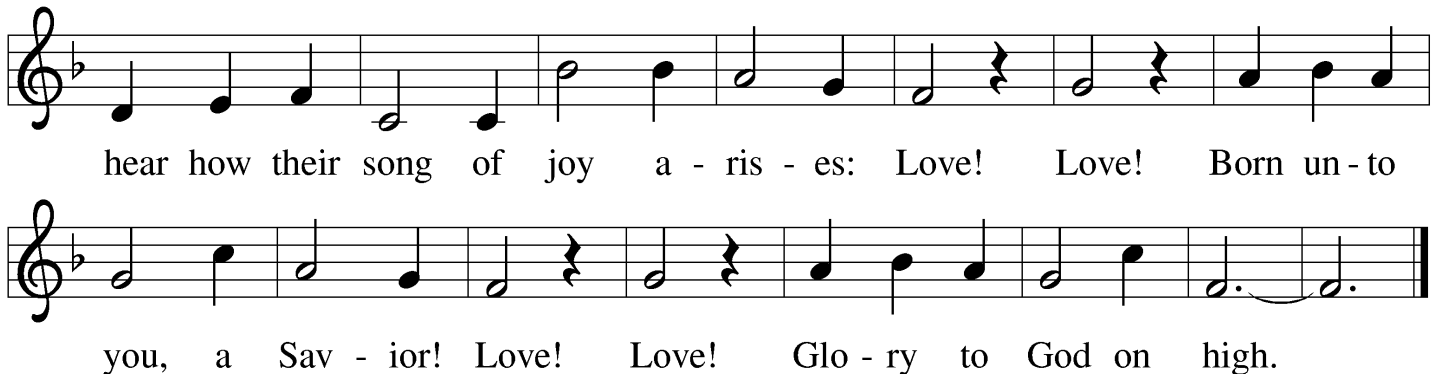
ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,

help us to bless the lives of others

in the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Your Son rules in truth and justice,
victorious and merciful is he!
We praise your majesty lying in a manger,
Jesus Christ, born of Mary and lauded by angels.
Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder.
In this bread, give us the body of Christ.
With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son.
Make known to the whole earth your steadfast love.
Glory to you, O God:
Glory to you, O God.

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth.
Hold the living and the dead in your hands.
In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals,
and revive the dormant plants with your life-giving Spirit.
Glory to you, O God:
Glory to you, O God.

With trumpets and horns and harps,
with the faithful on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we sing to your splendor, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God Most High, Light of the earth, and Judge of the world,
today and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to this Meal. Come down the center aisle to receive the bread. (gluten free wafers are also available.) Then move to the chalice (cup) of wine, dip the bread in the wine. Return to your pew by the side aisle. Those not communing, may cross their arms across their chest and come forward for a blessing. Those who desire communion but who are not able to come forward will be communed first in their pew.

As we feast on the bread of forgiveness and the wine of grace, we listen and sing.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Christmas Hallelujah

Cohen
Solo, Eleanor Smolen

Mary Did You Know?

Lowry/Greene
Duet, Ryan Price and Regan Anthony

What Child is This

ELW 296



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, peas - ant, king, 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!

A Strange Way to Save the World

Clark, Harris and Koch
Solo, Ryan Price

After everyone has communed and the Table is cleared, we stand.

BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

***On this day, O God, you gave us
Christ the Son to save us.***

***As you sent the one foretold,
send us now with good news for all people.
Let the gladness of this feast have no end
as we share with others the joy that fills us;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.***

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

The pastor will take the light from the Christ Candle which is the center candle in the Advent Wreath. That same light will be given to the ushers. The light of Christ will be passed to all worshippers. Please hold the lit candle upright and allow your neighbor to touch their unlit candle to your light. Our candles will remain lit as we sing Silent Night.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Individual candles are extinguished.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



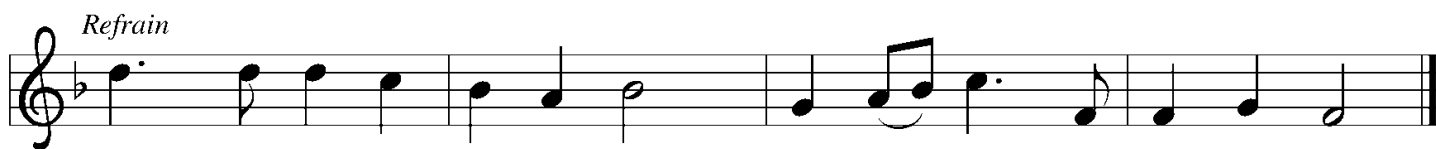
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

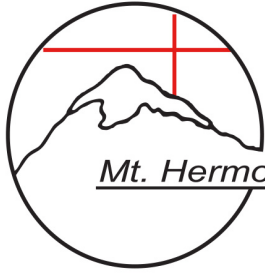
POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus from "Messiah"

G.F. Handel

SERVING THIS EVENING

Presiding Pastor	Rev. Gina D Metze
Cantor	Ms. Ruthie Brannen
Greeter	Al Stevens
Crucifer	Wynne Price
Acolytes	Tanner Addy, Connor Eargle
Lector	Alyson Price
Communion Assistants	Ronnie Fulmer, Breanna Metze, Dion Metze
Children's Sermon	Pastor Gina
Altar Guild	Angie Hydrick, Jennifer Price, Linda Waters-Hamilton
Ushers	Ronnie Fulmer, Fran Bouknight, Ricky Bouknight, Cindy Price
Musicians	Mt Hermon Chancel Choir Mt Hermon Youth Choir
Soloist	Jeff Jacobs, Wynne Price, Eleanor Smole, Ryan Price, Regan Anthony
Violinist	Sarah Land
Guitarists	Ryan Price, Buddy Hydrick, Austin Price, Josh Koon
Percussion	Jerry Price
Mt Hermon Tonechimes	MacKenzie Burns, Hayden Eargle, Sam Koon, Brayden Morris, Spencer Price, Audrey Smolen



Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church

3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
office@mthlc.org 803.794.6430
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

STORY OF “SILENT NIGHT”

The song was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf, a village in the Austrian Empire. A young priest, Father Joseph Mohr, had come to Oberndorf the year before. He had written the lyrics of the song "Stille Nacht" in 1816 at Mariapfarr.

The melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber, schoolmaster and organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf. Before Christmas Eve, Mohr brought the words to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the Christmas Eve mass. Some accounts say that the reason Gruber was asked to compose it for guitar was that the church organ was discovered to not be working. In any case, together they performed the new carol during the mass on the night of 24 December.

***Merry Christmas to you and your family from the
Mt Hermon Family. Come and worship!
Sunday morning worship at 9:00 am***