



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 28, 2025 | 11:00 A.M.

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Bold text is read  
by the congregation.**

**\*Asterisk indicates when to  
rise in body or in spirit.**

**Please sign the friendship pad  
so we may take note of your  
presence and you may greet  
your neighbors by name.**



### PRELUDE

FUM, FUM, FUM

ARR. MARK HAYES

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

WHITNEY GETMAN

In the quiet after the angels' song,  
we come to worship the Word made flesh.

**In the days after the feast, when gifts are unwrapped and routines return,  
we linger at the manger, unwilling to rush past the miracle.**

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Christ has been born for us—Emmanuel, God with us.  
Let us worship God, who has drawn near in love.**

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE REVEREND DAVID J. POWERS

Gracious God,  
in the glow of Christmas joy,  
we confess how quickly we move on.

**We hurry past the wonder of your coming,  
distracted by what is next,  
forgetful of what has already been given.**

You came to us in vulnerability and love,  
yet we cling to control and self-sufficiency.

**You entered our world in humility,  
yet we remain captive to fear, pride, and indifference.**

Forgive us, O God.  
Slow our restless hearts.

**Teach us to dwell with you,  
to receive the gift of your presence,  
and to live as people shaped by the grace of the incarnation.**

*(Silent Confession)*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

REV. POWERS



## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 113

GLORIA



*Passing of the Peace* is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.



*At this time*, three-year-olds to kindergarteners are welcome to proceed to Worship and Wonder with an adult.



## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

REV. POWERS

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

## SHARING THE LIFE AND MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

REV. POWERS

# PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

REV. POWERS

### LESSON I

GENESIS 22:15-18

CAROL NO. 123

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR  
verses 1 & 5

CAROL

### LESSON II

MICAH 5:2-5

CAROL NO. 115

AWAY IN A MANGER

MUELLER

### LESSON III

MATTHEW 1:18-25

CAROL NO. 143

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

REGENT SQUARE

### LESSON IV

LUKE 2:8-15

CAROL NO. 119

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN

### LESSON V

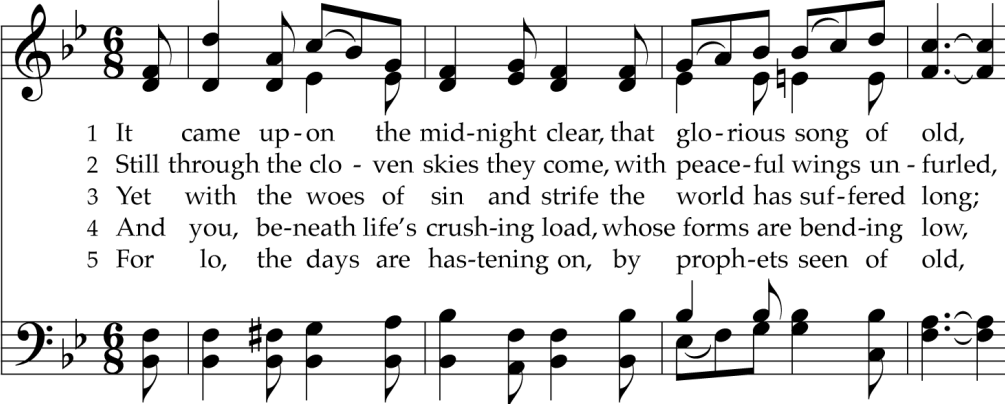
LUKE 2:16-20

CAROL NO. 146

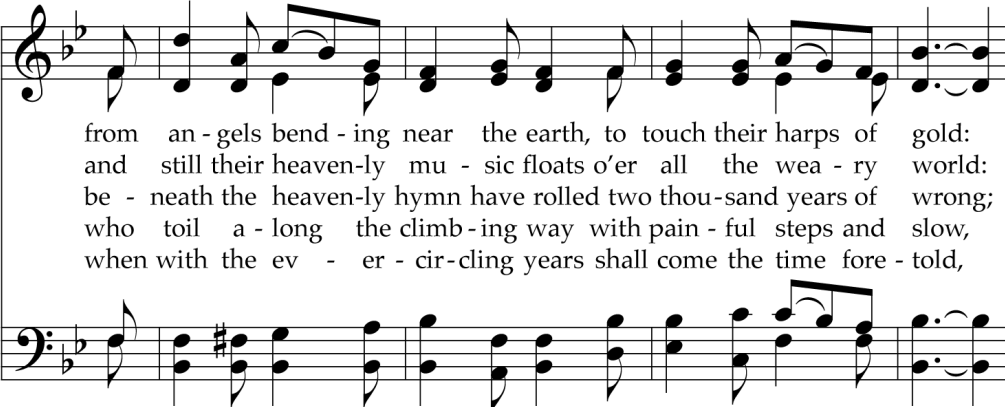
GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

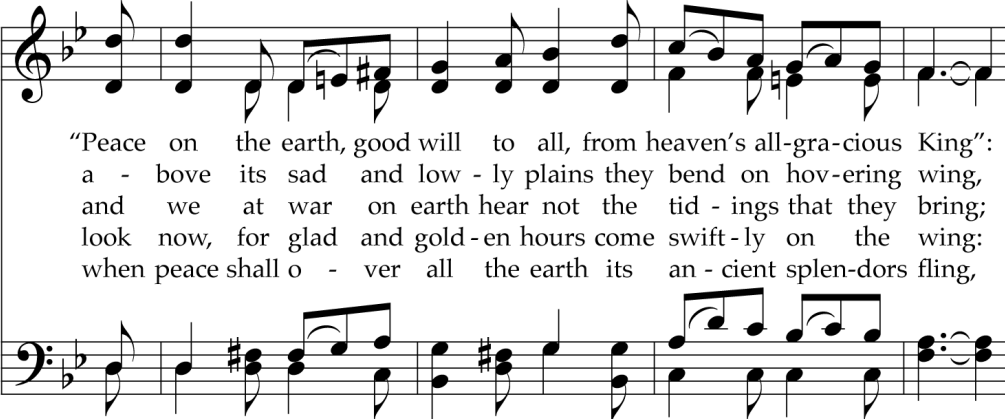
## 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

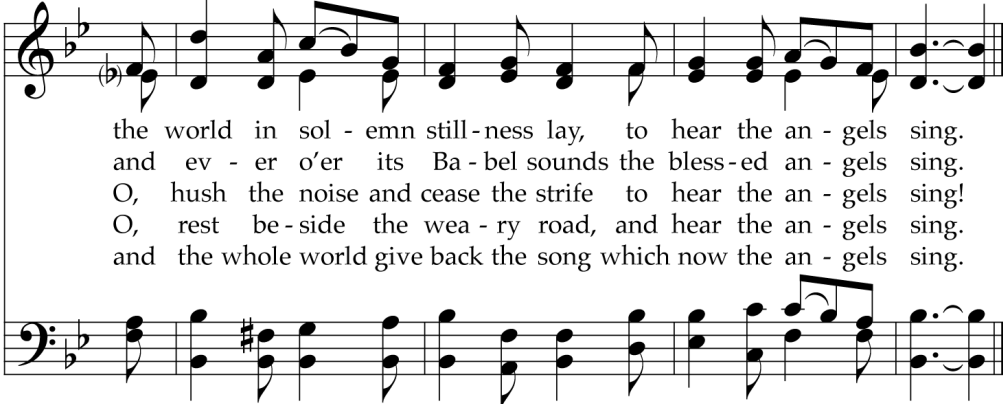


from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH




the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## 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 night.  
 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.

## 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,

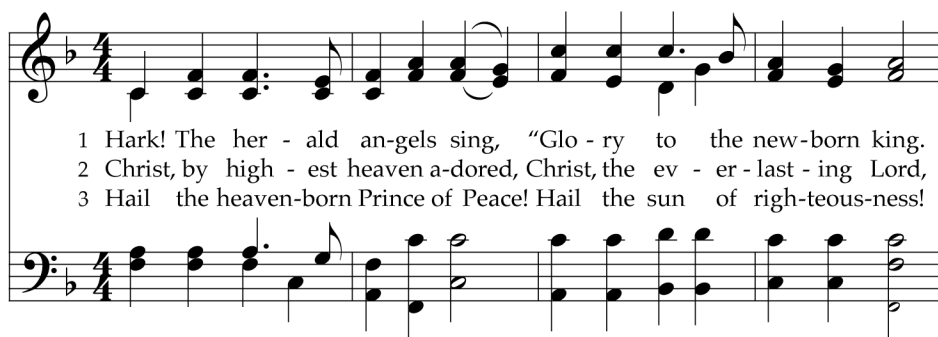
all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - 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."

# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



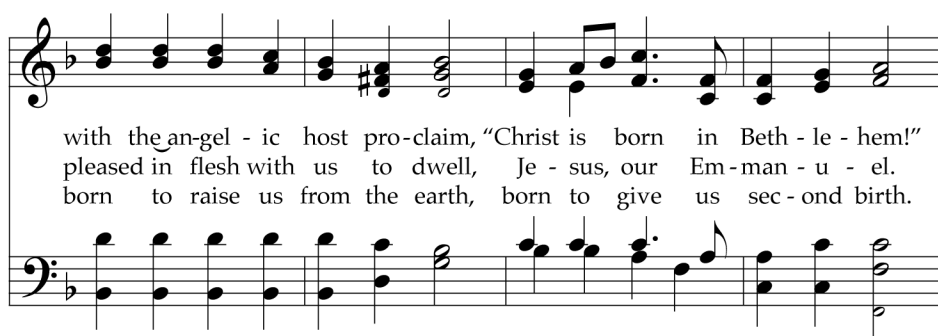
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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



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



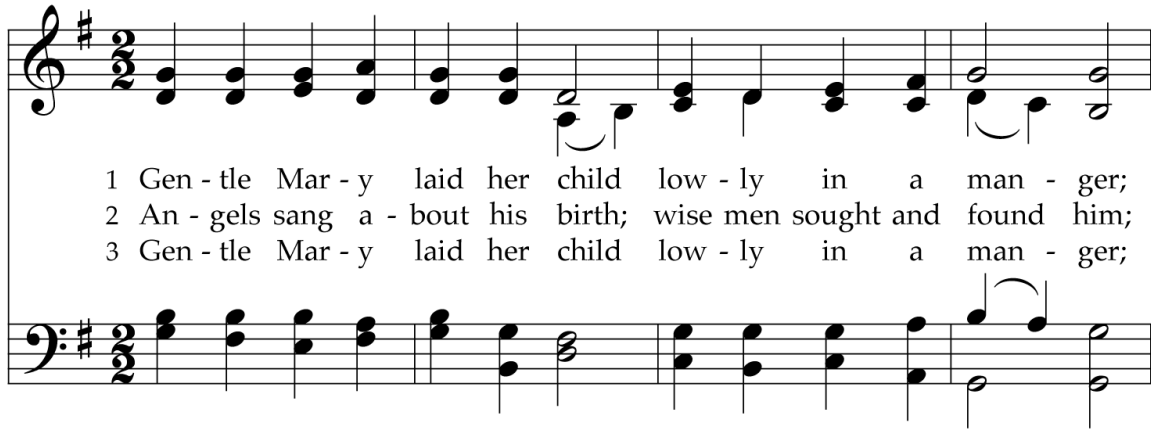
with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



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

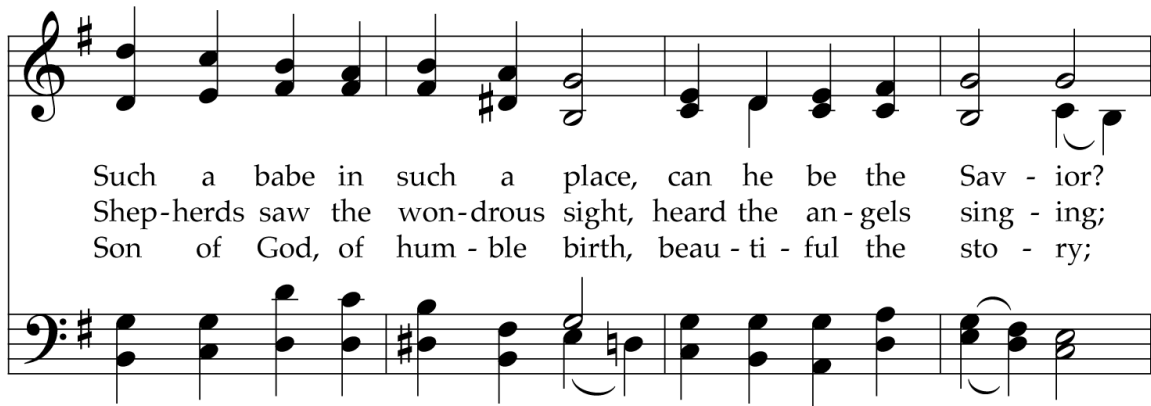
## Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146



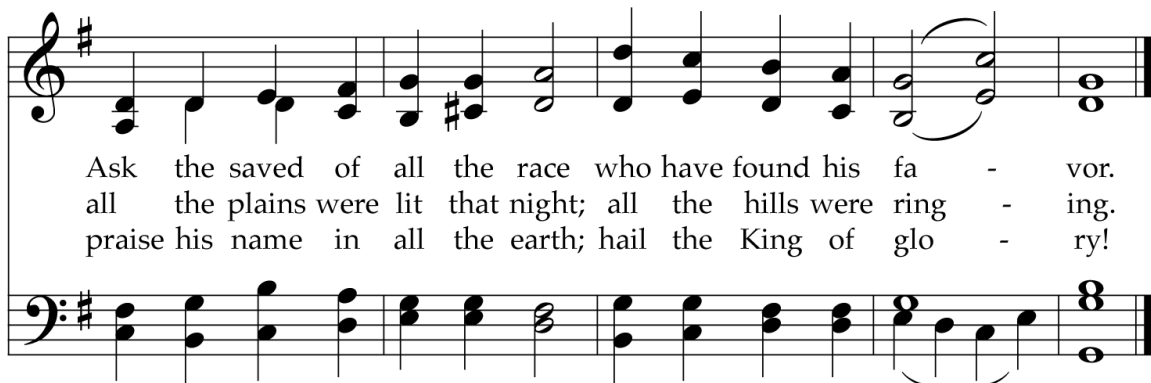
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.  
heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.  
he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.  
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.  
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")



During this time, we invite you to continue your support of the church and her mission. Online giving is available through Realm or through the mail. Those in the sanctuary may place their offering in the plate as it is passed.



# RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

JESSICA JOSHI

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

ARR. MARK HAYES

KALLEN ESPERIAN, SOPRANO

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter long ago.

What shall I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wiseman, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him, give Him my heart.

\*RESPONSE

PRaise GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Christ all crea - tures  
here be - low Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more Praise Tri - une God whom we a -  
dore Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SEND IN GOD'S SPIRIT

\*BENEDICTION

REV. POWERS

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 136

GO TELL IT

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

POSTLUDE

TOCCATA ON ADESTE FIDELES

RICHARD PURVIS



## 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!

*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,


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.

*to Refrain*

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.

## WELCOME NOTICES

**Welcome to Idlewild!** We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to Idlewild, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At Idlewild, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

**Children are always welcome in worship.** In addition, childcare for children newborns—3 years is available in the Jones Building in Room 153. Children of all ages are invited to pick up a worship packet in the main hallway that can be utilized to enhance their worship experience. During the sanctuary service there is a special *Time with the Younger Church*. After, children ages 3 years— kindergarten may go to *Worship and Wonder* on the third floor of the Jones building.  **If you would like your child to attend *Worship and Wonder*, registration is required** once each semester by scanning the QR code. Parents pick-up children from *Worship and Wonder* following the conclusion of worship.

**New members are received by the Session.** If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Idlewild family. Connect with a Pastor after worship.

**Prayer requests** are prayed daily by the Community Prayer Ministry Team and the Confidential Prayer Partners. If your prayers are confidential, you may call (901-487-6062) or submit them by email to [confidentialprayers@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:confidentialprayers@idlewildchurch.org). Otherwise, you can fill out a Community Prayer Request card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or submit them by email to [communityprayer@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:communityprayer@idlewildchurch.org).

**If you have a hospitalization, or pastoral care need,** please call or text (901) 654-6872. The Pastor on Call will respond as soon as possible. You can also email [pastor@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:pastor@idlewildchurch.org).

## WORSHIP NOTICES

**The bulletin art** is *Good, New* by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell, inspired by Luke 2:1-20. Artist Statement:

*We often link fear and anxiety to bad news. But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe? The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive. The illness goes into sudden remission. Euphoria, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they're often followed by a quiet dread. What now? What could this mean? In Luke's Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart? The word "new" is nestled in "good news"—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings.*

**We welcome Kallen Esperian** as our guest soloist this morning. Our guest musicians are funded by the Cannon Music Trust at Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

**Sanctuary flowers** are given in honor, celebration, or in appreciation of those we love. We appreciate your generosity in providing flowers to adorn our sanctuary for Sunday services. If you are interested in donating, find the registration page at [idlewildchurch.org/flower-dedication](http://idlewildchurch.org/flower-dedication).

**The 11:00 service** is live at [youtube.com/@idlewild.church/streams](https://youtube.com/@idlewild.church/streams). As always, worship is available by way of the radio on AM560, 96.1FM, or 98.5FM. **Music is printed** under Onelicense.net **A-702280**.



IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
[www.idlewildchurch.org](http://www.idlewildchurch.org) | 901-726-4681