



1702 Iowa Street
Davenport, IA 52803
A Congregation of the
Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)

Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2022
Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome!

We are an open and affirming congregation, and a proud member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (covnetpres.org).



People of all gender identities are welcome here, along with their families.

**We are a
Matthew 25 church**



MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25 congregations identify themselves as working toward one or more of three goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

Land Acknowledgement

First Presbyterian Church gratefully acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Indigenous communities who make Iowa and Illinois their home today. The communities we serve through our ministries occupy the traditional homelands of the people of the Kiiikaapoi, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówinj, Peoria, Sauk, and Meskwaki nations. We honor these and numerous Indigenous tribes who first made the banks of the Mississippi River a center for arts and commerce.



Joyeux Noël from the Congo, Steve Evens,
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/babasteve/31844535845/>

Preparation for Worship

We invite you to meditate silently on art, music, and Scripture.

*Worshippers who are comfortable doing so, please stand.

Bold indicates congregational response.

To help you get to know the people sitting in your pew/row, please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbors.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1: 1-12

John 1: 1-14

The Church Gathers To...

Prelude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Alex Gilson

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

Prelude

Sing We Now of Christmas

Marcel Dupré

Our Staff

Rev. Elissa Bailey
 Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala
Bridging Pastors
 Rev. Pat Halverson*
Parish Associate
 Kristy Woodrow
Director of Christian Education
 Sarah Greim & Paula Hartmann
** Interim Christian Ed. Coordinators*
 Matt Bishop
Director of Music
 Alex Gilson
Principal Organist
& Assistant Director of Music
 Linda Bengfort*
Assistant Choral Director
 Kathy Middleton*
Assistant Choral Director
for Children
 Kristine Olson
Finance Manager
 Becky Lopez*
Accounting Assistant
 Susan Parker
Church Administrative Assistant
 Darren Long
Facilities & Custodial Supervisor
 Kevin Wilson
Custodian
 Chad Dean*
Custodian
 Nichole Kerker*
Nursery Coordinator
 Kelley Wohlers*
Nursery Caregiver
 * Part-time employee

First Presbyterian Church
 1702 Iowa Street
 Davenport, Iowa 52803
 Phone: 563-326-1691

Outside office hours, this number
 will go to the pastor on call in case
 of emergency.

For more information, see the
 e-news, church website or
 Facebook www.fpcdavenport.org

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship

from Psalm

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.
 God has remembered
steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

*Hymn #36

In the Bleak midwinter

CRANHA

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter Frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, heav'n can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
 Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow, snow, The
 In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed bliss,
 But His moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
 Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ
 Wor - shipped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.
 what I can I give Him; Give my heart.

Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrews 1: 1-3a

"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom is appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. He is the One who is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, who sustains all things by his powerful word."

Lord God, we kneel at your manger and await your Word in the words; Amen.

Gospel Lesson

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What

has come into being is life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a person sent from God, whose name was John. John came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light; yet the world did not know the light. The light came to what was God's own, and God's own people did not accept the light. But to all who received the light, who believed in the name of the Word, God gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen its glory, the glory as of a God's only Child, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Meditation

Humphrey's First Christmas Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala
by Carol Heyer

Respond to God's Word

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God and Joy Offering

Isaiah 52: 7-9

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted the people, God has redeemed Jerusalem."

We are God's messengers and with our tithes and offerings we bring good news and announce salvation. With gladness, we acknowledge that our God reigns – even over our pocketbooks.

Offertory

The Holly and the Ivy Arr. Richard Walters
Julia Meyer, Diana Miller-Bur, Christine Miller– Soprano, Matt Bishop - Piano

To share your treasure, you may use the offering plate that is placed in the narthex; or you may visit the church website at www.fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now;" or you may use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEqm>; or you may mail your check to the church office; or you may donate directly from your phone



JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: families and victims of gun violence; the people of Ukraine and all who groan under oppression; for God's presence with all who are grieving the loss of Dwight Wood, Juanita White Daugherty Briggs, Gayle Allard, Betty Nelson, Eleanor Beadles White, Kathy Goldsmith (Ruth Rensberger's daughter), Larry Kisler, Jim Lasala, Ella Johns, Georgia Sodawasser, Gloria Wadsworth, Chris Cook, Bruce Kahler, Jim Calhoun, Holly Rivera; for God's mercy and grace to touch Kirk Christie, Lorraine Sewick, John Timm and family, Brandon Bufe, Allison Kennedy, Dylan's grandmother, Roberta Shadensack, Julia Pedigo, Jim Woods, Tammy Wood, Benjamin Bartnicke, Erin Middleton Cavan, Danielle, Dorothy Bain, Lynette, Brenda Cole, David Milnes, Hudson Stoner, Dorothy Downing, and those experiencing abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and natural disaster.

Mission Partners: Rev. José Pilar Alvarez Cabrera and Rev. Nestor Eduardo Alvarez Cabrera in Zacapa, Guatemala; Alice Chikomo in Harare, Zimbabwe; Veda Gill in Pakistan.

Hospital visits: the Pastors make hospital visits when patients give permission and when pandemic precautions permit.

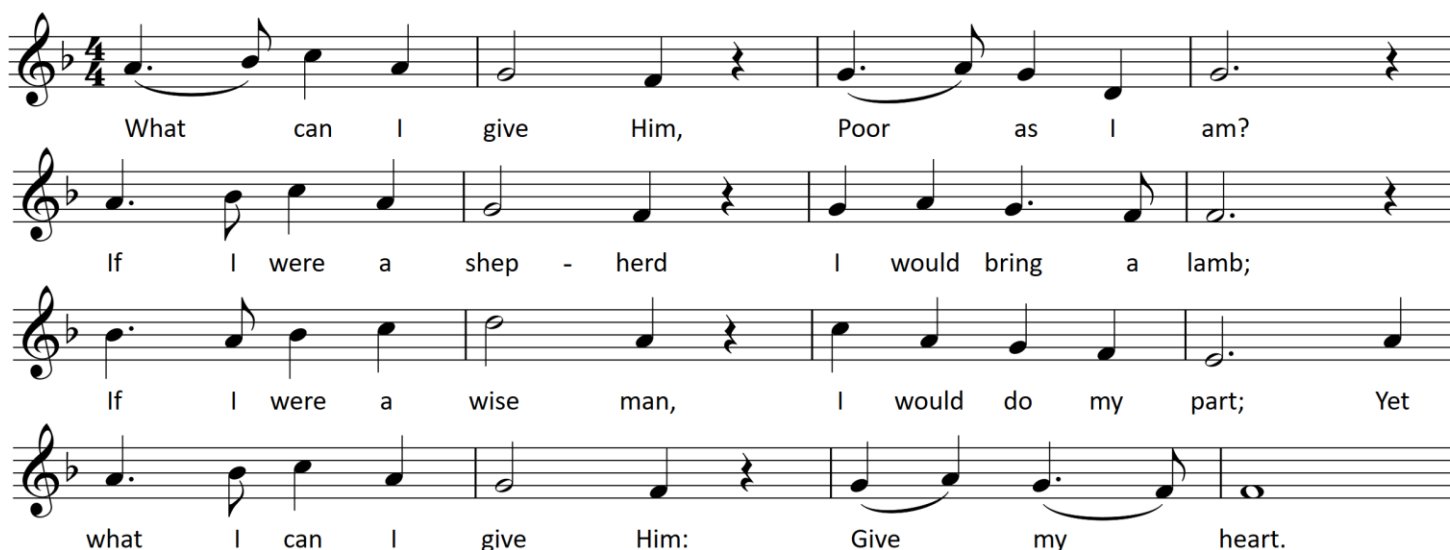
InTouch Information: For anyone who is homebound and would enjoy a contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Colleen Duenas.

The Prayer Chain connects those who need prayer with those who commit to a ministry of prayer. Contact Mary Ann Francois (563-355-5292).

Printed Prayer Requests require permission from the person(s) in need of prayer before prayers are printed in the bulletin. The best way to assure a hospital visit or a prayer is to contact the church office directly (563-326-1691).

Prayer Shawls are available for you to give to those you know who are experiencing a challenge or a joy. For your choosing, a variety of shawls are hanging on the coatrack near the church office.

***Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God**



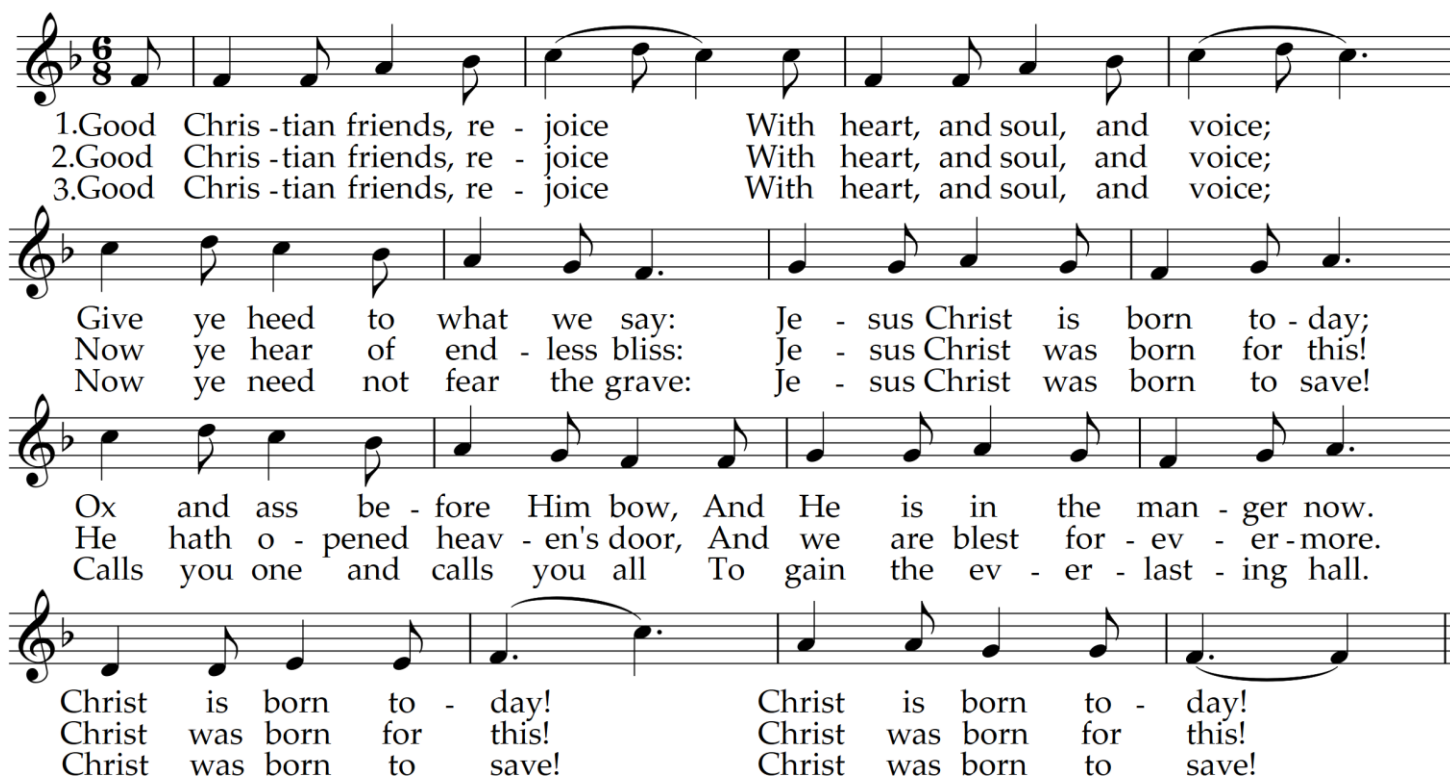
What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet
what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

***Hymn #28**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!
Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Postlude on Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Norah Duncan IV

Copyright Information

Norah Duncan IV, "Postlude on Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (©2017 GIA Publications)

Richard Walters, Arr., "The Holly and the Ivy" (©1992 Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation)

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Today's liturgical elements are from the liturgy: Spill the Beans, Issue 45, retrieved from: www.spillthebeans.org.uk, the Book of Confessions, and the Book of Worship of the PCUSA.

Carol Heyer, Humphrey's First Christmas (Nashville, TN: Ideals Childrens' Books, 2007)

Donate Directly from Your Phone!

First Presbyterian Church makes it easy to donate online! Simply open the camera app on your smartphone, take a photo of the QR Code below, and follow the link to our online giving site.



Year-End Reminder

We ask all of our members to fulfill their 2022 pledge prior to December 31. Donors must deliver checks on or by Friday, December 30, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2022. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2023 (January 1) will not qualify for a charitable deduction in 2022, even if the check is predated to or actually written in 2022.

However, under the so-called "mailbox exception," checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2022 will be deductible in 2022 though they are not received by the church until 2023.

As always, thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office at olson@fpcdavenport.org or 563.326.1691 Ext. 219.

Ways to Give to First Presbyterian Church

It is your generous financial commitment to First Pres that allows FPC to continue its ministries and missions to help support church members, community, and staff. With new technology and changes in tax law, the very meaningful act of placing your gift in the offering plate each Sunday is no longer the only way to financially support FPC. For anyone looking for alternative ways to give, below are additional options to give to FPC:

- Donate online by visiting www.fpcdavenport.org
- Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)
- Gifting Stock

As always, thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church. For specific instructions or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office at olson@fpcdavenport.org or 563.326.1691 Ext. 219.

2023 Stewardship Pledge Campaign Update

GOAL: \$500,000

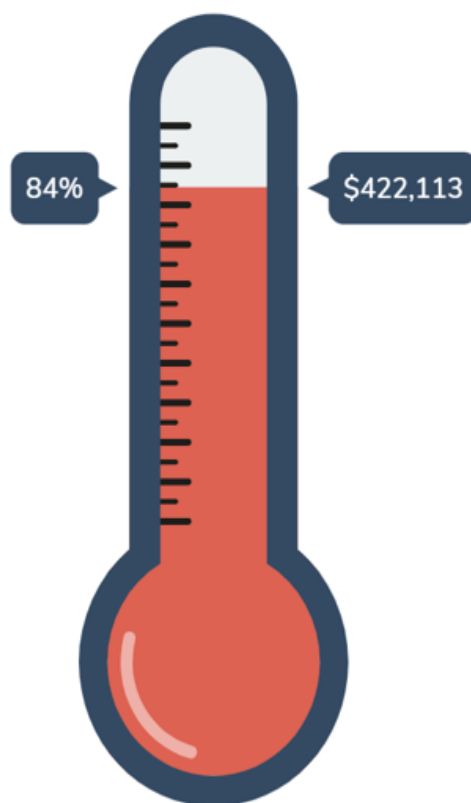
"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; **great is your faithfulness.**" - Lamentations 3:21-23

Giving, one of the ultimate acts of faith, demonstrates our belief in God who helps us provide for and serve others. Giving manifests our faith in First Presbyterian's role in God's future.

Your generosity and commitment to the many missions of FPC has resulted in 144 confirmed pledges totaling \$422,113. If you have returned your 2023 Stewardship Cards or set-up your online pledge already: **a sincere thank you!**

We're making great progress! We've surpassed the number of 2022 pledgers and we've reached 84% of our goal! Prayerfully, we hope to reach our finish line soon. We realize many tune into our worship services virtually and have not been able to turn in your pledge card. **You can still show your faith in God's future by pledging online or sending a picture of your pledge card to Kristine Olson at olson@fpcdavenport.org.**

If you want help setting up your online pledge, please contact Kristine Olson, Finance Manager, at olson@fpcdavenport.org or (563) 326-1691 x219.



Newcomer's Inquiry

Newcomer's Inquiry will be held on January 22, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. We invite anyone interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church or exploring the possibility of becoming a church member. This event offers an opportunity to ask questions and meet some members of our congregation and leaders. This does not require making a membership decision. Please let the church office know if you are interested in attending @ 563-326-1691.

Christmas Flowers 2022

The poinsettias that grace the chancel and surround the Nativity figures in the narthex are given in memory or honor of the following loved ones who are held in grateful affection.

In Loving Memory Of

Mrs. Lola J. Paulsen and Rachel J. D'Auben, Mother, and Grandmother; and Daughter given by Pamela J. Paulsen and Family

Leo and Juanita Oswald, Aloysius and Georgia Sodawasser given by Kristin, Erin, Patrick, and Alexis and Charlotte

Our Parents; Birc & Jean Bawden, Harlen & Lucille Kardel given by Ron & Susie Kardel

Anonymous given by Anonymous

Robert Francois Sr. & Jeffrey Francois given by MaryAnn Francois Family

Christine Johnson and Kathy Price given by Brian, Kathlynn, Aidan and Keian Price

Helen and Bill Chapman, my parents given by Nancy Chapman

Benjamin P. and Marion Steckel; Joel Steckel; and Darrell Orman given by Melanie and Jed Steckel Families

Leslie Fisher, Keith Fisher, Martha Lou Fisher, Ellwyn Henry Schwanz given by Randy & Kelly Schwanz

K.C. (Ervin) Griesenbeck given by Tom & Sue Ervin

Anna, Delmar, Jack & Amy Snyder given by Luann Field

Crystal & Winifred Duckett given by their Daughters, Angella Whalen, Tecora & (Louis) Murry, Brayden & Kirsten

Frances & Don Anthony given by their Granddaughter, Angella Whalen

Crystal & Winifred (Pooh) Duckett given by Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren, Tessa & (Adam) Morrison, D.J. & Kayden Whalen, Corralle Whalen, Zach Mitchell, Norah & Luna, Crystal Whalen, Noah Nickel & Brooklyn

Crystal & Winifred Duckett given by her Daughter Angella Whalen

Crystal & Winifred Duckett given by their Grandchildren Tessa (Adam) Morrison, D.J. & Kayden Whalen Corsalie & (Zach) Whalen & Family, Crystal, Noah (Nickel) & Brooklyn Whalen

Our Great GrandMother Pat Anthony given by Tessa (Adam) Morrison, D.J. Whalen & Kayden, Cornalle Whalen, Zach Mitchell, Noah & Luna, Crystal Whalen, Noah Nickel & Brooklyn

Crystal Dawn Duckett given by her Son Matthew Munn,

Francies S. & Donald R. Anthony given by Grandson Matthew Munn & Family

Bud & Lorrie Darland given by Dianna Darland, Theresa & Sean Jacobsmeier & Family

Don & Marie Cox, Bob Southerland, Emily & Wendall Jacobsmeier given by Theresa & Sean Jacobsmeier & Family

Sandy & Mickey Meeks given by Dianna Darland, Theresa Jacobsmeier & Andrew Darland

Norman & Ruth Mary Lau, Nels & Rhoda Evans given by Kim & Sue Evans

Forest & Beulah Fowler, Bruce Darland, & Vernell & Dorothea Brown given by Dianna Darland & The Jacobsmeier Family

Jack Stoner, Ellen Stoner, Esther Smith Mercatoris given by Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

Ken & Joan McKay given by Daniel and Meredith Ellard

Rebecca Ann Koos given by Dick & Bev Koos

In Honor Of

Our Families given by Tom & Sue Ervin

Hud Stoner & Family given by Rev. Dr. Stoner - Lasala

In Thanksgiving for the privilege of ministering alongside First Pres as Bridging Pastor. given by Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

The Chancel Guild wishes to thank all those who through their donations made it possible to beautify the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church this Christmas Season.

Christmas Comes

Ann Barr Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem* (Louisville, Kentucky: 1993)

Christmas comes every time we see God in
other persons.

The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem
or in Times Square,
for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way
to Jerusalem –
determinedly, inevitably

Even now it comes

In the face of hatred and warring –
No atrocity too terrible to stop it,
No Herod strong enough,
No hurt deep enough,
No curse shocking enough,
No disaster shattering enough.

For someone on earth will see the star,
someone will hear the angel voices,
someone will run to Bethlehem,
someone will know peace and goodwill:
The Christ will be born!