

Cheltenham United Methodist Church

Welcome

THANKS FOR COMING



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CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Updates

MAKE A NOTE

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Monday Methodists 9am

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Pastor's Office Hours 2pm-4pm

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Pastor's Office Hours 10am-12noon

Senior Luncheon 12noon



GREETING

In the middle of dark times, our Lord cries out:

“Comfort, comfort my people!”

When it seems as though we cannot see the light
at the end of the tunnel,

Our Lord says to us,

“ Be at peace, for your time of difficulty has ended.”

Lord, we await the time of comfort and peace!

**Lord, we are thankful for your compassion
and never-failing love for us. AMEN.**

PRAYER

In the wilderness, God, prompt us to hear the cries of the lost and alienated. Allow us to extend hope and peace to all in need. Prepare us to be pathways of peace and life-transforming love in your name. We embrace the spirit of Jesus, praying for openness, compassion, and the strength to care for the overlooked. Amen.



Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

Words: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)

Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

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Played by Chiara Griffith

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*



While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.



“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” v.1

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*



The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.



"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" v.2

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*



Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" v.3





+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC



SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*Writer: Ken Medema (1973)
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“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”



LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen.**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

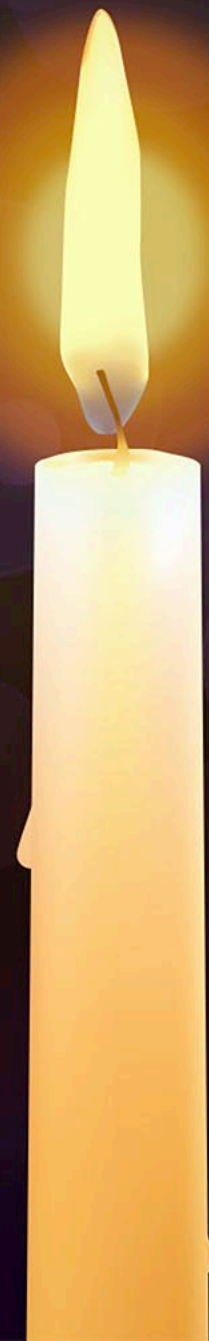
Words: Bob McGee, 1976 (Mt. 1:23)

Music: Bob McGee, 1976

Tune: McGee

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Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.
(2x)



“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1:1-8 NRSV

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,’” ⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1:1-8 NRSV

⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



SERMON

A Prophetic Prelude

Rev. Daein Park



OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH 216

Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599, harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609

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DOXOLOGY

UMH 95. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: attr. to Louis Bourgeois. Tune: OLD 100th

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Played by Chiara Griffith

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER



It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

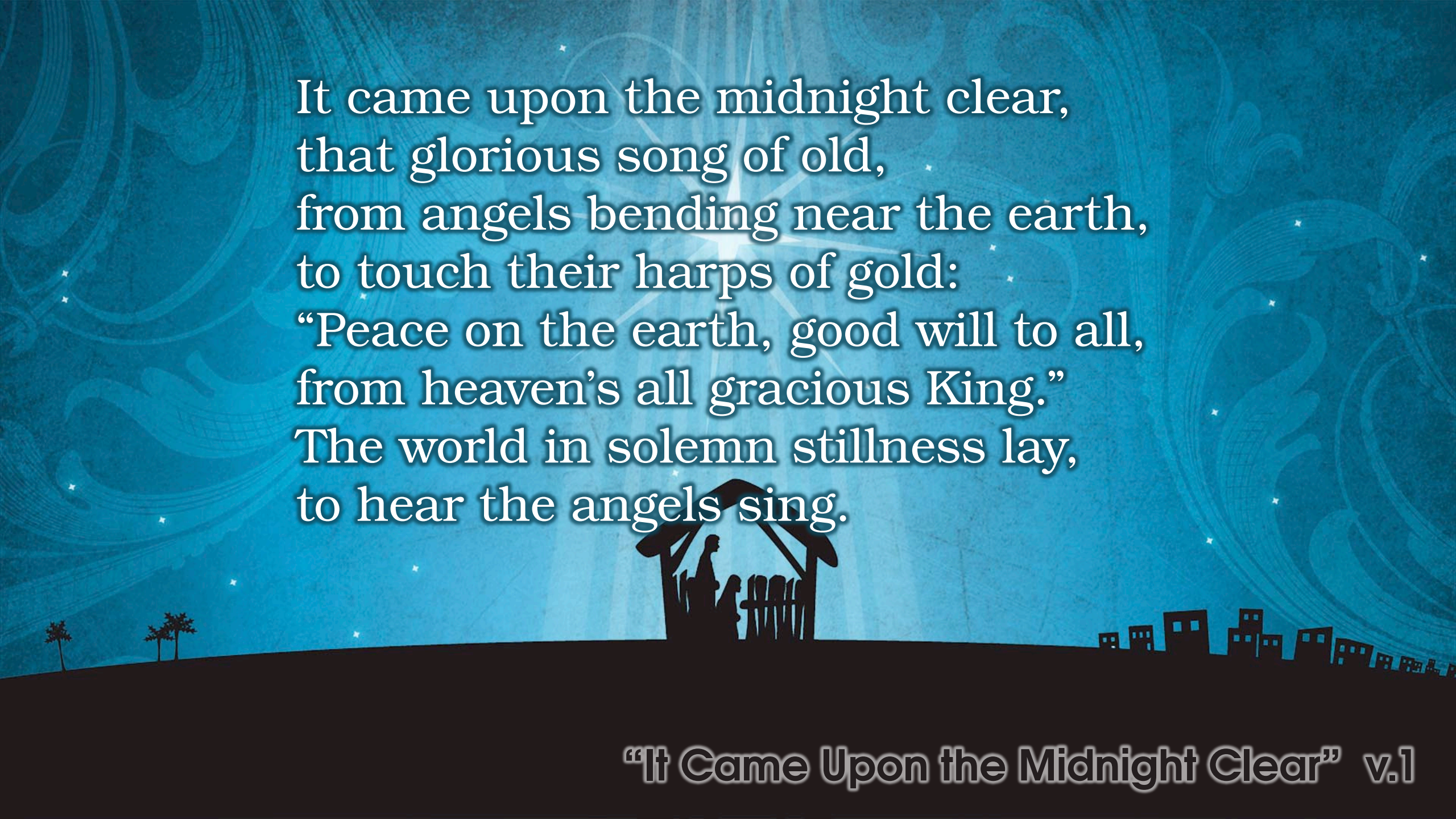


Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14) Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

Tune: CAROL

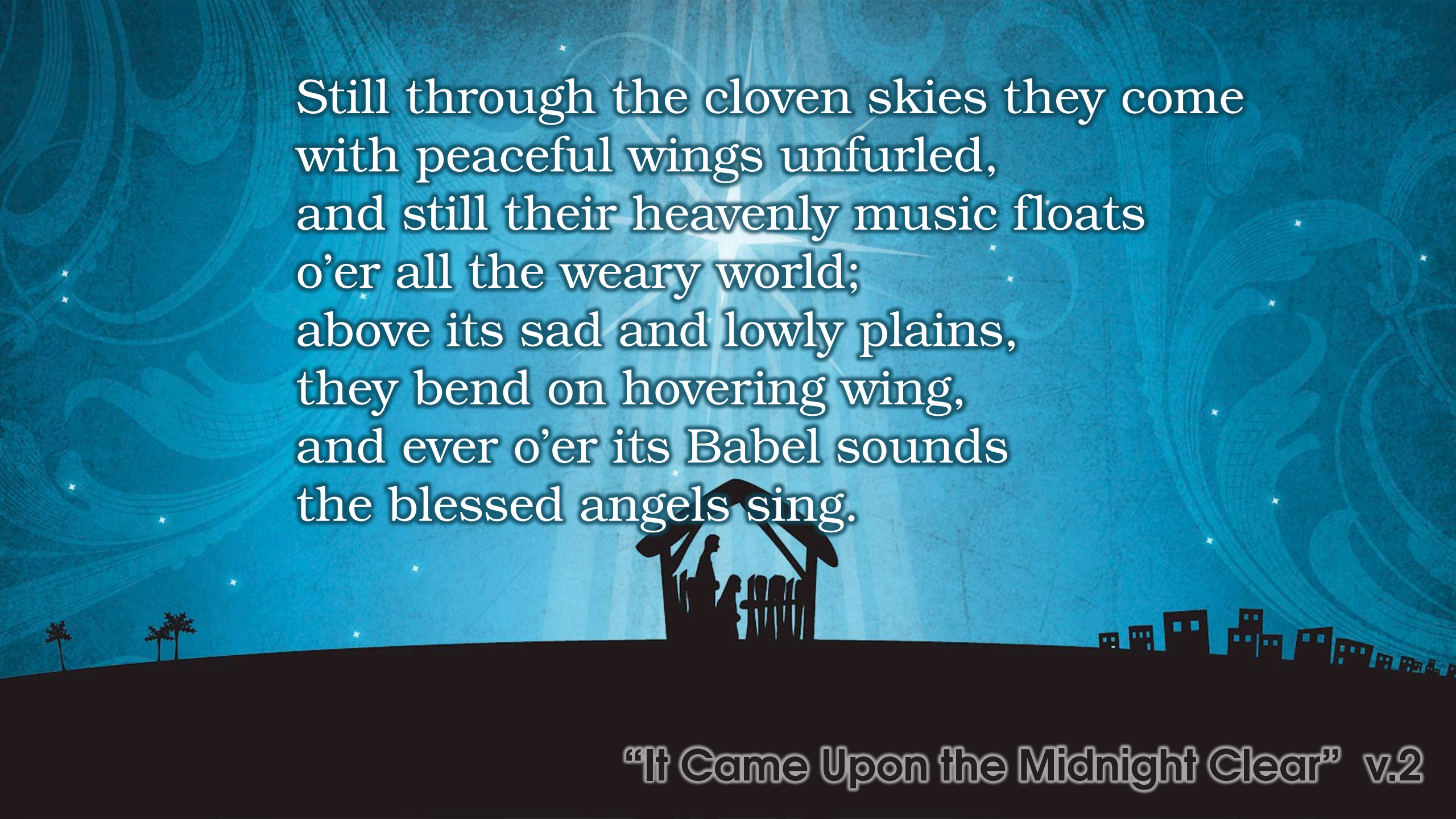
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Played by Chiara Griffith



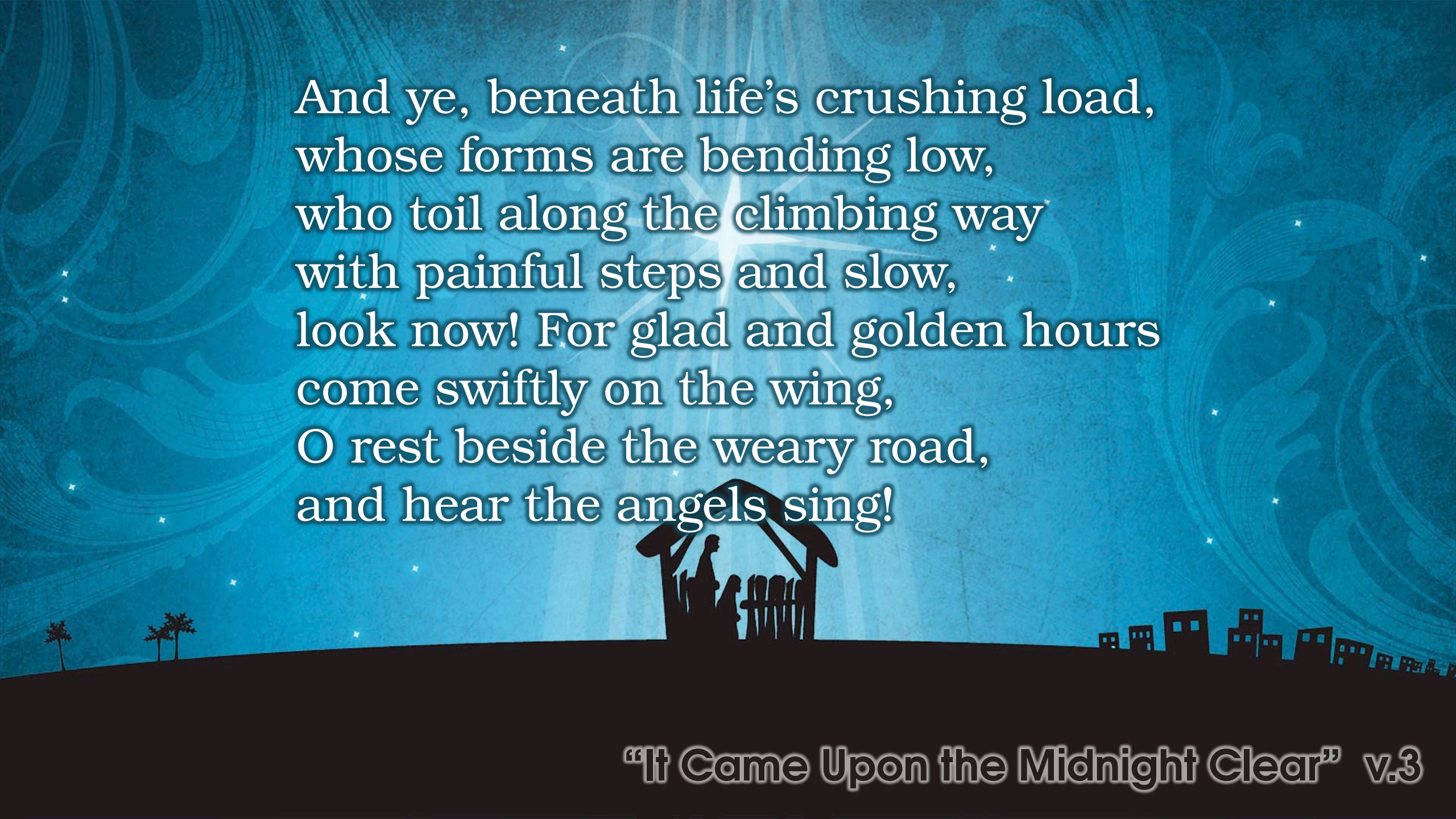
It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.1



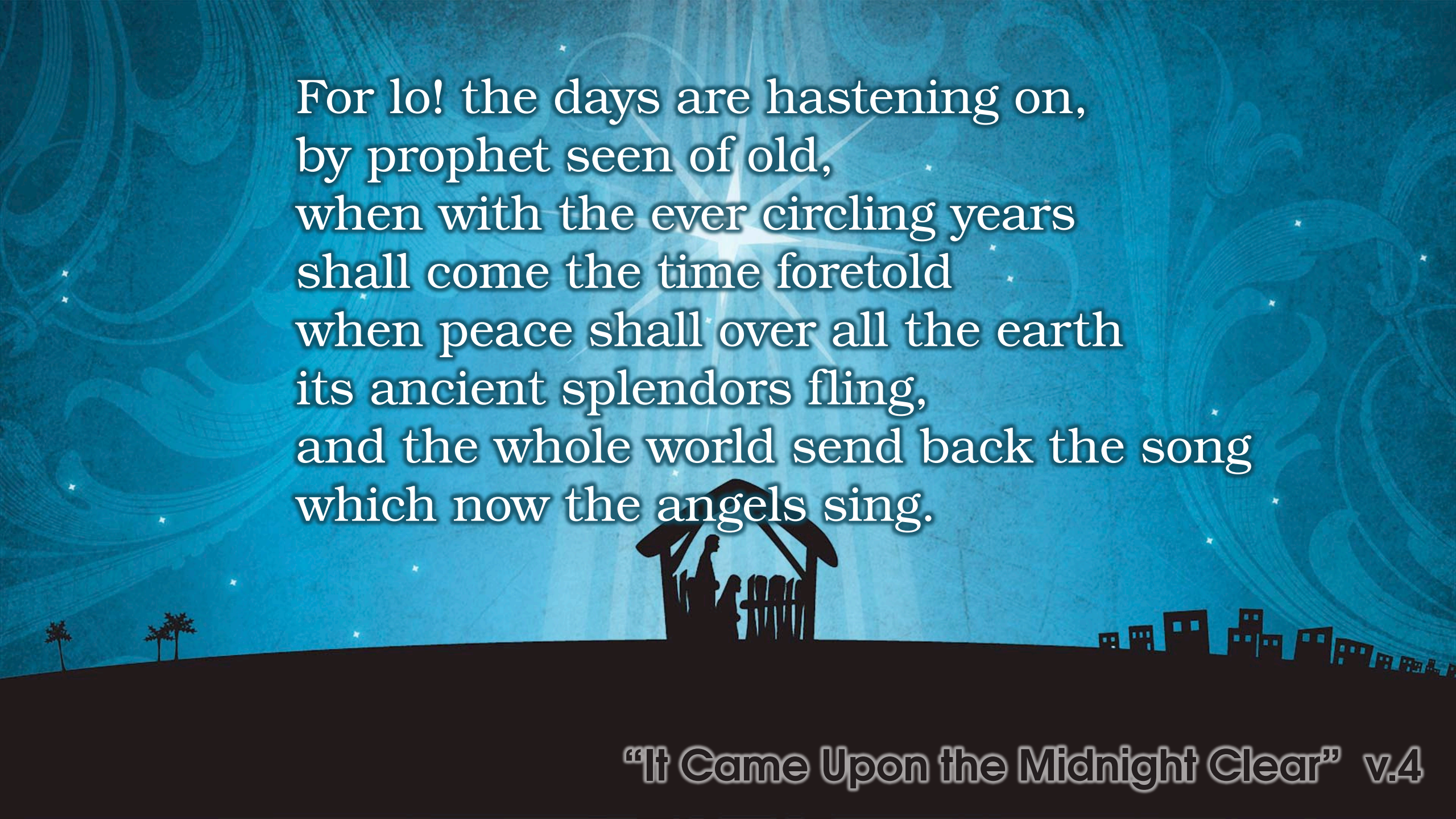
Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.2



And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! For glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing,
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.3



For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.4

+BENEDICTION

See You Soon!

GOODBYE FOR NOW

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