

Light of the World

**A children's Christmas musical
for unison/two part voices and piano
with optional handbells or handchimes,
finger cymbals, hand drum,
maracas, claves, and guiro**

**by
Mark Patterson**

Related Products:

Director's Kit (includes score and demo CD) - code CGK23

Demonstration CD - code CGCD9

Accompaniment CD - code CGCD10

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Light of the World combines original songs and familiar carols from around the world to tell the Christmas story. Through narration, drama, and song, choristers share how Jesus came to be the “Light of the World” over 2,000 years ago. The narration begins with the story of creation, turns to the prophetic words of Isaiah, and then recounts the events of Jesus’ birth. Throughout the musical, a single burning candle symbolizes the light of Christ. This light is to be shared with the congregation at the close of the musical with an invitation to “take the light” out into the world.

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Cast of Characters

Narrator 1	Mary
Narrator 2	Joseph
Narrator 3	Innkeeper
Candlelighter	3 or 4 Shepherds
3 or 4 actors (dressed in Biblical costume)	3 Magi
Angel	

Casting is flexible and should be adjusted to fit the needs of your group. For larger groups, each scene may use a different set of narrators. For smaller groups, actors in Scene 2 can double as Shepherds and Magi in Scenes 3, 4, and 5. The Candlelighter may double as the Innkeeper, and the narration can be done by older youth or adults if necessary.

Production Notes

SET

- Place a small table with a large, unlit candle at center stage, near the front. This should be the focal point of the set.
- Behind the table, stage left, create a stable scene.
- Provide the narrators a place to stand or sit, stage right.
- Place choir risers behind the narrators, stage right.
- To make the production more elaborate, consider these ideas:
 SCENE 1 – Create a set or backdrop depicting an Old Testament city or temple.
 SCENE 2 – Create a set or backdrop depicting an inn for the innkeeper.
 SCENES 3, 4, 5 – Create a set or backdrop depicting a nighttime hillside scene with Bethlehem in the distance.

COSTUMES

Costumes can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. Consider these ideas:

- Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Magi, Innkeeper – simple robes or tunics adding details as time and resources allow
- Angel – white robe
- Narrators and Candlelighter – dressed like the choir members

PROPS

- Candlelighter needs a single, hand-held candle and a way to light it quickly.
- Provide candles for the congregation to pick up along with the congregational part to “Jesus, Light of the World” as they enter the sanctuary (see page 72).

SPECIAL NOTE

This musical incorporates the use of burning candles within the presentation. Special guidance should be given to all children where this is concerned. It is also advisable to instruct parents and other adults in the congregation to carefully supervise the use of burning candles within the presentation.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Note: This guide is intended to provide accessible help for the pronunciation of the following texts, rather than using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). If questions remain, directors are encouraged to seek assistance from those knowledgeable of German, French, or Spanish diction rules.

Silent Night (*Stille Nacht*)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

SHTIH-leh nahkt, HIGH-lih-geh nahkt!

Alles schläft, einsam wacht

AH-lehs shlehft, AHEEN-zahm vahkt

Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.

Noor dahs TROW-teh, hawhk-HIGH-lih-geh pahr.

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,

HOL-tur kNAH-beh ihm LAWK-ih-gehn hahr,

Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',

Shlahf ihn HIM-lih-shur roo,

Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'.

Shlahf ihn HIM-lih-shur roo.

[**Note:** ch = as in German “Ach” (notated here as “hk”)]

He Is Born (*Il Est Né*)

Il est né, le divin Enfant,

Eel eh neh, luh dih-va(n) aw(n)-faw(n),

Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes!

Zhoo-eh oh-bwah, reh-zo-neh *myoo-zeh-tuh!

Il est né, le divin Enfant,

Eel eh neh, luh dih-va(n) aw(n)-faw(n),

Chantons tous son avènement!

Shaw(n)-taw(n) too sawn ah-veh-neh-maw(n)!

[**Note:** (n) = pronounced as a nasal sound, without closing to the “N”

zh = “J” in French, pronounced as in “bijou”, or “g” in “regime”]

*As in “music”

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

From a Distant Home (*De Tierra Lejana Venimos*)

Oh brillante estrella que anuncias la aurora

Oh-bree-YAHN-teh eh-STREH-yah keh ah-NOON-see-ahs la ah-ROH-rah

No nos falte nunca tu luz bien hechora.

No nohs FAHL-teh NOON-kah too looz bee-EHN heh-KOH-rah.

Gloria en las alturas al Hijo de Dios,*

GLOH-ree-ah ehn lahs ahl-TOO-rahs ahl EE-oh deh DEE-ohs,

Gloria en las alturas y en la tierra amor.

GLOH-ree-ah ehn lahs ahl-TOO-rahs EE-ehn lah tee-EH-rah ah-moor.

[**Note:** Two or more syllables joined together by indicates that they fall together on a single pitch in the melody.

The “r” is traditionally rolled when spoken or sung.]

*A slight glottal sound is used when pronouncing the second syllable, “jo”.

Light of the World

(Prologue)

(Piano, Narrators, and Candlelighter)

Mark Patterson

(As house lights dim, the CANDLELIGHTER moves to stage left holding a single, hand-held candle [unlit].)

Slowly, misterioso (♩ = 76)

NARRATOR 1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth, sea, and

Piano

skies were covered with darkness...until God spoke.

NARRATOR 2: God said, "Let there be light,"
(CANDLELIGHTER lights the candle s/he is holding and faces the congregation.)

and there was light. The sun filled the heavens by day,
and moon and stars brightened the night.

(CANDLELIGHTER moves slowly, but deliberately
to center stage and stands behind the center table.)

NARRATOR 3: Long after the dawn of creation,
God promised another light. A light that would

shine through the eyes of a child. A light that would bring hope and love to a world darkened by sin.

(CANDLELIGHTER continues to face the congregation and raises the hand-held candle. The candle
should be fully raised by the time the narrator says the word "hope.")

Jesus, Light of the World

(Chorus with optional Handbells or Handchimes)

2 octaves

Handbells or Handchimes used: 7



(As the introduction begins, the CANDLELIGHTER uses the hand-held candle to light the large candle on the center table. The CANDLELIGHTER faces the congregation, extinguishes the hand-held candle, and returns to the choir. Note: The large candle remains lit throughout the remainder of the musical.)

Mark Patterson

Mark Patterson

With confidence (♩. = 52)

Piano

4 Unison *mf*

Je - sus, light of the world, hope and sal -

7

va - tion for all the earth, Je - sus, light of the

Handbell/Handchime part is printed on page 14.

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10

world, from ev - 'ry na - tion we come to cel-e-brate your

13 Handbells or Handchimes (optional) 14

15

birth. Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a,

16

17

18

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis. Glo - ri - a,

SCENE 1

(Three or four ACTORS dressed in Biblical costume come from the choir and walk toward stage left. As narration begins, the ACTORS begin a discussion (audible but not louder than the narration) questioning the time, place, and means by which the Christ Child would come. [Sample phrases for their ad lib. discussion might include: "When will he come?" "Where will the Savior be born?" "I think it will be in the spring!" "Will there be an announcement?" etc.] The ACTORS walk around the center table, never recognizing the light nearby.)

NARRATOR 1: Old Testament prophets predicted the Messiah's birth. They said he would be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Prince of Peace." The **true** light that could give light to everyone was coming into the world.

NARRATOR 2: But when would he come? Where would people find him? How would they know he was the **true** light?

NARRATOR 3: How would **we** know if the light came today? Would we take time to watch? Would we stop to listen? Or would we just be too busy to notice?

Will You Be Ready?

(Chorus with Solo or Small Ensemble)

Mark Patterson

Mark Patterson

Quietly, with anticipation (♩ = 88-92)

Piano

Solo or Small Ensemble *mp*

Peo-ple who walk in dark - ness ____ have

7

seen — a great light. The light will shine up -

10

on _ them; may it shine bright - ly to -

13

rit. night. *p* With soulful energy (♩ = 132)

rit. *p* *mf*

16

19 Unison *mf*

Will you be read - y for the light, read-y for the light to shine.

22

— up - on you? Will you be read - y for the light,

25 *f* *Part I

read-y for the light to shine?_ Will you be watch - ing?

28 Part II All

Will you be list - 'ning? Will you hear _ the an - gels sing?

*Divide choir into 2 groups.

Silent Night

(*Stille Nacht*)

(Chorus with optional Solo or Small Ensemble)

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
 Sts. 1 and 2 trans. John F. Young (1820-1885);
 St. 3 trans. Anonymous

STILLE NACHT
 Franz Gruber (1787-1863)
 arr. Mark Patterson

Tenderly (♩ = 84)

Piano

Optional Solo or Small Ensemble

5 *mp**

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 1. Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,

8

all is bright, Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child!
 ein - sam wacht Nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.

*German or English text may be sung. See pronunciation guide, page 5.

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11

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Hold - er Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar, Schlaf' in himm - li - scher

14

peace, — Sleep — in heav - en - ly peace.
 Ruh', — Schlaf' — in himm - li - scher Ruh'.

mf *mp* *moving ahead, slightly faster* *cresc.*

Unison choir

18

2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

mf

21

love's pure light Ra - diant beams _ from thy ho-ly face,

24

With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord at thy

27

birth, _____ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

f *mf*

f *mf*

SCENE 3

(*SHEPHERDS enter. Some kneel while others stand around the center table where the candle is burning.*)

NARRATOR 1: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

(*The ANGEL enters and approaches the SHEPHERDS but remains a small distance from them.*)

NARRATOR 2: An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified!

ANGEL: Do not be afraid! I bring you good tidings of great joy! Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!

NARRATOR 3: And suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all."

He Is Born

(*Il Est Né*)

(Chorus with optional Finger Cymbals and Hand Drum)

IL EST NÉ

Traditional 19th c. French carol, alt.
trans. Anonymous, alt.

Traditional 18th c. French carol
arr. Mark Patterson

With joy (♩ = 76)

Finger Cymbals (optional)

Hand Drum (optional)

7

Piano

Percussion part is printed on pages 40-41.

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13

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score includes a vocal line with a long note, a percussion line with rhythmic patterns, and a piano accompaniment with chords and a moving bass line.

17

Unison
* *mf*

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child,
Il est né, le di - vin En - fant,

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score includes a vocal line with lyrics, a percussion line, and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are in English and French.

*French or English text may be sung. See pronunciation guide, page 5.

21

play the o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly!
 jou - ez haut - bois, rè - son - nez mu - set - tes!

25

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child,
 Il est né, le di - vin En - fant,

He Is Born

(Il Est Né)

IL EST NÉ

Traditional 18th c. French carol
arr. Mark Patterson

Percussion

With joy ($\text{♩} = 76$)
Finger Cymbals

Finger Cymbals

mf

Hand Drum

mf

9

17

25

33

15

1. 2. 50

mf

15

1. 2.

mf

SCENE 4

(*SHEPHERDS* re-enter the stage and approach the center table. Huddled together around the illuminated candle, they question the news they have just learned from the *ANGEL*. Their discussion is audible but not louder than the narration. [Sample phrases for their ad lib. discussion might include: “Can you believe that?” “Do you really think we could find him?” “Who will keep watch over the sheep?”])

NARRATOR 1: The light that God promised so long ago had finally come into the world.

NARRATOR 2: The shepherds had heard the news from the angels, and they wanted to go see the Son of God for themselves.

NARRATOR 3: But what about their sheep out in the field? Who would watch them if the shepherds left? Would the shepherds really be able to find Jesus anyway? How would they know where to go?

NARRATOR 1: Despite these questions, the shepherds had faith and when the angels left them, they said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this miracle that has happened.”

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

(Chorus and Solos)

African American spiritual

RISE UP, SHEPHERD
African American spiritual, alt.
arr. Mark Patterson

With hushed excitement (♩ = 136)

Piano *mp*

simile

5 Unison *mp*

Rise up, rise up, Rise up shep - herd and

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8 *mf*

fol-low. Rise up, rise up, Rise up, shep-herd and

12 *f*

fol - low. Rise up, rise up,

15

Rise up and fol-low that star. There's a star in the East on

18 *sub. p* *f*

Christ-mas morn, _ Rise up, shep - herd and fol - low. It will

21 *sub.p*

lead to the place where Christ was born, — Rise up shep - herd and

24 *mf*

fol - low. Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep - herd and

28

fol - low. Fol - low the Star of Beth - le - hem, —

31

Rise up shep - herd and fol - low.

SCENE 5

(The MAGI enter, stage left, pointing up to the sky. They are bringing gifts to the baby Jesus.)

NARRATOR 1: Others saw the star, too. Magi visiting from the East saw the light in the sky and traveled to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus.

(The MAGI approach the center table and pause there for a moment, focused on the burning candle.)

NARRATOR 2: God used the star to lead them across many lands, so they could find the **true** light – Jesus Christ.

(The MAGI proceed to the stable and kneel at the manger, placing their gifts there.)

NARRATOR 3: When they found the Savior, the Magi rejoiced and presented him with precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

From a Distant Home

(De Tierra Lejana Venimos)

(Chorus with optional Maracas, Claves, and Guiro)

Puerto Rican carol
trans. Solina Marquis

ISLA DEL ENCANTO
Puerto Rican carol
arr. Mark Patterson

Lightly dancing (♩ = 82)

The musical score consists of four staves. The top three staves are for percussion: Maracas, Claves, and Guiro. The bottom staff is for Piano. The tempo is marked 'Lightly dancing' with a quarter note equal to 82 beats per minute. The time signature is 2/4. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The Maracas part uses 'x' marks to indicate rhythmic patterns. The Claves part uses 'y' marks. The Guiro part uses 'x' marks. The Piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Percussion parts are printed on pages 56-57.

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5

mp

1. From a - far we jour - ney seach - ing for the Sav - ior,

9

with the East - ern star to guide us through the dark night.

13

mf

mf

Gui. *mf*

Refrain
* *mf*

Ho - ly news pro - claim, O won-drous star so bright, _____
 Oh bri-llan-te es - tre - lla que a nun-cias la au - ro - ra

mf

17

Gui. _____

nev - er stop your shin - ing bless-ed heav'n-ly light! _____
 no nos fal - te nun - ca tu luz bien - he - cho - ra.

*Spanish or English text may be sung. See pronunciation guide on page 6.

From a Distant Home

(De Tierra Lejana Venimos)

ISLA DEL ENCANTO

Puerto Rican carol

arr. Mark Patterson

Percussion

Lightly dancing (♩ = 82)

Maracas

Claves

Gui.

Stanza 1

8

...dark night.

8

8

13 Refrain

19

25

32 Stanza 2

3

8

...heaven.

3

8

3

8

SCENE 6

(House lights gradually dim as narration begins.)

NARRATOR 1: For the shepherds and the Magi, this was just the beginning of the story. As they journeyed back to their homes, they took the news of Jesus' birth with them.

(CANDLELIGHTER enters and walks to the center table holding the unlit hand-held candle. The CANDLELIGHTER lights the hand-held candle from the burning candle on the center table.)

NARRATOR 2: Our story begins here, too. We have seen the light that God has sent for us. We have heard the good news of the Savior's birth.

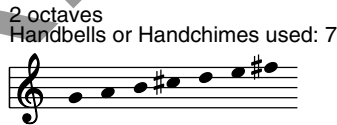
(CANDLELIGHTER faces the congregation and holds up the illuminated hand-held candle.)

NARRATOR 3: So now, we take this light and hold it high, sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ wherever we go. The Savior is born! Let his light shine.

(As the introduction for "Take this Light" begins, the CANDLE LIGHTER goes to the congregation and lights the candles of the people on the end of each row. They, in turn, pass the light down to others. Depending on the size and configuration of the sanctuary, there may need to be several people assigned to passing the light to everyone in the room. When all candles are lit, the CANDLELIGHTER returns to the choir. At the end of "Take this Light," move directly into "Jesus, Light of the World" (Reprise). Congregation is invited to stand and sing the final chorus with the choir.)

Take this Light

(Chorus with optional Handbells or Handchimes)



Mark Patterson

Mark Patterson

With joy! (♩ = 72)

Handbells/
Handchimes
(optional)

Handbell/Handchime part is printed on page 64.

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5 6 7 8

Musical score for measures 5-8. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Measures 5 and 6 contain whole notes, while measures 7 and 8 contain quarter notes. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with chords and moving lines.

9 10 11 12

mf

Take this light in - to all the world; let it shine so clear and bright.

Musical score for measures 9-12. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. Measures 9 and 10 contain whole notes, while measures 11 and 12 contain quarter notes. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present at the start of measure 9.

13 14 15

Take this light in - to all the world; Let it shine, let it

Musical score for measures 13-15. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. Measures 13 and 14 contain whole notes, while measure 15 contains a half note. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with chords and moving lines.

16 17 18

shine, for love has come - to - night.

19

22 *mp*

Let this light shine for all the world to see that

mp

Jesus, Light of the World

(Reprise)

(Chorus and Congregation with optional Handbells or Handchimes)

2 octaves
Handbells or Handchimes used: 7

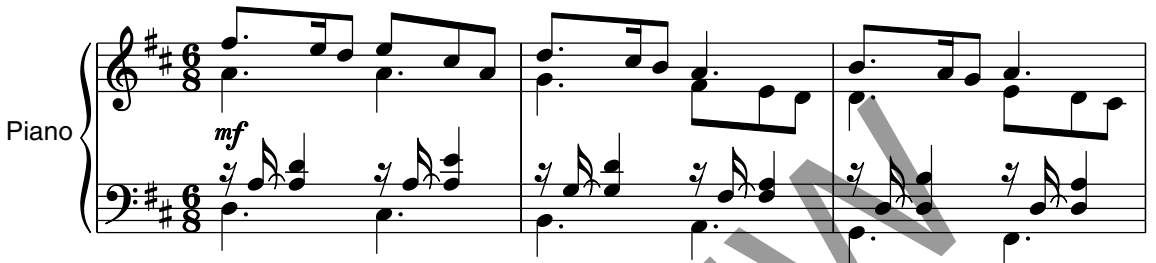


Mark Patterson

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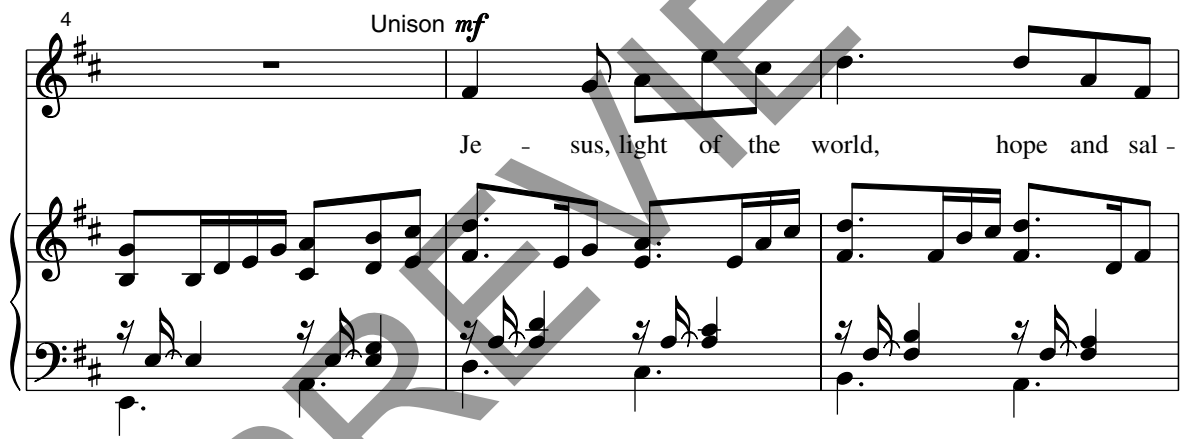
With confidence (♩. = 52)

Piano



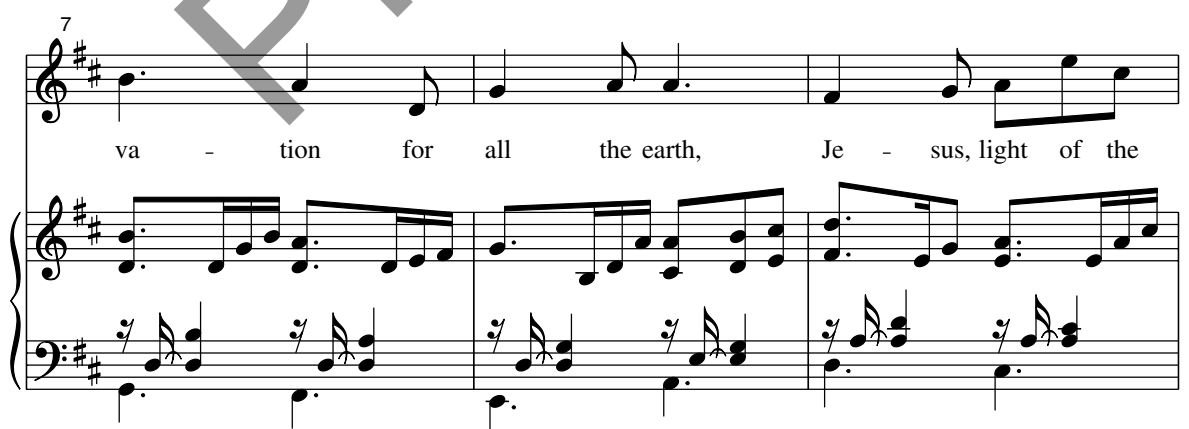
4 Unison *mf*

Je - sus, light of the world, hope and sal -



7

va - tion for all the earth, Je - sus, light of the



Handbell/Handchime part is printed on page 71.
Reproducible congregational page is printed on page 72.

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10

world, from ev - 'ry na - tion we come to cel-e-brate your

13 Handbells or Handchimes (optional) 14

15

birth. Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a,

16

17

18

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis. Glo - ri - a,

19 20 21

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De -

22 23 24

o. For un - to us a child is born, to

25

us a son is giv - en; Won - der-ful Coun - se-lor,

28

Might - y God, the Prince of

30

Peace.

rall.

32 Handbells or Handchimes 33 34

f majestically
a tempo

Part II (optional)
majestically
a tempo

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a in ex -

Part I and Congregation
majestically
a tempo

Je - sus, light of the world, hope and sal - va - tion for

majestically
a tempo