Welcome to Our World is a well-known original song by Chris Rice that was made popular by a recording by Michael W. Smith. The text is written from the perspective of an unknown observer present in the stable near the time of Christ’s birth. Accordingly, it focuses specifically on the humanity of Christ, noting all the contradictions of an all-powerful God taking the form of a fragile baby. This new arrangement intertwines the song with portions of the beloved carol, “Silent Night,” and includes options for children’s choir, child soloist, and congregational participation. The piece is suitable for the entirety of the Advent/Christmas season and is specifically well-suited for Christmas Eve/candlelight services. The main Scriptural theme is Christ’s incarnation and humanity (Luke 1:26-35; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:14). The piece also discusses redemption (Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:7) and touches briefly on Christ’s suffering (Acts 26:23).

Joey Hoelscher, a native of Kansas City, Missouri, is a multi-talented musician, educator, and composer. He received a Bachelor of Music in voice performance and a Master of Music in church music composition from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. As a graduate assistant there, he taught private voice and undergraduate music theory. Prior to his graduate studies, he traveled for three years as a singer, composer, string bass player, and sound engineer with the Steve Pettit Evangelistic Team. His wide range of experiences in this itinerant local church ministry gave him insight into local church music needs, which influences his compositional style.

Joey studied composition with Dan Forrest and Joan Pinkston. Joey is the winner of the 2012 Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Commission Competition, a member of ASCAP, and a commissioned composer with sacred choral and instrumental works in the catalogs of several music publishers. He remains active in choral music at his church and with the Rivertree Singers.

Joey lives and works in Greenville with his wife, Jennifer.
WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

with “Silent Night”

for S.A.T.B voices, accompanied, with optional child soloist, children’s choir and congregation*

Arranged by
JOEY HOELSCHER (ASCAP)

Words and Music by
CHRIS RICE

Softly, like a lullaby (\( \frac{7}{8} \) = ca. 76-80)

**CHILD SOLO (or CHILDREN’S CHOIR)

Tears are falling; hearts are breaking,

How we need to hear from God. You’ve been promised;

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (42911) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.
**Solo may also be sung by a light-voiced woman or a small female ensemble.
we've been waiting. Welcome, Holy Child.

Welcome Holy Child.

Hope that You don't mind our manager. How I wish we would have — —
Wish we would have known;

known;

But long awaited Holy Stranger,

Make Yourself at home. Please, make Yourself at home.
Bring Your peace into our silence. Bid our hungry souls be filled.

Word now breaking heaven’s silence. Welcome to our world.
**Silent Night, Holy Night**, words by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), music by Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

*Note: If children’s choir is unavailable, a few sopranos should sing the children’s choir part.

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR (and opt. CONGREGATION)

Si lent night, holy night,

Ah, _all is calm,

All is bright

Ah, cresc. poco a poco

*CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Quicker (\( \dot{q} = \text{ca. 82-86} \))

** mp

espressivo

cresc. poco a poco
"Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild."
Sleep in heavenly peace;

end opt. congregation

*Or hum.
Fragile finger sent to heal us,

Tender brow prepared for them,

Blood will save us untold;

Unto us is given;

Sent to heal us,

Slower ($\frac{4}{4} = \text{ca. 82}$)
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

**SOPRANO / ALTO**

So wrap our injured flesh around You.

**TENOR / BASS**

Born. *So wrap our injured flesh around You.*

Breathe our air and walk our sod.

Rob our sin, and

Breathe our air and walk our sod.

Rob our sin, and

---

*Cued notes may be sung by a few light voices, if needed.*
make us holy, Per-rect Son of God,
cresc. poco a poco
non rit.

make us holy, Per-rect Son of God,
cresc. poco a poco
non rit.

non dim.
cresc. poco a poco
non rit.

accel.
cresc. poco a poco
non rit.

accel.
cresc. poco a poco
non rit.

end children's choir
With more motion ($q = ca. 86-88$)

With the angels let sing.

With more motion ($d = ca. 86-88$)

“Hallelujah to King!”

Christ the Savior born.
**Christ the Savior is born.**

Slower ($\approx$ ca. 82)

Welcome to our world.

*SATB choir should sing cued notes only if performed without children.*