

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
JULY 25, 2021 PENTECOST 9 CHRISTMAS IN

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA
7...v

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

CHARLES WESLEY ON SINGING IN CHURCH

HYMN STORY

GATHERING SONG

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 heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n-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 a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Hilda Painter

A reading from 2 Kings.

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated,

“Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, “They shall eat and have some left.”” ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Boldin

HYMN STORY

HYMN OF THE DAY vs. 1, 2, 4

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need, especially Kathy, David, Martha, Eileen, Edwin, Pauline, Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Rodney, Yvonne, Ruby. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes life difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN STORY

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son **✠**and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Charles Callahan (b.1951)

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TRENDING @ TRINITY

Thank you to Pastor Bill Boldin for leading worship this morning while Pastor JMe recuperates from surgery.

Everyone is invited to coffee time following worship this morning. Christmas cookies!

Sunday, August 22 at 2PM Trinity will be having an Ice Cream Social. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

If you are interested in sending Will Wolf a letter or card his address until May of 2022 is:

Cadet Candidate William Wolf, NAPS '22

1st Company 2nd Platoon

Naval Academy Preparatory School

440 Meyerkord Ave.

Newport RI 02841

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 0840 5981 Passcode: 321080

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89308405981?pwd=TDY0SkxiUWgvNHpUZDBHdGk0aWRqZz09> Dial +1

646 876 9923 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

Call to Worship, *First Sunday of the month 11AM* Phone 1-971-224-6593 Code: 423612

Hymn Stories ~ His-story
Celebrating Christmas in July
July 25, 2021

Opening Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Upon his conversion, Charles Wesley immediately began writing hymns, each one packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity. He wrote constantly, even composing hymns while on horseback. He often stopped at houses along the road and ran in asking for “pen and ink.” Wesley wrote more than six thousand hymns during his life, and he didn’t like people tinkering with the words. He wrote, “Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they are really not able.” One man did the church a great favor by polishing up one of Charles’s best loved hymn. When Charles was thirty-two, he wrote a Christmas hymn that began: “Hark, how all the welkin rings, ‘Glory to the King of kings...” The word welkin was an old English term for “the vault of heaven.” Charles’s friend, evangelist George Whitefield, change the words to the now beloved “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” when he published this carol in his collection of hymns in 1753.

Morgan, Robert J. (2010) Then Sings My Soul:150 Christmas, Easter, and All-Time Favorite Hymn Stories, p. 11.

Sermon Hymn: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

The only Moravian pastor in Scotland, John Montgomery and his wife felt God’s call to be missionaries to the island of Barbados. They placed their six-year-old son, James, in a Moravian settlement in Bracehill near Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland, and sailed away. James never saw them again, for they perished in Barbados. With no parental support, James was enrolled in a school in England, but he didn’t do well. He was apprenticed to a baker; however, baking was not for him, and he ran away. He spent his teenage years drifting from one place to another, eventually settling down in Sheffield, England.

Despite the loss of his parents, James remained a devoted Christian, championing the cause of foreign missions and the British Bible Society. He became a respected leader in Sheffield, and many read what he wrote. Early on Christmas Eve, 1816, 45-year-old James opened his Bible to Luke 2. Verse 13 deeply impressed him, and while pondering the story of the heralding angels, he took his pen and started writing. By the end of the day, his new Christmas poem was being read in the pages of his newspaper. It was later set to music. “Angels from the Realms of Glory” was first sung on Christmas Day 1821, in a Moravian Church in England.

Morgan, Robert J. (2010) Then Sings My Soul:150 Christmas, Easter, and All-Time Favorite Hymn Stories, p. 19.

Closing Hymn: “Away in a Manger” (“Luther’s Cradle Hymn”)

Although it is commonly known as “Luther’s Cradle Hymn”, it is unknown if Martin Luther actually wrote the words. This is still a great mystery in hymnology.

We do know that in 1887, the hymn appeared a little book entitled *Dainty Songs for Little Lads and Lasses*. The songbook was compiled by James R. Murray and published by the John Church Company of Cincinnati. In the songbook, there was a notation beneath “Away in a Manger” identifying it as “Luther’s Cradle Hymn (composed by Martin Luther for his children and still sung by German mothers to their little ones).” In the songbook, only verses 1 and 2 were printed. The hymn quickly became America’s favorite children’s carol, and the words have been sung to forty-one different tunes.

In 1943, Richard Hill published an article entitled, “Not So Far Away in a Manger.” He announced that he had discovered the first two stanzas of the song in an 1885 songbook entitled *Little Children’s Book*, published by German Lutherans in Pennsylvania. No authorship was given, nor could Hill find any appearance of this carol in German church history or in Luther’s works. The mystery surrounding this hymn deepened when, in a 1892 songbook published by Charles H. Gabriel, an additional verse of the hymn appeared. No one knows who wrote this verse, either. After extensive research, Hill concluded that the legend of Martin Luther’s Cradle Hymn was merely that- a legend. He stated, “Although Luther himself had nothing to do with the carol, the colonies of German Lutherans in Pennsylvania almost certainly did.”

Morgan, Robert J. (2010) Then Sings My Soul:150 Christmas, Easter, and All-Time Favorite Hymn Stories, p. 57.