

Trinity Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2021
11PM



810 Fairfax Street, Stephens City, Virginia 22655
www.trinitychurchvirginia.com

PRELUDE Christmas Carol Duets Heather Butler, violin/recorder; Ricky Gearhart, Organ
O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Frances Callahan Trinity Chimes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to the God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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

Creator God, by your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless, by your limitlessness you became limited. Through the birth of your son, we can live in your light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

Darla Wolf

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96

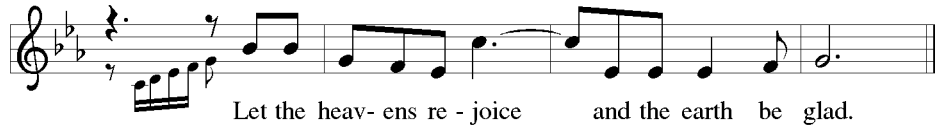


¹Sing to the LORD¹ a new song;
sing to the LORD, ¹ all the earth.

**²Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a-¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a-¹ mong all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R



⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have ¹ made the heavens.

**⁶Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹ or and power.

**8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R**

Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: “The ¹ LORD is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the people with equity.”

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

HYMN OF THE DAY *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*



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 has 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!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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 whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. 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 this night especially Pauline, Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Rodney, Yvonne, Marcie, Theresa, Ruby and others we name before you now. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. 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.**

Other petitions may be offered now.

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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

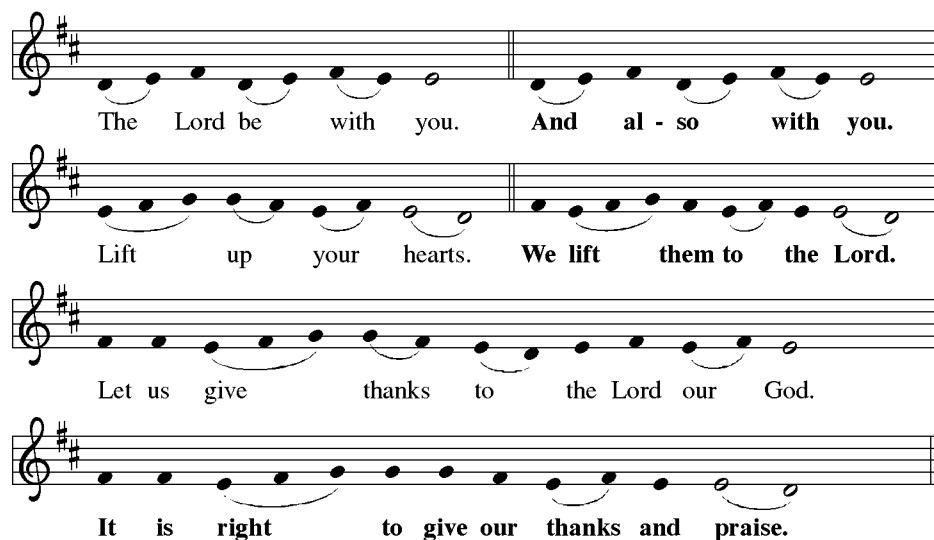
OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella* arr. Carlton Young Trinity Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

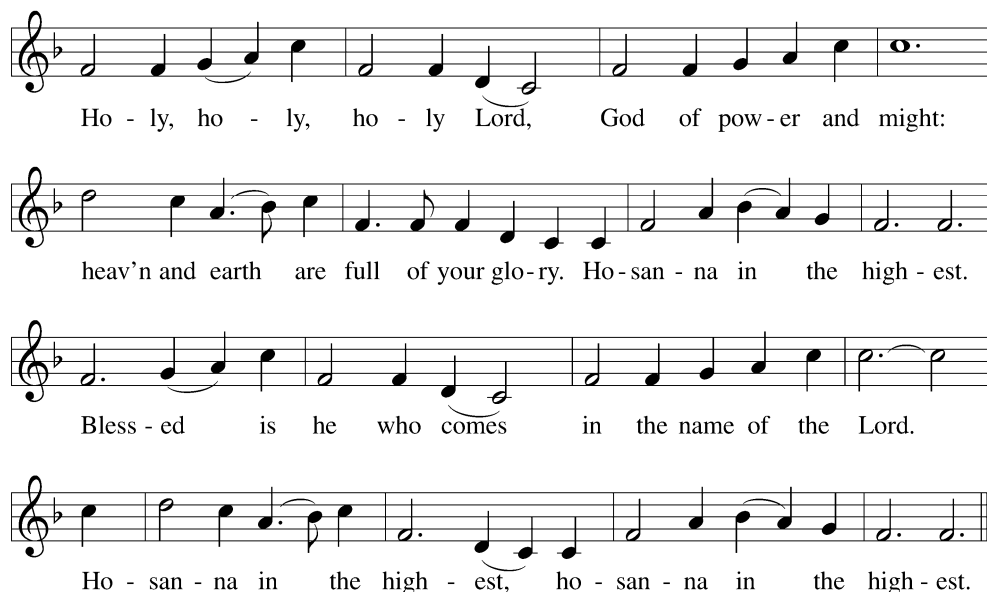
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: LAND OF REST, American folk tune
Text: "Sanctus," tr. English Language Liturgical Consultation

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.



In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
All praise and glory are yours,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most-High, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

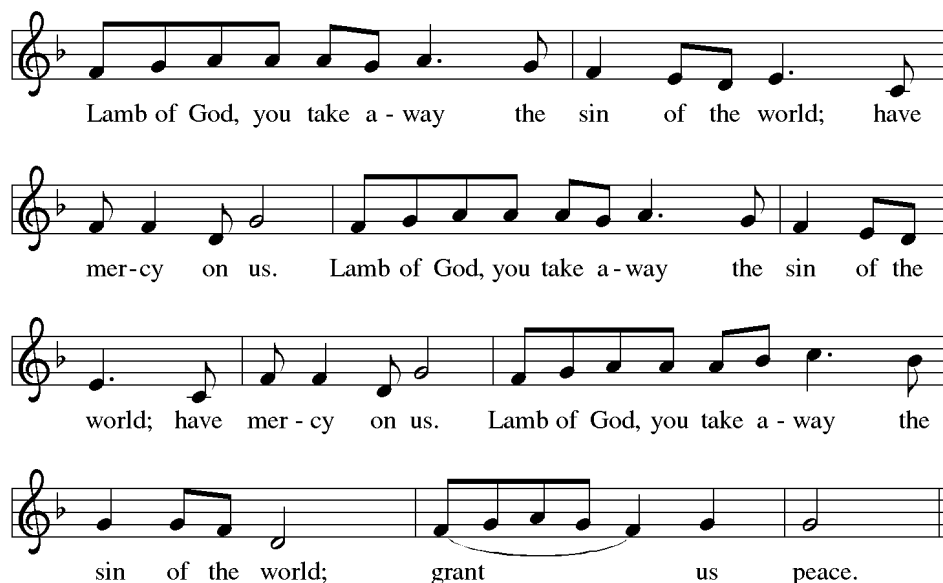
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. *those at home may take their elements at this time.*

Communion distribution directions: Communion will be served in continuous fashion with the choir and musicians going first, followed by the congregation. Starting with the front row of the right side, please come forward down the center aisle to receive the wafer from the pastor. Take an empty glass from the tray and proceed to the communion assistant on the side you were seated to receive the wine from a pouring chalice. Return to your pews via the side aisles. Worshippers seated in the side chapel/cove will follow those seated on the left side of the nave. If there are worshippers seated in the parish hall, the pastor and a communion assistant will bring the elements to you from the nave.

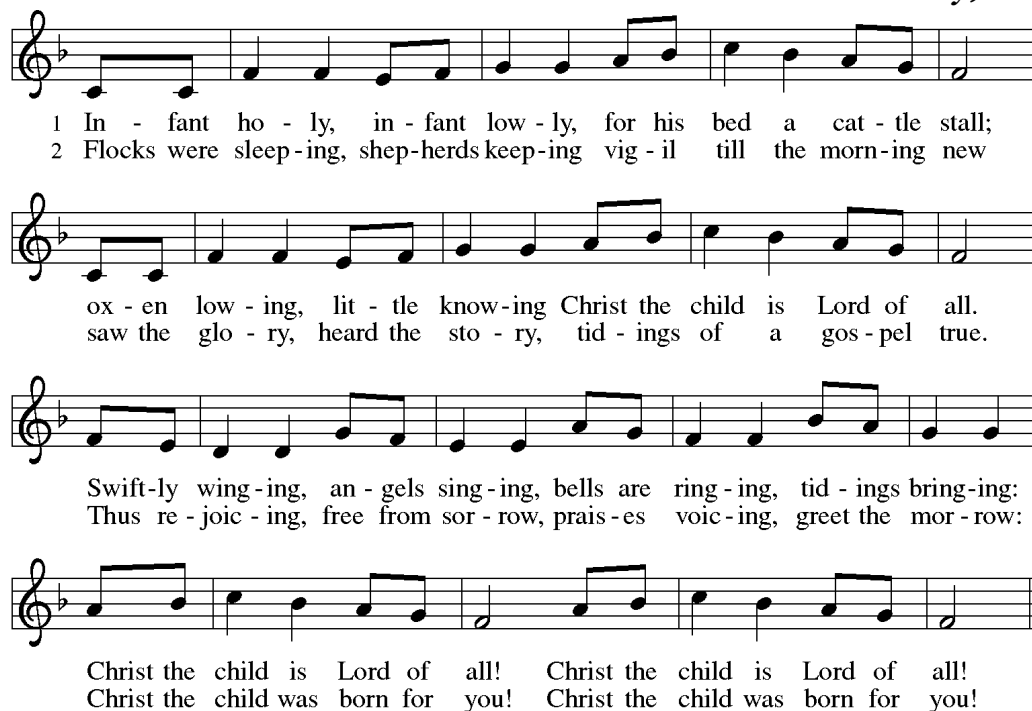
COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.
Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING

Individual candles will be lighted from the center aisle. The lighted candle is always held upright. The unlighted candle is tipped to receive the light. When all candles are lit, the congregation sings Silent Night.

Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



	Stil - le	Nacht,	hei - li - ge	Nacht!	Al - les	schläft,
1	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	All	is calm,
2	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Shep - herds	quake
3	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Son	of God,



ein - sam	wacht	nur	das	trau - te,	hoch - hei - li - ge	Paar.
all	is	bright	round	yon	vir - gin	moth - er and child.
at	the	sight;	glo - ries	stream	from	heav - en a - far,
love's	pure	light	ra - diant	beams	from	your ho - ly face,



Hold - er	Kna - be	im	lok - ki - gen	Haar,	schlaf	in	himm - li - scher
Ho - ly	In - fant,	so	ten - der	and mild,	sleep	in	heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly	hosts . . .	sing,	al - le - lu - ia!	Christ, the	Sav - ior,	is	
with the	dawn of	re - deem - ing	grace,	Je - sus,	Lord,	at your	



Ruh,	schlaf	in	himm - li - scher	Ruh.
peace,	sleep	in	heav - en - ly	peace.
born!	Christ,	the	Sav - ior,	is born!
birth,	Je - sus,	Lord,	at your	birth.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *bells may be rung*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



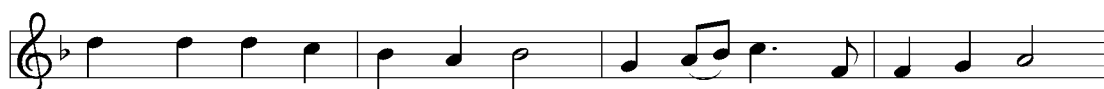
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Gustave Holst (1874-1934)

From sundaysandseasons.com license #SAS024465. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-720634. All rights reserved. CCLI, copyright Lic. 11381030, Streaming lic. 20167089
Prelude duets Public Domain; Chime prelude ©1986 Agape, Carol Stream IL; Anthem ©2001 Abingdon Press; Postlude ©1989 The United Methodist Pub. House

The church office will be closed December 25-January 3rd. In case of pastoral emergency, Pastor JMe may be reached by phone (717)621-9600).

A Service of Lessons and Carols will be at 9:30AM Sunday, December 26th.

POINSETTIAS



Donor

Robert and Christine Cornwell

Juanita Fertig

Jerry & Maxine Rogers

Michael & Monica Lambert

Roger & Deb Wickboldt

Jim & Anne Vermillion

Barbara & Barry Hockenberry

Donor

Pastors JMe and Bob Lowden

Sue Teal

Susan Scheulen

The Wolf family

Diann Dailey

Bernie Jenkins

Jerry & Maxine Rogers

Charles Poffenberger

Diana James

Mrs. Sandra de Azagra

Chuck & Marcie Stern

Jim & Anne Vermillion

Barbara & Barry Hockenberry

Patty Taylor

Mark Taylor

In Honor of

Reagan & Dax Manspile

Jerry & Maxine Rogers
Ed & Carol Lambert

all the wonderful friends we've made at Trinity

our granddaughter Isabel

daughters Kate LeMasters & Rachel Hockenberry

In Memory of

JMe's parents, Wesley R. and Mary E. Ely
Bob's parents, Louis C. and Lola Lowden

Gilbert E. Teal, Evangeline M. Teal

Leonard & Annabelle Richard; Harry & Bertha Scheulen; Dennis Richard

Logan Maiatico

Dad, Warden Jenkins

Warden Jenkins

Samuel Carroll Long

Louise Poffenberger

her mother, Elizabeth

Leonard & Alice Mild, Sandra's parents

Our grandparents, Harold Metz, William H. Edmonson Jr.,
Frances Edmonson, Foster & Mildred Judy, Charles & Edith Stern;
Marcie's cousin, Richard "Kyle" Metz; Marcie's uncle, John Edmonson

our son Danny

Henry Fehnel, Louise Badman, Clyde Badman, Roy & Anna Hockenberry

her parents and brother

his parents, Rev. John Taylor & Barbara Taylor, & his brother Phil Taylor