

Christmas Eve

Worship 4PM



810 Fairfax Street

Stephens City, VA

(540) 869-4019

December 24, 2025



TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF STEPHENS CITY VIRGINIA

Please Consider Donating Chancel Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? Consider donating **chancel flowers** for a Sunday service.

Flower donations are a beautiful way to:

- Honor or remember someone special
- Celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or milestone
- Add beauty to our worship space

If you'd like to donate flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please sign up on the **flower calendar** in the church Narthex or contact Martha Cooley.

You're welcome to take the flowers home after the service, or they can be delivered to someone in need of encouragement.

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 4718 0792 Passcode: 173681

Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephencityva/live/>

This Service; Greeters: Marianne Watson and Kavin Kowis. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Kathy Carroll. Communion Assistant: Hilda Painter.

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PRELUDE

Carols of Joy and Wonder

setting by Steven Scott

OPENING DIALOG

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them, light has shined!

For unto us a child is born – unto us, a Son is given.

And his name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

He is light

Whom the darkness shall not overcome!



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.

Refrain

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

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE vs 1, and Refrain

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

Kathy Carroll

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 *read responsively*

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

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

³Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.

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

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

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

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

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

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**
 The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

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

¹²**Then 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 world with righteousness
 and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

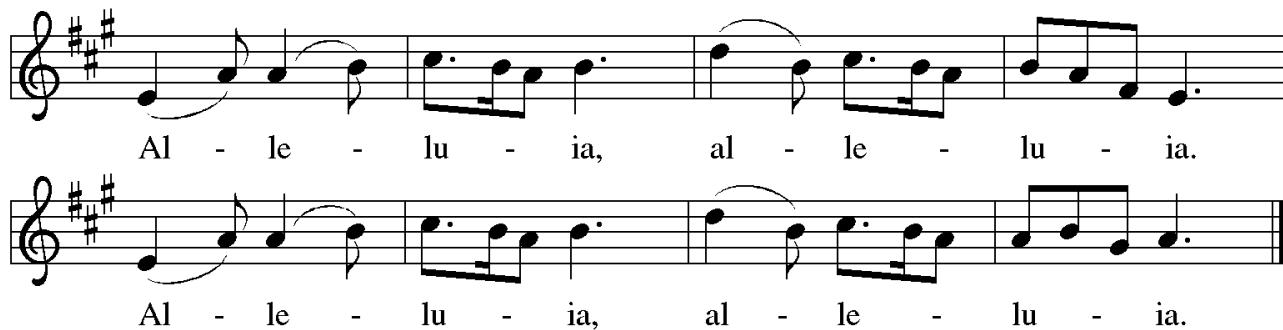
¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus 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

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.



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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares especially in Ukraine and The Gazza Strip. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling especially Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERTORY

In Bethlehem's Low Stable

Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)



Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

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 with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

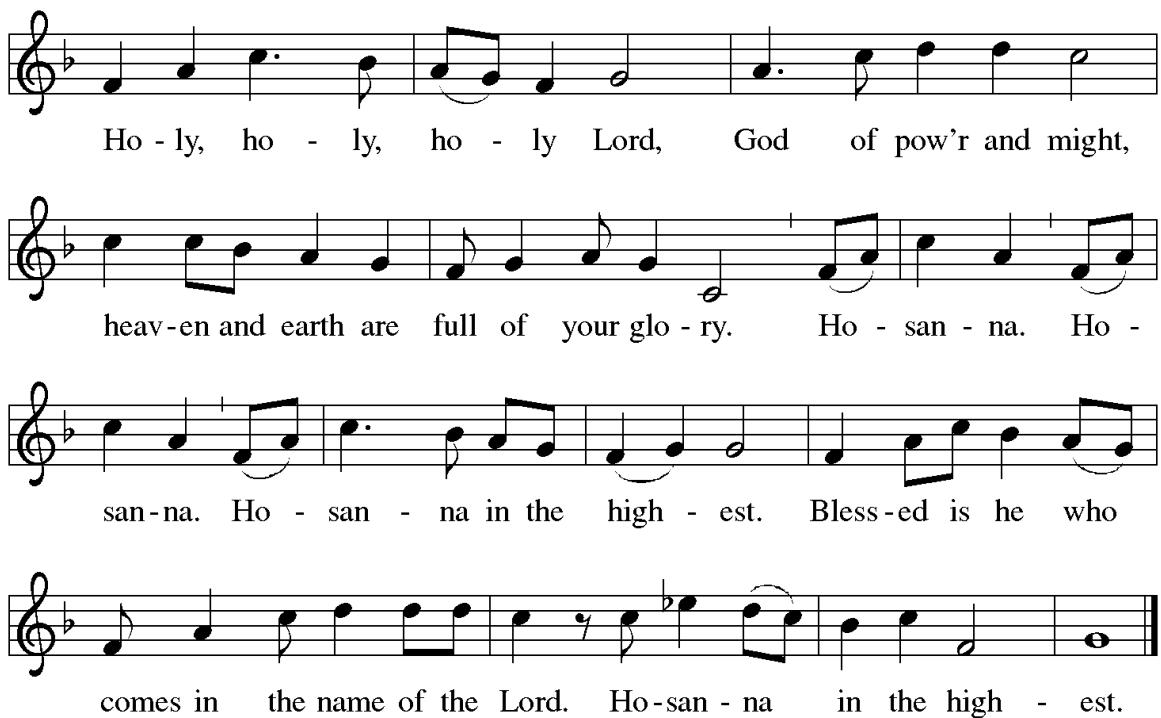
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

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.

For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

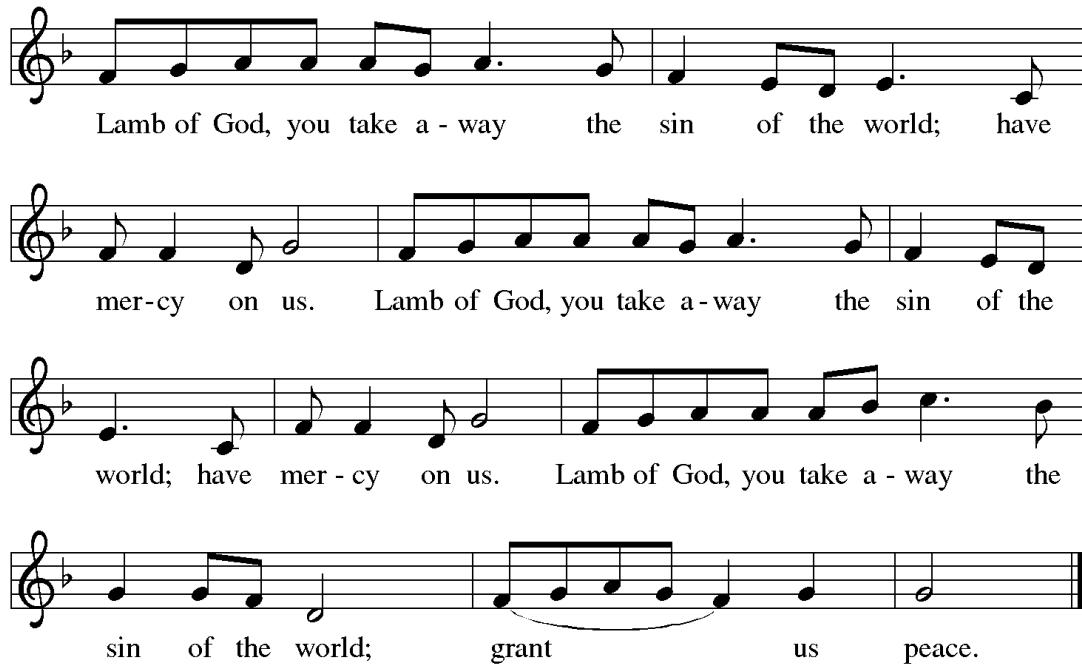
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.

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

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.

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!

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

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 lit from the center aisle. The lit candle is always held upright.

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,
peace,
born!
birth,

schlaf in
sleep in
Christ, the
Je - sus,

himm - li - scher
heav - en - ly
Sav - ior, is
Lord, at your

Ruh.
peace.
born!
birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

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.**

Please extinguish all candles.

SENDING SONG

bells may be rung

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
 ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -
 room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Let your light so shine before others that they see your good works and give glory to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **We will. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells

Arr. By Lani Smith

❖ Please join us on **Sunday, December 28, at 9:30 AM** for a Service of Lessons and Carols, as we continue to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth through Scripture and song.

Poinsettias



The following poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in honor or memory of loved ones. These plants decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Robert & Christine Cornwell

Dave & Pam Reichert

Tom & Nan Righter

Patricia Godding

In memory of her son *Frank G. Lindberg III*, and her daughter *Eileen Lindberg*

Barry & Barbara Hockenberry

In memory of *Louise Fehnel Badman, Henry Fehnel, Clyde Badman, and Roy & Anna Hockenberry*

Bernetta Jenkins

In memory of *J. Warden Jenkins, and Joe & Alma Zehren*

Michael & Monica Lambert

In memory of *Herbert Michael, Eddie Lambert, Calvin & Virginia Rogers, Opal Long, and Carroll Long*

Continue →

Ken & Marti Martin

In memory of their *Parents, Brothers and Sisters*

Jerry & Maxine Rogers

In honor of *Reagan & Dax Manspile*

In memory of their *Parents*

Susan Scheulen

In memory of *Leonard & Annabella Richard, Harry & Bertha Scheulen, Barbara Greene, and Dennis Richard*

Chuck & Marcie Stern

In memory of their Father's *Bill Edmonson, and Bill Stern*

Bonnie Wann

In memory of *Curt Wann*

William & Darla Wolf

In memory of *Dan Wolf, and Evelyn Wolf*

Thank you for helping beautify our worship space and for sharing this meaningful Christmas tradition. Flowers may remain through the Christmas season (4 January) or if preferred picked up after the service on January 28th.