



A Congregation of the  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA

We are a *Reconciling in Christ*  
congregation, affirming the  
diversity of God's children



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# CHRISTMAS EVE



Hanna Varghese, Malaysia, *God Is With Us*, 2006

**December 24, 2021**

**7:00 pm**

**Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...**

*an adventure for life!*

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

## In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.

## Love Your Neighbor

- In keeping with the current mask update for Columbus, masks are required at worship services and other group activities inside the Redeemer Lutheran Church building.
- The sanctuary is set up for social distancing.
- Those who wish may stand during the opening and closing hymns and the reading of the Gospel.
- During the passing of the peace, we suggest you place your palms together under your chin in the "namaste" posture as a way to share the peace in a distanced way.
- Individual communion elements are available to pick up inside the sanctuary door.
- If you wish to use one of the first-floor bathrooms, please follow instructions in the bathroom about disinfecting it after your use. Only one person at a time in the restrooms.

Please turn off your cell phone or set to airplane mode. This will help maintain our livestream.

# WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

## Prelude and Lighting the Christ Candle

*Greensleeves with Coventry Carol*, arr. Joel Raney

Piano Duet, Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp

*He Is Born*, arr. John Carter

Piano Duet, Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp

*Ding, Dong, Merrily on High*, arr. Anna Laura Page

Chime Choir

## Welcome

*Please stand in body or spirit*

## Carol

## 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 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

## Opening Prayer

As once you came in the hush of darkness, O God,  
still our hearts now by the wonder of this night.  
Make us wise with the wisdom of a child,  
that truth might be born afresh in us.  
Let not our hearts be busy inns with no room,  
but doors opened wide to welcome a Holy Guest,  
who is Jesus Christ,  
alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

**First Reading      The Birth of the Messiah is Foretold      Jill Disbro**  
**Isaiah 9.2-6; 11.1-4a** - New Revised Standard Version and Contemporary  
English Version, inclusivized

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given;  
and the government will be upon his shoulder.  
And his name shall be called,  
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Sovereign, Prince of Peace.”  
Like a branch that sprouts from a stump,  
someone from David’s family will someday rule.  
The Spirit of the Lord will be with him  
to give understanding, wisdom, and insight.  
This ruler will be powerful,  
and will know and honor God.  
His greatest joy will be to obey God.  
This ruler won’t judge by appearances or listen to rumors.  
The poor and the needy will be treated  
with fairness and with justice.



# Carol

## Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

**Second Reading: The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary**      **Sheryl Owens**  
**Luke 1.26-38** - New Revised Standard Version, inclusivized

Six months [after he visited Mary's kinswoman, Elizabeth, to tell her she would give birth to John the Baptizer,] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And Gabriel came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, God is with you."

But Mary was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over the house of Jacob and Rachel for ever; and of his dominion there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy; he will be called the Son of God. And now, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.



## Carol

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## Third Reading

## The Birth of Jesus

Danica Denniss

### Luke 2.2-7 – Revised Standard Version

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled in their own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his fiancée, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to a son, her first-born, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

## Carol

## 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!



## **Fourth Reading      The Angels Proclaim the Good**

**News to the Shepherds**    Auden and Ryland Neal

**Luke 2.8-20** – Revised Standard Version

And in the region [of Bethlehem] there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said, “Fear not. For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to those who do God’s will.”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which our God has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



**Message**

***IT TELLS A STORY***

Shepherds, tell the news of Jesus lying in a manger.  
On this wondrous night, salvation has come.  
Shepherds, do you comprehend the gift we have been given?  
Sleeping in the hay is God's own son.

Shepherds, rejoice and lift up your voices,  
Praising God with songs of joy and delight.  
Shepherds, tell the news of Jesus lying in a manger:  
"Christ the Lord is born this night."

Shepherds, tell the news of angels singing in the heavens,  
Ringing out their songs of peace and goodwill.  
Shepherds, tell the story how they woke you from your slumber,  
Heralding the promise now fulfilled.

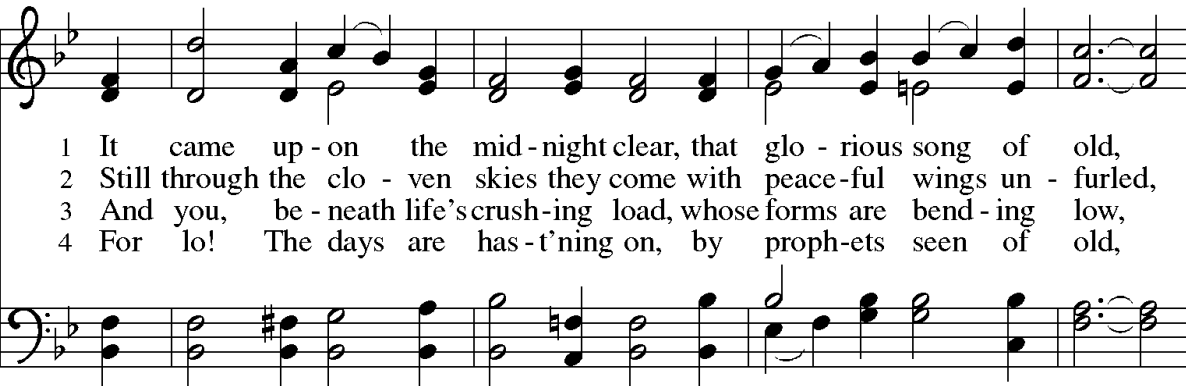
Shepherds, rejoice and lift up your voices,  
Praising God with songs of joy and delight.  
Shepherds, tell the news of angels singing in the heavens:  
"Christ the Lord is born this night."

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.  
Shepherds, go and tell the news upon the highest mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere.  
Shepherds, go and tell the news upon the highest mountain.  
Jesus Christ is born.

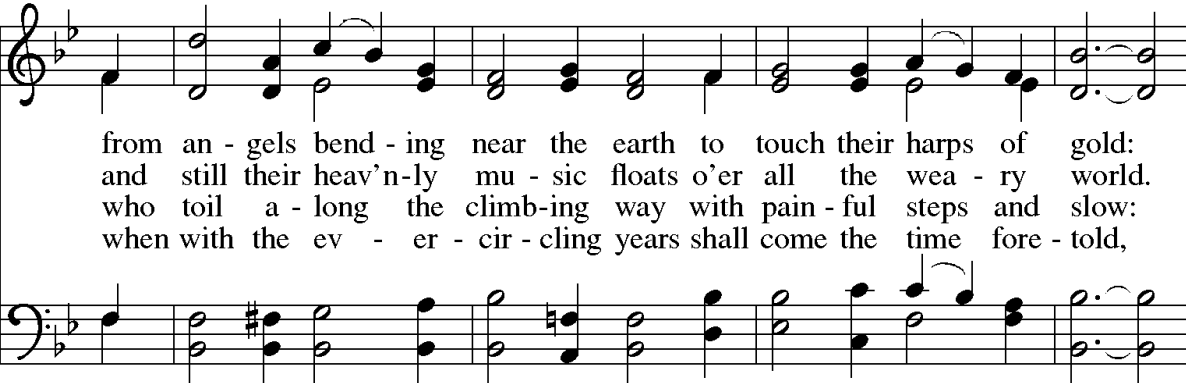
So, shepherds, rejoice and lift up your voices,  
Praising God with songs of joy and delight  
Shepherds, tell the news to all the people you encounter:  
"Christ the Lord is born this night!  
Yes, Christ is born this night!"

# Carol

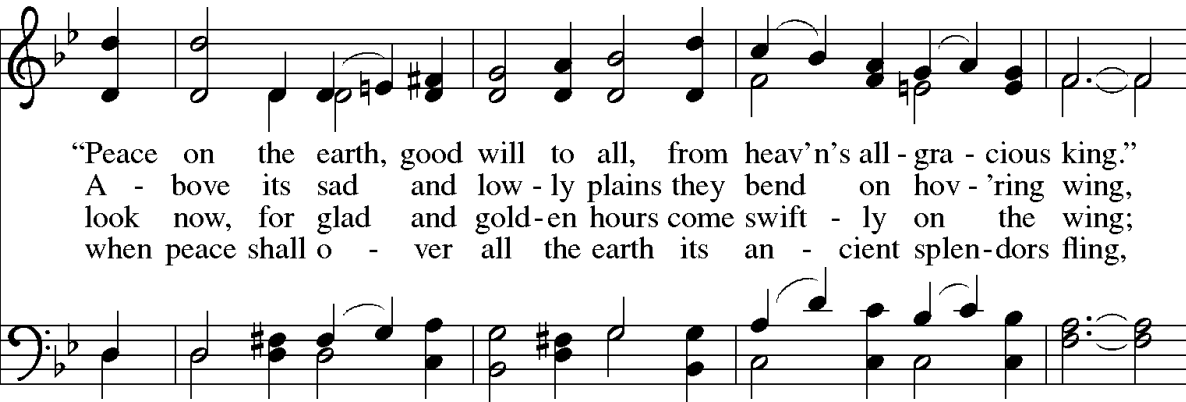
## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



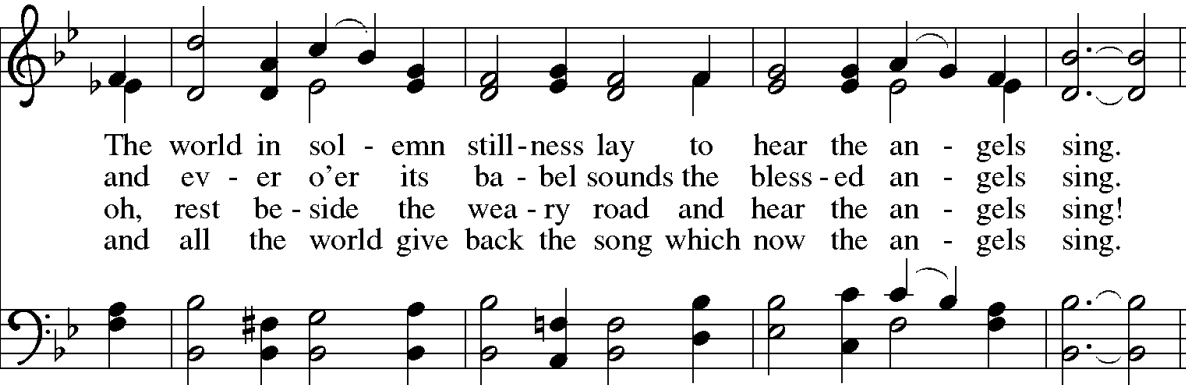
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen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

## Community Prayers

Let us pray....

**Amen.**

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Lea Spang, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Kelly Scott, Diane Louangrath, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their niece and sister-in-law, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Shirley and Jack Miller, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Grace and Ken Jones, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Karen Kent, Beatrice Watts Young, Kathie Ehrich's sister Betty Weaver, Chad Eberle's mother, Ruth Murray's step-granddaughter Trina Shields, Pastor Al Debelak, Eric Hutton  
The people of St. John Lutheran Church, London; Redeemer community member Lea Spang

## Anthem

**Alleluia, Christ is Born**  
Senior Choir

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is born!  
Christ is born in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem today,  
Oh, Christ is born today, Oh, Christ is born today!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is born!

Shepherds all, oh shepherds all, oh shepherds all, come follow me!  
We shall go to Bethlehem, this tiny Babe to see,  
This tiny Babe to see, this tiny Babe to see!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is born!

## Time with the Children

The children come forward and sit on the steps

## Passing the peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We take time to greet one another with words like Peace be with you.  
Please be sensitive to those who may need a gentle touch.*

## WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

*Please sit*

*Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to  
share this communion meal.*

*Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.*

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Mother and Father of all life, from the beginning of time your Spirit breathed light over darkness. You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains. You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life. You made humans in your image, and loved us in our brokenness and beauty. You promised to stay with us wherever we might go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary. Your Spirit met her, so together you could help make creation whole. She gave birth to Jesus, your beloved one. As he grew, and heard your call more clearly, he healed wounds. He blessed the lost and lonely with the gift of home. He showed hungry souls how they could follow him in love without fear. His presence in this meal offers the same gifts and power to us.

Holy One, shine upon us tonight as you shone upon the faithful Mary and trusting shepherds. Shine upon us as you have always given light to your people in the darkest times and places. Lit by the star over the manger, we raise our voices with saints and angels in this heavenly song:

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

heav - en 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.

This night we kneel by the manger and sit around the table with Jesus' disciples. This night we see this beautiful baby and we see the adult Jesus whose words, actions, and fearlessness made the powerful fear him enough to seek to silence him. Long after this holy night in Bethlehem, Jesus gathered with his friends in Jerusalem. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, he took a cup of wine, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is the blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this, do so to remember me."

Therefore, God of all the things, we ask your Spirit to bless this meal. We gather with you tonight at the manger and in the upper room, in the joy of this night and the betrayal of that night. Come among us! Open us to Jesus' presence in this meal and in each other. Nourish us to be his body given for the world you love. Make these words alive in us as we pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Sharing the Meal**

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal. So do we.

The body of Christ, given for you. (*We eat the bread together.*)  
The blood of Christ, given for you. (*We drink the cup together.*)

*In body or spirit, please stand*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**Amen.**

## SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT

*During the introduction of the hymn, the ushers will light their candles and begin to light the candles of the people standing in each pew at the center aisle. Please pass the light down your pew by tilting your unlit candles to the one that is lit.*

### Carol

### Silent Night

*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,

*Hol - der 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**

**Amen.**

**Postlude**

***The First Noel***, arr. Joel Raney  
Piano Duet, Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp  
***Angels We Have Heard On High***, arr. John Carter  
Piano Duet, Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp

**Our first act of love is to greet those standing near us and around us.**

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The Prayer for the Day this evening is adapted from Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace*, LuraMedia, 1984



**Pastor Shull Will Be on Vacation December 26-January 2**

Pastor Dave Shull will be on vacation from Sunday afternoon, December 26, through Sunday, January 2. **Pastor Emlyn Ott** is preaching and presiding on January 2.

If you have a pastoral emergency between Sunday afternoon, December 26 and Wednesday, December 29, please contact **Pastor Brad Gee** from Epiphany Lutheran Church at 248-470-3185. Between Thursday, December 30 and Sunday, January 2, please contact **Pastor Julianne Smeck** from Hope Lutheran Church at 734-972-6126.

***Happy New Year to you all!***





***CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:***

**DONOR**

Kevin Bailey  
Karen and Bruce Collins  
Julie and John Guerard  
John Kennedy

Emily Kent  
Kathy and Tom Mimlitch  
Cathy Oldham  
LaVerna Reinoehl  
Steiner Family  
Wendy Stoica  
Robin Stokes

Becky & Larry Trover  
Linda Williams  
Jennifer, Tim, and Colin Young  
Kathleen Zwanziger

**DONOR**

Kay Ernsthausen

Dave Shull  
Wendy Stoica  
Linda Williams  
Tone Chimes

**IN MEMORY OF**

Ruth Anna & Vyron Bailey  
Parents  
Hilda & Dick Kautz  
Rev. and Mrs. John L. and  
Marcelene A. Kennedy  
Loved ones  
Parents  
Sue Baker and all loved ones  
Dave Reinoehl  
Loved Ones  
Mike Binion  
Rob Stokes, Geri Stokes, Hilda  
Stokes, and Jane Cenci  
Our parents  
Loved ones  
Robert Young  
Al, Ethel, and Marie Zwanziger

**IN HONOR OF**

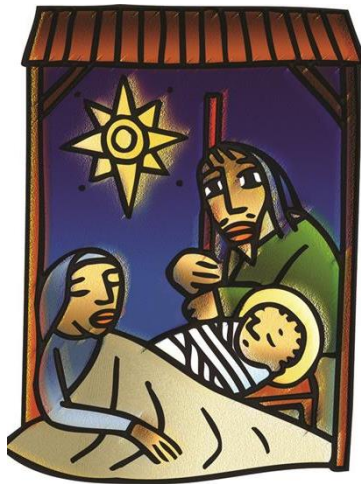
Celebrating the gathering of  
families and friends  
The resilience of Redeemer  
Mary Binion  
Family  
Karen Kent

## OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TONIGHT

**Presiding Minister**  
**Assisting Minister**  
**ASL Interpreter**  
**Crucifer**  
**Readers**

**Organist & Senior Choir Director**  
**Pianist & Chimes Choir Director**  
**Usher**  
**Verger**  
**Producers**

David Shull, Pastor  
Connie Criswell  
Bryan Neal  
Skye Andree  
Jill Disbro, Sheryl Owens,  
Danica Denniss, Auden and Ryland Neal  
Kathy Rapp  
Karen Kent  
Judith Bird  
Wendy Stoica  
Scott Steiner, Tom Mimplitch



**Saturday, December 25**  
**Christmas Day Worship**  
In-Person and Livestream  
**10 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 26**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
In-Person and Livestream  
**10 a.m.**

**Sunday, January 2**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
In-Person and Livestream  
**10 a.m.**

Zoom link for worship services:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sGE88YtJrLWuGWO0sS-yw>