

#### A Congregation of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

We are a <u>Reconciling in Christ</u> congregation, affirming the diversity of God's children



1555 South James Road, Columbus, OH 43227 614.237.1263 + info@redeemerluth.com + www.redeemerluth.com

# CHRISTMAS EVE



Erland Sibuea, Nativity, Indonesia, 2008

December 24, 2023 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.

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

There's a Song in the Air

**There's a Song in the Air** arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon Chime Choir

Still, Still, Still arr. Mark Hayes
Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp, Piano Duet

On Christmas Night

arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon Chime Choir

#### Welcome



#### Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O light of light e - ter - nal, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, all ye faith - ful, come, The high - est, most ho - ly, an - gels, greet thee, Sing, choirs of Lord, we Yea, born this hap - py morn - ing; 0 Beth le - hem; come ye, come ye to born of a vir gin, a mor - tal he comes: all cit - i of heav - en a - bove! sing, ye zens sus, thee be . glo ry giv'n! king come and hold him, born the an - gels: be of pear - ing! Son of the Fa ther now in flesh ap -God . . the . . . . Glo in . . . high - est: to Word the ther, now in flesh ap pear - ing: Refrainni - te a - do - re mus, ve ni - te him, O a - dore come, let come, let us ve- ni - te a - do remus Domi - num. come, let dore him, Christ the Lord! us a

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 our hearts not 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

Kelley Frank

**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.



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

# **Second Reading:**

# **The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary**

Lynn Belhorn

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.



#### **Musical Reflection**

#### O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
Chime Choir

# **Third Reading**

The Birth of Jesus

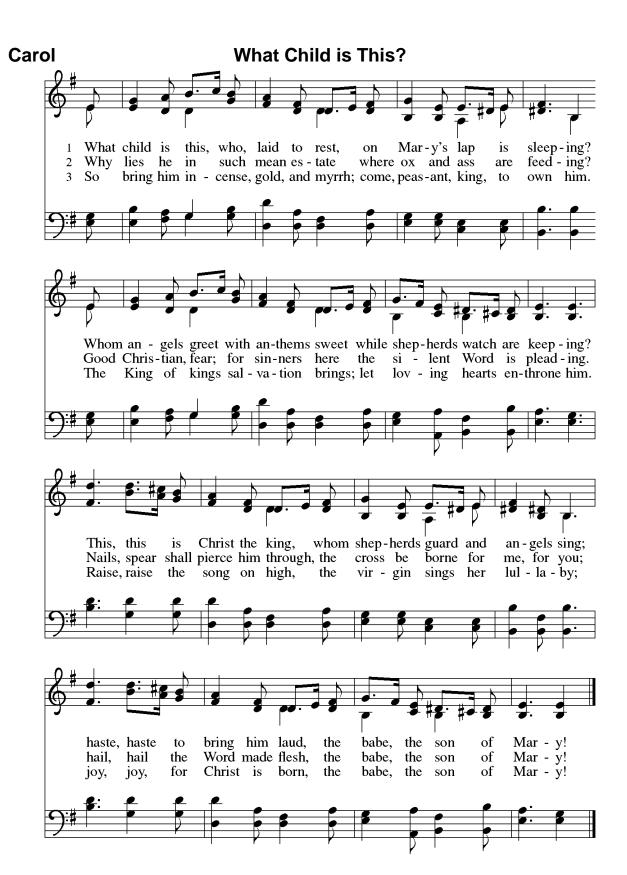
**April Smith** 

# Luke 2:1-7 – New King James Version

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.





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

# **Luke 2:8-20** – King James Version

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



#### **Musical Reflection**

# Noel Sing We Here!

arr. Larry Shackley Senior Choir

Sing we now of Christmas, noel sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we noel, the King is born, noel! Sing we noel, the King is born, noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest.

Journey forth to Bethlehem; find the Child so blest."

Sing we noel, the King is born, noel! Sing we noel, the King is born, noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel!

From the eastern country came the kings afar

Bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel sing we clear!

For today is born in Bethlehem the Son of God so dear.

Gold and myrrh they brought Him, gifts of greatest price.

Frankincense to greet the Child of paradise.

Noel! Noel! Noel sing we clear!

For today is born in Bethlehem the Son of God so dear. Sing noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, noel sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we noel, the King is born, noel! Rejoice and sing we noel, the King is born, noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now noel! Noel! Noel!

#### The Risk of Birth

by Madeleine L'Engle [1973]

This is no time for a child to be born, with the earth betrayed by war & hate and a comet slashing the sky to warn that time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born, in a land in the crushing grip of Rome; honor & truth were trampled to scorn—yet here did the Savior make His home.

When is the time for love to be born? The inn is full on the planet earth, and by a comet the sky is torn—yet Love still takes the risk of birth.





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# **Community Prayers**

Let us pray.... Amen.

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

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Pastor Tim Muller, Heidi Sherer, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose The people of Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus; Redeemer community member LaVerna Reinoehl

#### Time with the Children

# **Sharing the peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Members are encouraged to move around the sanctuary to greet each with a hearty handshake or a hug. For those who have special concerns or who do not wish close contact, please offer a sign of blessing to let others know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.

We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshiping via livestream before greeting those in the sanctuary.



# WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

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.





Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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# **Great Thanksgiving**

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

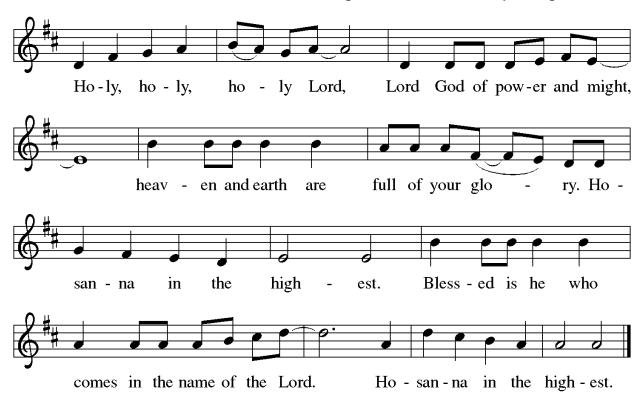
And also with you. We lift them to the Lord.

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:



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."

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! We open ourselves to Jesus' presence in this meal and in each other. Fed by this meal, we will be his body given for the world you love. We promise to make these words come 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.

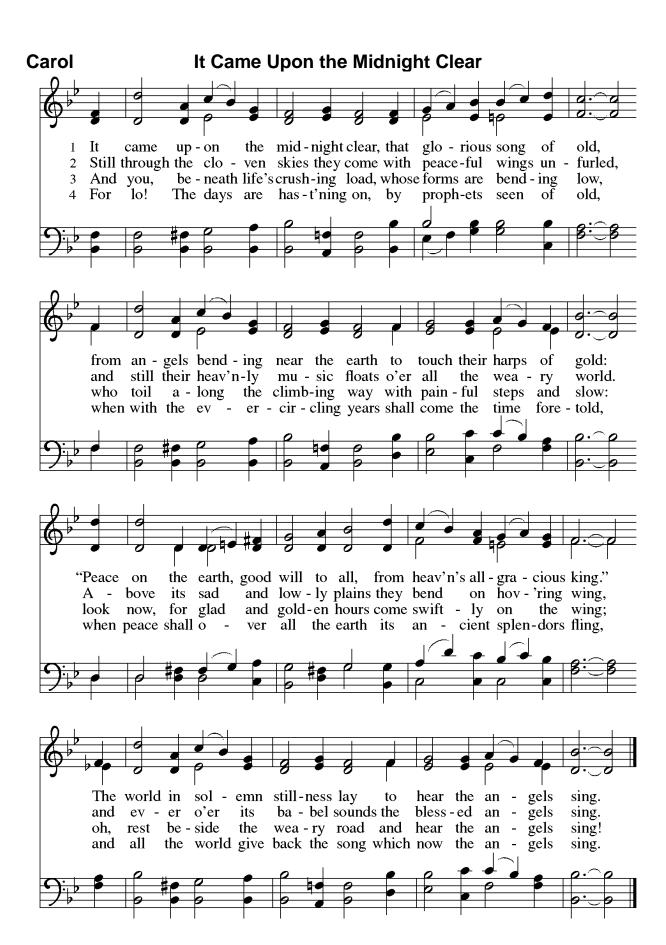
# **Sharing the Meal**

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

You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray, grape-apple juice in the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available on request, ask Pastor.



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



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 In body or spirit, please stand

# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

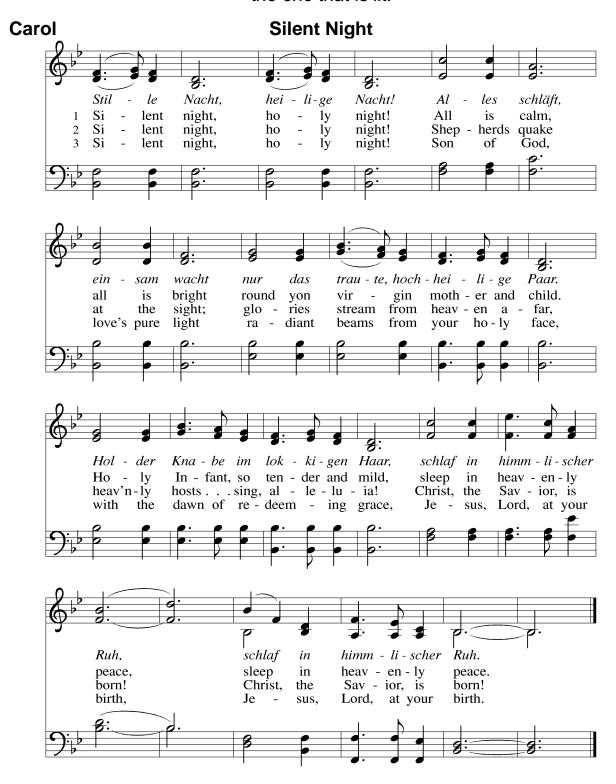
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

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.



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

# Fifth Reading

#### The Word Becomes Flesh

Michelle Clemence

John 1:1-5, 14 (New Revised Standard Version)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory a parent gives a child, full of grace and truth.

#### **Postlude**

# Ding! Dong! Merrily on High!

arr. Howard Helvey

Piano Duet

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





# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:

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Nancy Magargal Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Aunts, Uncles and

**Cousins enjoying Christmas in heaven** 

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Carol Heacock Family, Friends, & Neighbors

Kay Ernsthausen All the children

Katie, Andy, and Ruby Jacobs Our family and friends
Karen & Al Rider To the Glory of God

Dave Shull In gratitude for this Redeemer community

Tone Chimes Karen Kent

Becky & Larry Trover Family near and far

Laura & Terry Warren Our families

#### **OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TONIGHT**

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Cantor
Readers
David Shull, Pastor
Michelle Clemence
Heidi Sherer
Kelley Frank, Lynn Belhorn, April Smith,

Brad Binau, Michelle Clemence

Judith Bird. Scott Steiner

ASL Interpreter

Organist & Senior Choir Director

Pianist & Chime Choir Director

Usher

Verger

Bryan Neal

Kathy Rapp

Karen Kent

Kathleen Zwanziger

Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica

**Producers** 



# Monday, December 25 Christmas Day Worship 10 a.m.

In-Person and Livestream

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday of Christmas

10 a.m.

In-Person and Livestream

YouTube link for worship services:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sGE88YtJrLWuGWO0sS-yw

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community

1555 South James Road, Columbus OH 43227
614.237.1263 + info@RedeemerLuth.com + www.RedeemerLuth.com
Office hours –9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu
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