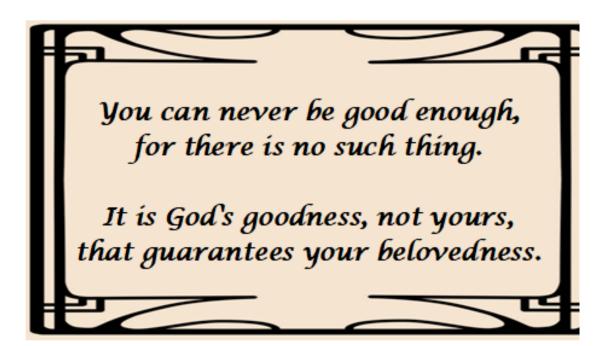


A Reconciling in Christ congregation, celebrating the diversity of God's children and fostering understanding and healing in community

# **Baptism of Our Lord**



January 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all... an adventure for life!

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Preparation for Worship

- <u>Within the sanctuary</u> 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.
- Please silence your cell phone.

# WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Please be respectful of people who use this time to prepare for worship.

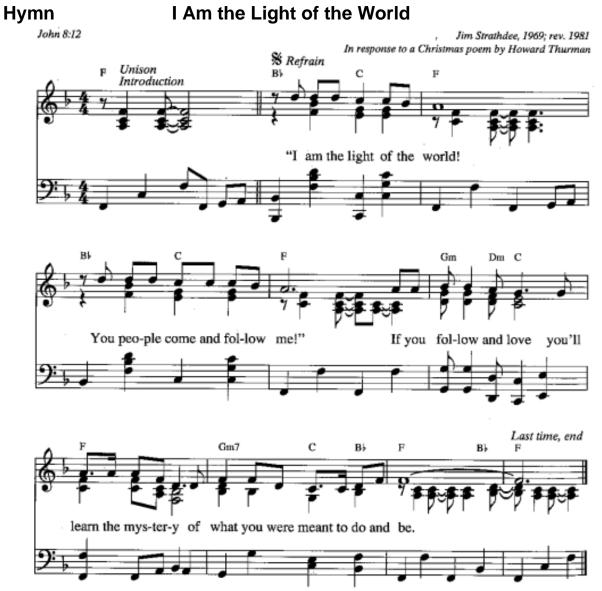
Prelude

Morning Star/Celestia

arr. G. Winston Cassler

#### Welcome

Please stand in body or spirit



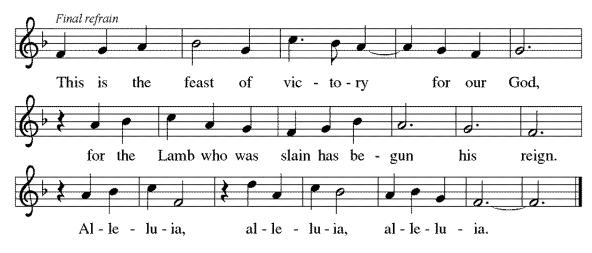


This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles. Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Int. Jim Strathdee, 1969

#### Greeting

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





Please be seated

# WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

## Reading

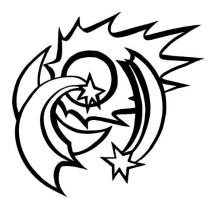
Genesis 1:1-5 (The Message, inclusivized)

A reading from the book of Genesis

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. God spoke: "Light!"

And light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, and the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning— Day One.

May we open ourselves to what the Spirit is saying to the church. Amen.





Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C*  $\otimes$  2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Ascribe to the I LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glo- I ry and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name; worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness. The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of I glory thunders; the LORD is upon the I mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. The voice of the LORD breaks the I cedar trees: the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon; the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox. The voice | of the LORD bursts forth in <sup>1</sup> lightning flashes. The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- I ness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the <sup>1</sup> forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore. O Lord, give strength <sup>|</sup> to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- I ings of peace.





Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

#### Gospel

Mark 1:4-11 (The Message, adapted) Glory to you, O Lord. The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

- John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey.
- As he preached he said, "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out."
- At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

A mother holds her newborn child, gotten by pain and labor, helpless and incompetent. She loves her baby, not for its behavior, not for its deserving, but because love is her nature, loving fiercely, like a raging river. Her love is not determined by the child's performance but by her own heart. Ask her if the child is good enough and she will answer, "No. She is perfect. Because she's mine." There is no other reason, no variance.

You are a newborn child, fresh from God's birth waters. Your choices, though real, are immaterial to God's adoration.

You can never be good enough, for there is no such thing. It is God's goodness, not yours, that guarantees your belovedness.

Of course you are not deserving. You may protest, "But, God, I'm not all that good." God will reply, "Oh, child, you're so much worse than you know. But I love you. You are my child, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

> Get over being good enough, and your enemy being good enough. You are God's child, God's Beloved, with whom God is delighted.

> > Steve Garnaas-Holmes



## **Remembrance of Baptism**

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- Holy God, merciful and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.
- Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.
- Thank you for your saving waters: Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea and drink from your gushing rock. Namaan washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.
- Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in the water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us. Renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
- To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## **Musical Reflection**

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman/Dan Forrest Senior Choir

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

- To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the pris'ner,
- To rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers,

To make music, music, make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins.

#### **Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Community Prayers**

Let us pray.... After each petition: "Receive our prayer,"

Your mercy is great. 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, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose and granddaughter Megan and family, John Kennedy's sister and brother-in-law, Becky & Vic Wolfe
The people of Christ Lutheran Church in Heath; Redeemer community members Karen and Al Rider

## Time with the Young People

Presentation of Story Bible to Dylan Kirkman

#### 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.

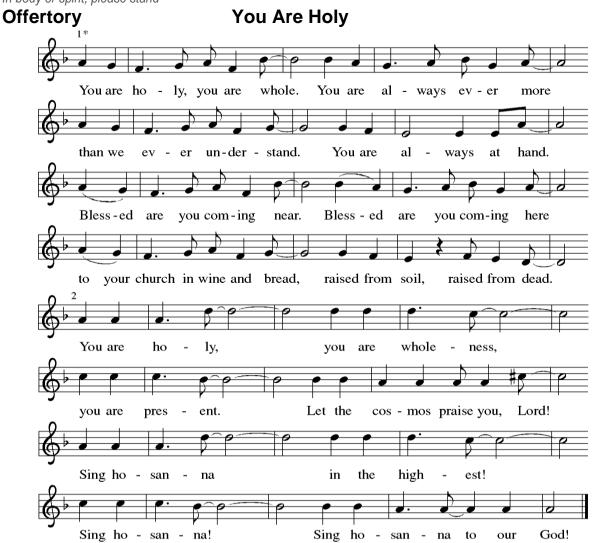
We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshiping via livestream before greeting those in the sanctuary.

# 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.

In body or spirit, please stand

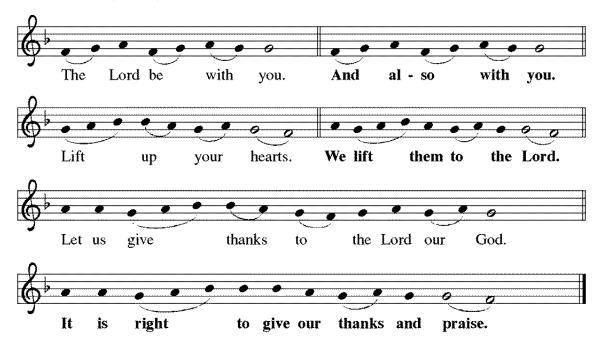


\* May be sung in canon.

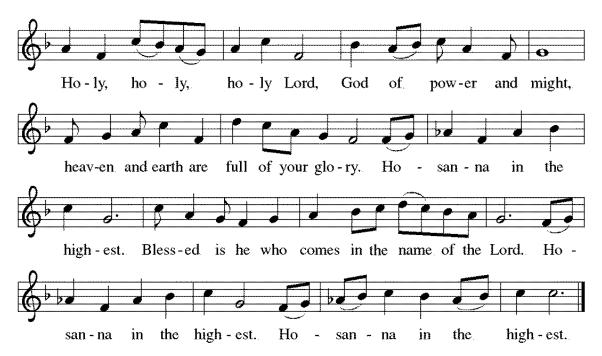
Text: Per Harling, b. 1945 Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

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### **Great Thanksgiving**



- In a refugee child playing under a star, in an unknown young man requesting baptism, in a wandering preacher refreshed by water from a woman's hand, God was waiting to be recognized and known, to transform seeing and change the world.
- In the routine smallness of everyday life, in the painful uncertainty of struggle and transition, in the timeless grace of hospitality, and the gifts of bread and wine, God is waiting to be recognized and known, to transform our seeing, and to change our world.
- Here, at this table, under the welcoming light of a morning star, the God of epiphanies waits to be encountered. So though you may be weary and worn by your journey or stained and sore with travel look up and see the star, lay aside your packs, and enter with joy for God waits here to refresh and renew, to comfort and restore, to challenge and transform, to know, and be known.
- Now, gathered around this table, we recall and recount how the Epiphany God appeared in the actions and words of Jesus as he shared a last supper with his friends in which Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take this and eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me." And after supper, Jesus took the cup and gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. As often as you drink this, do so to remember me."
- Recalling and treasuring these things, we join our voices with those of all creation to recognize and celebrate the grace and goodness of God present and at work in the world.



Epiphany God, send down your Holy Spirit now on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine – that we might recognize and know you present with us here, and in receiving the gifts of your love find ourselves renewed. By this meal, renew our commitment to make real the prayer Jesus teaches:

#### 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. Please be seated

Please de seated

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: James Quinn, sJ, b. 1919 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673 Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com.

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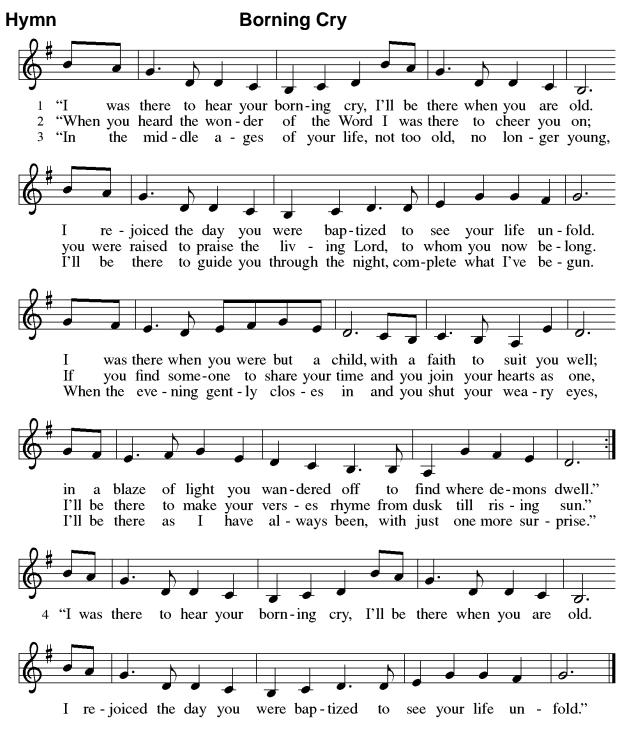
Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

#### Please stand in body or spirit

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Emmanuel – bright Morning Star: Gift us the grace and generosity to respond freely and fully, whatever you might ask of us. So may our loving and living become places of epiphany where you can be recognized and known, and the transforming life of your Kingdom unleashed.

#### WE ARE SENT



Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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## Blessing

#### Amen.

#### Announcements

#### Postlude

#### Antioch

## setting by Raymond H. Haan

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Communion liturgy adapted from one written by the Rev. Bill Loader of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Message (MSG) ©1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 Eugene H. Peterson

#### Assisting Minister Training

January 7 - 11:15 am

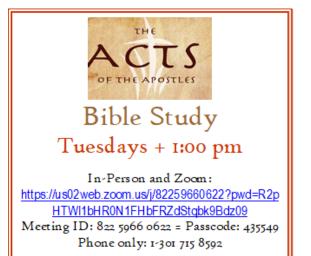
Training for assisting ministers during the adult ed time. Anyone who wishes to explore being an assisting minister should contact Pastor Dave at 206-725-3785 or via email at <u>dshull@redeemerluth.com</u> In-Person and Zoom: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us//88957366923?pwd=TnV6cFB4ZUpET</u> <u>25USTgzZ0dtZlhnQT09</u> Meeting ID: 889 5736 6923 = Passcode: 383835 Phone only: 1-312-626-6799

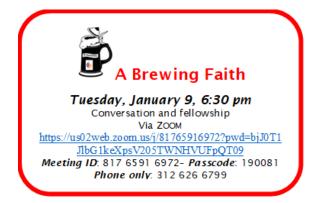
#### RLC 2024 Budget

#### January 14 - 11:15 am

An opportunity for people in the church to ask questions about the proposed 2024 budget, which will be voted on at the congregational meeting after worship on *Sunday, January 28*.

In-Person only









Sister Act WALKING HUMBLY WITH GOD Lovingkindness Making cards for CHOICES Wednesday January 17 6:30 pm

Please join us for fellowship and service



Wednesday, January 17 7-8:30 pm

# This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto

by *Suketu Mehta* Copies are available in public libraries.

IN-PERSON and ZOOM <u>https://us02zoom.us//j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tK</u> M2xEd3dyK1RvSURJYIFuZz09 Meeting ID: 865 8150 4887 +++ Passcode 274918 Phone Only: 312-626-6799





#### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:

#### DONOR

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

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#### IN HONOR OF

Family, Friends, & Neighbors All the children Our family and friends To the Glory of God In gratitude for this Redeemer community Karen Kent Family near and far Our families

## **OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

Presiding Minister Assisting Minister Cantor ASL Interpreter Organist & Senior Choir Director Pianist & Chime Choir Director Usher Verger Communion Prep Producers Hospitality

David Shull, Pastor Naomi Morgan Jennifer Young Bryan Neal Kathy Rapp Karen Kent Zak Hinkle-Moore Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica Sara Auman, Julianne Johnson Tom Mimlitch, Sue Yehling Michelle Clemence

Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence

## THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER JANUARY 7 – 14

Today	8:45 am 10:00 am 11:15 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion IN-PERSON and ZOOM Assisting Minister Training
Tuesday	1:00 pm 6:30 pm	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study ZOOM A Brewing Faith
Next Sunday	8:45 am 10:00 am 11:15 am 11:15 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School for all ages 2024 Budget Hearing



1555 South James Road, Columbus OH 43227 614.237.1263 + <u>info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> + <u>www.RedeemerLuth.com</u> Office hours –9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America