



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A "Reconciling in Christ" and Stephen Ministry Congregation



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

7:30 PM

We are a faith-rooted community with no walls: always learning, always serving!

We are a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation. The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical and mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do, that can separate us from God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord!

If you would like to know more about our congregation please contact the church office at clcoffice@verizon.net or see our website at www.christlutherandc.org. If you would like to receive our weekly email blast about ongoing activities of Christ Lutheran Church, send us an email and we'll be happy to include you.

When we gather together—even virtually—Jesus is present. We will be celebrating Holy Communion. If you would like to participate in your home, please have bread/crackers or wine/juice ready. We also invite you to have a candle ready to light during the Ritual of Light.

+ PRELUDE +

Carols for Cello and Organ

Christine Lightner, Cello

Joy-Leilani Garbutt, Organ

*(**Bold** print indicates responses spoken by all)*

+ WE GATHER IN PRAYER AND PRAISE +

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.**

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in Jesus Christ, who came to share our humanity and bring hope to this broken world, let us come before God without fear to make our confession.

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of peace, we confess that we are not at peace — with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

read by Derek Keskar

GATHERING HYMN OF PRAISE
"Angels We Have Heard on High"

#289, ELW
GLORIA

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.

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958.

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, Jesus, we can live in the light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. Amen.

+ WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD +

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2-7

² 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.

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.

After the Lesson: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,'. The second staff contains the melody for the next two phrases: 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with rests, and a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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.**

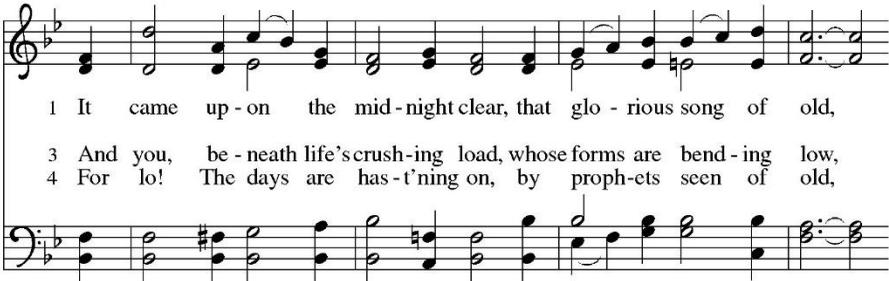
THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

SERMON

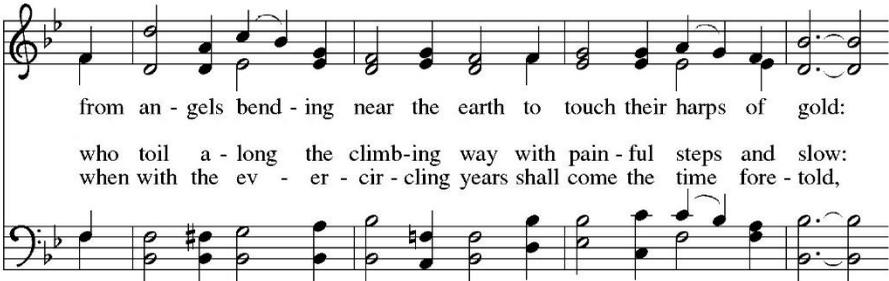


HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1, 3 and 4)
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

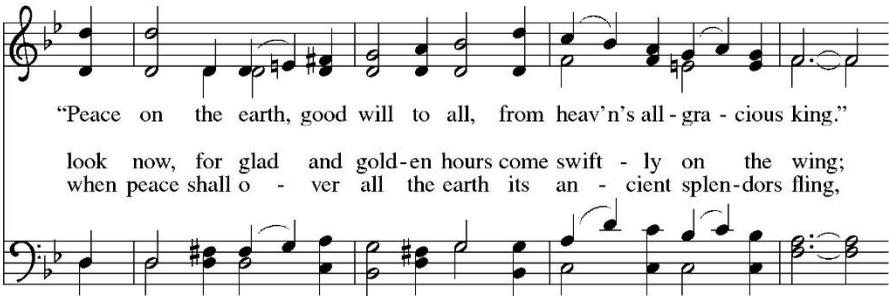
#282, ELW
CAROL



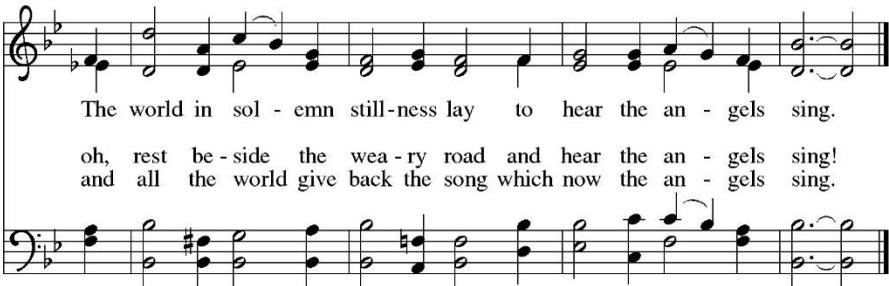
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
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."
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.
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: Richard S. Willis, 1819 - 1900

NICENE 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.**

THE PRAYERS

prepared by Kendall Bentz

After each petition:

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

or

**Let us bless the Lord!
Thanks be to God.**

+ CHRIST INVITES US TO SHARE IN THE MEAL OF LIFE +

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“A Christmas Blessing”

Philip W.J. Stopford

OFFERTORY CANTICLE

(verses 1 and 3)

#296, ELW

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-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?
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;
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!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God with us: **You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

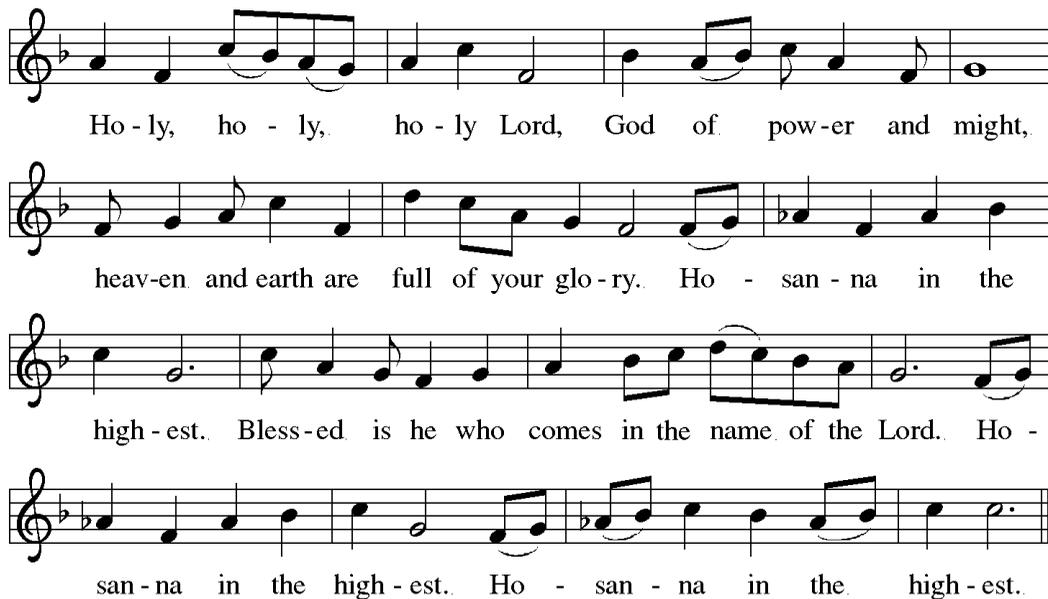
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

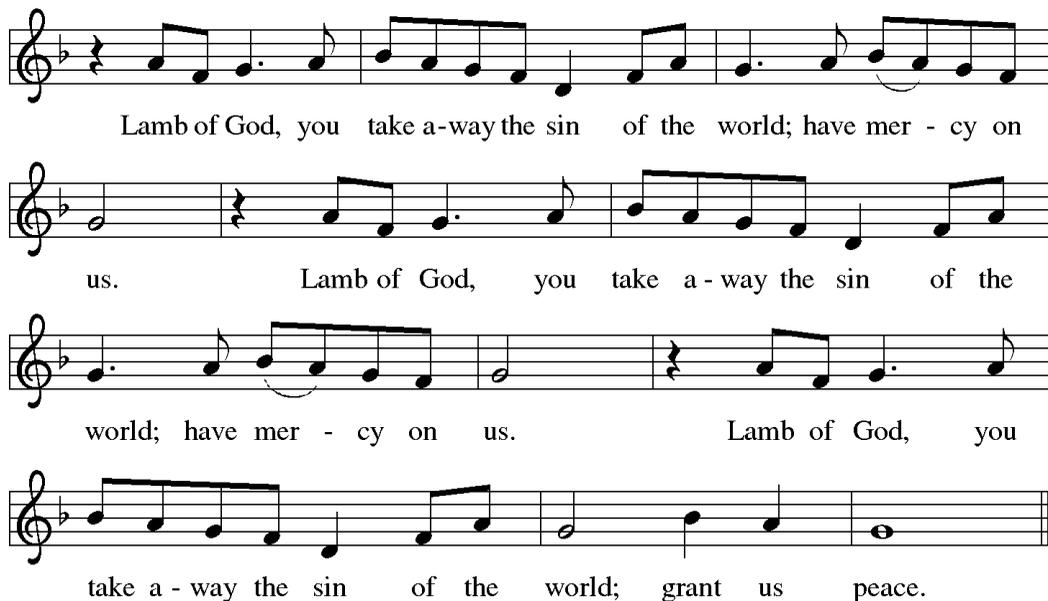
Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

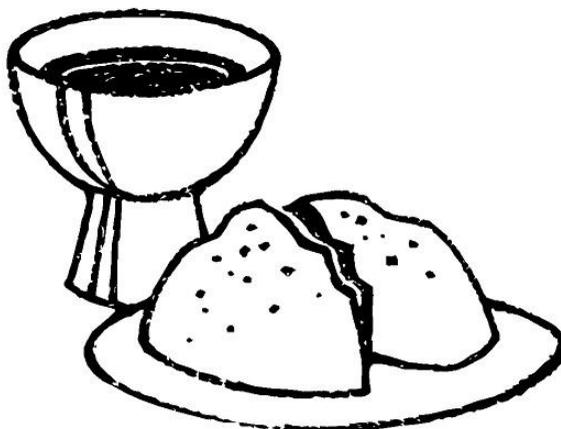
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are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

FRACTION HYMN "Lamb of God"



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.

DISTRIBUTION



DISTRIBUTION HYMN (verses 1 and 3)

#278, ELW

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a simple accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay".

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: "the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.".

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

The third system of musical notation. The lyrics are: "the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care".

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.".

Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838 - 1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919. Arr © Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-701279.

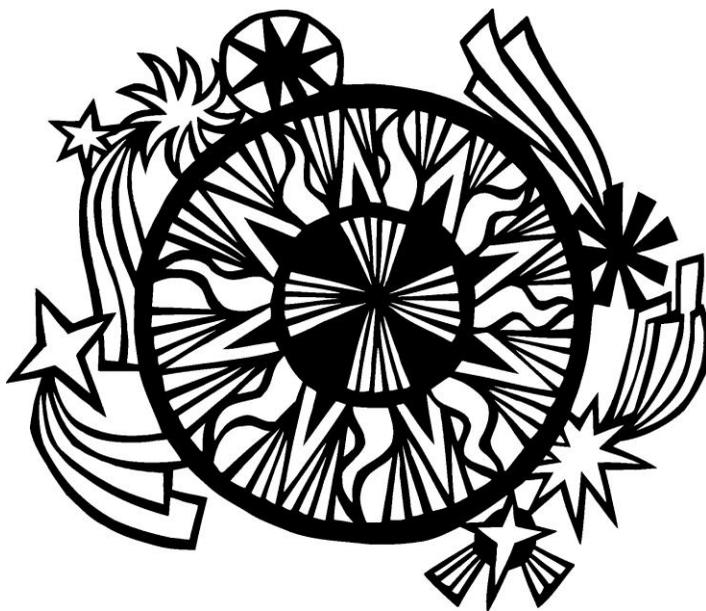
BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of wonder, **in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.**

THE RITUAL OF LIGHT

We invite you to light a candle in your home as we sing "Silent Night" to celebrate the light of Jesus come into the world.



HYMN

"Silent Night"

#281, ELW
STILLE 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,

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.

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

SILENT MEDITATION

With your candle still lit, please take this opportunity to enjoy the gift of silence for silent prayer and reflection.

BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

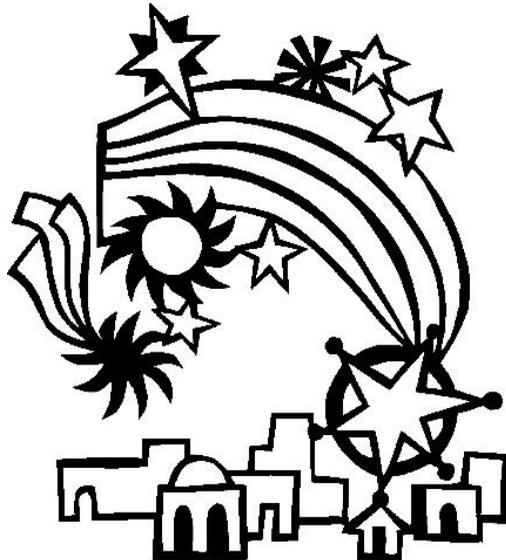
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Creator, + Christ, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

#267, ELW

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 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,

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

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Carillon on ANTIOCH"

Mary Beth Bennett

+ + +

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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