

**A  
FAMILY  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020, 7PM**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**PRELUDE AND MEDITATION**

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, find the Scripture readings in your Bible or the pew Bible, and pray. You may use this prayer:*

**God of grace, open our hearts and fill us with joy as we celebrate Your glory and love revealed to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



**INTRODUCTION**

*On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the great Light announced by Isaiah. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host*

*singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.*

**PRELUDE** "Almost There"

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please rise.)*

**PROCESSIONAL CAROL** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*(Maj # 133 v. 1-2 - Text & Tune: John F. Wade, tr. Frederick Oakeley) →*

1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,  
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Glo - ry to God . . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
*Refrain*  
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,  
oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION

P: Behold the Light, the Word made flesh,

**C: A Savior, Christ the Lord.**

P: Welcome the Light, the infant Jesus,

**C: A Savior, Christ the Lord.**

P: Embrace the Light with joy in your hearts,

**C: A Savior, Christ the Lord.**

P: The Dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness,

**C: And to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

P: Lord God, our Father, You appointed salvation to come by Your Son, Jesus Christ, even before the foundation of the world.

**C: We are in awe of Your love, O Jesus. You have given us the great gift of Yourself.**

P: You have shared with us every blessing that heaven has to give.

**C: You have rescued us from the power of darkness and sin, bringing us into Your light and righteousness.**

*(Please kneel.) Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: O Jesus, Emmanuel, God Who is with us,

**C: Take away the dimness of our vision so we may clearly see Your presence with us.**

P: God, Who gives the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,

**C: May we all behold Your glory and be changed into the likeness of Your Son by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

P: The angels of God proclaim to us the birth of hope, joy, and peace to God's people on earth. For the sake of the Savior, Who is Christ the Lord, Who lived, died, and rose for us, God forgives us all our sins and delights to call us beloved children. **C: AMEN.**

**GREETING** *(Please rise.)*

P: Good news of great joy, light and life, grace and peace be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

## WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

**CAROL** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Maj # 132 v.1&3)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
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.  
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. "Crown of Jesus," 1862 Music: GLORIA, French carol

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(The Christ candle is lit.)*

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **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.**

**RESPONSIVE READING**....Psalm 96 (*congregation: indented*)

Sing to the LORD a new song;

**sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

Sing to the LORD, praise His name;

**proclaim His salvation day after day.**

Declare His glory among the nations,

**His marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

**He is to be feared above all gods.**

For all the gods of the nations are idols,

**but the LORD made the heavens.**

Splendor and majesty are before Him;

**strength and glory are in His sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations,

**ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

**bring an offering and come into His courts.**

Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness;

**tremble before Him, all the earth.**

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;

**He will judge the peoples with equity.**

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

**let the sea resound, and all that is in it;**

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

**Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;**

they will sing before the LORD, for He comes,

He comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world in righteousness**

**and the peoples in His truth.**

*(Please sit.)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "*Go Tell It On The Mountain*"

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING**....Luke 2:1-7.....p. 1590

**CAROL** "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*"

*(Maj # 143 - favorite - Text: Phillips Brooks; Tune: Lewis H. Redner) →*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**SECOND READING....Luke 2:8-14.....p. 1591**

**CAROL "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (Maj # 160)**

1. While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed  
 2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread Had seized their  
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, Is born of  
 4. "The heav'n - ly Babe you there shall find To hu - man  
 5. Thus spoke the ser - aph, and forth - with Ap - peared a  
 6. "All glo - ry be to God on high, And on the

1. on the ground, The an - gel of the Lord came down,  
 2. trou-bled mind, "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring  
 3. Da - vid's line The Sav - ior, who is Christ, the Lord,  
 4. view dis - played, All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,  
 5. shin - ing throng Of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus  
 6. earth be peace: Good will hence - forth, from heav'n to all,

1. And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.  
 2. To you and hu - man - kind, To you and hu - man - kind.  
 3. And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign:  
 4. And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid."  
 5. Ad - dressed their joy - ful song, Ad - dressed their joy - ful song:  
 6. Be - gin and nev - er cease! Be - gin and nev - er cease!"

**THIRD READING**....Luke 2:15-20.....p. 1591

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*”

**CHILDREN’S CHAT** *Ruthann Kistler*

**FOURTH READING**....Titus 2:11-14.....p. 1859

**HOMILY** “*How Jesus Changed the World - Part 1*”

## **WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

*(Please rise.)*

**CAROL OF THE DAY** “*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*”

*(Maj # 123 - Text: Emily E.S. Elliott; Tune: Timothy R. Matthews)*

1. Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy king - ly crown when Thou  
2. Heav - en's arch - es rang when the an - gels sang, pro -  
3. The fox - es found rest and the birds their nest in the  
4. Thou cam - est, O Lord, with the liv - ing Word that should  
5. When the heav - ens shall ring, and the an - gels sing, at Thy

cam - est to earth for me; but in Beth - le-hem's home there was  
claim - ing Thy roy - al de - gree; but in low - ly birth Thou didst  
shade of the for - est tree; but Thy couch was the sod, O Thou  
set Thy peo - ple free; but with mock - ing scorn, and with  
com - ing to vic - to - ry, let Thy voice call me home, say - ing,

found no room for Thy ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty:  
come to earth, and in great hu - mil - i - ty:  
Son of God, in the des - ert of Gal - i - lee:  
crown of thorn, they bore Thee to Cal - va - ry:  
“Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee.”



## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Glory to God in the highest,

**C: and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: Blessed are You, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C: Send Your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

P: Blessed are You, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P: Blessed are You, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C: Reveal Yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear Your light to all the world.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in 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.

With this bread and cup we remember Your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung to the Albert Hay Malotte tune)*

**C: 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. AMEN.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(Please sit.)*

*All who are baptized and trust in Jesus as their Savior are welcome to partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the manger with your offering. If someone needs communion brought to them, please let an usher know. Take a regular or rice (blue) wafer and a pre-filled glass of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing. You are welcome to kneel at the altar rail after receiving. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

## COMMUNION CAROLS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

### 1. "What Child Is This" (Maj # 140)



- 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;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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

### 2. "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Maj # 134)



- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 3 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 men, 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, alt. Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## 2. “Away in a Manger” (Maj # 128)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by 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 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.

Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

## RESPONSIVE READING....Isaiah 9:2-3b, 4b, 6-7 *(Please rise.)*

*(Congregation reads indented)*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

**on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.**

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

**they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest,**

You have shattered the yoke that burdens them,

**the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.**

For to us a Child is born,

**to us a Son is given,**

and the government will be on His shoulders.

**And He will be called Wonderful Counselor,**

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

**He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom,**  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

**The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

*During "Silent Night" the Pastor will light the candles of worshipers at the end of each pew. Receive the light, please, by tilting your unlit candle toward the lighted candle held upright. Pass your light on to the person next to you as they tilt their candle towards yours.*



## CAROL "Silent Night"

*(Maj # 151 - Text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young; Tune: Franz Gruber)*

1-3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night!

1 All is calm, all is bright round yon vir - gin  
2 Shep - herds quake at the sight; glo - ries stream from  
3 Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant beams from

moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia!  
your ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*(First verse is repeated in German as all candles are lifted up.)*

**1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!**

## WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

### BLESSING

P: Arise, shine; for your Light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

L: The Word of God became flesh,

**C: The Son of God became man.**

P: The Lord of all became a servant of all,

**C: The Light of the world entered our darkness.**

L: The Righteous One was made sin,

**C: The Eternal One tasted death for us.**

P: The Risen One now lives in us,

**C: The Seated One is coming again!**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have filled us with the new light of the Word Who became flesh and lived among us.

**C: Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do. AMEN.**

P: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child.

Almighty God, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **C: AMEN.**

*(Sanctuary lights come on. Please extinguish your candle.)*

## RECESSIONAL CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*(Maj # 137 - Text: Charles Wesley; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn)*



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!



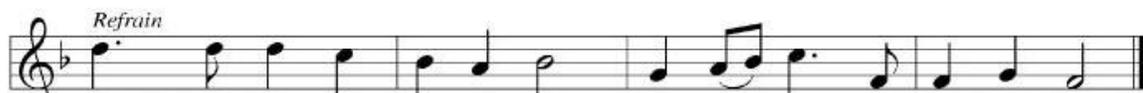
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



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

## PASSING THE PEACE

P: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of Christmas peace we have received. The peace of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**DECEMBER 24, 2020  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Poinsettia  
Sponsors**

Brown family  
Hahn Family  
Glasmire family  
Gary & Irene Graham  
Ruthann Kistler  
Leo & Pearl Nagle  
Stryker Family  
Treisner Family

**SERVANTS OF THE LORD**

ACOLYTES: Adam B/Seth M  
CRUCIFER: Tyler Szulborski  
PASTOR: Rev. David L. Brown  
ORGANIST: Nancy Cook  
LECTOR: Laurie Barlow  
LIVE STREAM: Janet Stryker  
SPECIAL MUSIC: Adam B/Robin F  
SOUND/USHER: Ken Yoxheimer  
PROJECTION: Karen Brown  
ALTAR GUILD: Alyce & Patty Stein  
CHILDREN'S CHAT: Ruthann K  
COMMUNION: Marianne Sands/  
Michele Sciarra/Lyn Stryker

*A Very Blessed & Merry  
Christmas to All*

**CELEBRATE THE HOLY DAYS AT HOLY CROSS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY — Fri, December 25, 2020  
9:00AM — Holy Communion**

**CHRISTMAS 1 — Sunday, December 27, 2020  
9:00AM — Service of Lessons & Carols  
10:30AM — In person Sunday School**

**CHRISTMAS 2 — Sunday, January 3, 2021  
9:00AM — Holy Communion  
10:30AM — In person Sunday School**

**EPIPHANY — Wednesday, January 6, 2021  
12:00noon — Holy Communion**

**Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 † (610) 867-6231  
www.holycrossbethlehem.com

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