

**HOLY COMMUNION  
DECEMBER 25, 2020  
CHRISTMAS DAY**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**PRELUDE AND PREPARATION**

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **O Jesus, our Savior, our King and our Great High Priest, as we remember and celebrate Your first coming as an infant, we eagerly await Your second coming in glory. Come to us even now as we break bread together. Amen.***

**INTRODUCTION**

*On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear; the light shines in the darkness. In the liturgy we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.*

**WELCOME AND MEDITATION**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

**GATHERING CAROL** *(Please rise.)*

*“Angels From the Realms of Glory” (Maj # 155) →*

1. An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2. Shep-herds in the fields a-bid-ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3. Sag-es, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi-sions beam a-far;  
 4. Saints be-fore the al-tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in hope and fear,  
 Ye who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry, Now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth:  
 God with man is now re-sid-ing, Yon-der shines the in-fant Light:  
 Seek the great De-sire of na-tions, Ye have seen His na-tal star:  
 Sud-den-ly the Lord, de-scend-ing, In His tem-ple shall ap-pear:  
*Refrain*  
 Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King. A-men.

**INVOCATION** (✠ = *All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness

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

P: God of grace and truth, **C: we confess that we have loved the works of darkness more than Your light. We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings through material things of creation rather than through You, our Creator. We are quick to judge others, yet we fail to see our own failings. Restore us, O God, that we may live in the fullness of Your grace and love. Let Your face shine on us, that we may be saved. AMEN.**

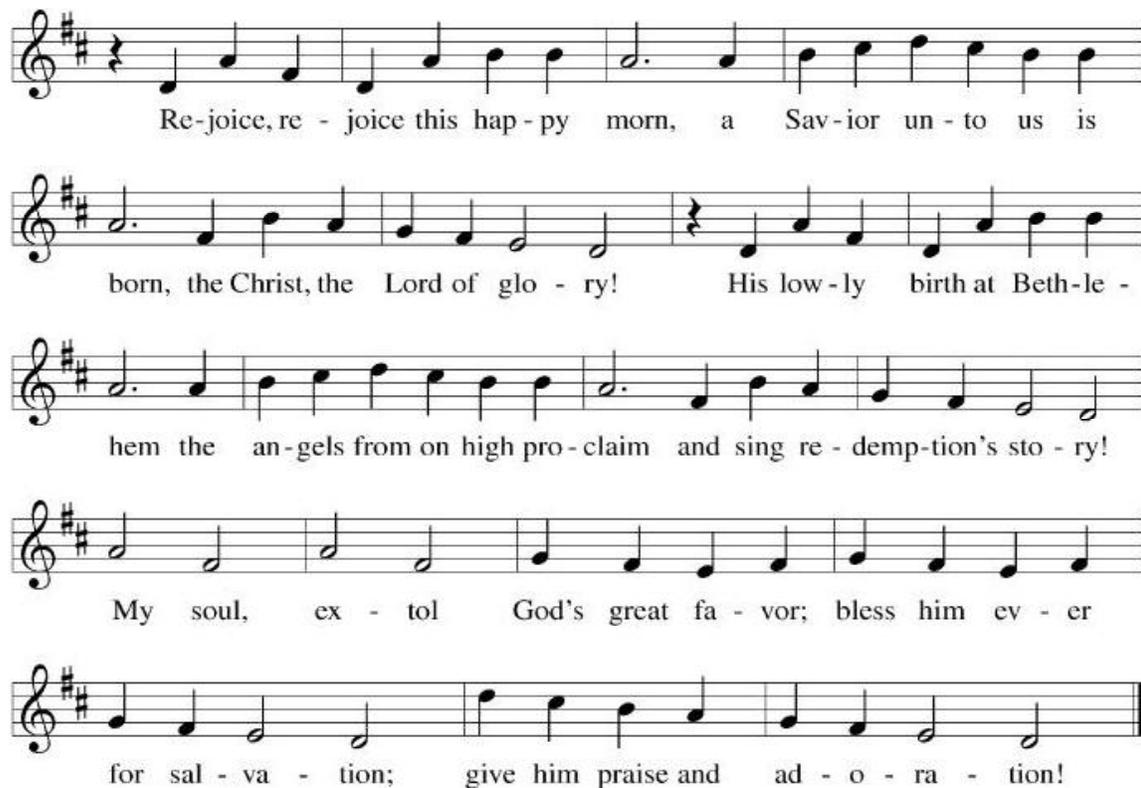
P: The angel said, you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

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

P: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

## **WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME**

### **CAROL** “*Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn*” (SBH # 32)



Re-joyce, re - joyce this hap - py morn, a Sav - ior un - to us is  
born, the Christ, the Lord of glo - ry! His low - ly birth at Beth - le -  
hem the an - gels from on high pro - claim and sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!  
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; bless him ev - er  
for sal - va - tion; give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937  
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**  
L: Let us pray together: **C: All powerful and unseen God, the coming of Your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

**RESPONSIVE READING....**Psalm 98 (*congregation: indented*)

Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

**His right hand and His holy arm  
have worked salvation for Him.**

The LORD has made His salvation known

**and revealed His righteousness to the nations.**

He has remembered His love

and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

**burst into jubilant song with music;**

make music to the LORD with the harp,

**with the harp and the sound of singing,**

with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—

**shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,

**the world, and all who live in it.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,

**let the mountains sing together for joy;**

let them sing before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

**CAROL** “*Joy to the World*” (SBH # 15)



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

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.: arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

*(Please sit.)*

**FIRST READING**....Isaiah 52:7-10.....Pew Bible p. 1144

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**...Hebrews 1:1-12..... p. 1862

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(Please rise.)*

*”Word of God Come Down” verse 1 (ELW # 510)*

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 4 Word that speaks God’s ten - der love, one with God be -  
 heav’n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove  
 faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to  
 we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** ...John 1:1-14.....Pg. 1645

P: The Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *”Word of God...” verse 4 ↑*

# HOMILY *(Please sit.)* “How Jesus Changed the World - Part 2”

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

### HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

“Our God Reigns” (Maj # 209 verses 1-3,5)



1 How love-ly on the moun-tains are the feet of him who brings good  
2 He had no state - ly form, he had no maj - es-ty, that we should  
3 It was our sin and guilt that bruised and wound-ed him; it was our  
4 Out of the tomb he came with grace and maj - es-ty; he is a -



news, good news; an-nounc-ing peace, pro-claim-ing news of  
be drawn to him. He was de-spised and we took no ac-  
sin that brought him down. When we like sheep had gone a - stray, our  
live, he is a - live. God loves us so; see Je - sus' hands, his



hap - pi - ness: our God reigns, our God reigns.  
count of him, yet now he reigns with the Most High.  
Shep-herd came, and on his shoul - ders bore our shame.  
feet, his side. Yes, we know, he is a - live.



Our God reigns, our God reigns, our God reigns, our God reigns.

Text: Leonard E. Smith Jr. Music: OUR GOD REIGNS, Leonard E. Smith Jr.  
Text and music © 1974, 1978 L. Smith/New Jerusalem Music

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father 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 our salvation He came down from heaven; He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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, with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified, He 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.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(Please kneel.)*

### **WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Please rise.)*

P: The LORD be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God Whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn: *“Hallelujah Chorus” (Shortened version)* →



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take, 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung) (please be seated after "Amen")*

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

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communion card and hand it to the usher. For a gluten-free rice wafer say "Rice." Grape juice is in the pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.*

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

### 1. "Once in Royal David's City"

*(ELW # 269 - Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, Music: Henry J Gauntlett)*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

2. "I Wonder As I Wander" (Maj # 126 - John Jacob Niles)



1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how  
2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came  
3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a  
4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how



Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like  
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a  
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in  
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like



you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.  
heav' n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.  
you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** (*Please rise.*)

P: Let us pray together: **God of love, thank You for feeding us with the bread of life and cup of salvation. Send us forth in the power of Your Spirit to tell the world about Jesus. AMEN.**

**WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD**

**PRESENTATION & BLESSING OF ADVENT BOXES**

**BLESSING**

P: May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **C: AMEN.**

**SENDING CAROL** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (Maj # 139) →

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold,through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## 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 peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE  
THE HOLY DAYS AT HOLY CROSS**

**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**

**DECEMBER 25, 2020**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Poinsettia**

**Sponsors**

Brown family

Hahn Family

Glasmire family

Gary & Irene Graham

Ruthann Kistler

Leo & Pearl Nagle

Stryker Family

Treisner Family

**SERVANTS OF THE LORD**

ACOLYTE: Seth Miller

LECTOR: Ruthann Kistler

SOUND SYSTEM: Lyn Stryker

COMMUNION: Patty Stein

ALTAR GUILD: Jan S

COUNTERS: Jan S/Karen B

*A Very Blessed  
and Merry  
Christmas to All*

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Lynden Stryker, *Secretary*

Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Worship - 9:00 AM † Sunday School - 10:30 AM

*(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)*

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