

“LET US GO TO
BETHLEHEM

AND
SEE
THIS
GREAT THING
THAT HAS
TAKEN PLACE.”

LUKE 2:15



- *Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd. We Warmly greet you in the name of the Lord and give God thanks for your presence today.*
- *All baptized believing Christians are welcome to gather at the altar for Holy Communion. **Grape juice and low gluten bread are available. Please see a greeter prior to the beginning of service.***
- *Please be sure to pick up a candle from the ushers before service.*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Please maintain silence in the Sanctuary as we prepare for worship.

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of peace,

C: We confess that we are not at peace— with others or 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen.

A reading from the prophets

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. ³ You 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. ⁴ For 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” ELW 272 v. 1 & 2

A reading from Paul

Titus 2: 11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in

(continued)

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!’

Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289 v 1 & 3

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2: 15-20

15 When 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.

SERMON

Rev. Scherry Fouke

Angels’ Carol by John Rutter

Good Shepherd Choir; Bergen Gray, Violin; Kari Novilla, Harp

We stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: God of Grace,

C: **Hear our Prayer**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so 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." The number "5 107" is printed in the top right corner of the first staff.

5 107

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

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. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 and eat: this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the 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.

(continued)

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: 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.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

5112

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, grant us peace.

Communion Carols

What Child is This	ELW 296 v 1
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	ELW 270 v 1
The First Noel	ELW 300 v 1
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	ELW 282 v 1
Once in Royal David's City	ELW 269 v 1

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BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE (*NUNC DIMITTIS*)

ELW 113

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: a light to re-veal you to the na-tions and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el. Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: Amen.

Usbers dim the lights

John 1: 1-14; Hebrews 1: 1-4

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1: 1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.3He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

→ *Usbers will light the first candle from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the congregation. Please light your candle by tipping the UNLIT candle into the lit candle. As you light the next person's candle, please say "the light of Christ."*

(next page)

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace...

C: Thanks be to God!

Worship Notes

◆ **PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH THE LIT CANDLES!**

We certainly don't want the pierce of a Morristown Fire Dept. siren to interrupt our "Silent Night" ☺ *When you light your candle, hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle.* If you tip the candle that is already lit, you will drip wax. Be careful not to drip wax on the furnishings or floor. *Please extinguish the candles before you depart.* **Please place the candles in the basket located in the Narthex (lobby).**

- ◆ Tonight we celebrate the "Christ Mass". Mass is from the Latin word, *Messo*, which means "Sending". Having heard the Word and having been nourished by the Word made flesh again in communion, we are sent out to bring the Word to others.
- ◆ Light is used throughout the service to visually proclaim the Gospel; God has become what we are, so that all nations may know Christ as Lord! Again, as we go forth tonight, let us go and bear that light to the nations.
- ◆ We sing the Post-Communion Canticle, "Now Lord, let you servant go in peace..." These are the words of Simeon, after the baby Jesus was circumcised in Luke 2: 21-35.

Reminders & Announcements

The altar greens are given by Sara Poovey to the glory of God!

The Advent Wreath is given by Wylene Hinkle in memory of family members who have passed this last year.

The Chrismon Tree is given by Ric & Karoline Van Horn in honor of our four daughters Nicole, Ashley, Bergen, & Kari and in honor of the Good Shepherd Choir.

The door hangings are given by Sally Allen to the glory of God!

The altar flowers for Christmas Day are given by **Ed and Judy Skorski** to the glory of God!

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Guest Pastor: Rev. Scherry Fouke

Harp: Kari Novilla

Lector: Shannon Hancock

Organist/Choir: Karoline Van Horn

Storyteller 1: Olwynne Crampton

Storyteller 2: Thomas Pochron

Violin: Bergen Gray

Zoom: Barry Pochron

2023 Flower Chart

The 2023 flower chart is now on the table in the narthex. Please consider signing up as you are able. The cost is \$45 for two Sundays. Therefore, you may sign up for two consecutive Sundays.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Healing, comfort & strength

Pastor Bob Schefter

Elizabeth Scheffer

Josh & Bergen Gray, God's guidance

Bill Poovey

Sally Allen

Carolyn Absher

Darlene Kline

Juanita Reynolds

Our congregation and future pastor – that we are guided by the Holy Spirit as we go through the call process

Family & Friends

Healing, comfort, strength & peace

Family & Friends of Johnny Bryant, Wylene Hinkle's nephew, comfort in time of sorrow

Ashley Puckett, Ric & Karoline Van Horn's daughter
Lisa Poovey, Bill & Sara Poovey's daughter-in-law
Family & Friends of Shannon Mason, Cody Nelson's uncle,
comfort in time of sorrow
Bill & Genie Wallingford, Larry & Jan Wallingford's family
Ric Van Horn, Karoline Van Horn's husband
Amy Anderson, Alan Anderson's niece
Morgan Corthell, Larry & Jan Wallingford's granddaughter
Jackie & Dwayne Collins, Nancy McLoughlin's friends
Mary Jean Wesche, Ed & Judy Skorski's friend

Military Serving our Country

Protection, comfort & strength

John Gray, Joshua Gray's brother
Ian Anderson, Alan Anderson's nephew
Joshua Sheaf, Good Shepherd member

Poinsettias given this Christmas

In loving memory of Troy Absher by Carolyn Absher

***In loving memory of Romona Conklin by Theron
Conklin***

In honor of Family and Friends by Scherry Fouke

***In honor of our Parents: J. Paul & Pat Hancock and
Don & Jo Roe by Shannon & Amy Hancock***

In loving memory of Chuck Kubis by the Kubis Family

***In loving memory of Raymond Knoll by the Kubis
family***

In loving memory of Karen White by the Kubis family

In loving memory of Adam Knoerr by the Kubis family

In loving memory of Rose Dubuc by the Kubis family

***In loving memory of our Parents: Buena & Effie Lowe
and John & Bonnie Drake by Betty & Jack Lowe***

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In honor of our Children & Grandchildren: Sandy & Phil Jarrell, and Andrew & Eric; Rebecca & Chris Wassum, and Hailey by Betty & Jack Lowe

In loving memory of our parents by Pastor Bob & Geri Schefter

In honor of our Children by Pastor Bob & Geri Schefter

In loving memory of Terri Marcus by Mike & Chris Thompson

In loving memory of John & Elizabeth Thompson by Mike & Chris Thompson

In loving memory of Pat Thompson by Mike & Chris Thompson

In loving memory of Melvin & Mary-Louise Zvonar by Mike & Chris Thompson

In honor of our Good Shepherd Family by Mike & Chris Thompson

In honor of Amanda, Brian, Bryant, and Michael Reilly by Mike & Chris Thompson

In honor of Cliff, Carrie, Parker, Annalee, and Adeline Thompson by Mike & Chris Thompson

In honor of Paul and Judy Ridgeway by Mike & Chris Thompson

In loving memory of our parents: Harold & Olinda Werner and Paul & Sylvia Null by Cindy & Steve Werner.

In honor of our Family by Jim & Sue Whiting
