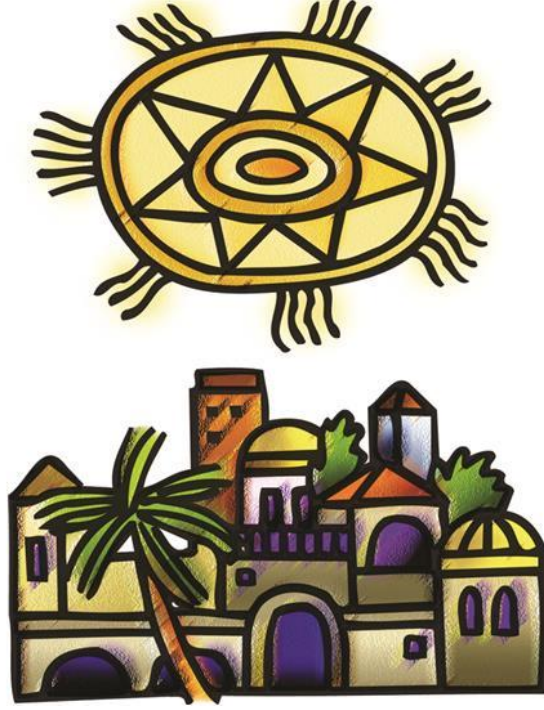


Christmas Day
December 25, 2023



Christmas Day

Service of Word and Holy Communion

Gathering

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed
in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow
in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year
from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world,
all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God made flesh.

Please stand as you are able.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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.

We gather to worship the Christ Child.

We gather to ponder with Mary, the wonder and mystery of his birth.

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For unto us is born...

The light, life and hope of the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**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.**

Please be seated.

Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD, take no rest,

⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;

⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

PSALM

Psalm 97

¹The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

²**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

³Fire goes before the LORD,
burning up enemies on every side.

⁴**Lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**

⁵The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,
and all the peoples see your glory.**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰**You who love the LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them
from the hand of the wicked.**

¹¹Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.

¹²**Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

SCRIPTURE READNG

Titus 3:4-7

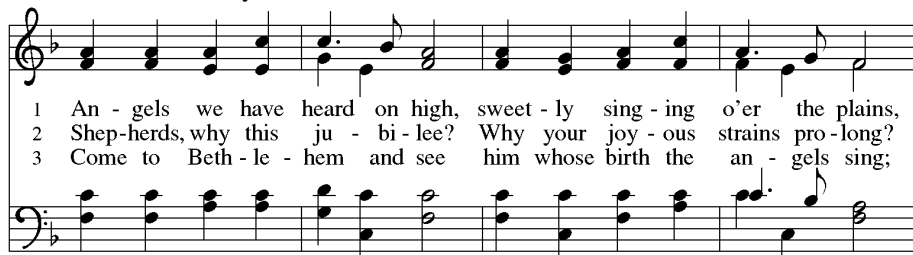
⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

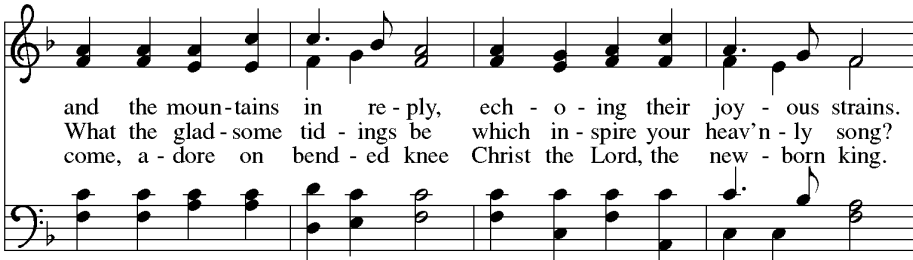
Thanks be to God.

Angels We Have Heard on High (verse 1)

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



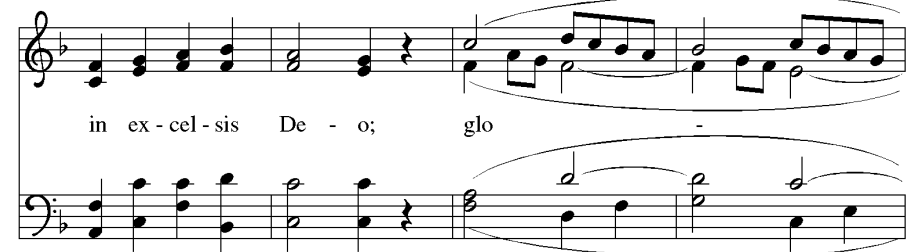
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



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.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

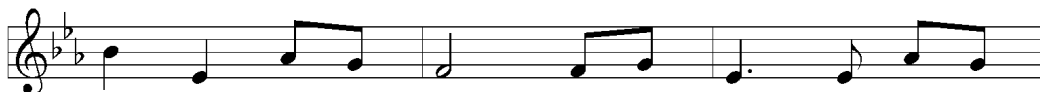
Please stand following the message.

Holy Child within the Manger

Music and Text: Marty Haugen



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



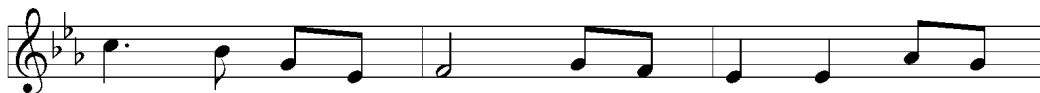
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like - our
stran - ger how you come to us to - own.
day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Please be seated.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

What Child Is This

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

It is indeed right and salutary 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:

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary
to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection, we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, behold and receive your Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

Communion: All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's table. To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.

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

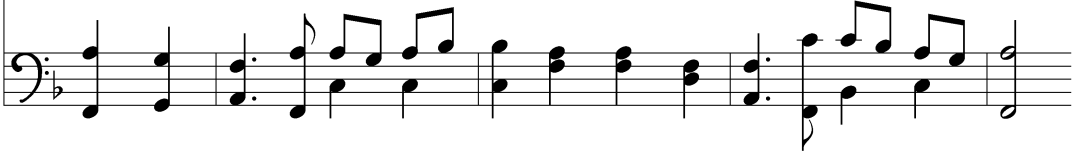
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

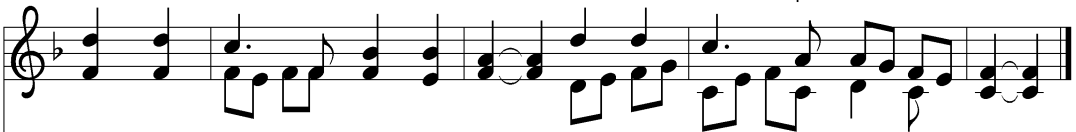
Once in Royal David's City



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.



Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep us in his grace! **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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 wise men,
and the peace of the Christ Child.
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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

DISMISSAL

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Welcome and Merry Christmas to our Visitors

*We invite you to sign the welcome pad and pick up a
Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.
Thank you for joining us this morning!*



Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Bonnie (1/5),
June Diehl (1/14),
Joanne Fisher (1/14),
Sarah Haschak (12/27),
Denise Heinbaugh (12/28),
Garry Shatzer (1/4) Connie Twedt (1/4), Marilyn Yaukey (1/4)



Long Term Care: Pat Dent, Charles Kampmeyer and Joe Pine

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, Rubens Paul, and Paul Whelan



POINSETTIAS You are encouraged to take your poinsettia with you today.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS-Please note the church office will be closed today and January 1, 2024. If you have a pastoral emergency during the Christmas Season, please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940.

ANNUAL REPORTS from the committees and staff are due to the church office by Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

2023 STATEMENTS for Contributions that you wish to be credited to 2023 must be received in the church office NO LATER THAN December 25, 2023. Any contributions that are received after December 25th will be credited to 2024. Any questions, please contact Carol McCoy.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

December 25

Lector: Karen Sloan
Soundboard: Scott Carbaugh

Communion

Assistants: Karen Sloan

Ushers: Gary Fleegal
Rick Gates
Tudy Gates
Dennis Love
Mark Nicholson

Greeters: Nancy Hamilton
Kathy Shoop

Altar Guild: Barb Evans
Karin Woods

December 31

Becky Hoover
Marlin Maclay

Gary Fleegal
Rick Gates
Tudy Gates
Dennis Love
Mark Nicholson

Nancy Hamilton
Kathy Shoop

Barb Evans
Karin Woods

January 7

Sally Herritt
Marlin Maclay

Becky Hoover
Donna Ross
Mike Ross

Nancy Hamilton
Kathy Shoop

Barb Evans
Karin Woods



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Director of Church Music
Parish Administrator
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The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Cheryl Christman
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Jennifer Flores