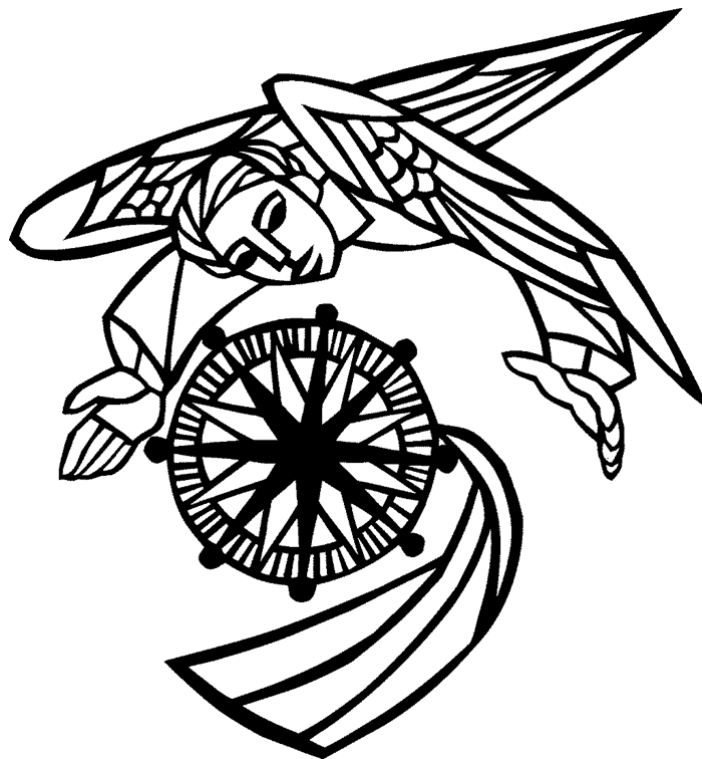


# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

### FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 29, 2024

10 A.M.

*WE WELCOME OLIVIA AHYOUNG, GUEST MUSICIAN.*

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**  
(850) 385-2728, Office  
sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email  
<http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor  
Katharine Gossman, Music Director  
Lori Zengel, Office Manager  
All Members, Ministers

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**Welcome, Everyone!**

**We are glad to have you with us this morning.** If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

**Restrooms are found** in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

**“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14** - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

**Please remember** to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

**All the hymns** for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

**For safety** we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.**

All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.

## WELCOME

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

### GATHERING CAROL

ELW 269

*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.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gounietti, 1805-1876

## DIALOGUE

LEADER THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.

**C THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.**

L THOSE WHO LIVED IN A LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, ON THEM LIGHT HAS SHINED.

**C WE HAVE BEHELD CHRIST'S GLORY, GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON FROM THE FATHER.**

L TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN.

**C IN THE WORD WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE.**



## OPENING PRAYER

P LET US PRAY.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O LORD OF GLORY, FOR THE EXAMPLE OF STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR, WHO LOOKED TO HEAVEN AND PRAYED FOR HIS PERSECUTORS. GRANT THAT WE ALSO MAY PRAY FOR OUR ENEMIES AND SEEK FORGIVENESS FOR THOSE WHO HURT US, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER.

**C AMEN.**

*REMAIN SEATED FOR THE LESSONS AND CAROLS.*



+ **WORD** +

**FIRST READING**

**ISAIAH 9:2-7** *COLLEEN HOLDCRAFT*

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>FOR ALL THE BOOTS OF THE TRAMPING WARRIORS AND ALL THE GARMENTS ROLLED IN BLOOD SHALL BE BURNED AS FUEL FOR THE FIRE. <sup>6</sup>FOR 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. <sup>7</sup>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 ONWARD AND FOREVERMORE. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL DO THIS.

**R** THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**C** THANKS BE TO GOD.

**CAROL** **ELW 272** *LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING*

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, ss. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,  
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alle catholische geistliche Kirchenorgelbu*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

**SECOND READING**

**MICAH 5:2-5A**

*ERIK ROBINSON*

<sup>2</sup>BUT YOU, O BETHLEHEM OF EPHRATHAH, WHO ARE ONE OF THE LITTLE CLANS OF JUDAH, FROM YOU SHALL COME FORTH FOR ME ONE WHO IS TO RULE IN ISRAEL, WHOSE ORIGIN IS FROM OF OLD, FROM ANCIENT DAYS.

<sup>3</sup>THEREFORE HE SHALL GIVE THEM UP UNTIL THE TIME WHEN SHE WHO IS IN LABOR HAS BROUGHT FORTH; THEN THE REST OF HIS KINDRED SHALL RETURN TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. <sup>4</sup>AND HE SHALL STAND AND FEED HIS FLOCK IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD, IN THE MAJESTY OF THE NAME OF THE LORD HIS GOD. AND THEY SHALL LIVE SECURE, FOR NOW HE SHALL BE GREAT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH; <sup>5</sup>AND HE SHALL BE THE ONE OF PEACE.

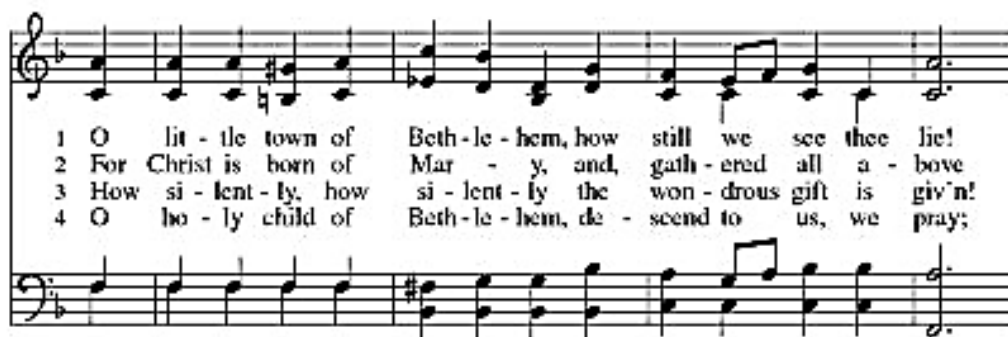
**R** THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**C** THANKS BE TO GOD.

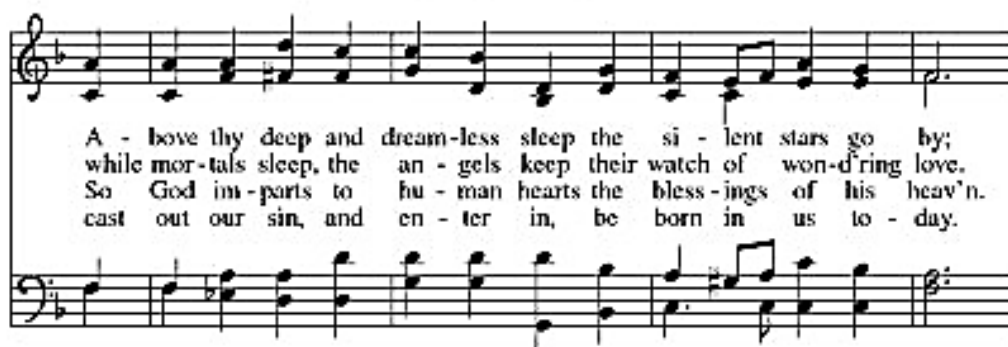
**CAROL**

**ELW 279**

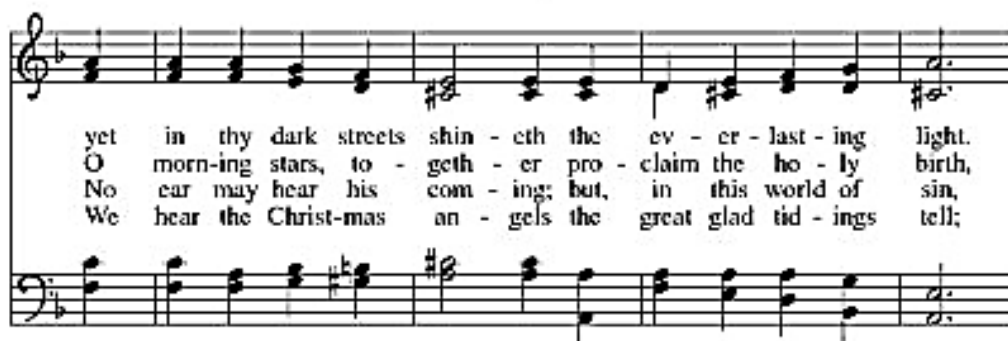
*O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM*



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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1906



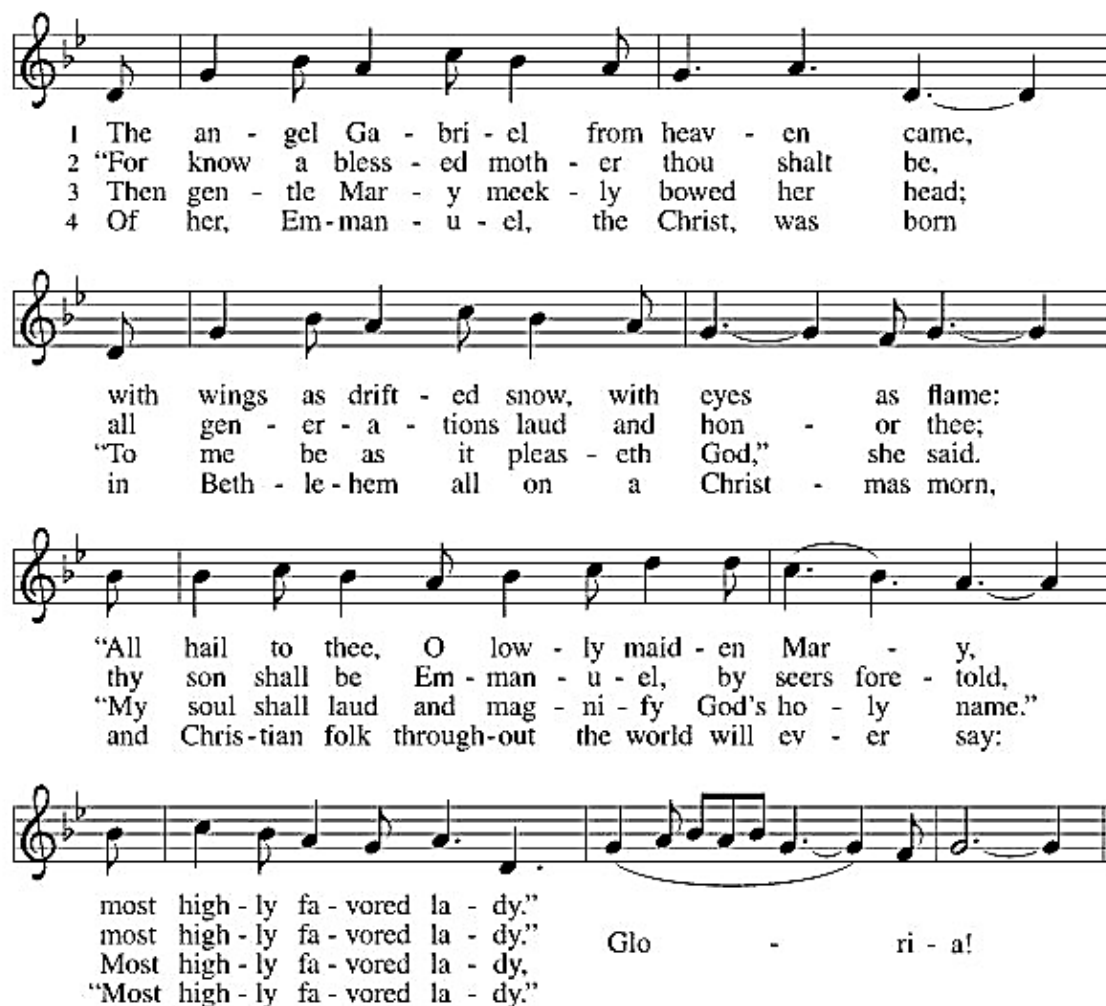
**THIRD READING****LUKE 1:26-35, 38***JONAS HOLDCRAFT*

<sup>26</sup>IN THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT BY GOD TO A TOWN IN GALILEE CALLED NAZARETH, <sup>27</sup>TO A VIRGIN ENGAGED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID. THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY. <sup>28</sup>AND HE CAME TO HER AND SAID, "GREETINGS, FAVORED ONE! THE LORD IS WITH YOU." <sup>29</sup>BUT SHE WAS MUCH PERPLEXED BY HIS WORDS AND PONDERED WHAT SORT OF GREETING THIS MIGHT BE. <sup>30</sup>THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY, FOR YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. <sup>31</sup>AND NOW, YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BEAR A SON, AND YOU WILL NAME HIM JESUS. <sup>32</sup>HE WILL BE GREAT, AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH, AND THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE TO HIM THE THRONE OF HIS ANCESTOR DAVID. <sup>33</sup>HE WILL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER, AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END." <sup>34</sup>MARY SAID TO THE ANGEL, "HOW CAN THIS BE, SINCE I AM A VIRGIN?" <sup>35</sup>THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU; THEREFORE THE CHILD TO BE BORN WILL BE HOLY; HE WILL BE CALLED SON OF GOD. <sup>38</sup>THEN MARY SAID, "HERE AM I, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD; LET IT BE WITH ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD." THEN THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER.

**R** THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**C** THANKS BE TO GOD.

**CAROL****ELW 265***THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE. Basque carol

#### FOURTH READING LUKE 2:1-7 COLLEEN HOLDCRAFT

IN THOSE DAYS A DECREE WENT OUT FROM EMPEROR AUGUSTUS THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE REGISTERED. <sup>2</sup>THIS WAS THE FIRST REGISTRATION AND WAS TAKEN WHILE QUIRINIUS WAS GOVERNOR OF SYRIA. <sup>3</sup>ALL WENT TO THEIR OWN TOWNS TO BE REGISTERED. <sup>4</sup>JOSEPH 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. <sup>5</sup>HE WENT TO BE REGISTERED WITH MARY, TO WHOM HE WAS ENGAGED AND WHO WAS EXPECTING A CHILD. <sup>6</sup>WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE TIME CAME FOR HER TO DELIVER HER CHILD. <sup>7</sup>AND 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.

R THE WORD OF THE LORD.

C THANKS BE TO GOD.

**CAROL**      **ELW 276**      *INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY*



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.  
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

**FIFTH READING****LUKE 2:8-16** *ERIK ROBINSON*

<sup>8</sup>IN THAT REGION THERE WERE SHEPHERDS LIVING IN THE FIELDS, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT. <sup>9</sup>THEN AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STOOD BEFORE THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, AND THEY WERE TERRIFIED. <sup>10</sup>BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID; FOR SEE — I AM BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE: <sup>11</sup>TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD. <sup>12</sup>THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND A CHILD WRAPPED IN BANDS OF CLOTH AND LYING IN A MANGER." <sup>13</sup>AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST, PRAISING GOD AND SAYING, <sup>14</sup>"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WHOM HE FAVORS!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>SO THEY WENT WITH HASTE AND FOUND MARY AND JOSEPH, AND THE CHILD LYING IN THE MANGER.

**R** THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**C** THANKS BE TO GOD.

**CAROL ELW 275** *ANGELS, FROM THE REALM OF GLORY*

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 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

**SIXTH READING****JOHN 1:1-14** *PASTOR TOM*

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. <sup>2</sup>HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. <sup>3</sup>ALL THINGS CAME INTO BEING THROUGH HIM, AND WITHOUT HIM NOT ONE THING CAME INTO BEING. WHAT HAS COME INTO BEING <sup>4</sup>IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE. <sup>5</sup>THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT OVERCOME IT.

<sup>6</sup>THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD, WHOSE NAME WAS JOHN. <sup>7</sup>HE CAME AS A WITNESS TO TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT, SO THAT ALL MIGHT BELIEVE THROUGH HIM. <sup>8</sup>HE HIMSELF WAS NOT THE LIGHT, BUT HE CAME TO TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT. <sup>9</sup>THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH ENLIGHTENS EVERYONE, WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD. <sup>10</sup>HE WAS IN THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD CAME INTO BEING THROUGH HIM; YET THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW HIM. <sup>11</sup>HE CAME TO WHAT WAS HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN PEOPLE DID NOT ACCEPT HIM. <sup>12</sup>BUT TO ALL WHO RECEIVED HIM, WHO BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, HE GAVE POWER TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, <sup>13</sup>WHO WERE BORN, NOT OF BLOOD OR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH OR OF THE WILL OF MAN, BUT OF GOD.

<sup>14</sup>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.

**R** THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**C** THANKS BE TO GOD.

**CAROL** **ELW 510** *WORD OF GOD, COME DOWN ON EARTH*

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing, Word al - might - y,  
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, st. b. 1919  
 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673  
 Text © James Quinn, St. Scholastic Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent, www.scholpub.com.

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

**L** GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,

**C** AND PEACE TO GOD'S PEOPLE ON EARTH.

**L** 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.

**L** BLESSED ARE YOU, SON OF MARY.  
YOU SHARE OUR HUMANITY.

**C** HAVE MERCY ON THE SICK, THE DYING,  
AND ALL WHO SUFFER THIS DAY.

**L** BLESSED ARE YOU, SON OF GOD.  
YOU DWELL AMONG US AS THE WORD MADE FLESH.

**C** REVEAL YOURSELF TO US IN YOUR HOLY WORD,  
THAT WE MAY BEAR YOUR LIGHT TO ALL THE WORLD. AMEN.

**THE PEACE**

**P** THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

**C** AND ALSO WITH YOU.

*WE GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A SIGN OF CHRIST'S PEACE.*

*BE SEATED AS THE GIFTS ARE GATHERED.*



## OFFERING

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**L**      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  
BLESSINGS FOR OTHERS. WITH THE TREES OF THE FIELD, WITH ALL THE EARTH AND  
HEAVEN, WE SHOUT FOR JOY AT THE COMING OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR  
LORD.

**C**      AMEN.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P**      GATHERED INTO ONE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, LET US PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT US:

**C**      **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.**

**+SENDING+**

**BLESSING**

*WE RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF THE TRIUNE GOD.*

**P** MAY THE WORD THAT MARY BROUGHT TO BIRTH CARRY YOU INTO NEW AND  
ABUNDANT LIFE.

**C** AMEN.

**P** MAY THE WORD THAT JOSEPH CRADLED IN HIS ARMS ENFOLD YOU WITH LOVE AND  
STRENGTH.

**C** AMEN.

**P** MAY THE WORD THAT ANGELS PROCLAIMED IN SONG BRING HARMONY TO OUR  
WORLD.

**C** AMEN.

**P** AND THE BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD, THE FATHER, THE + SON, AND THE HOLY  
SPIRIT, BE UPON YOU AND REMAIN WITH YOU ALWAYS.

**C** AMEN.

**SENDING CAROL**

**290**

*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

- A WE BELIEVE OUT LOUD THAT GOD’S MISSION FOR US IS:
- C TO BE AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY THAT WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE TO NURTURE AND SHARE THEIR FAITH AND GIFTS WITH EVERYONE, ACCORDING TO GOD’S CALL.
- A CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN! GO IN PEACE. PROCLAIM THIS GOOD NEWS.
- C THANKS BE TO GOD!

+ + +

*SUNDAYS AND SEASONS v.20200805.1416*

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**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS  
ARE DEDICATED TO THE  
GLORY OF GOD.**

### Calendar for December 29 - January 05

Dec. 29 Sun.	9 am	Book study
	10 am	Worship, Christmas Lessons and Carols
Jan. 5	9 am	Book study
	9:30 am	Choir practice
	10 am	Worship, Christmas Lessons and Carols

*The office will be closed on Jan. 01.*

## SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

## SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

SERVING	DEC. 29	JAN. 05
ASSISTING MINISTER	JENNIFER DRITT	COLLEEN HOLDCRAFT
CUP MINISTER		AUDREY POST
CANTOR		
LECTOR	COLLEEN HOLDCRAFT JONAS HOLDCRAFT ERIK ROBINSON	JONAS HOLDCRAFT
ACOLYTE	CEILIA GREELEY OR GRAHAM REECE OR BASTIAN STOVER	
TECH TEAM	SANDY LAMB-DANIELS SYLVIA SMITH	CAROLINE COLLINS CINDY SUHWEIR
USHERS	BOB ESHLEMAN AUDREY POST	BOB ESHLEMAN
ALTAR GUILD	LINDA ESHLEMAN BARBARA SULLIVAN	LINDA ESHLEMAN BARBARA SULLIVAN
COUNTERS	JANET BARBER MARGARET BOWERS	BILLIE REARDON LORRAINE SUNDBERG

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*NEW CONCERNS:* MARGARETE DECKERT (MOTHER OF CAROLINE COLLINS), RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS; DONNA DICKSON MILLER (FRIEND OF AUDREY POST), FACING HEALTH CHALLENGES; WAYNE MCCULLY (FRIEND OF AUDREY POST), UNDERGOING DIALYSIS FOR KIDNEY FAILURE; GLADYS KANE FOR CONTINUED HEALING.

*FOR THE SICK:* SALLIE ROBINSON (WIFE OF ERIK ROBINSON); THERESA MARTIN (FRIEND OF CHERYL STUART); SARAH (FRIEND OF CASSANDRA WHITE); LAURA McDUFFIE (SISTER OF ROB SCHIFFER).

*IN TREATMENT FOR CANCER:* RUTH HARTUNG; SCOTT SIMMONS (SON OF SHARON SIMMONS); GORDON FLEISCHER; STEPHANIE BARBER; JIM SAXMAN (UNCLE OF ROB SCHIFFER); JENNY (NIECE OF LAURA SULLIVAN & COLIN HACKLEY); ROSALINDA WRIGHT; JAMES SABLAN (BROTHER OF DONNA SCHIFFER); CRAIG TIMM (FRIEND OF CHERYL & STEVE); GIL JOHNSON (FRIEND OF JUDI DUFFY); AMANDA GEORGE (DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF ROB SCHIFFER); DAVID McMANUS (FRIEND OF AUDREY POST); SHANNON MILLER (FRIEND OF BARB O'DONNELL); BECKY GRAVES (FRIEND OF RIDY HOFER); TIMOTHY STEWART (SON OF PEPPER STEWART).

*HEALTH AND PROTECTION:* FOR ALL AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS – ESPECIALLY THOSE EXPERIENCING MENTAL-HEALTH DIFFICULTIES DUE TO ISOLATION, THOSE STRUGGLING TO RECOVER FROM THE DISEASE, THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES FIGHTING, RESEARCHING AND TREATING THE DISEASE (DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL PERSONNEL, EMTs), THE MILLIONS OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE, ETC.; FOR THE UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN ENTERING THE U.S., INCLUDING THOSE “UNACCOUNTED FOR.”

*FOR PRISONERS:* ALL THOSE ON DEATH ROW.

*OTHER CONCERNS:* FOR KAREN OLSON; KEVIN ROBINSON (SON OF ERIK ROBINSON), IN NEED OF ENCOURAGEMENT; ISAAC (SON OF TERRI SCHMITT), FOR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALING; STEVE MICHAEL (COUSIN OF ROB SCHIFFER), IN REHAB AFTER A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

*CHURCH CONCERNS:* ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH COUNCIL; THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD COUNCIL; ALL CONGREGATIONS SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS; RECONCILING WORKS; GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH; BISHOP PEDRO SUAREZ; OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH IN FREEPORT, BAHAMAS; THE ELCA ADVOCACY OFFICES AND MINISTRY; ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, PENSACOLA.

*WORLD CONCERNS:* FOR ALL PEOPLE SUFFERING AND/OR RECOVERING FROM HURRICANES; MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS; CIVIL RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD; A CEASEFIRE IN ETHIOPIA AND IN UKRAINE; PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025:** OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR NEXT YEAR ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE NARTHEX.

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2025:** DO YOU HAVE AN ANNIVERSARY, BIRTHDAY OR SPECIAL MEMORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOR? CELEBRATE THE OCCASION BY SPONSORING THE FLOWERS FOR OUR SERVICE AND SIGNING UP FOR THE 2025 FLOWER CHART LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX. THE COST IS \$40, AND YOU CAN PLACE THAT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.