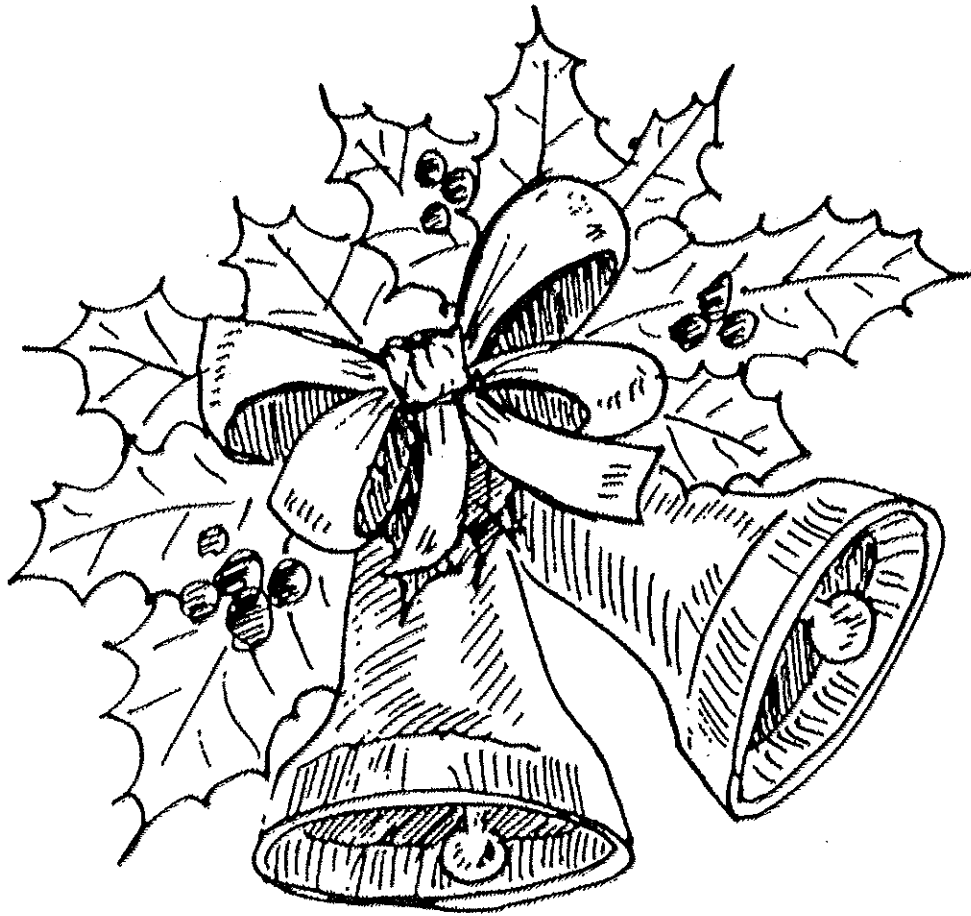


welcome to worship
CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS
Carols Old and New

December 28, 2025 ♦ 10:00 AM



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement
5 Wyomissing Boulevard
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

The assembly's responses are in bold print.

PRELUDE

What Child Is This (Greensleeves)

arr. Manz

WELCOME

Deacon Tom

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN 288

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

CHRISTMAS LITANY

God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us.

We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.

God of all humanity,

You offered Your Peace to anyone who would be satisfied with Your presence.

We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church

and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.

God of the shepherds,

You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.

God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

We celebrate Your presence with us this day

in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.

God of deliverance, You came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.

We celebrate Your protection and mercy toward all who are sick or in trouble.

God of birth, when You became as we are,

You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are.

We celebrate this day Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always.

Keep us close, now and in the life to come.

God of Christmas, bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 253

He Came Down

The assembly is seated.

READING

John 1:1-5 (The Message)

1 ¹⁻² The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word.

The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.

³⁻⁵ Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him.

What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by.

The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL 295

Of the Father's Love Begotten – stanzas 1, 2, 3

READING

Song of Solomon 2:8, 10-13, 16 (NRSV)

- ⁸ The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.
¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away,
¹¹ for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,
 and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.
 Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
¹⁶ My beloved is mine, and I am his; he pastures his flock among the lilies.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL 299

Cold December Flies Away

READING

Luke 2:8-16 (The Message)

⁸⁻¹² There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

¹³⁻¹⁴ At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:
 Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
 Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL 284

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Stanza 1: all sing | Stanza 2: solo | Stanzas 3 and 4: all sing

READING

John 10:7-10 (NRSV)

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL 297

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child
(sing through 3 times)

READING

Matthew 2:13-17 (The Message)

¹³ After the wise men were gone, God's angel showed up again in Joseph's dream and commanded, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay until further notice. Herod is on the hunt for this child, and wants to kill him."

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother under cover of darkness. They were out of town and well on their way by daylight. They lived in Egypt until Herod's death. This Egyptian exile fulfilled what Hosea had preached: "I called my son out of Egypt."

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Herod, when he realized that the wise men had tricked him, flew into a rage. He commanded the murder of every little boy two years old and under who lived in Bethlehem and its surrounding hills.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Resilience Carol

Solo: As long ago when Herod sought to crush the people's power
And angels sang the birth of Peace, a peace that would not cower.
This promise comes once more, resilient and unbowed!
See how Love, the Arc Toward Justice, is born among us now.
Sing with joy, joy! Resilient and unbowed!
Love, the Arc Toward Justice, is born among us now.

All sing: ♪ While tyrants, hiding greed, are firing weapons of deceit,
A voice of strident courage cries a challenge from the street.
This bell will not unpeal, resilient and unbowed!
See how Love, the Agitator, is born among us now.
Sing with joy, joy! Resilient and unbowed!
Love, the Agitator, is born among us now.

Though coroners of tyranny pronounce all hope's demise
Garage bands strike the music up and flagging spirits rise.
The driveways fill with dance, resilient and unbowed!
See how Lord, the Muse of Heaven, is born among us now.
Sing with joy, joy! Resilient and unbowed!
Love, the Muse of Heaven, is born among us now.

So let us bring determined hearts to this most holy night.
The angels still are singing and the guiding star's on high.
Together we will rise, resilient and unbowed!
Knowing Love, the Child of Justice, is born among us now.
Sing with joy, joy! Resilient and unbowed!
Love, the Child of Justice, is born among us now.

"Resilience Carol," words and music by Bret Hesla. ©2025 Bret Hesla. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-742295.

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

² ^[a] 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 exultation; 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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Great will be his authority, 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

All of You Who Walked in Darkness

All sing:

♪ All of you who walked in darkness, who have known the fear of night,
Now rejoice and sing with gladness; come and see the wondrous light!
God has turned your tears to songs, lifting burdens, righting wrongs.
God sent us a tiny boy bringing hope and peace and joy.
In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

Still Christ comes to save God's people, still he comes to those oppressed.
To the folks who toil and struggle, God has sent the very best.
To the young and to the old, to the homeless, tired and cold,
To the lost, to those who mourn, to the world, a child is born.
In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

In this time of celebration, may we show what life can be,
As we care for God's creation, as we serve the Prince of Peace.
Seeking justice everywhere, lifting burdens others bear,
May we gladly serve and pray – knowing why we live this way:
In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

"All of You Who Walked in Darkness," words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. ©2012. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-742295.

HOMILY

Seminarian April Mulvey

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us share with one another a sign of God's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERING

If you brought an offering today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know?

Maria Bowman, soloist

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am?

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish us with your grace, illumine our path, and increase our joy, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 294

In the Bleak Midwinter

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (Good King Wenceslas)

arr. Manz

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Assisting with Worship

Ron & Tammy Foreman, greeters

Bob Eisenbrown, head usher

Ken Lord, Emily Shirk, readers

Karen Sandloop, altar captain ♦ Pat Noll, sexton

Maria Bowman, soloist

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. The nursery is not staffed today, but the privacy room behind the nave is available for families who would like additional wiggle room.

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher or stop by the sound booth on your way into the worship space.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed until Monday, January 5. Please leave a voicemail at the office or email cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you need anything, we will be checking in periodically throughout the holiday break.

HOLOCAUST PRESENTATION given by the family of a local survivor will take place during the faith formation hour on January 11.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION will not meet again until January 18.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN resumes January 11 in the choir room at 8:45.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held the Sundays of January 4, 11, and 18, 8:45-9:45 am. The communion celebration for those students will be January 25 during 10:00 am worship.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page. We are especially in need of **LARGER SIZED MEN'S CLOTHING**.

2025 PLEDGES should be close to fulfillment. If you are unsure of your remaining pledge, please email Amy Rogers at arogers@atonementwyo.org, or reach out at 610-375-3512 x110.

MONETARY GIFTS FOR COMMON GROUND can be placed in the offering or the box next to the angel tree. Mark your donation "Common Ground".

USHER TEAMS are being revised for 2026—if you would like to be added to a team please email cshirk@atonementwyo.org to be added to one of the teams! The commitment is about once every 6 weeks.

ATTENDANCE PADS are used to keep our records accurate. Please let us know you are here by signing the attendance sheet in your pew—thank you!