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Christmas Eve: The Nativity of Our Lord

Holy Communion + Messiah Lutheran Church + December 24th, 2025 + 5:00 p.m.

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

Peace be with you in this Christmas season. It is good to be together.

We are a community committed to the fostering of faith for young participants. Children are encouraged to participate fully in worship and are encouraged to growth through Sunday School. Classes for all ages take place on Sundays at 9:00am.

Discover more about the congregation at our website messiahlyndhurst.org or on social media at facebook.com/MLC44124.

Prayer Concerns can be shared via email (pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship or with our Prayer Partners prayer chain ministry.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly. Worshippers of all ages are welcome at Christ's Table. If Communion is new for you or a young one in your family, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

Serving in Worship Today:

Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Assisting Minister	Tom Griffith
Organist	Adam Dellinger
Altar Guild	Alison Griffith
Reader	Tom Griffith
Usher	Mike and Karen Zak

GATHERING

NATIVITY PRELUDE

Adam Dellinger

Pre-Service Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, by Charles Callahan
A Christmas Pastorate by Johann Mattheson, arr. Van Denman Thompson
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella, Old French, arr. John Ness Beck
Fum, Fum, Fum! Traditional Catalanian, by Richard Lind
Ukrainian Bell Carol, What Child is This, arr. Roger House
Still, Still, Still, setting by Paul Manz
Joy to the World, George Frideric Handel, arr. John Ness Beck

(Please rise in body or spirit and turn towards the entrance of the sanctuary)

GATHERING LITANY

Jesus, Son of the living God, eternal light:

We praise you!

Jesus, glorious monarch, sun of justice:

We praise you!

Jesus, everlasting Lord, Prince of Peace:

We praise you!

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help and our refuge:

We praise you!

Jesus, God friend of all, source of life:

We praise you!

Jesus, sibling of the poor, goodness without measure:

We praise you!

Jesus, good shepherd, our way and our life:

We praise you! Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ELW #283

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



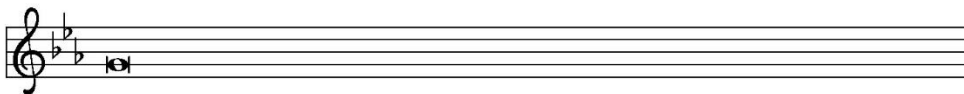
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

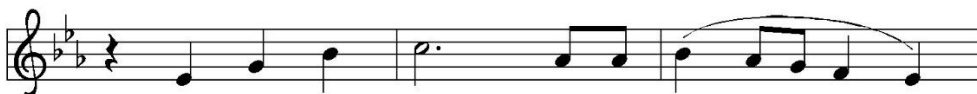


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



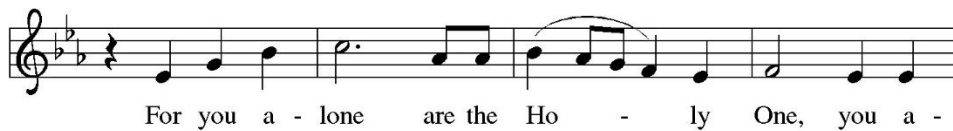
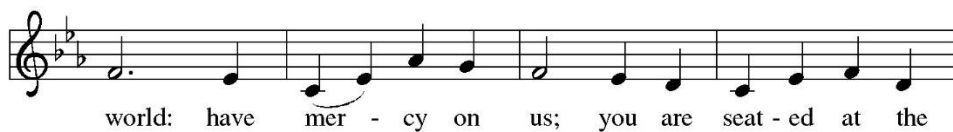
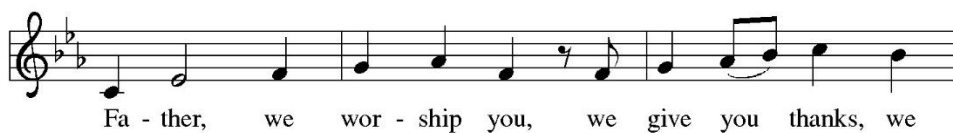
Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.
⁷His 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 96



¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

**⁴For great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised,
more to be feared ¹ than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have ¹ made the heavens.

**⁶Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹ sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹ or and power.

**⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹ all the earth.

**¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The ¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo- ¹ ples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is
therein.

**¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- ¹ ing,
O LORD,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth.

SECOND READING:

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Please rise.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



I am bringing you good news of great joy for¹ all the people:^{*}
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messi¹ah, the Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

The Rev. Paul Jones Moody

(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon before standing as directed)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Angels We Have Heard on High
ELW #289

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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence)

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and

turn swords into plowshares (*especially in . . . specific instances of conflict may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response, before being seated.)

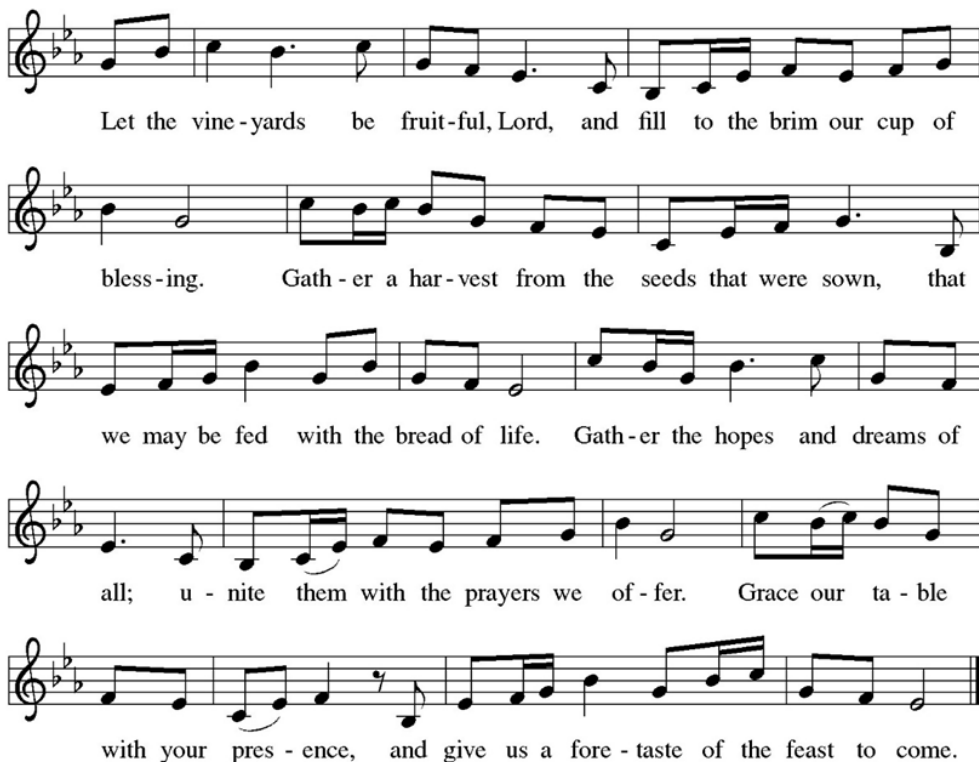
OFFERTORY

Hush

A poem by Drinda Kiner

(Please rise.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

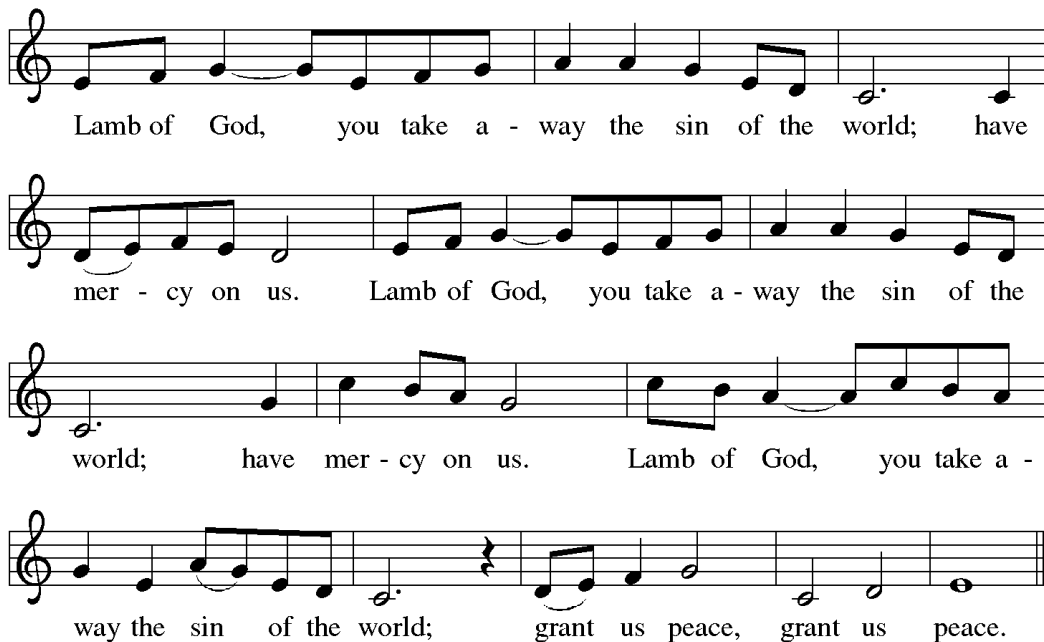
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
All are welcome here.

(Please be seated and follow the ushers' guidance to receive Holy Communion. The Sacrament will be served in a continuous line at the front of the chancel. Gluten-free bread is available, please let the server know as needed. Cups are available in the tray on the credence table between servers. To receive wine, pick up an empty cup which will be filled from the pouring chalice. Alcohol-free white grape juice is available in the pre-filled cups at the center of each tray. You may eat and drink as soon as the bread is given the wine received. If you would like to be served in your pew, please let an usher know and the team will come to meet you.)



COMMUNION HYMN

Angels, From the Realms of Glory
ELW #275

COMMUNION HYMN

On Christmas Night
ELW #274

COMMUNION HYMN

The First Noel
ELW #300
(Please rise.)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

SENDING

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

Silent Night
ELW #281

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude.)

Messiah Staff Members

Choir Director: Vicki Lester

Office Administrator: Steven Liss

Organist: Adam Dellinger

Social Media & Website: Kristy Bohinc

Attributions

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Prayers

Prayer Team & Partners: Our Prayer Team will pray with/for you. Please complete a blue Prayer Request Card, available in the sanctuary, which offers these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

PLEASE SEND NEW PRAYER REQUESTS TO: [*pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org*](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org)

Please pray for our siblings in Christ: Antwan Azekens, the family and friends of Lila Boehler, the family and friends of Frank Buttari, Mehri Davis, Mark Ganley, the family and friends of Bennie Gilmore, Tonyia Greanoff, Rev. Barbara Holzhauser, William Jaros, the family and friends of Jill King, Pat and Robin Koenig, Diane Kosovich, Ingeborg Krestel, Grace Loudenstein, Morrey Nuss, Lisa Perry, Karen Zak, and all who are in need of comfort and healing.

*(Prayer requests included in the bulletin will remain active for four weeks.
If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please resubmit it accordingly.)*

Announcement

Lessons & Carols – Dec 28: Please join us at 10:00am for a festive service of music and readings as we celebrate the twelve days of Christmas.

Christmas Poinsettia Tribute

Purchased By:

The Butler Family
Helga Camilly
Barb and Dan Decker

Kate Funkner
Louise Katlen
Kathy Kidd
Sam and Carol Lapin
Bob Lucas
Susan Sering
Connie Tittl
Mike and Karen Zak

In Memory Of:

Loved Ones
Roger Camilly
Howard & Adele Decker and Reuben &
LouAnn Johnson
My families
John Katlen
Jim & Edna Cooper
Esther & Robert Booster
Loved Ones
Richard Sering
Husband Rudy
Loved Ones