



The white candle symbolizes the purity and light of Christ. It is typically lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the arrival of Jesus Christ, who is seen as the "Light of the World" and the embodiment of purity and holiness.

First Lutheran Church

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

7 pm

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRE- SERVICE MUSIC

Bells of Praise

*I Wonder as I Wander
Angels We Have Heard on High
In the Bleak Midwinter*

*Sandra Eithun
Jason W. Krug
J. W. Krug*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

IL EST NÉ

Denis Bédard

*Deux Noëls No. 2 Toccata sur Il est né, le divin Enfant
He Is Born, the Divine Child*

(Please stand)

GATHERING SONG

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

P: In a little town, known for nothing much,
 L: God's holy child was born.

C: Welcome the Light!

P: By the faint light of the moon,
 L: Mary and Joseph found their way.

C: Welcome the Light!

P: In the shadowy stable stall,
 L: Joseph kindled a lamp.

C: Welcome the Light!

P: There Mary gave birth to Jesus,
 L: called God-With-Us.

C: Welcome the Light!

P: Angels opened the doors of heaven,
 L: sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

C: Welcome the Light!

P: Shepherds saw the sky ablaze,
L: left their sheep and came to see.
C: **Welcome the Light!**

P: In the darkest winter night,
L: God set a brilliant star.
C: **Welcome the Light!**

P: And on this Christmas Eve
L: with joy, we greet the Child.
C: **Welcome the Light!**



P: The impossible is about to happen in a stable.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined!**

P: This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath,
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.
C: **This is the evening when God embraced humanity
from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

P: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
C: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth. Amen!**

SONG OF THE ANGELS

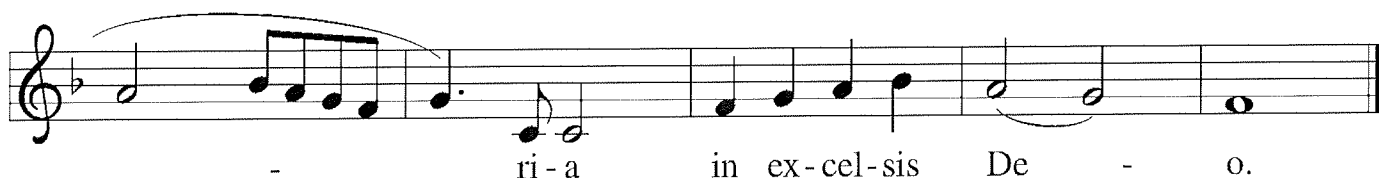
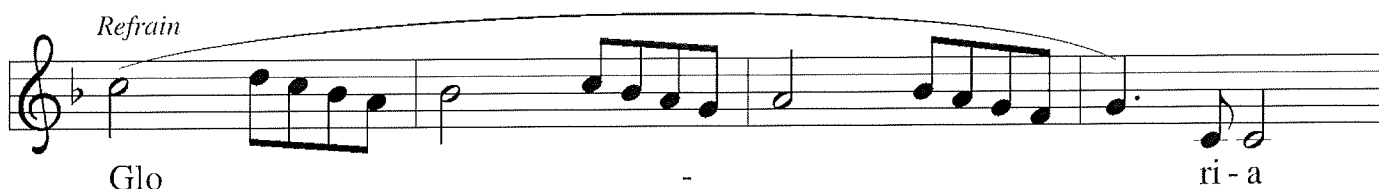
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



- 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

SENIOR CHOIR

Welcome, Welcome, Shepherds Arise

Joseph M. Martin

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

R: A reading from Isaiah, the ninth Chapter.

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

BELLS OF PRAISE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Sandra Eithun

SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

R: A reading from Titus, the second chapter.

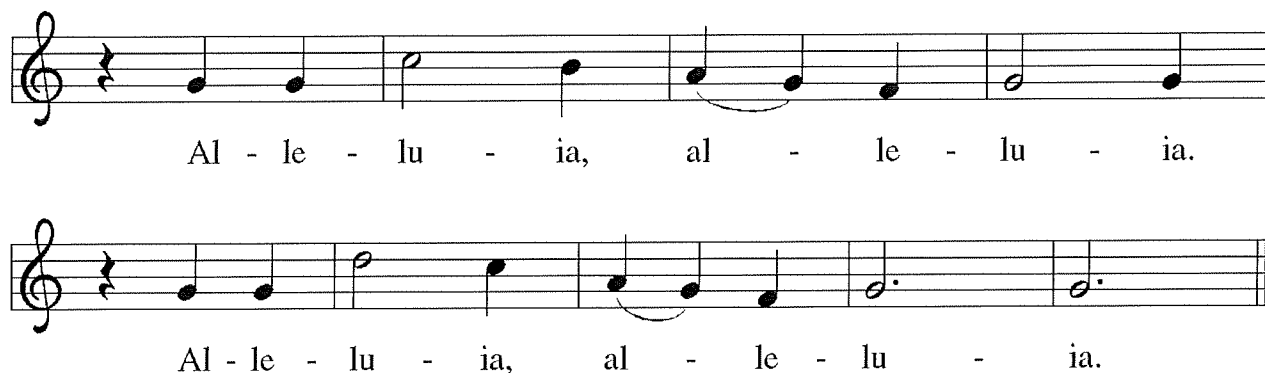
¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He 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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA



*Cantor: I am bringing you good news of great joy for |all the people;
* to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messi - |ah the Lord.*

P: A reading from Saint Luke, beginning with the second chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!" 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.



(Please be seated)

SERMON

REVEREND MARK SCHURING

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



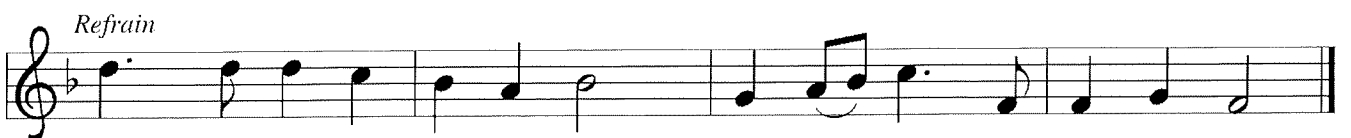
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

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

P: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

(Please kneel)

L: 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.

Each petition concludes:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of peace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways,
Encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!

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

C: **And also with you.**

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ
with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

(Please be seated)

OFFERING AND MEDITATION

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adams

Jo Lynn Ferguson Rhodes, soprano/harp

(Please stand)

OFFERING SONG

JOY TO THE WORLD



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



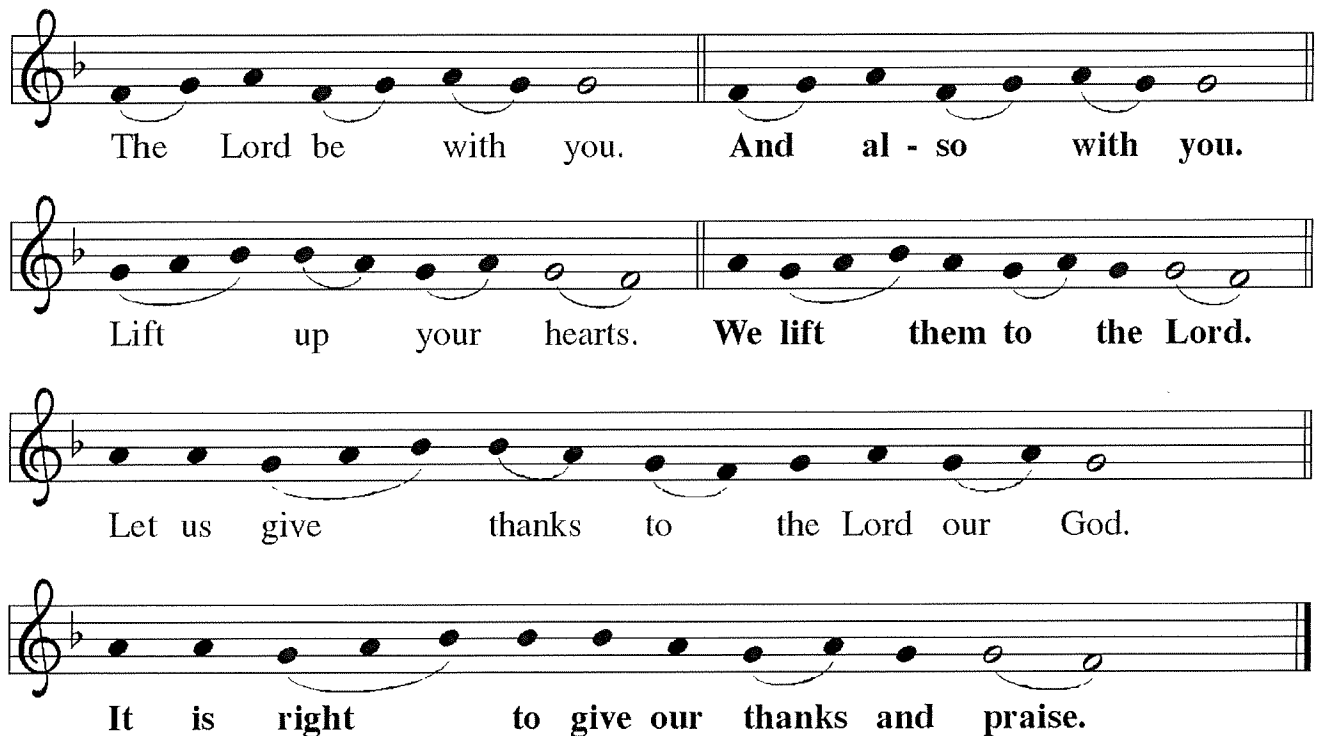
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning,
you have called forth life, in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C: Amen.

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.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff has a double bar line after the first measure.

PREFACE

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. 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 all the choirs of angels, wit the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff features a change in the key signature to two flats (B-flat and E-flat) starting from the fourth measure. The fourth staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

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

**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

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

C: **Come, receive the gift of Jesus.**

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

† *You may commune in your pews.*

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

† *You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.*

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

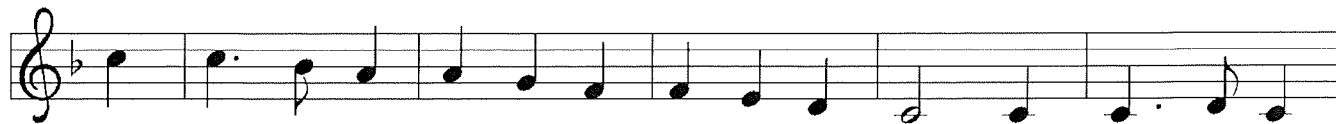
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

AWAY IN A MANGER



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

COMMUNION SONG

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!

COMMUNION SONG

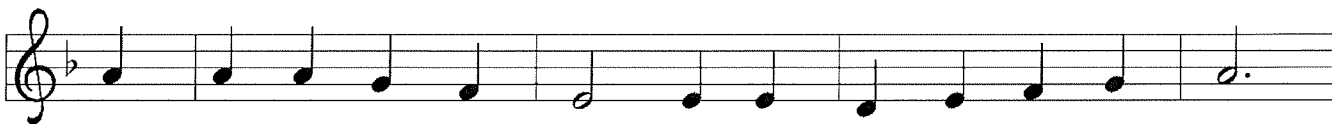
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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!

(Please stand)

TABLE BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LITANY

P: Immanuel, God-with-us,
open our eyes to the wonder of this night,
that we might catch a glimpse of your glory.

C: May our light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us,
open our minds to truly listen to all who speak and sing,
that we might hear your voice cry out from many.

C: May our light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us,
fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost
and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

C: May our light shine!

INTRODUCTION TO SILENT NIGHT

STILLE NACHT

David M. Cherwien

Harp and Organ

As the introduction is played, the Presiding Minister, Assisting Minister, and acolyte will begin to light the congregational candles. Once your candle is lighted, please share the Light of Christ with those around you.



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
Harp Interlude
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,

love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts ... sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is

with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***Please keep your candle lighted for the remainder
of the worship service and take the Light of Christ out into the world.***

BLESSING

P: The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always.

C: Amen.



DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.

P: The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

UN FLAMBEAU, JEANNETTE, ISABELLE

Denis Bédard

Postlude sur un Noël pour orgue

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

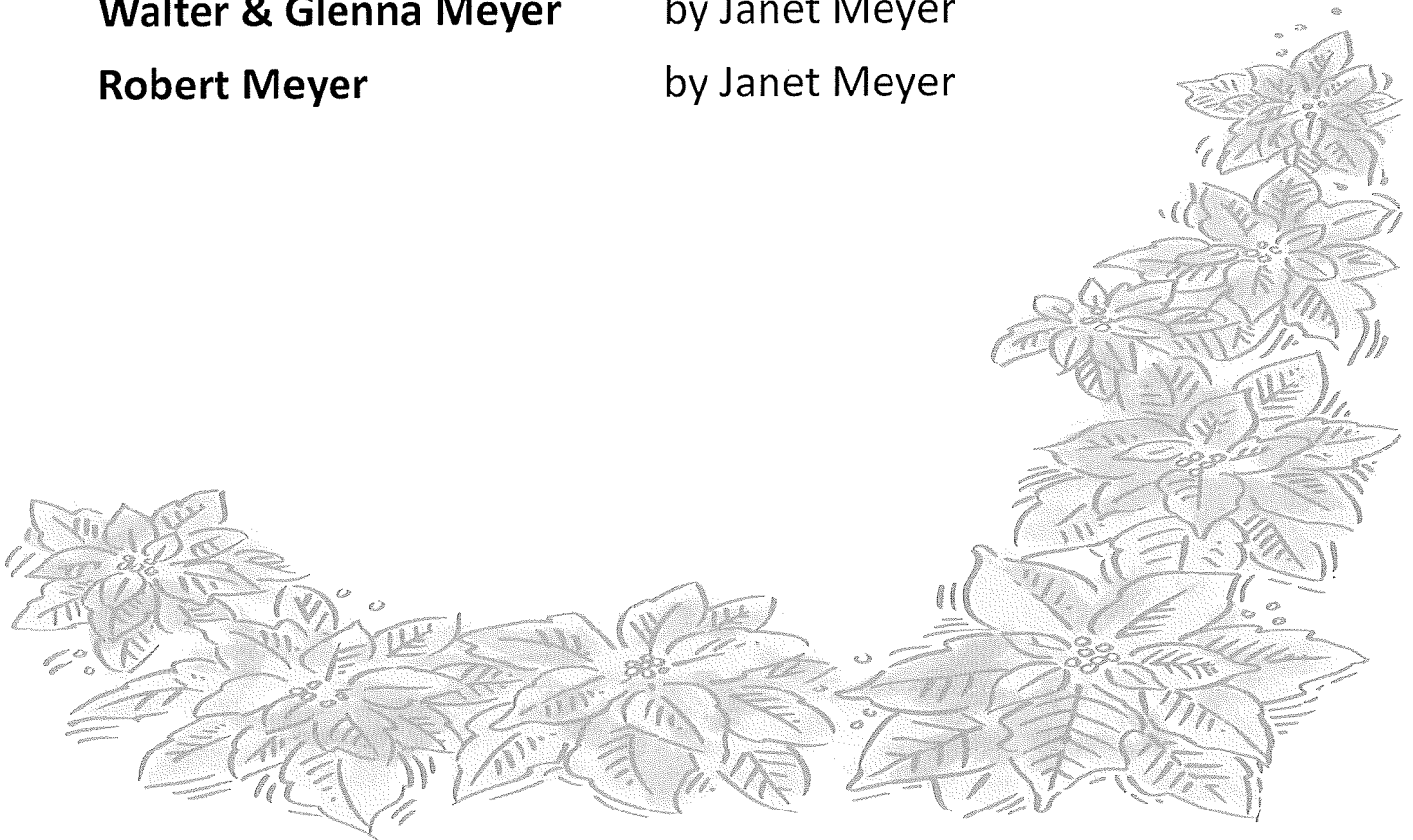
Musicians:

Bells of Praise
Senior Choir
Elijah Shiley, cantor
Jo Lynn Ferguson Rhodes, harp
Curtis L. King, organ

2025

Poinsettia Dedications in Loving Memory of:

Frank & Marion Snyder	by Judy Kimmel, Janis & Josi
Walter & Ann Binau	by Sharon Losey & Family
James & Cedella Oberlander	by Mike & Bonnie Oberlander
Wayne & Mary Shaferly	by Mike & Bonnie Oberlander
Paul, Kathleen, Sharon	
& Tommy Winters	by Dick & Deb Hohman
John Brueggemeier	by Donna Brueggemeier
C.W. & Jane Assenheimer,	
Mark Assenheimer & Kay Buckner	by Ann Koning
Bob & Bea Brill	by Sue, Sandy, Linda & Carol
Walter & Glenna Meyer	by Janet Meyer
Robert Meyer	by Janet Meyer



Poinsettia Dedications in Loving Memory of:

Hugh Rathburn

by Pat Rathburn & Family

Jerry Conley

by Jeannette Conley

Mary Ann Conley Shahade

by Jeannette Conley

Pauline & Eldon Sherman

by Joe & Janet Zirger,

Lynn & Becky Sherman

Barb Rutherford

& Harry Beregsasi

by Shelley, Tim,

Michael & Zachary Ross

Greg Mellott

by Ron & Sandy Mellott

Oliver Junior King

by Curtis L. King

Lisa Trout King

by Curtis L. King

Pearl & Edna Stine

by Curtis L. King

Evelyn Heilman

by Curtis L. King

Raymond Stine

by Curtis L. King

Marguerite & Cecil King

by Curtis L. King

Nina & Mark King

by Curtis L. King

Donald Dewald

by Curtis L. King

Dean King

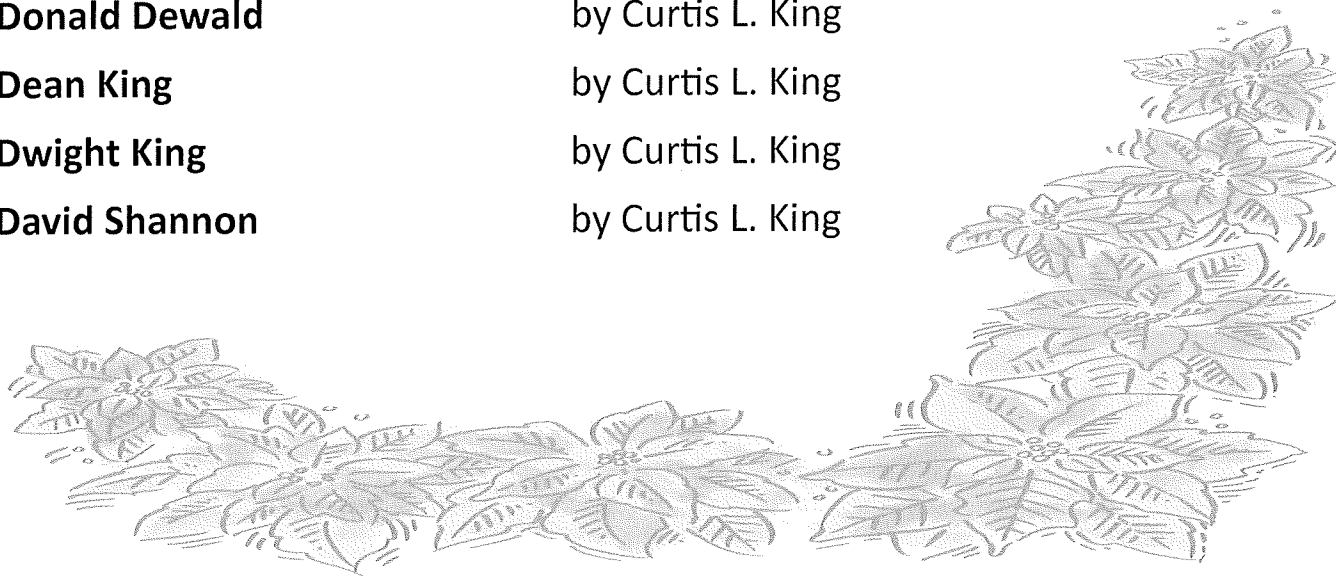
by Curtis L. King

Dwight King

by Curtis L. King

David Shannon

by Curtis L. King



2025

Poinsettia Dedications in Honor of:

The Congregation

by Shelley, Tim,

Michael & Zachary Ross

Their Grandchildren (15)

by Diane & Rick Greene

Their Great Grandchildren (7)

by Diane & Rick Greene

Luella F. King

by Curtis L. King

Elijah Shiley, Cantor

by Curtis L. King

Bells of Praise

by Curtis L. King

Senior Choir

by Curtis L. King

Reverend Mark Schuring

by Curtis L. King

