

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church**  
presents

*A Festival of*

*Lessons  
and  
Carols*



**December 17, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



*Announcements for December 17, 2023*

**PRAYERS FOR OUR NJLC COMMUNITY**

*\*\*new names added this week (NJLC connection)*

**Prayer Requests:** Shirley Onderdonk (Leah Onderdonk); Wayne Dunkley (NJLC member); Mack Keister (NJLC members); Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock (Judy Fox)

**LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE – DECEMBER 17:** Today's Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture, hymns and special music that dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this service, we hear Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Thanks to all who have taken part in this special service as readers and to Music Director Mark Fletcher, the quintet, and Curtis Adams on flute for the special music.

**PRAYGROUND TODAY:** Children begin worship with us and then go as a group with Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Stillman to the Prayground after the lighting of the Advent wreath. They will be rehearsing for the Christmas pageant that is being presented during the 10:00 am worship service on Christmas Eve, December 24.

**COOKIE DECORATING – DECEMBER 17:** Join us after church service today for fellowship decorating holiday cookies. The cookies and decorating supplies are here, so bring your creativity and let's have fun!

**NEXT WEEK - DECEMBER 24:** The regular **10:00 am service** will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent family friendly service including the **children's Christmas pageant**. Our Christmas Eve service will be the **traditional candlelight service with choir and instrumental music, Christmas hymns and communion at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome to join New Jerusalem for one or both of these special services.

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:** Any and all are invited to enjoy holiday fellowship over lunch at noon on Wednesday, December 27, at Magnolia's at the Mill in Purcellville. If you wish to attend, please let Wanda English (540 668-5246) know before Wednesday, December 20.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 24: Children's Christmas Pageant (10:00 am)

December 24: Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm)

**LIFTERS FOR DECEMBER:**

**December 24 10:00 am (Children's Christmas Pageant)**

Altar Flowers: .....Church Council

Greeters:.....Joe and Linda Heffern

Acolyte: .....Cooper Barlow

Crucifer .....Rob Legard

Lector/Reader: .....Jennifer Barlow

Lighting of four candles on Advent wreath: Bloom family

Ushers: .....Curtis Adams, Bill George, Joe Heffern, George Hoopengardner

Communion Assistants: ..Toni Chancellor Adams, Linda Heffern, Joyce Hoopengardner, Sherry Whipple

**December 24 7:00 PM (Candlelight Service)**

Greeters:.....Tom and Susan Pursel

Acolyte: .....Wegmeyer

Crucifer:.....Wegmeyer

Lector/Reader: .....Garland Cooper

Ushers: .....George Hoopengardner, Joel Lemp, Toni Chancellor-Adams, Tom Pursel

Communion Assistants: ..Joyce Hoopengardner, Soledad Lemp, Susan Pursel, Sherry Whipple

**December 31**

Reader: Sarah Stillman Altar Flowers: Church Council



# New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Phillip Carl

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pastor.njlc@gmail.com

**OUR MISSION:** *Responding to God's grace, we are a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving, and fellowship.*

**OUR VISION:** *NJLC is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone & expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & all creation.*

## WELCOME TO NEW JERUSALEM

*A few items of note to help you in your time here today:*

**MASKS** — Masks are optional for worship and events at New Jerusalem, though we encourage mask wearing for anyone who chooses to do so.

**NEWCOMERS** — Visitors are always welcome and we invite you to sign our guestbook located in the entryway or fill out a pew card from the pew rack in front of you.

**COMMUNION** — Welcome to the table of Christ where we believe Christ is fully present to us in, with, and under these elements of bread and wine. You are invited to participate whether a member here or come to us from any other denominational tradition. Those not ready to receive Christ in body and blood, may still come forward to receive Christ in blessing. Follow the directions of the ushers who will dismiss each pew. Communion this morning will be by intinction.

**CHILDREN** — We seek to be a family-friendly congregation who enjoys having children among us, including the littler ones. We have a Cherub's Corner in the fellowship hall downstairs with age appropriate toys, books, etc. and the worship service can be heard over the speakers. Should you have the need/desire to utilize our staffed Sunday Morning Nursery, it is located in the end room of the education building.

**HANDICAP ACCESSABILITY** — Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs at the back of our Fellowship Hall or across in our Education Building. Someone is available to run the lift should you need to get up and down between levels.

We hope that in your time among us, you will encounter the love of God in Spirit!



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and dedicated to my late father, Dr. Robert L. Collins, and late grandmother, Helen Schmidt, by Jen Muhlenberg.

*To provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday, sign-up on the Flower Chart located in the church hallway or contact the church office.*



## GATHERING

Organist: Mark A. Fletcher  
Quintet: Sarah Stillman, Nancy Spannaus, Edward Spannaus, Jim Freeman, Rob Legard  
Flute: Curtis Adams  
Readers: Rob Legard, Linda Heffern, Cooper Barlow, Barbara Tobler, Toni Chancellor-Adams, Jim Freeman, Kate Freeman, Matt Jorgenson

### PRELUDE

Christmas Medley  
Arranged by James Gilbert

Mark A. Fletcher

*We prepare our hearts and minds for worship during the prelude.*

### WELCOME

#### THE PASTORAL GREETING

The tradition of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols dates from 1880. It was introduced by the Bishop of Truro, The Rt. Rev. E. W. Benson. In 1918, the service was adopted by King's College, Cambridge, where over the last century it has become justly famous. This service, in its original form, is broadcast from the Chapel at King's College every Christmas Eve. While this great liturgy and music has its origins in Great Britain, we, as Lutheran Americans, celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior through our own vernacular musical language. Music is a great testament of the faith and courage that brought us here. We sing heartily and with joy, not only at the blessed birth of our Lord, but also His glorious Resurrection and Ascension. We encourage you to fully participate in singing the carols—listening to the Word—and meditating on the anthem texts.

Congregation, please stand and face the rear of the sanctuary.

The Processional Cross symbolizes the Christ who takes on human flesh and comes into our midst.

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

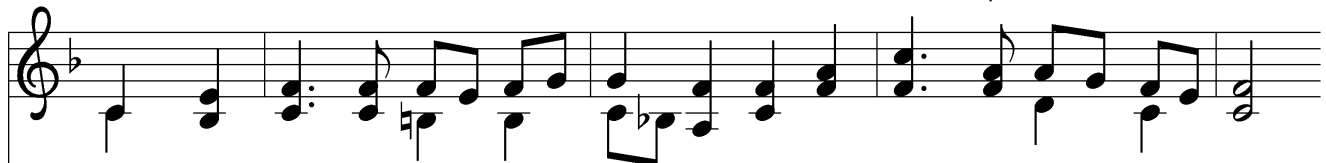
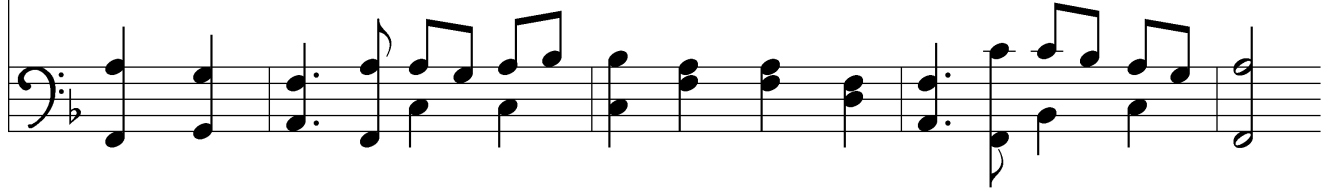
“Once in Royal David’s City”  
(see music on next page)

ELW 269

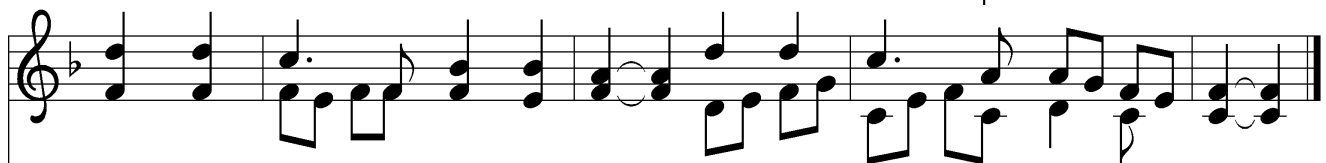
# Once in Royal David's City



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. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

## THE INVOCATION AND RESPONSORIAL

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

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

**People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman,

**People: born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.**

Pastor: Restore us, O God of Hosts.

**People: Show us the light of Your countenance and we shall be saved. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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## THE WORD

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### THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Rob Legard

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"We Light the Advent Candles "  
(see music next page, verse 1)

LS 9

### PRAYER


### THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

Muhlenberg Family

"We Light the Advent Candles "  
(see music next page, verse 4)

LS 9


# We Light the Advent Candles



1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night  
2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.  
3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly word.  
4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way.  
5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come.



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus, who is the world's true light;  
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.  
It tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord.  
Re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out: your Lord has come to - day!  
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room!



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus, who is the world's true light.  
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.  
It tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord.  
Re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out: your Lord has come to - day!  
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room!

Text: Gracia Grindal

Music: WIR HATTEN GEBAUET. German folk tune, 1823

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God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

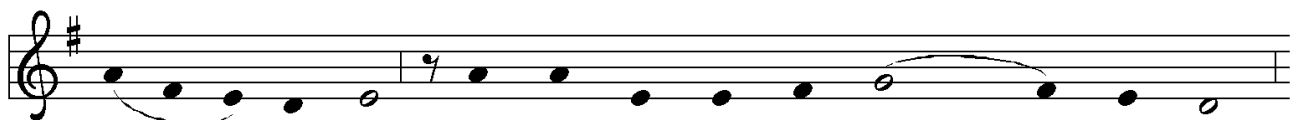
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Cooper Barlow

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## THE FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

Barbara Tobler

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

"But you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

"Prelude to Bethlehem"

Quintet

Words by: Phillip Brooks

Curtis Adams, flute

Music based on "Prelude in D Minor" by Muzio Clementi

Arranged by: Ruth Morris Gray

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35,38

Toni Chancellor-Adams

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he

will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

### The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265



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.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

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

## THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Jim Freeman

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Away in a Manger”  
(see music on next page)

ELW 278

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Linda Heffern

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
(see music on page 14)

ELW 278

# Away in a Manger

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

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
 Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919  
 Arr. from *Carols for Choirs 1*, © Oxford University Press 1960.

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# 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.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " `But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### CHORAL ANTHEM

"Alleluia"

Quintet

Words and Music by: Andrew Miller

### THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-18

Pastor Phil Carl

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Please stand as you are able

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rob Legard

Reader: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader; Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need (*especially Shirley Onderdonk, Wayne Dunkley, Mack Keister, Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock*). Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: As we strive to call a new pastor for this congregation, send your Spirit to guide our decisions and those of all others in that process, so the outcome reflects your will for our future. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reader: With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Reader: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**People: Amen.**



## **GREETING & PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to turn and share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERTORY**

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

Born to Set Us Free  
Words and Music by: Jay Althouse

Quintet

*Please stand as you are able*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray as the Lord has taught us:

People: **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**

Pastor: Come to the banquet, for now all is ready.

*Please be seated.*

**HOLY COMMUNION** (*Communion this morning is by intinction.*)

Please stand as you are able.

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**Pastor:** The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you unto life eternal.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Pastor:** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing. May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at His second advent receive, by His great mercy, unending life. And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

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### **SENDING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful  
*(see music on next page)*

ELW 283

### **POSTLUDE**

The Hallelujah Chorus  
from Handel's *Messiah*

Mark A. Fletcher

# 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:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade



*Please join us on Sunday,  
December 24  
as we prepare our hearts for the  
birth of a King.*

10:00 a.m. Our youth will be presenting  
“The Joy of Christmas” a  
pageant announcing the  
birth of Jesus to the world.

6:45 p.m. There will be preservice  
music provided by musicians  
of the church.

7:00 p.m. We will celebrate the birth of  
Jesus with a traditional  
candlelight service.