

Salem Lutheran Church

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DECEMBER 25, 2020 ~ ONLINE CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Advent Fantasy

Arr. Judy Phillips

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Newark, DE

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GATHERING HYMN

Still, Still, Still

Glenn Deuchler & Pastor

Still, still, still,

He sleeps this night so chill.

The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the Christ Child holding.

Still, still, still,

He sleeps this night so chill.

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

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GREETING

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you **All: And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary Did You Know?

Greene, Lowry

Virtual Praise Team ~ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD

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WORD

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord given to you. **ALL: Praise to you O Christ.**

2020 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA*

HYMN OF THE

*Away in a Manger
Maddox and Mila Hoefler*

ELW 277 verses 1 & 3

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Tune Name: Away in a Manger
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THE PRAYERS

God of glory, you bring your word to birth among us. As you spoke through prophets and ancestors, empower your church to proclaim your name with boldness and tenderness, that your salvation is revealed to all.

Wonderful Healer, you bring hope to all people. Bring wholeness to all who long for your comfort and companionship. Bring healing and wholeness to all who long for mercy.

Prince of Peace, you are the fullness of grace and truth. Bless ministries of generosity in this congregation and community. Open our doors in welcome, extend our tables to guests, and send us out with provisions for those who lack food, water, shelter, clothing, or companionship.

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. All: **And also with you.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW 267 verses 1 & 2

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Tune Name: Antioch

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

+++++ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER LIST+++++

A Special Thank you to Salem's choir, Maddox and Mila, providing the voices for today's hymns. Special thank you to Cathy Hoefler as our Music Director and playing the hymns, to Glenn Deuchler for accompanying, and the gifts of music from sister congregations in our Synod. We are blessed!

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of our congregation during these unprecedented times. As it becomes clear that we're in this phase for a longer haul, we want to say a particular thanks for your faith, your generosity, and your perseverance. Your faithful stewardship of all God's gifts is the heart of disciple-making and neighbor-loving.

OBD Casseroles for the month of December totaled 24! Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and your generosity.

Christmas Poinsettias are available for pick up. Contact Lynn Cox.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Family and friends of Sandy Barthel, Family and friends of David (friend of the Temples), Family and Friends of Jerry Shank, Faith LeBrun, Susan Bernowski, Family and friends of Laura Barthlome, Darlene Saffran & her daughter's family, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Mike, Thelma Preisinger, Brenda Baker, Kimberley, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Barb Vogel, Jenny's mom and sister Donna, Norma Knudsen, Anne Mills, Rachel's baby girl Diana, Capt'n Jim McMahan, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Karen, Donna Miller, Laura Riley, Judy Newsome, Phil Kulinski, Bruce Greer, Debbie McDonald, Michelle Harshman, Lisa Barwick, Dorothy Portera, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Dawn Weaver, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Steve Sussan, Betty Burnet, Carrie Claus, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Aunt Marie, Joan Evans, Steve Norman, Austin Phoebus, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Lennard Beecher, Jumela Beecher, Seth Bates, Steve White, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dan Gnau, Paula Feldman, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Jim Bair, Craig Perry Beel, Joyce Craig, Aston Dean, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Nick Wingate, and Jeanie Z., Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Please contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates concerning the prayer list.

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