

Salem Lutheran Church

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DECEMBER 24th, 2021 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

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.

WELCOME

CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

READING: Titus 2:11-14

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.

L: In the beginning was The Word, and The Word was with God and The Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

L: *I hear the Word singing in my soul:*

C: A melody of such love, the harmonies of such splendor -

L: In him was life, and the life was the light of us all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

L: *The Word, the Truth, I sense It sweeping through my soul:*

C: A breeze of incredible tenderness, the warmth of such beauty. Your Holy beams of radiance wrapping and rekindling me.

L: *And The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father's only son. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For in the beginning was The Word, and The Word was with God and The Word was God.*

HYMN

From Heaven Above

ELW 268 vs 1

"From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring

to all the world, and gladly sing:"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539
Tune Name: Vom Himmel hoch
Song Reported to OneLicense Song # 08105

READING: Luke 2:1-5

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose

ELW 272 vs 1

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2;
Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599;
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
Tune Name: Es ist ein Ros
Reported to OneLicense Song # 111796

READING: Luke 2:6-7

HYMN:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276 vs 1

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M.G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.
Music: Polish carol
Tune Name: W żłobie leży
Reported to OneLicense Song # 89225

READING: LUKE 2:8-14

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW 289 vs 1

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

READING: Luke 2:15-19

MUSIC

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279 vs 1

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
Tune Name: St. Louis Public Domain

READING: Luke 2:20

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOMILY

MUSIC

Love Has Come

ELW 292 Vs 1

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950
Music: F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856
Tune Name: Un flambeau
Reported to CCLI Song # 08897 & # 62232

PRAYERS

SHARING THE PEACE

This night no one is a stranger. All are joined together as one family through the miracle of the birth of one small baby. Let us share our joy and excitement at being present when God reaches down to touch the earth. Teach us Lord to reach out and touch each other in love incarnate.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

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

Have mercy, O God,

Against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Amen**

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Let us pray,

Jesus, we believe you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love You above all things and we desire to receive You into our souls. Since we cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as You are already there, and because of You we are united with You in death and in life. Never permit us to be separated from You. **Amen.**

PRAYER

Oh, Jesus Christ, Messiah of us all, grant us the awareness to hear your counsel, the confidence to trust your strength, the faith to receive your life, the grace to accept your peace. 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.**

At this time let us light a candle and reflect upon the love of God given to us.

MUSIC

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281 vs 1, 2

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.

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!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863
Tune Name: Stille Nacht Public Domain

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, bless His name

P: Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

MUSIC:

Joy to the World

ELW 267 vs 1,2,4

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 Public Domain

SENDING & DISMISSAL

God comes to us now; comes to embrace us through the Christ Child. For this Child is Peace beyond all peace, Love beyond all loves. Follow this Child who is Grace beyond all grace. Go in joy and love to serve your newborn King!

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

We give thanks to Salem Choir and Cathy Hoefler for leading us in music!

Our Daily Bread ~ Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and for your generosity. Next casserole pick up is Monday, January 10, 2021.

Mason Dixon Food Pantry ~ Thank you for donating non-perishable food items for folks Sarah Keller takes the items to Mason Dixon at least once a month. The collection bin is located under the coat rack in the Narthex. Thank you, Sarah, for delivering the food items!

Interested in online giving to Salem and her ministries? Check out Salem's website

Want to spread encouragement? Let's send notes / cards of care to:

Sterling Care Riverside
C/O Charles Phoebus
1123 Belcamp Garth ~ Room 219A
Belcamp, MD 21017

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Rhonda Myers, Mary Valis , Denny Blauer, Brenda Jimenez, Family and friends of Larry Phillips, Kathryn Christy, April Moyer, Cari Herrera, David Roche, Layne Bortmes, Tom Ritten, Dominic Cardone, David Storf, Carter's family, Richard NewsomeCaitlin Taylor, Darla Lynch, Alcoe Durastanti, Robet Vazquez, Erika Weldon, Paul Foutz, Daisy Lukens, Steve Awalt, Tony Garner, Ed Insel, Jumela Beecher, Lauren, Cathy Preston, Elfriede Kiesling, Lance Graham, Debbie Connor, Judy Newsome, baby Diana, Brent Przychoda, Cathy Marowski, Georgia Coleman, Charlie Phoebus, Austin Phoebus (military), Deana Vanhart, Faith LeBrun, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Brenda Baker, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Donna Miller, Lisa Barwick, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Betty Burnet, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikian, Joyce Craig, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates to prayer list.

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