

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
115 Northfield St., Montpelier  
229-5440 (office)  
[www.montpelierlutheran.org](http://www.montpelierlutheran.org)**

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2021—5:30 p.m.**

**Pre-Service Music**

***As the pre-service music begins, please keep a time of silence, in preparation for worship.***

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles - The Wonder of Christmas**

**P: During Advent we have journeyed in faith toward God's wondrous gift.**

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

**P: During Advent we stood in awe of God's saving grace.**

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

**P: During Advent we recalled the promise of God's spoken word.**

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

**P: During Advent we waited for the time of God's glorious arrival.**

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

**P: Tonight our waiting is over, our eyes are open, and the gift is given.**

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

***Reader:***

**Tonight we light all the candles. The first candle reminds us to recapture the wonder of the season. In the midst of repeated refrains and familiar stories, Advent is a time to be awed by the God who came to restore our world. The second candle calls us to remember the promises of old, that from the dawn of creation all things have unfolded according to God's redemptive plan. The third candle calls us to listen to the god who still speaks to us today. Advent is a time to hear afresh the joy of God's reconciling love that beckons us homeward. The fourth candle calls us to reawaken our sense of expectation and behold the miraculous in our day and time. Tonight we light the Christ Candle, rejoicing in the Good News of the holy birth, the hope of humanity and the light of the world.**

**Sharing the Good News: A Savior is Born!**

## PRAYER FOR THE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

Lord God, through the night hours of the darkened earth, we your people watch for the coming of your promised Son. With his birth, your glory breaks on the world, and you make this holy night radiant with the splendor of Him who is the true light of the world. Through Him we pray, bring us in time to eternal joy in your presence, where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day – Let us pray:

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.**

### "Away in a Manger"

LBW#67

*First verse sung by Ruth, Mia, Caitlin & Gemma  
(Congregation please join in for verses 2 and 3)*

### Away in a Manger

67

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are as follows:

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by 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 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.

Text: American, 1885  
Tune: American, 19th cent.

AWAY IN A MANGER  
11 11 11 1

## **First Reading - Luke 2: 1-7**

### **Lector: A reading from the Gospel of Luke:**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. **Lector: The word of the Lord.**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**#41**

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

## Second Reading - Luke 2: 8-12

### Lector: A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day

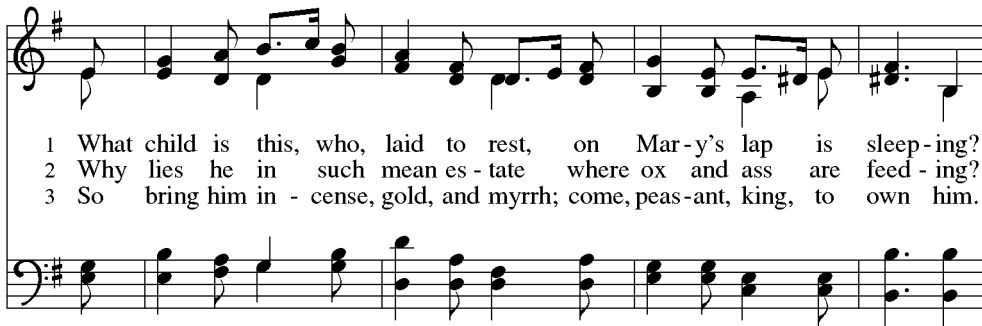
in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

**Lector: The Word of the Lord.**

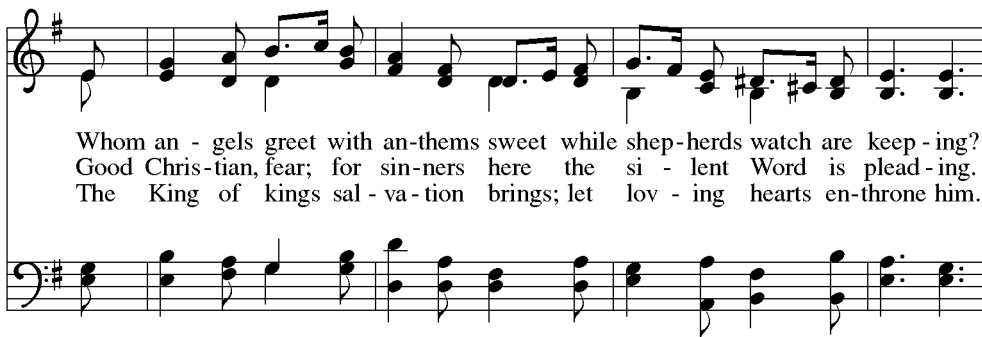
**"What Child Is This?"**

**#40**

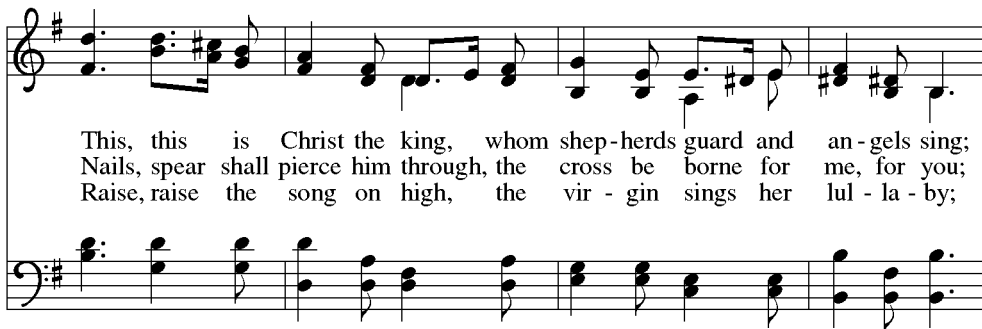
## What Child Is This



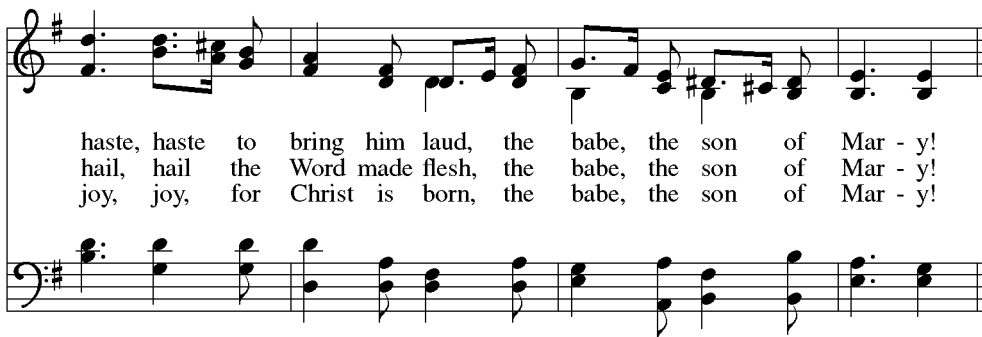
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

### Third Reading - Luke 2: 13-14

Lector: A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" **Lector: The Word of the Lord.**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**#60**

# 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!"



## **Children's Message**

### **Fourth Reading - Luke 2:15-20**

**Lector: A reading from the Gospel of Luke:**

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. **Lector: The Word of the Lord.**

**"Joy to the World"**

**#39**

# 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

**Sermon**

**Reverend David Vanderlinde-Abernathy**

**"Of the Father's Love Begotten"**

**#42**

## Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

## Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **Offertory**

***Our gifts to the Christ Child are received and  
Presented during the musical offering***

### **The Service of Holy Communion The Preface and Proper Preface**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you

**And also 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 him thanks and praise**

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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life,  
at the birth of time  
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,  
you sent your Word, born of Mary,  
to shine in our darkness  
and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his birth and life among us,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,  
that, held and nourished by you,  
we may live as your children,  
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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**

**Pastor:** In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

**The Distribution**

**Carols during the Distribution**

**"Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**#45**

## 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!

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 in ex - cel - sis De - o.



## **Candlelight Service**

***The lights in the church are turned off. The pastor and deacon distribute the light from the Christ candle throughout the congregation. When all the candles have been lighted, the Pastor reads the ancient Proclamation of Christmas.***

### **The Proclamation of Christmas**

**Many ages after the world was created,  
when God, in the beginning, formed the heavens and the earth; long after the  
great flood; some two thousand years after the birth of Abraham; fifteen  
centuries after Moses and the passing over of Israel out of Egypt;  
a thousand years after the anointing of David as king;  
in the sixty-fifth week, as Daniel's prophecy takes note;  
in the one hundred ninety-fourth Olympiad, the seven hundred forty-second year  
from the founding of the City of Rome; the forty-second year of Octavian  
Augustus' rule; in the sixth, age of the world, all the earth being at peace, JESUS  
CHRIST, Eternal God, Son of the Father,  
willing to hallow the world by His coming in mercy,  
having been conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and nine months after His conception,**

**WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA, GOD MADE MAN,  
The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.**

**To God Incarnate, to the sucking Infant,  
Who humbled Himself and took our form,  
becoming one of us in order to make us His heirs--  
to the One who walked among us to teach us the way of salvation, and Who loved  
us so much as to give His life for us:  
TO HIM BE GLORY, HONOR, AND ADORATION FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!**

***The hymn, Silent Night, will be introduced by the children singing "On a Starlit Night." We ask the congregation to join in singing the hymn when indicated (after the round verse – we will sing all three verses).***

**"Silent Night"**

**#65**

# Silent Night, Holy Night!

## *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 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,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 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

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Benediction

***Please extinguish the candles as the house lights are turned back on.***

## A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May almighty God, who has put to flight the darkness of the world through the incarnation of His only begotten Son, and through His birth has illumined this holy night, now put to flight the darkness of your sins and illumine your hearts with the light of holiness.

May He who willed that the joy of this most holy birth should first be told to simple shepherds now pour upon you the graciousness of his life and lead you to everlasting joy.

And may He who has united heaven and earth through the incarnation of His Son fill you with peace and good will, grant you the gifts of His Spirit, and send you forth as co-workers with Him in the building of His Kingdom.

**C: Amen!**

### Closing Hymn

**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

**#70**

#### Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT; African American spiritual

**THANK YOU to all our musicians who enriched our service this evening!**

**The Beautiful Poinsettias are given by:**

**Lynn Burke**

**--in memory of Charles C. Burke  
--in memory of Elmer and Evelyn Koch**

**Ron Gustafson**

**--in memory of Olive and Ernest Gustafson  
--in memory of William Gustafson**

**Lea Hatch**

**--in memory of Richard Greenslit  
--in memory of Terry Greenslit**

**Tom Koch**

**--in memory of Elmer and Evelyn Koch**

**Emily and Steve Rappold**

**--in memory of Lois and Turner Smith  
--in memory of Madeline and George Rappold**

**Ruth Schwinge**

**--in memory of loved ones**

**Joyce and John Sweeney**

**--in memory of Joe & Roberta Sweeney  
--in memory of Emilie Burian  
--in memory of Betty Denno  
--in memory of Paul Sweeney  
--in memory of Greg Amell  
--in memory of George & Evelyn Turner**