

Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
Service of Lessons & Carols
Holy Communion & Candlelight Service
7:30 p.m.



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

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Pastor Dwight Hanson

Welcome to Worship

P - Pastor A—Assistant C- Congregation

*** - Please Stand**

LBW—Green Hymnal WOV—Blue Hymnal

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: “*Little Drummer Boy*” Solo—Rob Dell

(Accomp. by: Allen Coffman—Percussion;

Kelly & Kierstyn Coffman—American Sign Language)

“*Mary, Did You Know?*” Solo — ‘Merry’ Shetter

(By: M. Lowry & B. Greene)

“*Christmas Gloria*”

Janet Burkett—Piano; Sharon Tipton—Organ

(arr. by: M. McDonald; L Larson)

Please silence phones/devices.

WORDS OF WELCOME

P Please rise and face the Processional Cross.

***INVOCATION:**

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP: John 1:1-5 (Let us read responsively)**

P ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C ²**He was in the beginning with God.**

P ³All things were made through him and without him was not any thing made that was made.

C ⁴**In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

P ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***GATHERING HYMN: Accompanied by Grace instrumentals**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 1,2 (LBW 45)

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;
Come and beho-ld him,
Born the king of an-gels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Chr-ist the Lord!

The high-est, most holy,
light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin,
A mortal he comes;
Son of the Fa-ther
Now in flesh appearing! ***Refrain***

***OPENING PRAYER:**

P 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 and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

A A reading from Isaiah:

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff

for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

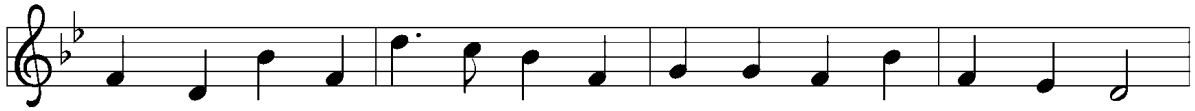
A A reading from Titus:

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: “Angels, From the Realms of Glory” vss. 1, 4 (LBW 50)



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth:
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

***THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

CAROL:

“What Child Is This?” vs. 1 (LBW #40)

¹ What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Luke 2:8-14:

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vs. 1,3 (LBW 54)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heav’n’s all gracious king”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,

Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
Oh, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing!

Luke 2:15-20:

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL:

“Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1,3 (LBW 71)

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.**

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. ***Refrain***

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson: A Simple Shepherd

Christmas Eve 2025; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson
Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Children's message: Merry Christmas! Who's excited? Look at the manger scene right in front of the altar. Notice the shepherd, looking up. Why was he looking up? The angel! Everyone was present—God, angels, people, and the animals (we can't forget the animals!). The Creator was pulling everyone together on a grand scale, from God down to the simplest creatures. Here's where it gets mysterious: God turned the whole picture upside down. Where in the Christmas story do we find God's Son? Down with the animals, in Joseph and Mary's loving care. In other words, that shepherd wouldn't be looking up the whole time. The angel told him that if he wanted to find God, he would have to look in the feed manger near Bethlehem. He's with us. The Christmas story is holy and full of life precisely because it's so humble. Which is why we're all here tonight, to remember to look where God has pointed. Let's pray...

A Simple Shepherd

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Tonight, we remember when the Son of God, the Word through whom the world came into existence, allowed himself to be born as a human being, an infant, vulnerable and full of basic needs, arriving in what could only be described as an awkward situation—rough shelter in a sort of barn, more like a lamb was being born. Hardly the ideal beginning.

And yet, in many ways it was just what this proud, troubled world needed, and still does! The high and holy came to save the fallen and lowly. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer, *your* Redeemer, the Light in the darkness, true hope under cover (so to speak), so that only faith can receive him. After all, it was the breaking of faith that plunged the world into spiritual darkness in the first place.

For God to reclaim our wayward hearts, he came down among us in utter humility, with redemptive love that we can never fully understand. And all of it is a *gift* that can only be received and shared, like candlelight, as voice joins voice in singing the praises of the Savior, until we have no more breath on this earth.

So, now that we know why we're all here on a Wednesday evening in December, *how are you* this Christmas? Have “the hopes and fears of all the years” summoned you to visit old Bethlehem? Is this just the sacred story you need to hear? It's important to remember how much that first Christmas failed to match any human dream. It's more important to remember that, for God, it was absolutely perfect to the smallest detail.

Because Christmas is so memorable, and has been the occasion of so many gatherings, it naturally draws our minds back to days gone by. As the years add up, and responsibilities, too, the world with its million concerns has a way of clouding memory. Tonight, the wind of the Holy Spirit blows open a break in the clouds, a Heavenly window, revealing a brightly shining star, guiding us back to where we should be, to a story so basic that any child can understand it, while not even the wisest scholar can fully comprehend it. Perhaps it's only when we're child-like that we can receive the greatest Christmas gift ever given.

I have a few illustrations for you tonight. For the first one, we'll need to turn the Biblical clock back a thousand years *before* Christmas. Yet even then, Scripture tells the story of a man who desperately needed to return to *Bethlehem*, to the root of it all. It was King David, and he had lost sight of what was most important. God reminded him of humbler times in younger years.

It all came to a head when the great king sat in his castle at the height of his power. He had earthly peace by the edge of a sword. But did he have the peace that only God can give? I've often thought that young David once understood all these things. How else could he have written Psalm 8? Picture the shepherd boy of Bethlehem, caring for his father Jesse's flock by night, looking up at "*the moon and the stars*" (Ps. 8:3). "*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth! Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted by the mouth of babes and infants...*" (Ps. 8:1-2a; RSV). Years later, somewhere deep inside the king, the young shepherd remained, the one Jesse called in from the fields to be anointed (1 Sam. 16:11ff).

Somewhere along the way King David stumbled. Walking about his palace, the thought crossed his mind that the Ark of the Covenant deserved more than a tent. David assumed that God, like him, would desire bigger and better (see 2 Samuel 7:1-11). "*But that night the word of the LORD came to [the prophet] Nathan saying: 'Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling*" (vs. 4-6). "*'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel...I will provide a place for my people...*" (vs. 8ff). Then God established David's royal line forever, but not as a worldly power-broker. It was the strong heart of the shepherd that was the focus. David, if he was to move forward properly, needed to go back to Bethlehem. Don't we all?

Bethlehem highlights the basics, a simple manger, surrounded by animals in whom the Creator took delight. And right on cue, the first to be informed of the great turning of the tide were shepherds, abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Were some of them chilled and feeling the growing weight of the years? Did they need to remember what it was like to be young at heart? The angel directed them precisely where to go.

Is it not the same with us? You know the journey your heart needs to make, back to childlike faith. St. John wrote: “*to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*” (John 1:12).

I can’t remember if it was the Christmas of my 7th or 8th grade year, but I remember the outline of the day quite clearly, caught somewhere between childhood and adulthood. It was Christmas morning, and bitterly cold. Our family had recently become dairy farmers. Newsflash: The cows had to be fed and milked before any presents could be opened!

The whole thing was like a punishment. I think we all felt the same way. Crunching through the snow to do the chores, steps were heavy and full of self-pity. Then, just before the milkers went on, one member of the family made a simple comment that turned into a tidal wave: The original, less-than-ideal Christmas was *also* in a barn. And with that crucial piece of the puzzle snapped into place, it was like the ringing of a bell. I remember feeling my own thoughts calling me to attention: *Wait a minute, you gloomy little fool! This isn’t a punishment. It’s an opportunity.*

On went the radio with Christmas music. We hummed as we worked. Being the youngest in the barn, I was charged with giving the feed to the cows as they were milked. Would it be okay to give each cow a little extra feed that morning, in honor of the context of the first Christmas? I got the green light. Can a barn glow with warmth on a dark December morning with temperatures below zero? It did that day. The situation was transformed not because the details suddenly became perfect or easy. The transformation happened within the people, who simply remembered the heart of the story.

Whatever your condition this holy night, whatever you’re going through, Almighty God has invited *you* to journey back to childlike faith, drawn to the Light of God, the humble birth of the Lord Jesus. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CAROL:

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (LBW 44)

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!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

***NICENE CREED:**

**C 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,
By the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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,
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.
He 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 FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:

- A** Let us pray: Almighty and Everlasting God, shine down upon us and within us. Give us the greatest gift of all, humble faith in the Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate. We pray for those who do not know the peace of Christ. Inspire all of us to cherish what is good and true, and to be better messengers of your Kingdom. Lord in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray, O Lord, for those who carry heavy burdens this night—those who grieve, those far from home, those consumed by troubles, all who feel as if their candle is burning low. Grant them your eternal strength and light. May the hearts of all be turned to you. We silently name in our hearts those who are in need of your healing touch in any manner ... *Pause for silent prayer* ... Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
- C** **trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM: ***“Angels We Have Heard on High”*** ***Choir***
(from the cantata 'Lead Me Back to Bethlehem')

OFFERTORY: ***“What Child is This?” vs. 3 (LBW 40)***
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high

The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

***OFFERING PRAYER:**

P Let us pray: God of wonder, we offer our humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy.

C **Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PREPARATION:**

P Let us pray: Holy God, at the dawn of Creation your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, by your grace, you sent the Word, born of Mary, to shine in the darkness and make us your children. Yet we have not honored you as we should, nor have we loved each other according to your will. Grant us the forgiveness and renewal we need. Prepare our hearts to receive this gift with a living faith, as Jesus comes to us in his Holy Supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P 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.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

C **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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AND BLESSING OF CHILDREN
(In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to repent of all that separates us from God, and to receive His sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins.)

Holy Communion will be distributed continuously.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” (LBW 60)

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel! ***refrain***

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth. ***refrain***

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LBW 41)

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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem: Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

“Away in a Manger” (LBW 67)

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

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'till morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

(LBW 69—verses 1 & 2)

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesus’ birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem,
He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav’n above
To help a world in need.

“The First Noel” vs. 1-4

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. ***Refrain***

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. ***Refrain***

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. ***Refrain***

“Once in Royal David’s City”

vs. 1-2 (WOV 643)

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P God of grace, you have come down to give us your very self. Open our eyes to the Light of this gift. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing the glory of the Lord Jesus.

C **Amen.**

***SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST:**

Please tip unlit candles to receive the light and then share it with your neighbor. Lit candles always stay upright. The ushers will come forward to light their candles then share the light with the congregation. We will wait until all candles are lit and the overhead lights are off before we sing.

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

(LBW 65)

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!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***BENEDICTION:**

P May Christ, born into the world to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness forevermore, his face shining upon you with grace and mercy. In the name of the Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: "Joy to the World!" (LBW 39)**

Accompanied by Grace Instrumentals

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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 men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

***DISMISSAL:**

P Go in peace. Serve the newborn King!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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*****Thank you to the Choir, Musicians, Soloists, Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, Worship Assistants, Acolytes and everyone who shared God's special gifts and talents to make this evening's worship a joyous blessing from Him. *****



The Special Arrangement on the Altar this evening is given to the Glory of God by: Elaine Fudge in Praise of the Newborn King! Merry Christmas!

**Christmas Eve
Worship Assistants:**

Greeter:	Nelson Hardin & Carol Perry
Usher:	John Kiracofe
Lector:	Jane Coggin
Communion	Tiffany Ingram
Assistants:	Debbie McKinney

2025

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

The Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by the following:



10 Jingle Bells—Anonymous—*For shut-ins or anyone who would appreciate a poinsettia.*

2 Red, 1 White, 1 Pink—Doug & Janet Burkett—*To the Glory of the Newborn King!*
1 Red—Glenn & Beverly Childers—*For the Glory of God.*

1 Red—Nancy Childs—*In Memory of Tom Childs and Harold & Margaret Brubaker.*

1 Red, 1 White—Mike Coe—*In Memory of Linda Coe & Mary Jane Seim.*

1 Red, 3 Jingle Bell—J. Allen, Kelly Coffman & Kierstyn Coffman—*In thanksgiving for the Hanson/Baer Family and their 2 new additions; In celebration of our entire family, near and far; In memory of John Coffman, Dwayne & Karen Releford, and those in our family who have gone before us; and in celebration and honor of Jesus Christ, Our Savior.*

1 Red, 3 Jingle Bells—Elaine Fudge—*In Memory of family members who have passed.*

1 Red, 1 Jingle Bells—Joe & Karen Leeds—*In Honor of Jesus' birth.*

2 Red—Carol K. Matevia—*To the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Richard A. Kester, Born December 25, 1930*

1 Red, 1 Marble, 1 Jingle Bells— Nancy & Scott Parkinson—*In Honor of Dave & Karen Kullman and in Memory of Barbara & James Gray and in Memory of Sally & John Parkinson.*

1 Jingle Bell—Gary Pemberton, Sr.—*In Memory of Vernita Pemberton.*

1 Red—Karen Schaeff—*In Memory of Gene & Donna Emrick.*

1 Red—Mike & Judy Schamel—*In Thanksgiving for the birth of Our Lord and Savior: GOD WITH US!!*

1 White—Dan & Karen Schultz—*To the Glory of God!*

1 White, 1 Jingle Bells—Dean & Merry Shetter—*In Celebration of the Newborn King, The Great Healer and in Love and Appreciation for our Family and Dear Friends.*

1 Red, 1 White—The Steiner Family—*In honor of Don and Arlene Steiner & Paul & Jean Vogelsong*

1 Red, 1 White, 1 Pink—Dorothy Stoltz—*To the Birth of Jesus Christ and departed loved ones.*

1 Red—Juli Troutman & Ryan Norby—*In memory of Juli's parents—Gary & Betty Troutman.*



May the joyous and abundant blessings of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit come to you and your families this Christmas season and may he fill your New Year with his grace and peace.

Thursday, December 25, 2025—MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Office Closed

AA Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 26, 2025 — OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 28, 2025— The First Sunday after Christmas

9:30 a.m. Worship

Thursday, January 1, 2026—New Years Day— OFFICE CLOSED

AA Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 2, 2026 — OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, January 4, 2026—

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Adult Education—in the Fellowship Hall

NO Youth Sunday School

Sunday, January 11, 2026 —

Installation of newly elected Council members

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 Fellowship & Adult Education

10:30 Youth Sunday School with Christian movie & Popcorn

6:00 p.m. Sunday S'mores (Youth Group)



Saturday, January 17, 2026—

9:00 a.m.— NOON—Council Retreat

*****Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third and fifth
Sundays (when there is a fifth Sunday) of the month and on Festival
Sundays.*****

The Baby Lying in a Manger

Find the 29 **bold** words from Luke 2:15-20 (ESV)

N D N E M V E I V N S H H S Y
 G N I N R E C N O C D E A L B
 D E N R U T E R M G R A P E A
 G A M N G D S E Q G E R P G B
 O M R A L N H A N N H T E N R
 D P P I N E I W W I P D N A F
 S G H O L G O Y L Y E Z E E K
 P C G H N N E O F L H X D N B
 E N T N D D R R U I S U E K U
 E E B E I D E H A F R V D K S
 B T R E A S U R E D A O N P A
 V E T S A H I Q I E N O L D Y
 D J O S E P H A H N W U L G I
 H E A R D N X T R N G O O U N
 Y R A M S E E M V P T T N F G

When the **angels** went away from them into **heaven**, the **shepherds** said to one another, "Let us go over to **Bethlehem** and **see** this thing that has **happened**, which the **Lord** has made **known** to us." And they went with **haste** and **found** **Mary** and **Joseph**, and the **baby** lying in a **manger**. And when they **saw** it, they made known the **saying** that had been **told** them **concerning** this **child**. And all who **heard** it **wondered** at what the shepherds told them. But Mary **treasured** up all these things, **pondering** them in her **heart**. And the shepherds **returned**, **glorifying** and **praising** **God** for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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