

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Children's Sermon**

**Opening Hymn**

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**

**ELW 275**

**Reading Matthew 2: 13-23 Joseph's vision to save Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." <sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

**Hymn**

**It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

**ELW 282**

**Reading Luke 2: 22-40 the Presentation**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Hymn

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**ELW 288**

### **Reading John 1:1-18 Word made flesh**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John.<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.<sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.<sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.<sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.<sup>14</sup> And 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.<sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")<sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### **Reading Hebrews 2:10-18 Jesus takes on flesh**

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.<sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,<sup>12</sup> saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hymn

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

**ELW 295**

## Reading Galatians 4:4-7 fullness of time and adoption

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269

## Reading Ephesians 1:3-14 our adoption in the “fullness of time”

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## The offering is received

**Anthem: One Small Child Words & Music: David Meece Arr: John Leavitt**

One small child in a land of a thousand, one small dream of a Savior tonight, one small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small Savior of life. One king bringing his gold and riches, one king ruling an army of might, one king kneeling with incense and candlelight, one king bringing us life. See him lying, a cradle beneath him, see him smiling in the stall, see his mother praising his father, see his tiny eyelids fall. One small light from the flame of a candle, one small light from a city of might, one small light from the star in the endless night, one small light from his face. See the shepherds kneeling before him, see the kings on bended knee, see the mother praising his father, see the blessed infant sleep. One small child in a land of a thousand, small dream in a people of might, one small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small Savior of life.

## Prayers

L Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

AM The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us, bringing life, love, and joy to a weary world. Gracious God, use our lips and our lives to proclaim the good news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**P Your mercy is great.**

AM The earth rejoices and the coastlands are glad on the day of your birth. Bring life to barren wastelands, healing where we have caused harm, and bold hearts to respond to creation's call for justice. Hear us, O God.

**P Your mercy is great.**

AM Righteousness and justice are your foundation, O Holy One. Fill world leaders with your zeal for righteousness and your love for any who are marginalized and oppressed. Hear us, O God.

**P Your mercy is great.**

AM The heavens proclaim your glory and announce that we have been made your own people. Keep watch over all who are spending this holy day alone, alienated, or ill. Hear us, O God.

**P Your mercy is great.**

AM Light dawns for the righteous and joy visits the upright in heart. Fortify us with your grace and fill us with zeal to proclaim the news of your birth to those who long for love. Hear us, O God.

**P Your mercy is great.**

AM From the nurturing darkness of the womb to the tender night of the tomb, you enfold us in your love. We remember with affection those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace. Hear us, O God.

**P Your mercy is great.**

L With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**P Amen.**



## Lord's Prayer

P    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

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

P    Amen

## Dismissal

L    Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.  
P    Thanks be to God.



*LESSONS  
and  
CAROLS*

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below.

Ben, Sheryl & Nik Ahrens

Connie Aparo

Phil Bascetta

Charlie Blakeslee

Kathleen Bowler

Cherie Brown

Sharon Cable

Kathy Ann Campbell

Angelo & Nicole Capasso

Carol Cianciolo

Leif Dallaire

Emily Decker

Linda Dellano

Carla Derrickson

Winifried Diorio

Irene Douglas

J.J. Eby

Judy Elliott

Walt Esker

Jan Eucalitto

Jennifer Ezzo

Weston Faith

Bruce & Liz Falls

Tommy Fitzpatrick

Bob Frantz

Ashley Friday

John Fox

Joan Gerard

Danise Hall

Jack & Barbara Heintz

Brayden Herzberg

Renate Higgins

Charles Hilton

Kathleen Hilton

Shannon Hilton

Jake Hoadley

Sven Holmgren

Erma Horn

Eunice Jones

Rusty Judd

Colin Keeley

Marilyn Killingbeck

Jason Lashbrook

Gail Lavoie

John Lewis

David Little

Rebecca Little

Amy & Dave Louen

Kari Machowski

Mary Ellen Mackinnon

Jerry MacManus

Irene Madore

Audrey Marquard

Abigail Marine

Richard Marine

Janis Martin

Gil & Marilyn Martin

Gladys Medina

Michael Meyers

Kate Merrow

Colin Moore

Brigitte Mueller

Bob Murphy

Barbara Nalette

Karen Ness

Tom O'Brien

Lea Orriola & family

Karen Pagano

Russell Palmer

Maria Payne

Lisa & Dennis Polzun

Caroline Quintal

Ed & Susan Regner

Jonathan Richard

Louise Roche

Baerbel Roehl

Patricia & Richard Sawitzke

Holly Schaff

Rosemary & Otto Schibi

Denae Seelye

Sara Seelye

Matt Simpson

Lori Sola

Dana Steele

Sigrid Smitley

Paul Smith

John Sproat

Dana & George Steele

Jennifer Stella

Deb & Jon Sterling

Tom Sterling Sr.

RuthAnn Stone

Patricia Switzer

Gloria Thibault

Andy Thomas

Julia Thompson Carroll

Susan Tycienski

Lucille Videtto

Carol Vrlik

Eveyln Walters

Steve Warner

Sue Watkins

Kim Weissman

Renee Woodard

Bruce Yauney

Clayton Young

Clarence & Priscilla

Ed

Jen O.

Jaiden

Steve

Lou W.

Steve

Todd

Robert K.

Diane A.

Terry

Joe

Carol G.

Kristen & Jared

Vinny

Hagbard

Carolina

Robert P.

Peanut

Colleen

Ken

Kathy

Jaxson

Gail

F.C.H.

Stephan

Jason R

Diane L.

Holly L.

Al & Mary

### Our Nursing Home Members

Dee Gammon

Midge Rosenbeck

Judy Schaller

Ernest Marquard

Mae Fay

Francine Ahrens

Betty Hilton

Walter Joray

### Our Military Friends

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn

Eric Beyus

Major Zachary Fulton

Brandan Holbrook

Jonathan Connell

Tom Gregg, Jr.

Eric Bremer

Peter Hutchinson

SPC Dominic Boscarino

PVT Noah Braatz

PVT 2 Christian Braatz

Aiden Avenia USCG

2nd Lt. Ben Speaker

Pvt. Noah Roy

## Around the Church

Event	Date	Time
Evangelism Meeting	1/3	9:30 am
Blood Drive	1/3	9-2
Chris Ed Meeting	1/5	
Council	1/19	7:00 pm
WELCA Game Night	1/23	6:00 pm

### **Bible Study**

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm

In person Bible Study Wednesdays

10:00 am

### **Wednesdays**

Tai Chi 11:00 am

Quilting Group 1:00 pm

## **In other news...**

Please fill out commitment sheets if you have not done

If you can share food for those in need, we would be grateful. The food will be distributed between the social service agencies in our area.

Sunday helper rotation for 2026-  
Anyone who would like to do any of the roles - Asst Min, Comm Asst, usher, slides, healer - should contact Pastor via email, text, or sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Those interested in becoming official members please fill out a form found in the Narthex. We will find a convenient

date early next year to welcome you during worship.

Our new website is up. Please check it out. It should help you stay informed. If you have suggestions for any improvements, please let us know. We are working on adding a calendar with all the meeting dates of committees, groups and other events that are happening.

**Bulletins** - The full text bulletin is intended for those who have trouble following the service with only the monitors. The abbreviated bulletin is sufficient for most members. Also, there is a milk carton under the desk near the right hand exit door. Please recycle either bulletin there unless you are taking it to someone who would like it. The prayer list, for example, is on both the full and abbreviated bulletin.

Don't forget Name Tags are in the Narthex!