



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in of their children, Amanda, Adam, and Jillian, and our granddaughter, Brooke, by Roy and Kay Cook.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister

Susan J. Crowell

Assisting Minister

John Beckford

Pianist

Jim Parham

Cantor

Melanie Helling

Youth and Children

Eileen Finnern, Samuel Godfrey, Paul Godfrey, Maddox Kirk, Jenna Mast, Kylee Mast, Tyla Sherwood, Parker Sherwood

Adults

Mark Allen, John Beckford, Ann Coon, Amanda Cook, Kay Cook, Roy Cook, Megan Finnern, Mark Godfrey, Melanie Helling, Valerie Hollinger, Wayne Hollinger, Heather Kleckley, Darlene Kleckley, Richard Moose, Christine Parham, John Park, Donna Potts, Jeff Rehm, Bob Schirmer, Sheryl Schirmer, David Troutman, Jamie Wesley, Lani Wise

Handbell Choir (listed in order of handbell station)

Richard Moose, Jeff Rehm, Heather Kleckley, Maggie Boliek, Megan McDuffee, Barbara Beckford, Jimmy Reynolds, Amanda Cook, Gail Moose, Ann Coon, Lani Wise, Mary Beth Ridenhour

Flute: Amanda Mast

Violin: Kaitlyn Bresette

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
Do You Hear What I Hear
Carol of the Bells

Pianists: Charlotte Darby, Jenna Mast, and Kylee Mast

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Joy to the World

#267

**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.**

**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.**

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

**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.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading:

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness, Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:**

Refrain

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!

**Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe we found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high: *Refrain***

**The earliest moon of winter time is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *Refrain***

**O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain***

Second Reading:

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you will come a ruler for me over Israel,
one whose going out are from times long past, from ancient days.

³ But God will give them over to their enemies until the time when
she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of the ruler's
sisters and brothers will return to the Children of Israel.

⁴ The ruler will rise up to shepherd them in the strength of the Lord,
by the power of the Name of the Lord their God. They will live in security,
for now the ruler's greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ They'll say, "This at last is the one who will be our peace! When Assyria invades
our land and tramples our fortresses, we will raise up again the invaders seven—no, eight!
- shepherds, leaders of the people."

**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.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
 we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
 there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Third Reading:

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸Upon arriving the angel said the Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!" ²⁹Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel's greeting meant. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Annunciation

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

The Magnificat

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forever more.**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.**

Fourth Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose

by Michael Praetorius

Quartet: Heather Kleckley, Jeff Rehm, and Lani and Russ Wise

Fifth Reading:

Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those God favors!"

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

HYMN

Away in a Manger

#277

Children and Youth Choirs accompanied by Adult Choir

**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.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**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.**

Soloists: Donna Potts and Jamie Wesley

*Refrain**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.***What shall we call him, child of the manger?****What name is given in Bethlehem?** *Refrain***His name is Jesus, God ever with us,****God given for us in Bethlehem.** *Refrain***How can he save us, how can he help us,****born here among us in Bethlehem?** *Refrain***Gift of the Father, to human mother,****makes him our brother in Bethlehem.** *Refrain***One with the father, he is our Savior.****heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.** *Refrain***Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,****give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.** *Refrain***Sixth Reading:**

Matthew 2:1-11

¹After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at his rising and have come to pay homage." ³When Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the leaders of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the ruler, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wiseman I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.**

Seventh Reading

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word not one thing came into being. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself was not the light, he came only to testify to the light. The true light, that illumines all humankind, was coming into the world. Though the world was made through the Word, the world did not recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people did not accept it. But to all who received the Word, who believed in the Word, the Word gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humans, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen the Word's glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

Love Has Come

#292

**Love has come--a light in the darkness! Loves 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.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now
asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the
name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life
everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the
gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

ANTHEM

Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella

arr. Sallie Lloyd

Handbell Choir

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of Christ's life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

by Adolphe Adam

Megan Finnern, soprano

Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,

or by following the link on the homepage of the website, www.trinitylutheran.ws.

Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Child Is This

#296

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

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!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,
**you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.**
Amen.

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 our 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.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#275

(Verses 1 and 4)

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king**

**All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.**

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

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

**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.**

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion —

Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person,

"The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."

Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words,

"The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#279

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.**

**O Morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.**

**No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

**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.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed 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!**

**For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon
Director of Youth
and Children's Ministries

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and Social Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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Terry Batts

Angie McCormack

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Terry Morgan

Tom DiAntonio

Merry Mulcahy

Valerie Hollinger

Joe Rice

Heather Kleckley

Franklin Sease

Ryan Koon

Stephen Troutman