

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Zion's Lutheran Church, Jonestown

December 24, 2024 7:00 pm

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz

Musicians: MaryAnn Guldin, Max Ludwig,

*Please stand as you are comfortable for parts marked with an asterisk.

Christmas Hymn Selections.....Zion's Musicians

*WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us

we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory; a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. C: Amen.

*HYMN: LBW #45 *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* (green book)

1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,
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, oh, 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
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786; tr. composite Tune, attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 ADESTE FIDELES irregular

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

YOUTH CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 (*pg. 555 in pew Bible*)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

After reading: L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 96 (*pg. 479 in pew Bible*)

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Congregation: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

L: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples.

C: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

L: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

C: Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

L: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

L: Worship the LORD in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth.

C: Say among the nations, 'The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.'

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C: let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14 (*pg. 969 in pew Bible*)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

After reading: L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *as the children come forward, please join in singing:*

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.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord to whom now shall we go?
Alleluia, Alleluia, Let Your blessings through us flow!
You have words of life eternal, help us hear them, and to tell all
In your wisdom, make us grow; in your wisdom, make us grow

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20 (found on page 832 in pew Bible)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

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

after the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON.....Rev. Caitlin M. Kurtz

HYMN: LBW #71 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (green book)

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.

Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862 Tune: French carol GLORIA 77 77 and refrain

*** NICENE CREED**

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 OF THE PEOPLE**

after hearing, "God of grace," respond: **Hear our Prayer**

after hearing the final prayer petition, "We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord ." respond: **Amen**

***SHARING OF CHRISTMAS PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you. C: **And also with you.**

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

The offering is a way we give back to God a portion of what God has first given us. We are grateful for your financial gifts, which support the work of God in and beyond this congregation. Want to give electronically? You can use this QR code to either give via Paypal, or set up a recurring electronic contribution. Thank you for your generosity!



***POST OFFERING VERSE** (tune: *What Child Is This*)

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: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **C: Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and 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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (Tune: *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life; Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Let us pray together using the words our Savior taught us:

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive this gift of Jesus.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS AND DISTRIBUTION:

We welcome visitors always and especially this night. This is the Lord's Table, where we believe Christ is truly present. All who desire to meet Him in this meal are welcome at the Table.

At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

*Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ’s spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.*

“Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen.”

LAMB OF GOD (tune: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give_ us your
peace. Pre- pare us to re- ceive_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-
joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

COMMUNION MUSIC: (green book)

- #60 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- #56 The First Noel
- #55 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **C: Amen.**

***CANDLELIGHTING**

We share the light of Christ while the story of creation married with the story of Jesus’ incarnation is read.

***CANDLELIGHT HYMN:** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (green book Hymn #65)

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

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

***DIALOGUE**

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. **C: The light no darkness can overcome.**
 P: The Word made flesh and living among us. **C: Today we have beheld Christ's glory.**
 P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C: In the Word is life, and life is the light of all people.

***CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN: #70 *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (green book)

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, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

Refrain

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

© Text: Negro spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1871-1925, stanzas, alt. Tune: Negro spiritual GO TELL IT 78 76 76 76

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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Thank you for worshipping with us tonight to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. We welcome you to join us again every Sunday at 10:30 am and, beginning Jan. 8, 2025, on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.

May you know the presence and promise of Emmanuel, God-is-with-us, this season, and always.

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Andy Bomberger, Nancy Bowman, Pastor Ted, hurricane victims and victims of violence.

Pastor Caitlin is on vacation between Christmas and New Year's. If you have a pastoral emergency, please either leave a message on the Church Office phone (717 865 2848) or call Pastor Cheri Korte who is providing coverage in her absence (717 606 8851). The church office will be closed, but church emails and voice mail will be monitored daily.

The JOY Pantry staff recently put out a plea for disposable baby diapers and baby wipes. In response, Mission Ministry would like to collect diapers and baby wipes on Christmas Eve as a way to honor Jesus' birth as we care for those in need. If you would like to bring diapers or wipes as a gift, please put them under the tree in the Gathering Area before the end of the year.

Other items that are needed are personal care supplies. In January, we will begin collecting toothpaste, tooth brushes, body wash, soap, and deodorant.

Congregational Dinner and Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 26.

Wednesday activities, including Rejoicing Spirits, meal, and Bible study will **NOT** be held on December 29, or January 5. They will resume January 8, 2025!

The Poinsettias adorning our sanctuary are sponsored by:

Given by:

Houser Family
Don Davis & family
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Hiester
Nancy Smith & family
Nancy Kleinfelter & family
Nancy Kleinfelter & family
Nancy Kleinfelter & family
Ed & Elaine Ludwig
Linda Wenrich

Remembering:

Allen and Bob Houser
Sharon Davis
Parents & Lois's brother
Steven Tyler Smith
Donald Kleinfelter
Ernest & Emma Kohr
Warren & Hilda Kleinfelter
Brother Bob
Bud & Romaine Hougendobler

Honoring:

Rick & Jo Herr
Janet Bird
Gran & Grandad Guldin
Gran & Grandad Guldin
Granddaughters
Family
Junia's 1st Christmas
Jack's 1st Christmas

To the Glory of God:

John & Joanna Noll²



Please pick up your poinsettia after this evening's service. Thank you.



Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church
103 E Market St., P.O. Box 658, Jonestown, PA 17038
Ph: 717-865-2848 www.zionsjonestown.com