

Christmas Day Worship with Traditional Carols

December 25, 2021, 10:00 am



Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Christmas 2021

Dear Friend in Christ,

Good new of great joy, we will hear this Christmas season, and we pray that this joy, an amazing peace that passes all human understanding, fills our hearts to overflowing.

As we gather, though, in person or virtually, how challenging it can be to actually live and know that joy. Now we have an omicron surge, even a phrase 20 months ago we would not even have understood. The news tells us of continued violence, divisiveness, economic challenge, and lives are filled with questions about what the future might have in store. *Good new of great joy?*

We then hear, however, *To you is born a savior, Christ the Lord*. This savior is Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. This same savior says to us, *I am with you always*. What hope we are given, our God will never, never abandon us. Our God is here with us, for us, loving us, guiding us. Our hope is right there in that manger, the greatest gift of joy and peace.

Thank you so much for worshipping at Saint Luke. We invite you to join in worship and devotion regularly at www.saintlukeonline.us

Kindly click here [Visitor Welcome](#) and complete the information. We look forward to being in touch with a word of welcome and hope.

May you find new hope as you hear the words of the Christmas gospel, *I bring you Good News of great joy! To you, yes, to you, is born a Savior, Christ the Lord*.

Christmas Blessings



Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Gathering

Prelude

Divinum Mysterium

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

ELW 275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
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:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
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

Greeting

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

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

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

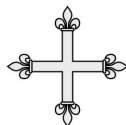
Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Word

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al- le - lu - ia.

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he 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 man, but of God.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

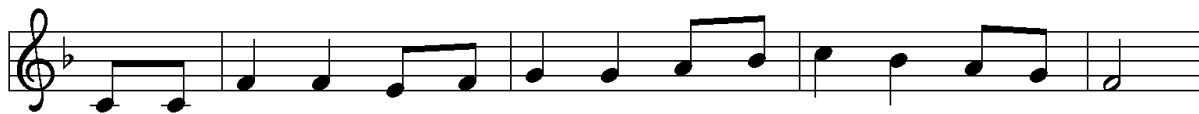
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Hernandez



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 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.
 Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

Nicene Creed

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; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Intercession

Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the good creation, and the needs of all.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of grace and joy,
Hear our prayer.

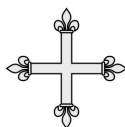
The prayers conclude:

Come down to us, O God, and make your home with us, in us, and through us, for the sake of the one whose birth the angels sang and the shepherds proclaimed, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



Meal

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

Contemplation on "Divinum Mysterium"

Kenneth Lowenberg (b. 1939)

Please stand.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

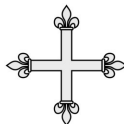
The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**



Sending

Blessing

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew our hope.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 270

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

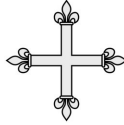
Dismissal

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace! Love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Postlude on 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

David Willcocks (1919-2015)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Rosario Hernandez, *Saint Luke member and former Saint Luke Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

LESSON READER

Jonathan Hernandez

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FOOD CARD DEDICATIONS
TO THE GLORY OF GOD WITH THANKSGIVING!

Bassein-Roy family in remembrance of Ken & Rhoda Mahler, in thanksgiving for Saint Luke's online services

James and Lorraine Bentley in honor of the Saint Luke Staff

Jessica and Doug Brauer in remembrance of Ken Messer, Mazie & Clifford Messer, in remembrance of Larry Burling, in remembrance of Eileen Ahlrichs, in remembrance of Gerald Brauer, and in remembrance of Desi & Vernon Avaux

Diane and Nick Castle in remembrance of Anita and Gordon Ward

Christine Ceder in remembrance of her husband, Robert Ceder, in remembrance of her parents Isabelle and Samuel Mohr, and in honor of her children and their families

Pam Collins, John Geiger, and Marcia Laundry in thanksgiving to God for the life and witness of their parents, Marcus and Peggie Geiger

Jane Curtin in honor of her grandparents

Alma Edgerly in remembrance of Rod & Thoma Petersen, in remembrance of Marie Edgerly, in remembrance of Mary Nuss and in honor of Ruth Manchester

Susan DeHart in remembrance of Ken, Dorothy, Evelyn and Tom DeHart, and in remembrance of Pamela Bresnahan and Barbara Roberts

Karen Evans in remembrance of James Evans

Amy, Jennifer, Andrew, Abigail and Matthew Farrar in remembrance of their grandma Lois McCabe, and in remembrance of our their Aunt Carolyn, Aunt Winnie and Marty

Ed Fenstermacher in honor of Erica, Thomas and Alex Fenstermacher, in remembrance of Cassel and Marion Jacobson, in remembrance of Harvey and Margaret Fenstermacher, in remembrance of Mike and Cathy Pine

Betty Fulton in remembrance of John & Dorothy Nutter

Beverly Gardner in remembrance of James and Margaret Shaffer, in remembrance of the Reverend David and Helen Shaffer, in remembrance of George and Gabriella Gardiner, and in remembrance of Jacob and Mary Kuzmich

Benjamin & Jen Gray in honor of Mark Hatcher, in remembrance of Viola Gallus, in remembrance of Jesse Hatcher, and in remembrance of Andrew Letcher

Albert Goergens, Jr. in remembrance of Evelyn and Albert Goergens, in remembrance of Margaret Leasure, in remembrance of Emma & George Goergens, and in remembrance of Florence & Alfred Pierson

Nancy Gurganus in remembrance of David & Alma Hudgel

Claudette Hamerski in remembrance of Claude and Emily Myers, in remembrance of Hugh and Cleo Hamerski, in remembrance of Mary Viands, in thanksgiving to God for their children: Andrea, Chad, Lauren, Larry, Valerie, and David, and in thanksgiving to God for their grandchildren: Justin, Colin, Brendan, Wesley, Emily, Nolan, Bradley, Grayson, and Alexis

The Heinbaugh Family in honor of Charles Heinbaugh and Millie Heinbaugh, in remembrance of Jack S. Heinbaugh and Frances C. Heinbaugh, in remembrance of Robert L. Heinbaugh and Gene M. Heinbaugh, and in remembrance of Charles E. Heinbaugh, Sr. and Lois L. Heinbaugh

Mary Kirk in remembrance of her husband, Edward, in honor of Charles & Elisabeth, Kathleen & David, Jennifer & George, and in honor of James, Maria, Sophia, Nicholas, Diana & Anthony

Marcia Laundry in thanksgiving to God for the life and witness of George and Audrey Mathieson, in remembrance of Marion Kahlert, and in thanksgiving for the life and witness of her beloved husband, Roger A. Laundry

Paul and Ruth Manchester in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Elbert Grant and Eleanor Elizabeth Manchester and the life and witness of Gilbert Frederick and Helen Rinner Garbisch

Sarah Manchester in honor of Paul & Ruth Manchester



Scott McKay in honor of Paul & Ann Karpiscak, in remembrance of Xavier & Jacqueline McKay

Pastor Miller in thanksgiving for the Saint Luke faith community and the Saint Staff Team

Gary and Ellen Miller in remembrance of Robert and Edythe Miller and Harry and Virginia Griggs, in honor of James, Katie, Alexander, Robert, and Ellamaija Miller

Amelia Nuss in honor of Gary & Ann Nuss, in honor of Ruth Moorman

Karen Paide in remembrance of Tonis Paide, in honor of Ruth and Paul Manchester

Jeffrey and Linda Pannebaker in remembrance of Merrick (Mac) Shawe, in remembrance of Benjamin (Ben) Davis

Bob and Lynne Petty in remembrance of Rodney Petty, in remembrance of Billie Walker Kastan

Sarah Province in remembrance of Philip Province, in honor of her daughters and their spouses, in honor of her eight grandchildren, in thanksgiving for the outreach ministry of Saint Luke

The Betty Reed Reber Family and The Harry Wayne Fessler Family in remembrance of Glenn A. Reed, in remembrance of F. Jean Fessler Reed, in remembrance of Randall J. Reed, in remembrance of Susan Diane Reed, and in honor of Jessica Dawn Reed Mortimer

Barbara Sanders in honor of Donna, Greg and Kate for their love and support, in remembrance of Aunt Nellie and all the dearly departed of the Marsh and Giessman families, in remembrance of Harry Lee and all the dearly departed of the Sanders and Vaught families, in honor of all who lead, gather and support each other in Women of the ELCA circles and Faith Connection "breakfasts"

Wilson and Nancy Shaffer in remembrance of W. Earl and Dorothy D. Bricker, in remembrance of Albert W. and Natalie S. Shaffer, in honor of Erin E. Shaffer and Susan Lee, in honor of Michael D., Kathleen H., Bridie, Tommy, Thaddeus, and Brendan Shaffer

Mary Shepherd in remembrance of her husband, William Shepherd, in remembrance of her parents, the Reverend Glenn and Mary Barger, in remembrance of Sister Josephine Gouker, Sister Dorothy Stalder, and Sister Mildred Winter

Linda Sherwood in honor of Chelsea and Jeffrey Sherwood

Carin Sprick in remembrance of Britt Rosberg a dear friend, in remembrance of Mona Carlsson a dear friend, in remembrance of Inger Palm a dear friend, in honor of grandchildren Jack, Isabella and Finlay,

Willard and Becky Unkenholz in remembrance of Willard C. and Marlys K. Unkenholz, in remembrance of Clarence and Elizabeth Keiper, in honor of Timothy, Christian, and Luda Unkenholz, and Rachael Maddox, and in honor of Dr. Alain Truche

Deborah VanBuskirk in honor of James, Thomas, sisters and families, and in remembrance of Engebret and Helen Midboe

Diane VanLonkhuyzen in remembrance of Robert and Doris Cross, and in remembrance of John VanLonkhuyzen

Karla Berg Walker in remembrance of her parents, Karl Joseph Berg and Jane Pach Berg, in honor of First Responders, Health Care Staff, Teachers, Scientists and all workers on the front line during the pandemic, and in honor of grandchildren: Kayleigh, Emily, and Nolan

Kyle Warfield in remembrance of Justin Warfield

Ralph Watkins in remembrance of Richard and Evelyn Watkins

Christmas Blessings!