

Jesus

The Light  
of the  
World



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# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Worship

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\* = Please stand, if you are able.

## WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Pastorale Symphony* (from “Messiah”)

G.F. Handel

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Good news! Great joy!

**People: Jesus Christ is born!**

Leader: Good news! Great joy!

**People: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CANDLES

“Good news of great joy,” the angel said,  
“for to you a savior is born.” “Peace on earth,”  
the choir sang,  
“for God reigns in the highest.” “Follow me,”  
the star beckoned,  
“For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

As we light the Christ candle,  
**we watch for the Christmas story around us.**  
Emmanuel has come and is coming.  
**Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

#### \* HYMNS OF PRAISE NO. 40

*Joy to the World* (vv. 1 & 2)

*Antioch*

#### NO. 41

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv. 1 and 3)

*Adeste Fideles*

## THE CALL TO CONFESSION

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin and to bring to us the gift of salvation.  
Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give.

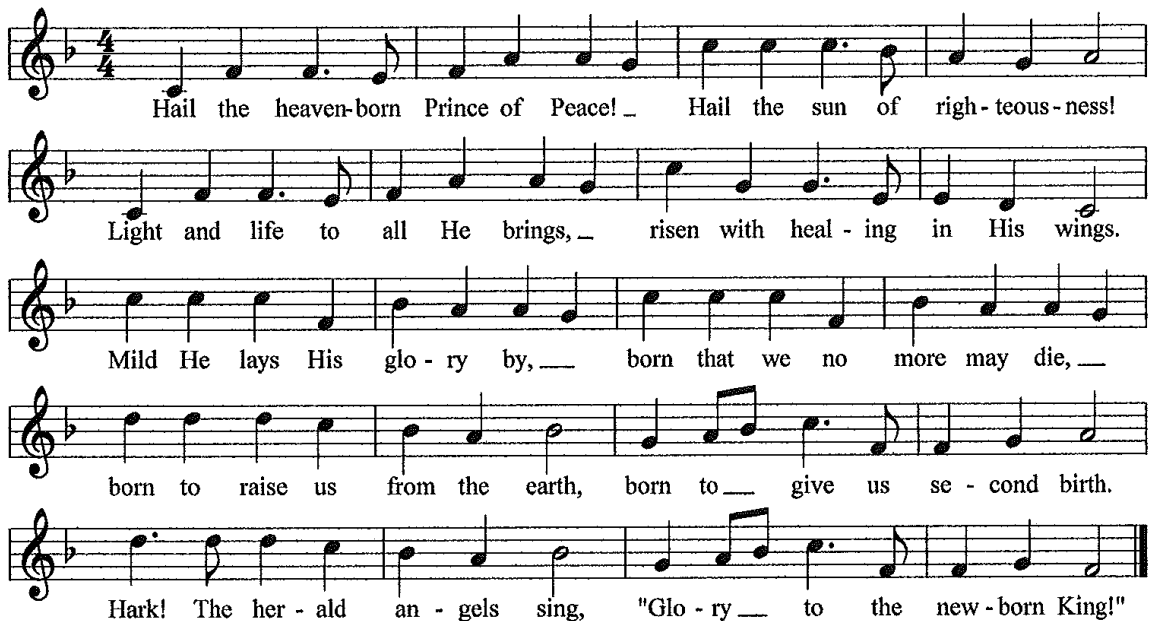
## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love. We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked, failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us. Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Peace on earth, mercy mild.  
God and sinners reconciled.  
This is good news!  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (vs. 3) *Mendelssohn*



Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! \_ Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!  
Light and life to all He brings, \_ risen with heal - ing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, \_ born that we no more may die, \_  
born to raise us from the earth, born to \_ give us se - cond birth.  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry \_ to the new - born King!"

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

NRSV

<sup>2</sup> [b] 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> 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 onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**MUSICAL OFFERING (7:00)**

*Sing We Noel*

arr. Holly Berry

**(9:00)** *Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)*  
Chancel Choir

Chris Eaton, Amy Grant  
arr. Lloyd Larson

*I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside,  
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, you have come and chosen me to carry your Son.*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.*

*In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now.*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.*

*Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.*

*Do you wonder as you watch my face if a wiser one should have had my place?*

*But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan. Help me be strong. Help me be. Help me.*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.*

*Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.*

**SECOND READING**

Luke 2:1-14

NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"<sup>[c]</sup>

**Leader:** And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

*Sheep, Fields, and Fears*

Rev. Joshua D. Gill

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN NO. 44

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vv. 1 and 4)

*St. Louis*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

(Traditional Version)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## OFFERING

\*OFFERING RESPONSE

*What Child is This?* (vs. 3)

*Greensleeves*



So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh. . Come one and all \_ to own Him. The



King of kings \_ sal - va - tion brings. \_ let lov - ing hearts \_ en - throne Him.



This, this \_ is Christ the King \_ whom shep - herds guard \_ and an - gels sing.



Haste, haste \_ to bring Him laud: \_ the Babe, the Son \_ of Ma - ry!

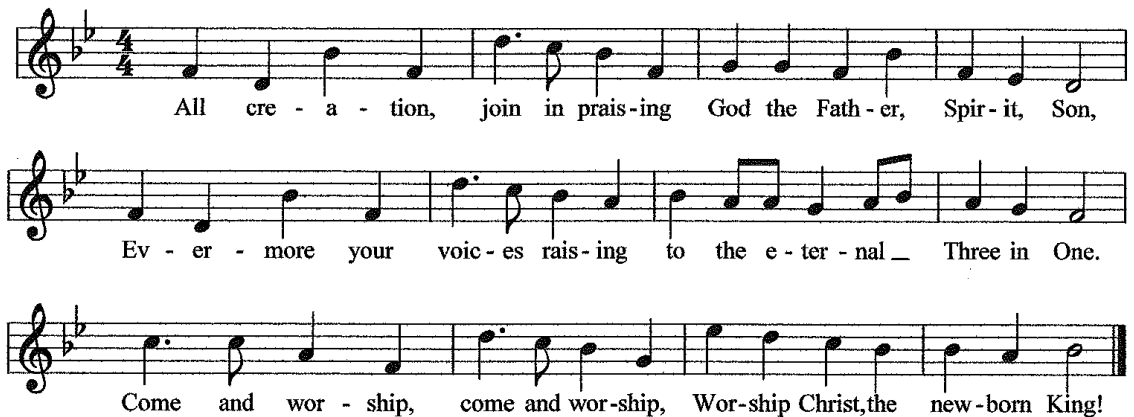
## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

A great feast is prepared for us—the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. God's grace overflows for us—the cup of promise and blessing that we share in Christ the Lord. Come to the table. Come to the feast.

### GREAT PRAYER OF 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 truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal and triune God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast.... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God the Fath - er, Spir - it, Son,  
Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal — Three in One.  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King!

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love....we pray the prayer Christ taught us saying....

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**HYMN No. 60**

*Silent Night*

*Stille Nacht*

**WE DEPART FOR SERVICE**

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Carol of the Bells*

Ukrainian Carol

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*Please silence cell phones during the worship service.*

Wireless personal listening devices are available in the Sanctuary by contacting an usher.

**LEADING WORSHIP**

**The Rev. Joshua D. Gill**, Pastor

**Randy Yoder**, Director of Music

**Advent Candlelighters: (7:00)** The Hopkins Family

**(9:00)** Tania O’Hearn and Janis McCollim

***THANK YOU*** for worshipping with us on this Holy Night.

*It is our hope and prayer that you will return to worship with us again.*

**Please note: Dec. 26 and Jan 2 we will have one service at 11 a.m.**

**OUR REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

9:00-10:00 a.m. ~ Worship – Sanctuary

9:00-10:00 a.m. ~ Children’s Sunday School

(following the Children’s Message in worship) – C.E. Bldg.

10:00-11:00 a.m. ~ Adult Bible Study – Library

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ~ Worship -- Sanctuary

Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month, at both services.



## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2021**

The Sean Barba Family (1)	In loving memory of Sean's mother, Corie Barba
Robin Blakely (2)	In honor of my daughter, Molly Blakely, and in memory of my mother, Jane Ann Emig
Glenn and Debbie Bloss (2)	In honor of our parents
Robert B. Casbeer (2)	In honor of Beth C. Magid and Susan C. Holtzapple
Nancy Edwards (2)	In memory of loved ones
V. Yvonne Eichelberger (1)	In memory of my husband, Howard, and children, Craig and Brian
Sally Frey (1)	In honor of our 4 grandchildren
Tom and Sally Glover (1)	In memory of our son, Thomas M. Glover
Richard Gordon (2)	In memory of Janet Gordon and Chris Gordon
Ellen Graham (3)	In memory of my parents, Harry and Doris Graham, and my sister, Eileen Graham
JoAnn Hankey (1)	In memory of my family in heaven
Jane and John Henty (2)	In memory of our parents, Mildred and Clifford Henty, and Gordon and Lucy Persons
Gary and Barbara Hess (1)	In memory of our grandson, Shane Dorsey
Elaine Hoenstine (3)	In honor of my 3 children, Bob, Tammy and Dave, and my 3 grandchildren, Steven, Amy and Kiel, and in memory of my loving husband, Bob

Sandra and Gary Hoffman (2)	In honor of our family and our church family
Foster and Dee Hoyt (6)	In honor of our children, Jennifer and David Mayer, Vickie McClure, and granddaughters, Christina and Amber McClure, and in memory of Donald, Judy, and Norman Hoyt
Becky Husson (1)	In memory of Clarence Husson
Marilyn Jennerjohn (1)	In memory of my husband, Fred
Lori Koontz (1)	In memory of Jim and Joyce Koontz
Edna Lightner (2)	In honor of my great grandchildren, Lena and Tyler
Graham and Lynda MacMillan (1)	In memory of our son, Joe
Beth Magid (2)	In honor of Robert Casbeer and in memory of Emma K. Casbeer
Donna Massey (2)	In memory of Rick Massey and Amy Massey
Beverly McCreary (1)	In memory of loved ones
David C. McIntosh (2)	In memory of Marjorie R. McIntosh
Bill and Lois Moore (2)	In honor of our family and in memory of our parents
Wade and Linda Pugh (2)	In memory of Linda's sister, Patricia C. Valentino
Ed and Connie Ritter (2)	In honor of our children and grandchildren
Carol Schaeffer and Louise Snyder (1)	In memory of our parents, William and Amanda Galligher

Bob and Jackie Smith (2)	In memory of departed loved ones
Bob and Jackie Smith (1)	In memory of Jack Welty
Kate Strickler (1)	In loving memory of my husband, Bob
Charles H. Wellington (1)	In memory of John S. and Margaret T. Wellington
Ruth Welty (1)	In memory of Jack Welty
Kaila Wise (2)	In memory of Phyllis and Ethan Wise with love from Jeff Wise and family, and Vicki Babin and family, and Steven and great grandson Jacob
Dick and Jan Witzke (1)	In honor of our great granddaughter, Annabelle

*Thank you to all who contributed poinsettias to grace our sanctuary.  
Your flowers may be removed after this Christmas Eve service.*

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,  
 \*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

*Refrain*  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

HYMN NO. 60

*Silent Night*

*Stille Nacht*

B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  E $\flat$

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  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;  
 beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$

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 Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.



# **EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

(717) 755-6222 ~ [www.eastminster-york.org](http://www.eastminster-york.org)

311 Haines Road † York, PA 17402