

**“Keep The Joy Of Christmas”**

**Opening Hymn: #42 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”**

**1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**2 Sin and death may well be groaning,  
Satan now may well be moaning;  
We, our full salvation owning,  
Cast our every care away.**

**3 See how God, for us providing,  
Gave His Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From earth's woes to heav'nly joy.**

**4 Christ, from Heaven to us descending  
And in love our race befriending,  
In our need His help extending,  
Saved us from the wily foe.**

**5 Jacob's Star in all it's splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
Breaking all the powers of hell.**

**Invitation to Worship and Confession of Sins**

P: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord.

**C: For to us a child is born. To us a Son is given.**

P: Let us approach his presence with thanksgiving.

**C: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.**

P: With what am I to appear before the Lord?

**C: How should I bow down to God on high?**

P: The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.

**C: A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.**

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins and plead for God's mercy:

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

P: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**All: (sing) 6 From the slavery that oppressed us,  
From sin's fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us,  
We, the captives now are free.**

**7 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing  
And to Christ we come confessing:**

**"Peace with God to us you've brought!" (tune of CW, #42)**

### **Prayer**

P: Almighty God, grant that by the birth of your only Son in our flesh we may be set us free from our old slavery under the yoke of sin to serve you here until we live with you in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son our newborn King and Savior who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**All: (sing) 8 Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,  
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join th'angelic choir. (tune of CW, #42)**

### **Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing, O Daughter of Zion;  
**shout aloud, O Israel!**

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
**O Daughter of Jerusalem!**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,

**he has turned back your enemy.**

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;

**never again will you fear any harm.**

<sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion;

**do not let your hands hang limp.**

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,

**he is mighty to save.**

He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,

**he will rejoice over you with singing."**

<sup>18</sup> "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you;

**they are a burden and a reproach to you.**

<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal

**with all who oppressed you;**

I will rescue the lame

**and gather those who have been scattered.**

I will give them praise and honor

**in every land where they were put to shame.**

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;

**at that time I will bring you home.**

I will give you honor and praise

**among all the peoples of the earth**

when I restore your fortunes

**before your very eyes," says the LORD.**

**Hymn: #58 "See In Yonder Manger Low"**

**1 See in yonder manger low,**

**Born for us on earth below,**

**See -- the gentle Lamb appears,**

**Promised from eternal years.**

**Refrain:**

**Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;**

**Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**2 Lo, within a stable lies**

**He who built the starry skies,**

**He who, throned in height sublime,**

**Sits amid the cherubim. [Refrain]**

**3 Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this. [Refrain]**

**4 Teach, oh teach us, holy Child,  
By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee  
In thy sweet humility. [Refrain]**

**Epistle Reading: I John 1:1-4; 3:1-3**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life- <sup>2</sup>the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete...

See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is. <sup>3</sup>Everyone who has this hope purifies himself, just as Jesus is pure.

**Hymn: "While Shepherds Watched"** (*sung to tune of CW, #259*)

**1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
an angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.**

**2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.**

3 "To you, in David's town, this day,  
is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 "The heav'nly Babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all humbly wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spoke the angel, Suddenly  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels, praising God, and thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,  
and on the earth be peace;  
for God's goodwill to all appears  
and bids our fears to cease."

**Sermon Text: Luke 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*"Keep The Joy Of Christmas"*

*I. Trust the Christmas Gospel*

**Hymn: (by soloist) "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"**

1. Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, And usher in the morning.  
You shepherds, shrink not with affright But hear the angel's warning.  
This child so weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The power of Satan breaking, Our peace eternal making.

## *II. Tell others the Christmas Gospel*

**Hymn: #57 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

## *III. Treasure the Christmas Gospel*

**Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (See Page 11)**

**Cong.: Sings v. 3**

**Offering (Offerings may be placed into the basket in the narthex)**

### **Prayer**

P: Holy and eternal Word of God, through the mystery of your incarnation you became fully human. We marvel with the shepherds at the miracle of your birth. Work in the hearts of your faithful people that like the shepherds we may believe the Christmas gospel and open our lips to tell others the good news of the Savior's birth. Lead us like Mary to treasure the good news of Christmas in our hearts that the joy of Christmas may continue to be ours throughout the year. We ask this in your name for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Christmas "Te Deum"**

P: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting.

**C: (sing) Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King;**

**Let every heart prepare him room**

**And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,**

**And heav'n and nature sing. (CW:62)**

P: To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

**C: (sing) Hark! The herald angels sing,**

**"Glory to the newborn King,**

**Peace on earth and mercy mild,**

**God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all you nations rise,**

**Join the triumph of the skies;**

**With th'angelic host proclaim,**

**"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,**

**"Glory to the newborn King!" (CW:61)**

P: The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of the prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.

**C: (sing) Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.**

**Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.**

**Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,**

**Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. (CW:55)**

P: Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

**C: (sing) Praise to God the Father sing,**

**Praise to God the Son, our King,**

**Praise to God the Spirit be**

**Ever and eternally. (CW:2)**

P: When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**C: (sing) Let all together praise our God**

**Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again  
And gives us his own Son,  
And gives us his own Son.**

**For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay. (CW:41)**

P: You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our Judge. Come, then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

**C: (sing) Oh, where shall joy be found?**

**Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all his saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there! (CW:34)**

### **Benediction**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: #64 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"**

**1 Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son has given.**

2 To this vale of tears he comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness.

3 We are rich, for he was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.

4 O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,  
Bless us and be near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us!

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you to all who helped out with our Christmas celebrations this year. To those who worked hard to decorate the Lord's house inside and out, purchased poinsettias to beautify the Lord's house; to our soloists, our accompanists, instrumentalists, ushers, tech crew and to all who work together here offering themselves, their time, their resources, and abilities in joyful service to Jesus Christ, our newborn King and Savior ...Thank you!

*We would like to thank Tom May, Ben May, David Benson,  
Kathryn Hendee, and Marcus Bitter  
for their help with music on Christmas Day.*

*We also want to thank Kaitlyn Shadoski, Jenna, Shadoski,  
Beth Stirmel, and Marcus Bitter  
for their help with music on Christmas Eve.*

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

## In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.



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*We thank all who beautified our  
worship this Christmas  
with poinsettias!*

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*Oliver & Elizabeth Anason in memory of their parents  
and daughter in law*

*Dale & Lynn Beutin in memory of Nicholas & Betty Pucher,  
Erwin & Esther Beutin, Donald & Marjorie Beutin*

*Mike & Beth Borchardt in memory of Beth's mom, Naomi Moore*

*Bev Boughton in memory of her sister Linda Henkel and  
father Joe Rausch*

*Jim & Shirley Daley in memory of their parents.*

*Karin DeLong-Eichman in honor of a family that has come  
through hard times*

*Bill & Lois Forbes in honor of their parents*

*Pastor & Ann Janke in memory of Rev. Martin Janke*

*The Kroening family*

*Tom & Jessica May in memory of Virginia Gohlke, Margaret May,  
Mertz Nowak, & Marian Bemawski*

*Jean Muche in memory of Vern Muche.*

*Andrew Phelps in memory of his parents and three sisters.*

*Penny Pucher in memory of her parents Malin & Elma Pucher the  
Pucher family, and the Mattila family*

*Jean Ruppier in memory of her brother Dennis Gabrielli*

*Tom & Karin Timmermann in memory of Karin's  
father, Arnold Crass*

*Steve & Lori Sage in thankfulness for their St. Matthew's family*

*Bob & Linda Williams in memory of Joe Scaffido and  
Evelyn Williams*



