

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN *Angels from the Realms of Glory* ELW #275

1 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.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 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.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We worship in the name of the Father, and the Son +, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
C: we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. I declare that you are forgiven and clothed in peace in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: The Light has come into the world! Christ is Born; Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All : O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

KYRIE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (v.1-2) ELW #272

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard On High ELW #289

**1 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.**

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

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE, PREACHING AND SONG

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31: 7-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***Emmanuel*** W&P 36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
his name is called Emmanuel.**

GOSPEL READING John 1: 1-18

MESSAGE Pastor Amanda

HYMN OF THE DAY ***The First Noel*** (ELW #300 vs 1-4)

**1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;**

and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING A SIGN OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition.. P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Good and loving God,

C: 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND SANTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Love has Come (ELW #292)

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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!

Hear the Angels (W&P 57)

- 1 Hear the angels sing; Christ is coming!
Hear them tell of the Savior's birth.
Hear the angels sing; Christ is coming!
"Glory to God, and peace to the earth."

Alleluia! Angels sing!
Alleluia! A Savior is born,
alleluia! Christ is coming.
All of heaven and earth, adore.
- 2 Hear the shepherds sing; come and follow
by the light of the morning star.
Hear the shepherds sing, "Come and follow;
to worship the child we will travel afar."

Alleluia! Shepherds sing!
Alleluia! A Savior is born,
alleluia! Christ is coming.
All of heaven and earth, adore.
- 3 Hear the wise men sing; come and worship
Christ the child, who was born to be king.
Hear the wise men sing, "Come and worship."

Gold, spice, and myrrh are the gifts that we bring.”

Alleluia! Wise men sing!
Alleluia! A Savior is born,
alleluia! Christ is coming.
All of heaven and earth, adore.

- 4 Hear the angels sing; Christ is coming!
Hear them tell of the Savior’s birth.
Hear the angels sing; Christ is coming!
“Glory to God, and peace to the earth.”

POST- COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

POST- COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Great and saving God,

C: you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, help us to proclaim all that we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD

SENDING SONG

Go Tell it On the Mountain ELW #290

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*

BLESSING

P: God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSINGS OF THE HOUSEHOLDS**POSTLUDE**

Music by Nancy Betz

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