

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Belleville, PA**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 20, 2020**

## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome on this 4th Sunday of Advent as we enter with reverence into the sanctuary in our church, in our homes, in our cars, where ever and everywhere God dwells. If you have a favorite carol you would like to hear or sing along with in our postlude please let the greeters in the parking lot know.

Our Christmas Eve Parking lot Service, Thursday at 7PM, will be a celebration of the birth of Christ through familiar carols. Bundle up, join the joint church men's choir outside or from your cars for this service in song.

This Advent Sunday we continue to prepare the way for Christ to enter our hearts. You are invited to sing along, speak or read the beautiful words of our opening hymn affirming Christ's creation, conception, revelation, celebration and eternity in the Trinity.

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# Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
3 This is he whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; An - gel hosts, his

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing; Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him

He the source, the end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's re -  
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he shines, the long - ex -  
And ex - tol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be

*Continued on next page*

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
 And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
 And unwearied praises be:  
 Honor, glory, and dominion,  
 And eternal victory  
 Evermore and evermore! Amen

**\*CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C **Amen**

P 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.**

**\*KYRIE**

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

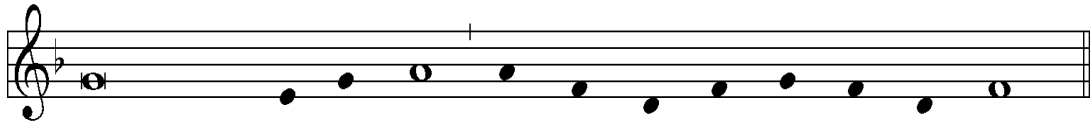
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## HYMN of PRAISE



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

**\*PRAYER of the DAY** ~ (in unison) found in *Celebrate*

☩ The Lord be with you.      ☩ And al - so with you.

## LESSONS

\*First Lesson ~ A reading from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

\*Luke 1:46-55 ~ *with response*

\*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 16:25-27  
*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES

*Today we light the Advent candle of Love. We celebrate the source of that love, Christ Jesus, a tender babe born in a manger, humbled in human form, bringing us salvation, celebrated in communion today.*

Hope was a dream and yet we waited,  
**We lift the light of Hope.**

Your Peace to the nations settles within us.  
**We lift the light of Peace.** (light the next purple candle clockwise)

Joy springs forth from Your salvation.  
**We lift the light of Joy** (light the pink candle or third purple candle)

*Love, the guest is on the way; Love, the rose is on the way; Love, the star is on the way; Love is on the Way.*

**We lift the light of Love**



**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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*The Gospel is read. After the reading*  
P The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

**MESSAGE** ~ *The Possible in the Impossible*

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# Lo, How a Rose Is Growing

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, A bloom of fin - est  
2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore-  
3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry The an - gels sang that  
4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With fra - grance fills the

grace; The proph - ets had fore - told it: A branch of Jes - se's  
told. He came to us through Mar - y Who shel - tered him from  
night: How Christ was born of Mar - y; He was the Son of  
air; His bright - ness ends the dark - ness That kept the earth in

race Would bear one per - fect flow'r Here in the  
cold. Through God's e - ter - nal will This child to  
light. To Beth - le - hem they ran To find him  
fear. True God and yet true man, He came to

cold of win - ter And dark - est mid - night hour.  
us was giv - en At mid - night calm and still.  
in the man - ger As an - gel her - alds sang.  
save his peo - ple From earth's dark night of sin.

*Continued on next page*

5 O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt all human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
Who triumphed o'er our foe:  
Bring us at length, we pray,  
To the bright courts of heaven  
And into endless day.

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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**

**\*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

P God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.  
*A brief silence*

**\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**  
*The peace is shared*

**OFFERING** ~ Your gifts may given to the volunteers or mailed to the church office.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**


**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**



**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



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



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**G** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**THE PREFACE for ADVENT**


**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you O Lord holy Father almighty and everlasting God, You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer; though him You will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn...



**G** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P 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

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

### **COMMUNION**

**Please open and take the Bread and Wine provided for you. We will conclude with our Advent Communion Hymn.**

P The Bread of Life: the body of Christ, given for you; The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

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

**C Amen.**

# Angels We Have Heard on High

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

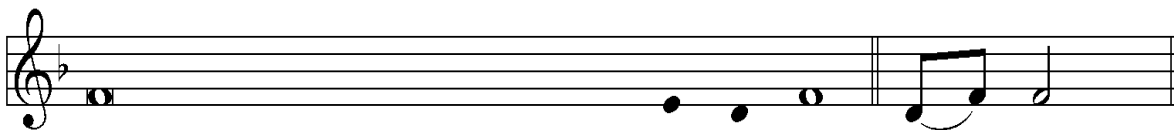
in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - -

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

*Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862  
 Tune: French carol*

GLORIA  
 77 77 and refrain

## \*BLESSING



☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

☩ A - men

## DISMISSAL

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord  
R **Thanks be to God**

## POSTLUDE~ Carols

Please tell the greeters in the Parking lot if you have a special carol request.

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Congregational Song Leader:** Reba Harmon

**Church Office:** 935-2032 Email us at [stjohnco@embarqmail.com](mailto:stjohnco@embarqmail.com)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

### *Our Mission Statement*

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share  
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another  
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

### *Our Vision Statement*

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our  
prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

## Today

**Greeter:** Randy Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

## Next Sunday, December 27

**Greeters:** Jami Zook and Mike Boring; **Lay Reader: Volunteer Needed**

Please remember in prayer ~ Vivian Plank, Fred Hagemeyer, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz) and Carol Yoder (VVH).

## Notes from the Pastor

Letters of appreciation have piled in for the Thanksgiving Dinner. If you feel moved to reciprocate you are welcome to donate to the ELCA Hunger fund, Presbyterian PCUSA Hunger fund or Hunger Fund of Huntingdon Presbytery. Kelly (SJ) or Joy (WK) could help you with this.

## Announcements

The offering envelopes and birthday calendars for 2021 can be found in the narthex. They can be picked up throughout the week and will be given to members attending Parking Lot worship. Your Good Shepherd will be contacting you to see if you would like to have either delivered to your home.

This year's Christmas Eve service will be a *Carol Sing* and is being held in the parking lot. Christmas carols will be sung and weather permitting, hot chocolate will be available.

At the December meeting, Council voted to direct this year's Christmas Eve offering to the Siennick family of Burnham. Their story was featured on the front page of the Sentinel for Saturday, December 5. Six children, ages 1 through 15 were left motherless in an act of senseless violence. They were released into the custody of their maternal grandmother, who will be raising them. The community has come together with Habitat for Humanity to help this family by providing them with a larger, and hopefully, mortgage free home. Ground has been donated and plans are to begin construction in the spring.

A lay reader is needed for next Sunday, December 27. If you can help in this way, please contact the church office.

Parking Lot Service ~ there has been some confusion about where to park. **IF the church IS NOT OPEN** for worship, then please **use the front parking lot**. When the church **IS OPEN** again, and you choose to instead worship in your car, then please **use the back parking lot**.

**St. John's has Meals on Wheels the first 2 weeks in January. The following desserts are needed:** Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 4 ~ 9x12 pans of Apple Crisp; Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 4 ~ Angel Food cakes; Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> Money to purchase pies and Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 4 ~ chocolate cakes with peanut butter icing. **If you can help provide any of these, please contact Sue Lynch 935-2013, the church office (2032) or sign-up in the narthex.**

There are still quite a few dates left to place altar flowers for next year. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex if you are interested.

January thru December 17  
Last week's parking lot attendance ~ 19    Offering ~ \$ 2,435.00  
  
St. John's ~ Income \$ 517,088.67    Expense \$ 225,887.89  
                  Net Income \$ 291,200.78  
  
Daycare ~ Income \$ 271,368.30    Expense \$ 232,857.51  
                  Net Income \$ 38,510.79