

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020

PRELUDE

Susie Yoo

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ela

Welcome on this first Sunday of Christmas, the last Sunday of 2020 as we joyfully continue to celebrate the birth of Christ. On this last Sunday of 2020 we praise God for challenges we have met, look back with dismay and despair at lives lost, and lifestyles challenged and look forward with hope, determination and unity. While in the secular world Christmas is over - this time between Christmas and Epiphany continues our Christmas celebration - the celebration of the coming of the light in the darkness, the coming of the Christ Child, Emmanuel - God with us. This is the time when we proclaim the Christmas story with word and song.

On this first Sunday of Christmas let us all be joined together as the Church, like the garlands that decorate our sanctuary and the homes that have become our sanctuaries.

PRAYER

Let us Pray ~ *Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. No tyrant's threat or deadly act can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever.*

Our service today continues with a special Christmas gift from our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Unable to visit and be involved in the life of the congregations during 2020, and living out our mission: *United as Christ's disciples, we support one another and serve God in the world*, Synod leaders and congregational choirs and musicians across central PA bring us a service of Lessons and Carols. Let us welcome them into our hearts, homes, cars and sanctuary this day. Hymns are included for you to sing along or follow the words as they are performed.

**Upper Susquehanna Synod – ELCA
Service of Lessons and Carols
for the First Sunday of Christmas 2020**

**Gathering Song ~ Joy to the World ELW 267
Buffalo Valley Conference Choir**

Joy to the World

267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Dialog

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C By day and night he shines for all to see.

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P Jesus is the light of the world.

C Jesus is the light of our lives.

P Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 *Terry Gardner, Synod Council*

Reflection Music: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime ELW 284

Christine Wilhelm – Evangelical, Reedsville & Holy Communion, Yeagertown

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime 284



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a *Malin Kint, Synod Council*

Music: O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

Amy Kacyon, The Table - Bloomsburg

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 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 - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 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 the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

ST. LOUIS
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Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38 *Lucas Bingman, Synod Council*
 Music: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW # 272
Brandy Aguire & Christ's Lewisburg Orchestra

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: Alte catholische Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

ES IST EIN ROS
 7 6 7 6 7 6

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 Wendy Davis, Synod Council

Music: That Boy-Child of Mary ELW 293

Kristina and Gabriel Schaeffer, piano Kim Bolig – Salem, Selinsgrove

That Boy-Child of Mary

293

Refrain

That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,

a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.

1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?

2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,

3 How can he save us, how can he help us,

4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,

Refrain

What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?

God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.

born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?

makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father, he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,
give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.

Refrain

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000
Music: Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

BLANTYRE
5 5 5 4 and refrain

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20 *Audrey Brosius, Synod Council*

Music: On Christmas Night ELW 274

Sam Robinson, St. Mark's, Williamsport

274

On Christmas Night



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.

Music: English traditional

SUSSEX CAROL

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Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 Ray Huff, Synod Council

Music: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord ELW 286

Chad, Claire, and Rev. Sarah Hershberger

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

286

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14 *Holly Fry, synod Vice President*

Music: Love Has Come ELW 292

Jolynn Heckman, United In Christ, West Milton



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -

Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C to sing for joy with the angels.

P In the brightness of his life

C cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

P It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C Praise God, all creatures here below!

P You are the shepherds telling the story.

C We tell it in the streets and across the land.

P You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

P You are the angels announcing peace.

C We live with joy and go now in peace.

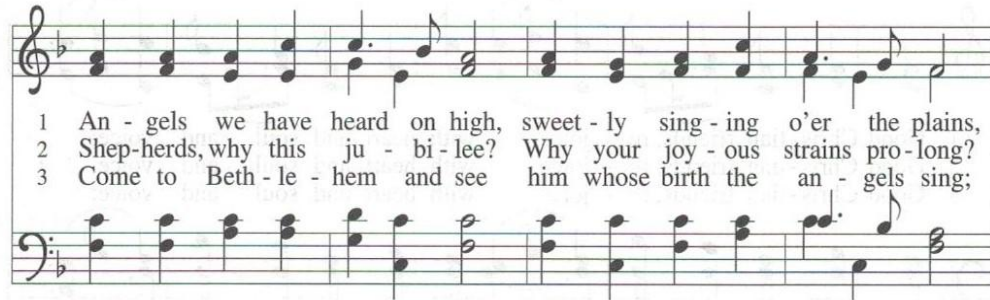
Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289

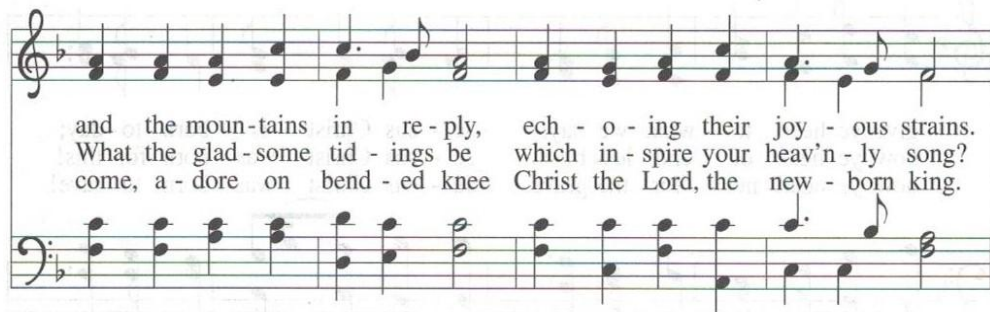
United In Christ, West Milton

289

Angels We Have Heard on High



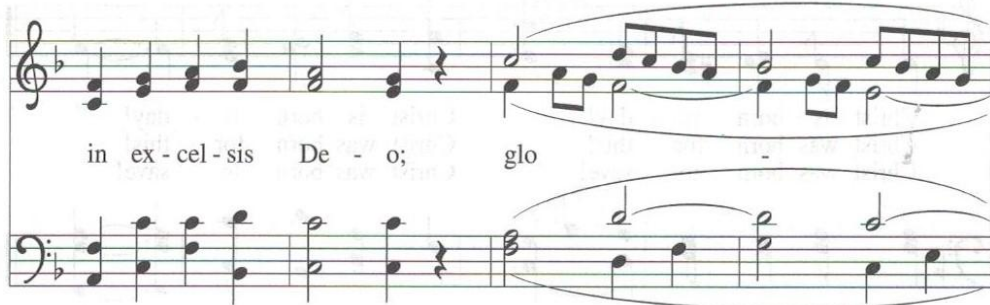
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



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 -

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

GLORIA
77 77 and refrain

Pastoral Prayers and Benediction - Rev. Robertson

Please pray for all on our prayer list, for those in treatment and in hospitals: for health care and emergency response workers, for our Day Care and Day Care Workers, for our Council and worship team members and everyone, all over the globe with whom we have been brought

together through the events of 2020. Many with whom I have talked and visited share their faith and resilience and their prayers for a new and better 2021.

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

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: Jami Zook and Mike Boring; **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

Next Sunday, January 3

Greeter: Michele Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

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).

Announcements

This letter from Bishop Collins was sent December 15, 2020

We thank our council for endeavoring make it possible for worship, word and sacrament to continue in as safe a way as possible during this pandemic.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our polity does not allow Bishops the authority to tell congregations what to do in situations such as this pandemic. However, would I have that authority, I would tell our congregations to suspend all in person worship and gatherings – and I would state that the suspension continue, at least, through the end of January 2021. I understand our desire to gather in person and to be in community at this time of year is so important to us all. But I believe the need to care for others across our communities is more important than our own desires and that not gathering in person is the best decision at this time. My prayers are with you all.

Shalom,

Bishop Barb Collins

**St. John's has Meals on Wheels the first 2 weeks in January.
WE NEED DESSERTS PLEASE:**

Tuesday, January 5th 4 ~ 9x12 pans of Apple Crisp
Thursday, January 7th 4 ~ Angel Food cakes
Tuesday, January 12th ~ Money to purchase pies
Thursday, January 14th ~ 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.

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. If you would like to have either delivered to your home, please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd.

January thru December 23
Last week's parking lot attendance ~ 15 Offering ~ \$ 1,250.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 518,858.67. Expense \$ 229,607.37
Net Income \$ 289,251.30

Daycare ~ Income \$ 275,168.21 Expense \$ 238,998.91
Net Income \$ 36,169.30