



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE  
PONDER: THE CHILD  
DECEMBER 24, 2025 – 7:30 PM

7:30PM MUSICAL PRELUDE

CAROLS AND LULLABIES FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL PRELUDE MUSICIANS:

ALEXANDRIA BLANK, TRUMPET; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; ALYSSA MOQUIN, CELLO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

*IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER INSTRUMENTAL*

“CRANHAM”

*O COME, O COME EMMANUEL*

“VENI EMMANUEL”

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

*I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY*

JOHNNY MARKS (1909-1985)

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."  
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY INSTRUMENTAL*

“IRBY”

*NOEL: CHRISTMAS EVE, 1913*

LEE HOLDRIDGE (1944-)

A frosty Christmas eve when the stars were shining,  
I traveled forth alone where westward falls the hill  
And from many, many a village in the darkness of the valley,  
Distant music reached me, peals of bells a-ringing.  
Then sped my thoughts to olden times to that first of Christmases  
When the shepherds who were watching  
Heard music in the fields,  
And they sat there and they marveled  
And they knew they could not tell  
Whether it were angels or the bright stars a-singing.  
But to me heard afar it was starry music,  
The singing of the angels, the comfort of our Lord.  
Words of old that come a-trav'ling by the riches of the times,  
And I softly listened as I stood upon the hill.

This day to you is born a child  
Of Mary meek the Virgin mild:  
That blessed bairn so loving and kind,  
Shall now rejoice both heart and mind.  
Baloo, lammy, balulalow.

*Reflective text:*  
Give me no gold, no rich reward  
at blessed Christmastide;  
give me God's glory, angel-guard,  
let peace on earth abide!  
Give me a feast that gladdens best  
the Master, my invited guest!  
Give me no gold, no rich reward,  
give me an angel-guard!  
  
Give me a peaceful home  
And children's Christmas tree,  
Light of God's word  
In which my soul is cleansed.  
Bring to the home, even a small one,  
Now the sweetest Christmas feast,  
Light of God's word and a lofty mind.  
  
To the poor as well as the rich,  
Come, wonderful Christmas!  
Into the darkness of the world  
Bring heavenly light!  
I long for you, I wait for you,  
You, Lord of earth and heaven;  
As well as the rich,  
bring now your sweet Christmas.

Under the feeble stable light,  
Come and behold the wondrous sight.  
Lies here a babe so heavenly sweet,  
Mother and angels the infant keep.  
Angels on wing, what do they sing?  
Glory to God, the Savior King!"  
  
Brighter the radiant heavens shine,  
Shepherds afield hear voices divine.  
"For unto you a child is born!"  
Go and behold him this blessed morn.  
Angels on wing, what do they sing?  
"Glory to God the Savior king."

*Reflective text:*  
Lullaby and good night, with roses bedight,  
With lilies o'erspread is baby's wee bed;  
Lay thee down now and rest,  
May thy slumber be blest,  
Lay thee down, now and rest,  
May thy slumber be blest

## 8:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

**CHORAL INTROIT** *(The Introit invites you to leave the holly jolly, and shift your thoughts from your fair hearth and beautiful place settings to the setting where Love found home on earth.)*

DECK THE HALLS	THOMAS OLIPHANT, ARR. MITCHELL EITHUN
PEOPLE LOOK EAST	"BESANCON", ARR. JULIE COURTNEY
(Please see hymn# 105 for text.)	
AWAY IN A MANGER	"CRADLE SONG", ARR. JULIE COURTNEY
(Please see hymn# 114 for text.)	
THE JOYBELLS	

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

THE KELLERMEYER FAMILY

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

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

**His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. Come, let us worship Christ, born this night.**

Let us pray...

**God of glory, you enter our world quietly—born among the poor, revealed to the humble, bringing peace to the restless.**

**May your light shine in our hearts tonight. Gather us in your love, that we might bear your light to the world. Amen.**

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

### \* CAROL #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (VS. 1,3 & 4)

"ADESTE FIDELES"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, we confess that we have rushed through this season without opening our hearts to you. We have missed your presence in the ordinary. We have not paid attention to your movements in this world. Open our eyes again to your presence in our midst. Forgive us, and let your grace be born in us again tonight. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

## SUNG RESPONSE #144

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (VS. 4)

"CRANHAM"

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can give him: give my heart.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### \* CAROL #140

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY (VS. 1 & 2)

"IRBY"

Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

LUKE 2:1-7

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

### ANTHEM

STILL, STILL, STILL

"AUSTRIAN CAROL"

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; ALYSSA MOQUIN, CELLO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Still, still, still,  
One can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed,  
The world is sleeping,  
Holy Star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still,  
One can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you,  
Close your eyes,  
Let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream,  
Of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number,  
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream,  
Of the joyous day to come.

### SECOND READING

LUKE 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup>Now in that same 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, 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, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

PONDER: THE CHILD

REV. ALISON PETERS

### \* CAROL #119

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

"MENDELSSOHN"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. REFRAIN

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
REFRAIN

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

*(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

PHILIP J. STOPFORD

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; ALYSSA MOQUIN, CELLO

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,  
The worship of the wisemen  
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

May Christ, who by his incarnation  
gathered into one all things earthly,  
all things heavenly, and fill you with joy and peace

And the blessing of God the Father and the Son  
And the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

### \* DOXOLOGY #110

LOVE HAS COME (VS. 3)

"BRING A TORCH"

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!

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)*

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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

Holy and Loving God, on this night of wonder, you have fed us with heavenly food and filled us with the presence of Christ, born among us. As we rise from this table, may the light of Jesus shine within us and through us, guiding our lives with hope, joy, and love. Send us out to bear witness to the miracle of this night— that Christ is born, and the world is being made new. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior and our Song. Amen.

## SHARE THE LIGHT- CANDLE LIGHTING

*(As the light is passed, please tip your candle toward the flame to light it. After your candle is lit, please hold it upright.)*

## \* CHRISTMAS BLESSING

### \* CAROL #122

SILENT NIGHT

“STILLE NACHT”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia: Christ, the Savior is born; Christ, the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King: Christ, the Savior is born; Christ, the Savior is born.

## \* BENEDICTION

### \* SENDING CAROL #134

JOY TO THE WORLD

“ANTIOCH”

*(Please extinguish your candle and put it in the box as you leave the sanctuary.)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

IN DULCI JUBILO (BWV 729)

J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

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\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

## This Evening's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Alison Peters  
Liturgist.....Josh Gilhart  
Advent Wreath Lighters.....The Kellermeyer Family  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Alexandria Blank, Trumpet; Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano; Alyssa Moquin, Cello  
Ushers.....Dave and Cindy Corley

**THE CHRISMONS**, or “symbols of Christ” decorating our tree were originally created by members of our congregation in the early 1980s. They were updated during Caroline Kelly’s pastorate. Chrismons are traditionally white and gold. White for the liturgical color of Christmas and to represent Jesus’ purity and gold to symbolize His majesty and glory. **The Chrismon Tree** was first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. Even though Christian symbols have been used for centuries to share the ministry of Jesus Christ and/or the history of the Christian church, Ms. Spencer developed these symbols into a form that would be appropriate for a church tree. Additionally, she created the word “Chrismon” by combining the words “Christ” and “monogram.” Symbols include various star shapes (5 points for the 5 wounds of Christ, 8 points for star of Bethlehem), the triangle (Trinity), the Cross (in various forms), the dove (Holy Spirit), the lamb (Jesus), and the fish (Christ’s followers).

In addition to the Christmons we have unique ball ornaments adorning our tree.

In 2011, our church joined the Czech Partnership Network between churches in the ECCB (Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren) and the PC(USA). Our partner church is in Vsetín, near the border with Slovakia. Our two towns have much in common.

Dan Žarsky, the head of Vsetin's Diakonia that works with the elderly, handicapped, etc., visited us early in the Partnership. He brought a set of 12 very thin, brown glass Christmas balls as a gift to our church. The Czech Republic is known for its glasswork. These are very fragile. See if you can find the 8 surviving ones near the top half of our sanctuary tree. For more information about the Partnership, go to <http://czechpres.net>.

**POINSETTIAS FOR AT-HOME MEMBERS:** If you are able to deliver a poinsettia to someone on our homebound or nursing home list, please take one from the sanctuary windows and a bulletin from the table in the hallway after this service. Bulletins with recipient names and addresses are on the table in the Gathering Place. Thank you for sharing Christmas joy with our members and friends who cannot be with us this evening.



**Thursday, December 25, 2025- CLOSED**

**Friday, December 26, 2025- CLOSED**

**Monday, December 29, 2025-**

Brittany works from home

Zach in office until 2:00PM

**Tuesday, December 30, 2025-**

Brittany in the office until noon

Zach in office until 2:00PM

**Wednesday, December 31, 2025-**

Brittany out of the office

Zach in office until noon

**Thursday, January 1, 2026- CLOSED**

**Friday, January 2, 2026-**

Brittany in the office until noon

Zach in office until 2:00 PM

### MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
by loving ALL and fostering justice, peacemaking, and care of creation.

### VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to be nurtured by the good news of God's love, where ALL God's children are:

- Welcomed and appreciated
- Called to worship, learn, and grow together in faith
- Encouraged to care for one another
- Sent to show God's love

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023