

Ascension Lutheran Church

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 3, 2021

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Gesu Bambino (Pietro A. Yon)

Jerry Loughney, violin

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

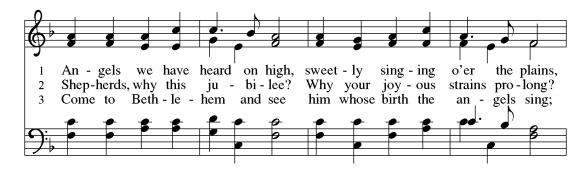
Silence is kept for reflection.

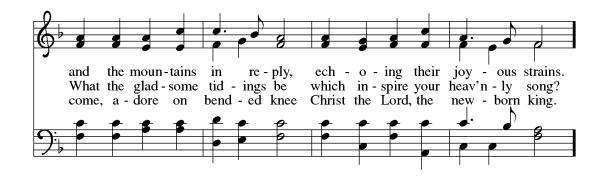
- P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,
- C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
- P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through our Savior Jesus, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289







PRAYER

P: Let us pray... O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your be loved 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.

C: Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Christmas Offering (Paul Baloche)

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star While angels sang to lowly shepherds Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar Hoping to find the child from Heaven Falling on their knees

They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due Oh Lord I bring an offering to You I bring an offering to You The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love There is no shadow in Your presence No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne Before the Holy One of Heaven It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy Lord I come *(Chorus)*

Oh Lord I bring an offering to You Oh Lord I bring and offering to You We bring an offering to You oh

CHILDREN'S TIME Pastor Chris

MUSICAL OFFERING He Came Down (Cameroon Traditional) Greger Family

GOSPEL READING John 1:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel for this day comes from the book of St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Chris

MUSICAL OFFERING

Emmanuel (God With Us Forever) (Anthony Skinner)

Before You set the edge of time
Foundations of the earth and sky
You saw it all and said that it was good
The joy was set before Your eyes
You knew that You would give Your life
You saw it all and said that it was good
We lift our voice in never-ending praise

Behold, behold the One our Love has come Emmanuel, God with us forever

Behold, behold the One our King has come Emmanuel, Savior of the world, Emmanuel, Emmanuel

PRAYERS & MUSIC Here I Am to Worship (Tim Hughes)

Please sing after each petition: Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down Here I am to say that You're my God

Here I am to say that You're my God You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy

Altogether wonderful to me

MUSICAL OFFERING In the Bleak Midwinter (Gustav Holst)

Amy James, flute Grace James, cello

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

A reminder that when you receive the bread and wine you may say to yourself or others in your home: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

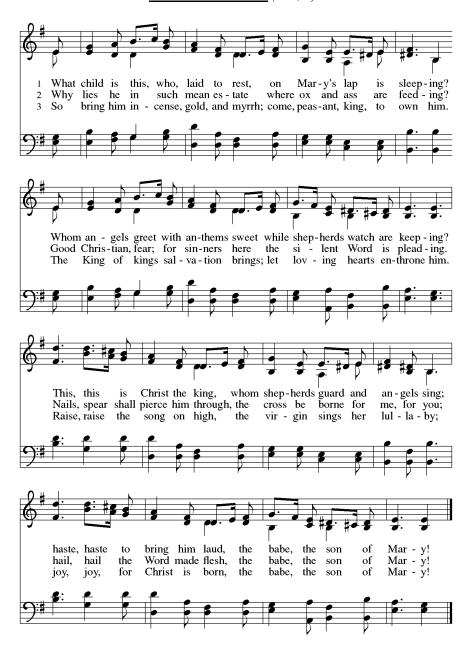
MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Bells of Christmas (Balle, arr. Shields)

Jerry Loughney, violin

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and forever. Amen.



BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (J.S. Bach)

FAITH CONNECTION

Join us as we connect as a church in new ways.

Donate Today or Give By Text or Online

- Text 262-214-3681 with the amount to donate
- Online: tinyurl.com/DonateAscension

Mission Outreach Committee will meet next Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. God keeps opening doors to new ways of doing ministry and we want to be responsive to Him. Our work doesn't end when we can't meet in person. The need is actually growing. Anyone interested in the work of Mission Outreach is invited to be part of the meeting. Contact Shirley Wehmeier to be included in the Zoom invite.

Safe Disposal of Christmas Lights: Creation Care can help you dispose of old Christmas lights in a safe way. Visit this website to see how you can send (or drop off) your lights to the Holiday LEDs recycling program in Sussex and receive a coupon for \$ off your next LED purchase! Or bring them in to Ascension during the month of January and we will do the work for you! A labeled box will be in the doorway of the front entrance of church. Simply drop them off!

Children's Coat Collection: We're collecting new or gently-used jackets and boots for Hawthorne Elementary School, one of our newest partners. A large number of the students at the school are low income. The children are 4K through 5th grade. Place your donation in the barrels in the Donation Center.

The Blessing Box is being filled several times a week. We are especially in need of foods to make a meal. Examples: cereal, instant oatmeal, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, cleaning supplies, etc. Place your donations directly in the BB or drop off at church during office hours.

PRAYERS

Submit a prayer request <u>online</u>, <u>by email</u>, or phone message to the church office. Please pray:

Healing for

- Maxine and Kenneth Berdoll, covid
- Becky Murray, hospitalized, resurgence of covid symptoms and awaiting chemo
- Marvin Goetter, upcoming cardiac testing
- Steve Spieker's brother Tim, hospitalized following foot amputation

Thanksgiving for

The birth of grandson Everett James to Brenda Lytle and family

On our website, ascensionelca.org

- Read the monthly newsletter. The January 2021 newsletter has been published.
- Register online for next week's worship.
- Watch or re-watch worship and sermons.
- Read blog postings with updated information about church activities.
- Donate online to continue to help us pay the bills and support our ministries. Many of our community and international partners are hurting because of the ongoing pandemic.
- Submit a prayer request https://ascensionelca.org/spiritual-growth/prayers.

Follow us on Facebook

- Join other Ascension friends on Sunday morning at 8 a.m. to watch worship together, virtually. Read the ealert and announcements about activities.
- Read inspirational messages from staff.
- Find out what's happening at Ascension.

