



# 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

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

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

**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

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**)

**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**

Oh Lord I bring an offering to You  
 Oh Lord I bring an 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

The heavens warred the earth stood still  
His final breath He tore the veil  
The angels sang Holy is His name  
Defeated death He broke the grave  
Our Hope returned the lost are saved  
We lift our voice in never-ending praise

Behold, behold the One our Love has come  
Behold, behold the One our King has come

Emmanuel, God with us forever  
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  
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.

## CLOSING HYMN

What Child is This (v. 1, 3)

ELW 296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**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](https://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 [online](#), [by email](#), 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](https://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 alert and announcements about activities.
- Read inspirational messages from staff.
- Find out what's happening at Ascension.

