

Christmas Eve December 24, 2022 | 5:00 PM

Merry Christmas!

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of the divine light to all the world.

Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race, or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We worship every Sunday and hope you will join us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and busy bags are near the entry doors of the sanctuary. A professionally staffed nursery is available from 4:45 PM to 6:30 PM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

Assistance during communion: If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will be happy to commune you at your pew.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!



In this season of giving, please honor your 2022 pledge. This, along with your special Christmas offering, ensures we are able to fulfill our commitments to the many people and organizations that depend upon us. If you have not submitted your pledge card for 2023, please do so now.

Musicians participating in this service: St. John's Intergenerational Christmas Choir; The Luther Ringers; St. John's Brass Ensemble: Mark Lagatic–trumpet, Ryan Krewer, trumpet, Alex Mastrando–French horn, Dave DeMair–trombone, Billy Hughes–tuba, and Travis Salim–timpani.



Christmas Day 10:30 AM

We celebrate Christmas Day as we gather to sing favorite Christmas carols and hear the Good News of the coming of Christ from John's Gospel.

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

BRASS PRELUDE

Ricercar del Duodecimo Tuono Ricercar del Sesto Tuono Canzone in G minor Canzone no. 2 in G minor

ORGAN PRELUDE

Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Offertoire sur Deux Noels

WELCOME

Please stand. **GATHERING HYMN** ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

joy - ful 0 come, all ye faith - ful, and tri - um - phant! 0 1 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal, 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta tion. greet thee, born this hap - py Yea. Lord, we morn - ing; 4 Ø Beth le - hem: come ye, 0 come ye to of gin, mor - tal he comes; born а vir a sing, all cit - i a - bove! ye zens of heav - en thee Je be . . . glo giv'n! sus, to ry born the gels: hold him. come and be _ king of an -Son of the Fa ther now in flesh ap pear - ing! Glo God the . . . to high - est: _ ry in . . . Word Fa of the ther, now flesh pear - ing: in ap -Refrain Ve - ni - te a - do - re ni - te do -mus, ve _ a re mus, 0 come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Doni - te a - do mus _ mi - num. ve re -0 come, let us а dore him, Christ the Lord! -

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade Andrea Gabrielli Gabrielli Gabrielli Gabrielli

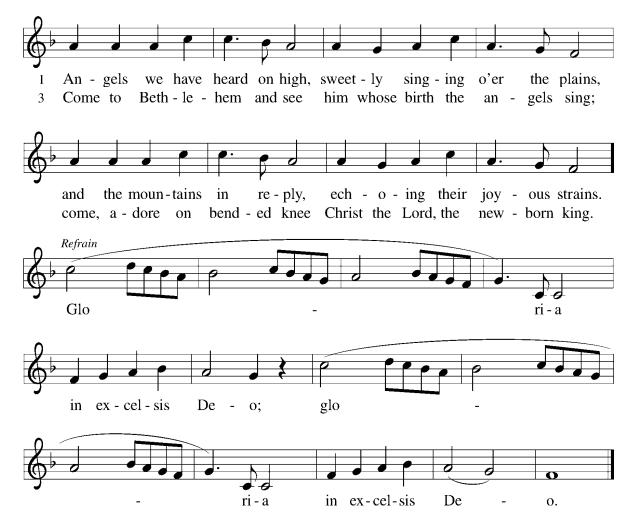
Harrison Oxley Félix-Alexandre Guilmant



APOSTOLIC GREETING

Today, Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated. ANTHEM I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Intergenerational Christmas Choir

I am so glad each Christmas Eve, The night of Jesus' birth! Then like the sun the star shines forth, And angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem, He was a king indeed! For he came down from heaven above To help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm, The Son of God today; And still he loves his little ones And hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing; He opens then for every child The palace of the king.

Marie Wexelsen, tr. Peter A. Sveeggen (20th C.)

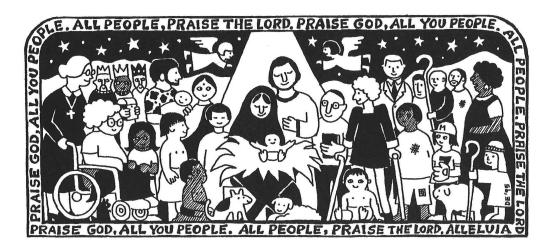
FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2–7

Modified from A Lectionary for Children

The people who have been walking in the dark for so long have seen a great light. You have built them up and expanded their joy. They are as happy as people who have harvested a huge crop and won't go hungry this year, as happy as people opening birthday presents, or dividing up found money. They no longer feel like they're pulling someone else's wagon.

For a child has been born for us. A baby boy has been given to us. He will be someone whom we respect and look up to. And his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His influence will keep growing until there is no end of peace for the family of King David and all who followed him. This baby boy will develop a nation held together with justice and goodness now and always. The love of the Lord will do this.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.



The All–In Christmas Pageant Luke 2:1–20

(Pageant characters come forward as directed in the bulletin.)

HYMN ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem, verses 1 & 4 (*The Holy Family come forward during the singing of this carol.*)



O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 for them in the inn.

HYMN ELW 277 Away in a Manger

(Animals come forward during the singing of this carol.)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.



The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of angels, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to all people on earth!"

HYMN ELW 282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, verses 1 & 2 (Angels come forward during the singing of this carol.)



It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN ELW 300 The First Noel, verses 1 & 2 (Shepherds come forward during the singing of this carol.)



The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet



Please stand. **HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

In this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. God of mercy, **hear our prayer**.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption to all people in every place. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all who have died trusting in the hope of the resurrection. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated. GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.

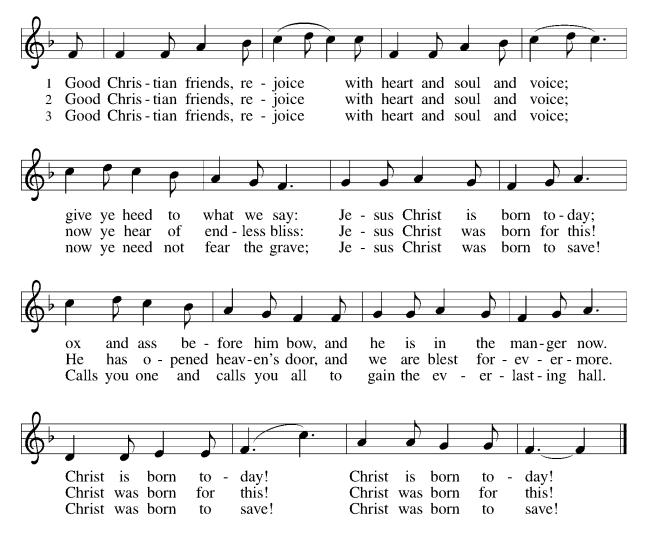


OFFERING MUSIC In the Bleak Midwinter

The Luther Ringers

arr. Mark Schweizer

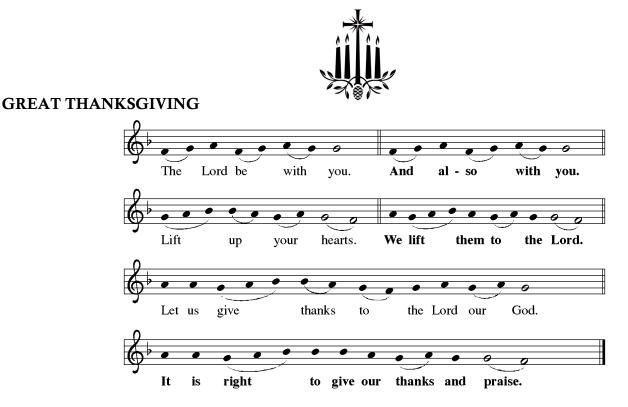
Please stand. OFFERING HYMN ELW 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



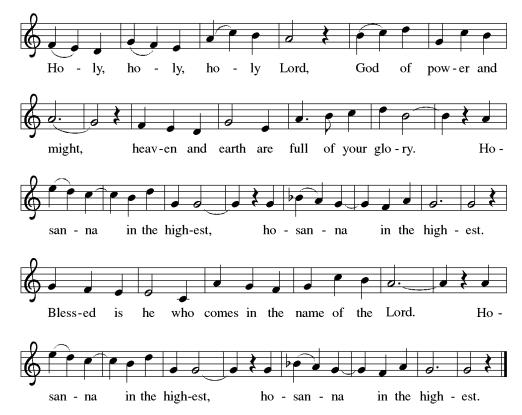
Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of eternity, born into our humanity, and lying in the manger, all that we have are gifts of your grace. As the angels sang of your glory, accept what we bring as offerings of praise and thanksgiving. Use us and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life . . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



All praise and glory are yours Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



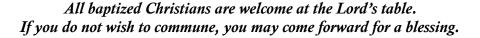
LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

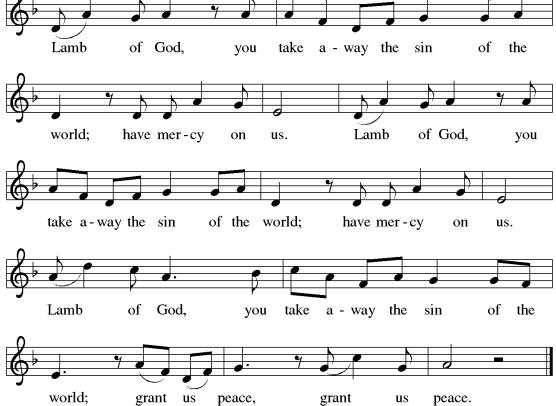
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Please be seated. RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

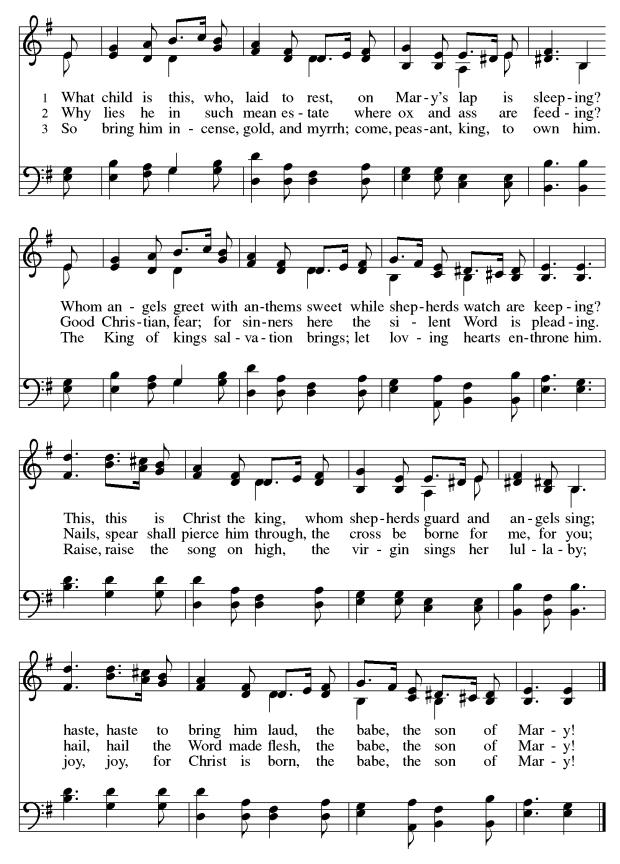
We will be communing both sides of the sanctuary simultaneously. The wafer will be placed in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. Receive the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. Alternately, you may receive the wine/grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.



LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 296 What Child Is This



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. COMMUNION HYMN ELW 267 Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 269 Once in Royal David's City



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Please stand.

BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Great and saving God, your Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of Christ's grace illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds, through that same Lord Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. Amen.





Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Final (Symphony No. 1)

Louis Vierne

Gifts for the chancel decorations this Christmas Season are given to the glory of God

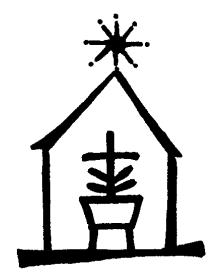
- The Bresnahan Family in memory of Raymond Reed
- The Coble Family in memory of loved ones, especially David, John, and Nancy Ann
- The Cristino Family in memory of Jean Grabinsky and Shirley Paulson
- Susan Fieseler in thanksgiving for Summit Warm Hearts
- The Gahan Family praying for peace on Earth and in memory of family members
- Pattie Gould and Hasan Karslioglu to the glory of God in memory of the Flohr family
- Wendy Hart in memory of George and Virginia Eberhardt
- Bev and Michael Kaczmarski in honor of our worship volunteers
- The Lagatic Family in memory of Barbara McClure
- The Larsen Family in loving memory of Peter Larsen, Robin Larsen, and Linda Riffel
- Susan, Chris, and John Leelike in loving memory of George Leelike and Susan and John Lose
- Linda Liebiedz in memory of Gladys and George Biederman, and Catherine Biederman Burkitt
- The Mesenbrink Family in honor of the staff of St. John's
- The Medenica Family in memory of Paulino and Milagros Velez
- Thelma McNulty in memory of Shirley Paulson
- Gordon Meyer in memory of Pat Meyer
- Charlie, Nancy, Sarah, Abby, Emma, and Grace Miller in memory of Shirley Paulson
- Lucile, Jim, and Susan Nering in memory of Margaret and Edward Nering, Lucile and George Schmidt, and Gerald Schmidt
- Ian Noble and Kirsten Russler in honor of our parents
- Harvey and RuthAnn Peters in honor of our family
- Joy Petzinger with thanksgiving
- Helen and Steve Sanders with thanksgiving
- The Sharpe and Bowler families in memory of Roy and Marie Patterson and Kay and Ray Sharpe
- Linda and Bill Walker in memory of our parents and brother, Don
- Helga Welte and Janet Rusyniak in memory of Opa and Marlene

And in memory of loved ones by:

- Linda and Craig Clark
- Anne Crawford
- Helen Dachowicz
- Karen and Bill Feezer
- Carol Groote
- Lois and Rodger Kopf
- Christine and Russell McIntyre
- Stephen and Dianne Miller
- The Ngo Family

- Janet Onnen and Richard Wright
- The Reeves Family
- Joan Smedberg
- Jennifer Terrizzi
- The Wey Family
- Marlene Zabel



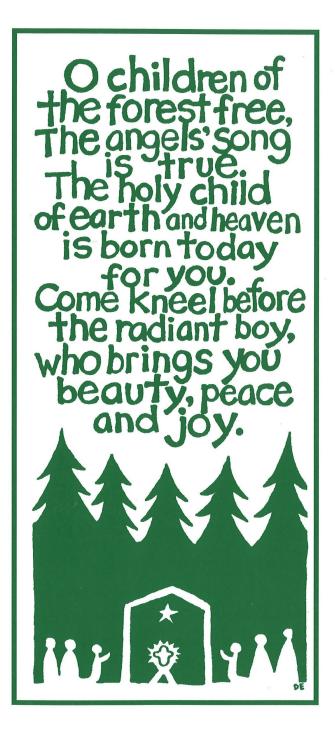


A light will shine on us this day: The lord is born for us

Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Vicar Naeem Harry, Intern Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator Andrew Schanstra, Livestream Coordinator Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org vicar@stjohnssummit.org charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org aschanstra@stjohnssummit.org wk154linda@gmail.com



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