

**ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PENNSBURG, PA**

**December 24, 2020**

**Pastor David Penman**

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**Director of Music: Judith A. Love**

**Layreaders: Jessica Pyne**

**Ellen Leh**

**Donna Ney**

**Becky Folk**

**PRELUDE**

*Swiss Noel*

Louis Claude Daquin  
Judy Love, Organ

**CHRISTMAS GREETING**

On this night of nights, this church bids you welcome as we gather in expectation and gratitude for the gift of the child who comes that we might have new life. We bid you welcome as we gather in awe and expectation to celebrate the birth of the King of Kings. Come, let us worship the Prince of Peace and sing his praise! **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

283

Quartet: Jill Haldeman, Becky Folk, Dan Tuck, Ethan Harris  
Judy Love, Organ

v.1: 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. (refrain)

Refrain: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

v.2: The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! (refrain)

v.3: Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest; (refrain)

v.4: Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus to thee be glory given! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. (refrain)

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**

## SCRIPTURES

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Away In A Manger*

arr. Tom Cooney  
Tom Cooney, Soloist

## PSALM 96

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

arr. Paul McKlveen

Amy Hagenbuch, Handbells; Judy Love, Piano

## **SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14**

*The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that 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>But 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, as it had been told them.]

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Dawn Harris

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

arr. Jerry Ray  
Autumn Taglieber, Piano

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Pastor David

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Away In A Manger* arr. Jeff Reeves  
Andrea Schmitt, Soloist; Joan Brunner, Piano; Ellen Leh, Flute

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The shepherds sing, “Jesus Christ is born!” Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, “Joy to the world!” Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, “Peace on earth!” Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. We pray especially for **Florence, Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Marie, David, Paul, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Merle, Barbara, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny and Harold.** Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe Jesus Christ, born humbly in a manger this night, is the Son of God. He is the light in the darkness sent from God to save us from our sins. We believe we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to share the good news of his birth, life, ministry and resurrection. On this night, as we celebrate Christ's birth, we affirm the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Prepare the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## **COMMUNION**

Gathered together in your homes or wherever you are, you may now offer communion to each other (or to yourself) by saying: "This is the body of Christ, given for you" when you offer the wafer/bread. Then in a similar manner with the juice/wine say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you." Each of those receiving the bread and the wine may respond with, "**Amen.**"

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us from your very self  
with the body and blood of Christ.  
Through this mystery, send us forth  
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY**

Our lit candles remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, and in Him we find peace. God responds with words of promise, saying "I am with you. I am with you in Jesus, the child lying in a manger. I am with you in Jesus who has borne your grief. I am with you in Jesus on the cross and risen from the dead".

**Let this light of peace shine within us. Thanks be to God!**

(You may now light your candles).

## **HYMN**

*Silent night, Holy Night*

281  
Sally Bauman, Soloist

v.1: 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.

v.2: 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!

(raise candles high for third verse)

v.3: Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light, radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.

### **\*BLESSING**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

(you may extinguish candles now)

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

267

Quartet: Jill Haldeman, Becky Folk, Dan Tuck, Ethan Harris

v.1: 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.

v.2: 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.

v.3: No more let sin and sorrow 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

v.4: 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.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### **THANK YOU**

There were many people involved in preparing our Advent and Christmas recorded services. Setting up, decorating, ideas, music, reading, singing, photos, even preaching! - so many contributions of time and talent. Most of all, thank you to Bill Folk – he was in the midst of this swirl of activity and

somehow managed to gather everything together, put it in order, and bring these wonderful services to us all.

Thank you to our Outreach Committee and all those who helped make possible the cards and the fruit baskets. These brightened the day of some very special members of our church family.



Thank you for helping fill our altar with beautiful poinsettias. They were sponsored.....

In Memory of Loved ones by:

Joan Brunner  
The Harpel Family  
Christine Hoffman  
Karen Keller

In Memory of:

Pop-Pop Bauman by the Ney Family  
The Bauman Family by Bob & Lucy Kern  
Raymond Brinckman by Mike & Gail Erb  
Christine Erb by Mike & Gail Erb  
Donald & Edna Fox by Gary & Lorraine Fox  
Paul & Grace Grill by Kenny & Diane Mohr  
Earl R. Hagenbuch by Bonnie Hagenbuch  
The Kern Family by Bob & Lucy Kern  
Kenneth & Ruth Mohr by Kenny & Diane Mohr  
Derek Reigner by Pete & Maribeth Reigner  
Harold Reigner by Pete & Maribeth Reigner  
Joan Schultz by Al, Sharon, Emily & Adam Schultz  
Raymond & Verna Schultz by Al, Sharon, Emily & Adam Schultz  
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey A. Schwoyer, Jr. by Deb Long and family  
Ruth and Peggy Treffinger by Al, Sharon, Emily & Adam Schultz  
Lester E. Young by Bob & Karen Mengel

In Honor of:

June Reigner by Pete & Maribeth Reigner

***MERRY CHRISTMAS***

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