

## For the Living of these Days    December 23, 2020

Information for Worship in a Time Apart

With St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 67 N. Fifth St, Newark OH 43055  
Church Office. 740-345-6115                      Council President Jean Hovland – 740-366-5058

*Our condolences to the families and friends of Ellen Tomei, Mildred Dupler, Jim Friesner and Gary MacDonald who all passed away this past week.*

*The 2021 budget passed, and Jean Hovland was elected for her 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term and Fred Freytag for his 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*No Newsletter this week. Just the bulletin for Thursday and Saturday! Have a blessed Christmas!*

### St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newark, Ohio Christmas Eve

**December 24, 2020 11 p.m., Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m.**

#### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT 10:30 p.m.**

Good Christians All, Rejoice .....	Mary McDonald
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear .....	Diane Bish
Ding Dong! Merrily On High .....	Lloyd Larson
What Child Is This? .....	Craig Curry
O Holy Night .....	David Lanz
I Saw Three Ships .....	Joseph M. Martin
In The Bleak Midwinter .....	Mary McDonald
Good King Wenceslas .....	Andrew Willis

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel .....	15th cent. French
We Three Kings .....	John H. Hopkins, Jr.
Carol Of The Bells .....	Mykola Leontovych
Ryleigh Jones, Saxophone	

Of The Father's Love Begotten .....	Andrew Willis
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Dear Friends, please remember that there will be no singing or speaking in unison during the service to reduce the possible spread of disease. All text will be read by the supply pastor and singing and responses by the cantors. The offering plates will be by the exit doors as you leave today. Standing at this service is optional.

#### **THE RINGING OF THE BELL    Please stand as you are able**

#### **THE ENTRANCE HYMN "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

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...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 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!

**GREETING** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, known to shepherds in Bethlehem and to magi from the East, be with you all!

**KYRIE** And opening their treasure chests, they offered the child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. O Lord, let our prayer rise before you as incense!

**Pastor:** Lord, have mercy! **Cantor:** Christ, have mercy! **Pastor:** Lord, have mercy! Amen!

#### **THE GLORIA** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Angels we have heard on high/Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply/Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be/Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see/Him whose birth the angels sing! Come, adore on bended knee/Christ the Lord, the newborn king! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** The Lord be with you! 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. AMEN.

**WELCOME** Welcome to all of you. We are delighted to share this festival of the Christ Mass with you. St. Paul's practices 'open communion', Members of other churches are welcome to receive communion with us. Our manner of distributing communion for this service is spelled out in this bulletin. Please give your attention to the first lesson.

**THE FIRST LESSON** (*Diane Ganz*) Isaiah 9:2-7

*The Prophet Isaiah writes:* 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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest...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. 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!*

**"IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"**

*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 men, from heaven'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 heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet-bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years shall come the age of gold. When peace shall over all the earth its heavenly splendors fling, And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

**THE SECOND LESSON** (*Mark Finck*) Hebrews 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. *The Word of the Lord!*

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Please stand as you are able. Standing is optional.*) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**THE GOSPEL** according to Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter (verses:1-20)

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!*

## THE SERMON

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY “ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth. Once you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born king.*

*Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born king.*

### THE NICENE CREED

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 he 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.

## THE PRAYERS

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(The cantor will provide the responses)*

The Lord be with you! *And also with you!*

Lift up your hearts! *We lift them to the Lord!*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! *It is right to give our thanks and praise!*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

*Cantor will demonstrate at lectern*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; *(Please open your wafer and hold it up.)* 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 *(Please raise your cup but **do not open it yet**)* 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 remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Now my brothers and sisters in Christ, please join me in sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The body of Christ given for you *(Please consume the wafer).*  
The Blood of Christ shed for you *(Please open your cup and drink the juice.)*

**THE COMMUNION BLESSING** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

**"SILENT NIGHT "** *(Folks near the pew ends please light your candle tapers and carefully pass the light to their neighbors at this time.)*

*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.*

**FINAL PRAYER** *(please extinguish your candles)*

**THE BENEDICTION:** May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child! And the blessing of God almighty, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always! Amen!

**“JOY TO THE WORLD”**

*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!*

*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 and, like the shepherds, share the Good News!

**ORGAN POSTLUDE - “He Is Born” - Mary McDonald**

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**Chrismons** are the white and gold decorations on the church Christmas trees. They represent traditional symbols connected with Jesus. These Chrismons are donated by the Women of the ELCA and were hand-made by volunteers in the parish.

**Poinsettias** are a flower native to Mexico and are in bloom at Christmas time, making them an ideal plant for this holiday. Enclosed in this bulletin is a full listing of people memorialized and honored by the arrangement of flowers around the altar.

**The wreaths** on the main doors of the church were donated by Alice Smith in memory of her parents, Nadine & Alton Schmutzler, her husband, Frank Smith and her son, Timothy Smith, and Helen Foster in memory of her parents, Joseph and Lillian Adlam.

**Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for this service!**

**Serving** at the Christ Mass & the Saturday service are the following people:

- Presiding Pastor* - The Rev. Dr. John D. Stroup
- Organist* – 11 p.m. Andrew Willis, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Chad Baker
- Cantors* – Alice Beamer, Terri Beamer, Shirley Campbell,
- Denise Crews, Kerrill Foster, Jim Rengert
- Lectors* – Diane Ganz, Mark Finck

**2021 Offering envelopes are now available at the table in the back church hallway. Word in Seasons for January 2021 are in the narthex.**