



## Sunday Worship



December 31, 2023

*Draw near to God*

*for God is waiting for you.*

\* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able  
*italic type is spoken by the liturgist* – **bold is spoken by the congregation**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Rejoice in God! Marvel at all that God has done!*

**Our eyes have seen the glory of God, made known to us.**

*Rejoice in God, Creator of all that has life.*

**Our eyes have seen the love of God, come to us in a baby.**

*Rejoice in God, giver of redemption and grace.*

**Our eyes have seen God's redeeming love, alive in Jesus.**

*Rejoice in God, the Spirit of peace and grace.*

**Our eyes have seen the power of God at work in changing the world.**

*Let us worship God together.*

#### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Lord of mercy and joy, you have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### **\*HYMN #143** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

2. 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 newborn king!

3. Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

4. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

### **CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION**

### ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS***

We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas “high.” So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don’t want that “high” to be over. We want to feel the “peace on earth” feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

### ***WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING***

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

**\*HYMN #132** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 61:10—62:3

**HYMN #129** Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

1. Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse’s lineage coming,  
by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

3. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels the glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

**DRAMATIC READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 148 by Bob Hartman

### ***TIME WITH THE CHILDREN***

**\*HYMN #146** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

2. Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

3. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Luke 2:22-40

**MEDITATION** Praise the Lord!

**\*A CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA**

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village,  
of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,  
and for whom there was no room in the inn.**

**I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history,  
for whom the kings of the earth had no power,  
and who was not understood by the proud.**

**I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,  
the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome  
and accepted as Savior.**

**I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud,  
and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served,  
and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.**

**I believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations  
and love among all.**

**I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel.**

**I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change  
if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger.**

**I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, have mercy on us and grant us the peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide. Grant that our lives would be an offering, and that our work would be a good gift, just as the gifts that the wise men brought, pleasing to you and fit for the king of all creation. We look to you, our Prophet, Priest and King, to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. Amen.**

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #136** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**REFRAIN: Go, tell it on mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens their shone a holy light. Refrain**

**2. The shepherds feared and trembled when high above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**

**3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECEMBER 31 2023**

**This week's carillon is in memory of "Loved Ones".**

**FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP:** The next evening fellowship will be on January 5, 5:30 – 7:30. It's Italian Night and our Mission Project will be to assemble "Smile Bags" and Arts & Crafts projects for children in Doylestown Hospital and CHOP. Slips for items needed for this project are found on the partition in Fellowship Hall. If you take a slip, please be sure to have all purchased items here at the church by Wednesday, January 3. Sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

**YOUTH GROUP:** The group will meet next Sunday, January 7 at 6:30 pm.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** This week we are asking for the following items: Pasta sauce, pasta, Mac & Cheese and hearty soup. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

<b>Calendar:</b>	December 31	10:00 am	Worship, followed by Fellowship
	January 3	12:00 pm	Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship
	January 5	5:30 pm	Friday Night Fellowship – Italian Night

***In our thoughts and prayers:***

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,  
Mary Lou Humlhanz, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton, Kevin Realley Chris Lucera

Please keep Esther Welch's family in prayer as they mourn the passing of Esther. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

***The Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God... .***

***In loving memory of Myrl and Addis Worthington from Bill Yerkes.***

***In loving memory of Nancy Yerkes from Bill Yerkes.***

***In loving memory of our mothers Nancy Yerkes and Kathleen Lightkep from Leanne Yerkes and Joe Lightkep.***

***In loving memory of our parents from Larry and Beth Conti***

***In loving memory of John Thiessen from Sally Thiessen.***

***In loving memory of our Grandparents from Michael and Karen Myers.***

***In loving memory of my parents, Ed and Lois Daniels from Sharon Ruth.***

***In loving memory of Pat Gessner from The Lunch Bunch.***

***In loving memory of Elliott and Kathryn Wiggins from Rick Wiggins.***

***In loving memory of Harry Shaffer from Gail Shaffer.***

***In loving memory of Kristen McCormick from the Holton family.***

***In loving memory of Boyd Ghering from the Holton family.***

***In loving memory of Patricia B. Gessner from Marilyn Cook.***

***In loving memory of Robert Propsner, Sr. Bob's father from Bob and Janice Propsner.***

***In loving memory of Doug Sanders and Carol Gabel from Brad and Christine Sanders.***

***In loving memory of Janice's parents Bob and Edith Payton from Bob and Janice Propsner.***

***In loving memory of David Danilowicz, Sr. (Dan's dad), Ralph Martin (Peggy's dad), and John Martin (Peggy's brother) from Peggy and Dan Danilowicz.***

***In loving memory of my husband, Ralph and our son, John from Janet Martin.***

***In honor of our Church Community from Steve and Maggie Rash.***

***In honor of Dolores Propsner Bob's mother from Bob and Janice Propsner.***

***In honor of our great grandchildren Danny and Lizzy Cornell from Alvin and Kathy Cornell.***

***In honor of Gail from her cousin Dot Tinari.***

***In honor of our loved ones from Craig and Donna Jencks.***



Church Staff  
Susan Fall, Pastor  
Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music  
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator  
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

