

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2022 † 5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this evening.

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them to the center and then back
so you can greet those worshipping around you.*

Ushers will gather these following worship.

*In the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal
(All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section,
and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

Children are welcome to participate throughout our
worship service, including at Holy Communion.

*Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion
to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.*

Children's Bibles and activity bags
are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary
and scribble cards are available in the pews.

*Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher.
For those with hearing aids, the Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop.*

Large print bulletins and hymns are available for worship services.



*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace
and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as
we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance,
sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or
relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement,
political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together,
believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — *Music for a Holy Night:*

“All My Heart this Night Rejoices”

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

“Lullaby on Christmas Eve”

F. Melius Christiansen, arr. G. Winston Cassler

“See, Amid the Winter's Snow”

Robert Buckley Farlee

Green Bouzard, violin

“On Christmas Night”

Noel Rawsthorne

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

*Greeting

- ☐ 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.**

*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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

☐ Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

☑ Amen.

Response Hymn — “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

JEG ER SÅ GLAD

I am so glad each Christ - mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
And so I love each Christ - mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;

Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marië Wexelsen, tr. Peter Sveeggen © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House; Music: Peder Knudsen

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reading — Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Anthem — “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” French carol, arr. Carolyn Jennings

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing, ding dong! verily the sky is riven with angels singing. Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and “io, io, io” by priest and people sungen. Merrily ringing, merrily singing, ringing and singing, hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers; may you beautifully rime your Evetime song, ye singers: Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

–G. R. Woodward

St. John’s Chorale

***Gospel Reading** — Luke 2:1-20

Spark Story Bible, page 212

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

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 the Messiah, 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 the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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. 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 909

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

*Prayers of the People

After each petition:

- Ⓐ On this holy night,
- Ⓒ **hear our prayer.**

*Peace

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always. Ⓒ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share Christ's peace with those around you.

Offering our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Candlelight Carol”

John Rutter

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first
cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of
dawn. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing: the Christ child is born. Shepherds and
wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim round him their vigil will keep; nations
proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay. God-
head incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

—John Rutter

*Offering Hymn — “Of the Father's Love Begotten” stanza 2 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

M **God with us:** you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

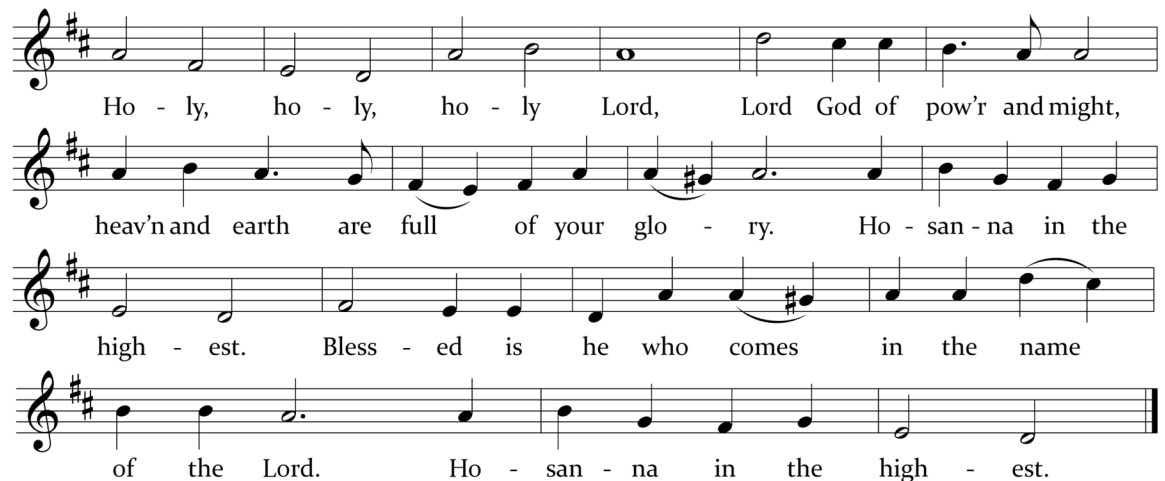


P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

All God's children are welcome at the table.

*Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center. After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice. The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray. **If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.***

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn — ELW No. 274

"On Christmas Night"

Hymn — ELW No. 276

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

☐ Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Sharing the Light of Christ

As the light comes to you, please dip your unlit candle towards the flame.

*Carol — “Night of Silence” and “Silent Night”

Daniel Kantor
arr. John Ferguson

Choir: Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night, frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light, gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.

All singing:

Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight;
round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten-der and
glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav'n-ly hosts . . sing, al - le - lu -
mild, sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John Young; Music: Franz Gruber

*Prayer for Peace

P Let us pray.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.

Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*As the lights come up, please carefully extinguish your candle.
At the conclusion of the service, please leave your candle
in baskets outside the sanctuary.*

*Hymn — “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text and Music: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr.

***Dismissal**

- ☒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

***Postlude** — “Joy to the World”

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S THIS EVENING:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
Assisting Ministers	David and Debby Nitz
Organist	Nathan Proctor, Director of Worship, Music & Arts
Choir	St. John’s Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Piano	Jane Turpin Moore
Violin	Green Bouzard
Communion Prep	Angie Gehring
Communion Cleanup	Jill Enestvedt, Pam Groves-Gaggioli
Greeters	Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Judy Karlson, Mary Ellen North, Sandra Nyvall
Ushers	Jon and Alison Kavanaugh, Bob Nyvall

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork by Kenneth Peterson.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon's Radio Broadcast is given by Barbara Dettle in gratitude for the ministry of St. John's. Services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: January 8, 22 & 29 and February 5, 19 & 26. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

The Church Office and Building will be closed Monday, December 26.

There will be one worship service on Sunday, January 1, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church Office and Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30, and will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2022 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by December 27 (processing takes time to clear)
- delivered in person by noon, December 30, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight, December 31

Thank you!



We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 15. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music. A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

(Please note there is only one worship service.)

**JOIN US TOMORROW, DECEMBER 25:
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

10:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR ALL

Join us for a free Christmas dinner in St. John's Hall.
Served from 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.



**Christmas Day Dinner
Sunday, December 25
11:15 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.**

Christmas Poinsettias 2022

Given in Memory of:

Carroll & Oscar Palrud by John Bremer

Mary Beth Bremer by John Bremer

Karen Swenson by Curt Swenson and Family

Howard Thorsheim by Julie Thorsheim

Jon Rondestvedt and Our Parents by Jeanette Rondestvedt

Duane Benson by Marie Benson and Family

Grandpa Joseph Jeanette by The Pelletier Family

Dale Gehring by Angie Gehring

Cherished Parents and Spouses by Jon & Alison Kavanaugh

Merle, Idella, & Michael Clauson by Cindy Clauson

Marlene Engstrom by Duane Engstrom

Sawyer Grant Garlie by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

Our Parents: Leonard & Marie DeWolfe and Orwin & Doris Marks by Alan & Lynette Marks

Marina Ypsilanti Kuhlman by Ed & Barbara Kuhlman

Greg's Parents by Greg Norman & Bonnie Jean Flom

Bonnie Jean's Parents by Greg Norman & Bonnie Jean Flom

Our dear departed parents and other loved ones by Gordon and Jane Moore

Our Parents: Joan & Wayne and Ralph & Thelma by David & Debby Nitz

Leonard Anderson by Phil & Barb Eaves

Our Parents: Don & Lorene Hastings and Wayne & Ila Mae Christensen by Rod & Deb Christensen

Tim Twito by Rod & Deb Christensen

Carol James by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Christmas Poinsettias 2022

Given in Honor of:

The Christmas Day Dinner Planning Committee by Bill & Char Carlson

St. John's Quilters and Knitters by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

St. John's Chorale by Nathan Proctor

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Doug Johnson

Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

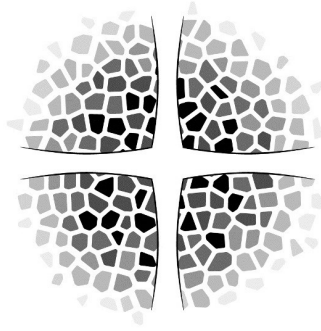
Thank you to all who have given these plants which bring God's beauty into our worship space. Plants may be taken home after worship on Sunday, December 25.



The blessings of God, who has come to be with us, be with you all at this season and throughout the new year.

Thank you for the joy and privilege of sharing the ministry of Christ with you, and for all your support and kindness!

—The Pastors and Staff of St. John's



St. John's

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*

Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Children's Music Director and Early Childhood Specialist*

Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.