

# *Welcome to worship at St. John's!*

*We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!*

*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 pew hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship),  
page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section,  
and hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn 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.*

*Large print bulletins 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.*

# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25, 2018 † 10:00 A.M.  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

## GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**Prelude** — “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High” Robert Buckley Farlee  
“Bring a Torch” Lani Smith  
“God Rest You Merry” Lani Smith  
*Jo Ann Polley, clarinet*

### Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn** — No. 270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

### \*Litany and Greeting

- P** In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,
- C** **and the Word was God.**
- P** The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,
- C** **the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.**
- P** The grace, truth, and light of Christ be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

**\*Hymn of Praise** — No. 267 “Joy to the World”

## \*Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

**First Reading** — Isaiah 52:7-10

Pew Bible, page 596

*After the reading:*

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

**Hymn** — No. 299

“Cold December Flies Away”

**Second Reading** — Hebrews 1:1-12

Pew Bible, page 970

*After the reading:*

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

\***Gospel Acclamation** — “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *stanza 4*

ADESTE FIDELES

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
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!**

*Before the reading:*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Hymn of the Day — No. 292

“Love Has Come”

\*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. (continued)**

**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**

*After each petition:*

- Ⓛ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☩ **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:*

“Rise Up Shepherd, Tell It on the Mountain”

Evelyn R. Larter

**\*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 together.

**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.

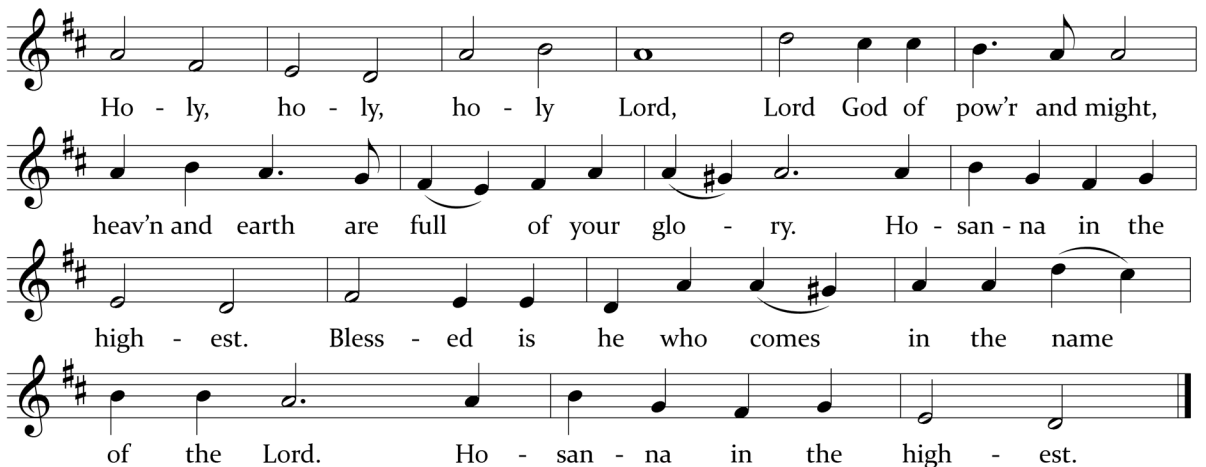


**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



**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

- ☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end...Do this for the remembrance of me.
- ☐ Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ☐ With this bread and cup...we look with hope for his coming.
- ☑ **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

### \*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 the front of the sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the middle. 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.

**Solo** — “The Wexford Carol”

Evelyn R. Larter

**Hymn** — No. 296

“What Child Is This”

**Hymn** — No. 294

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

### \*Prayer after Communion

**L** Let us pray together.

**All** Great and saving God,

you have gathered your scattered people  
around gifts of bread and wine,  
the body and blood of our Savior 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

## \*Blessing

### The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among all people,  
To make music in the heart.

## \*Sending Hymn — No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

## \*Dismissal

☪ Go in peace. Christ is with you.

☪ Thanks be to God!

## \*Postlude — “Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”

African American Spiritual  
arr. David Sims



# SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY

Preaching

*Pastor Pam Fickenscher*

Presiding

*Pastor Jonathan Davis*

Assisting Minister

*Kristy Harms*

Organists

*Nathan Proctor*

*David Sims*

Clarinet

*Jo Ann Polley*

Communion

*Craig Schultz*

Greeters

*Rod and Deb Christensen*

Ushers

*Dallas Berg, Barry Becker, Erik Hong, Eric Lund,  
Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert*



In anticipation of our upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> church anniversary year, our bulletin covers this Advent and Christmas season pay tribute to the many artists and designers whose artistic vision welcomes us into worship week after week over many decades. The cover this morning is by Donna Lee, from Christmas Day, December 25, 1977.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# Christmas Poinsettias 2018

## Given in memory of:

*Sawyer Grant Garlie* by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie  
*Ruth Ferguson* by Nathan Proctor  
*Dorene Olson* by Barry, Julie, Andrew, Amelia & Will Becker  
*Grandson Andrew Thompson and Husband Eugene Boschee* by Marilyn Boschee  
*Siri Thompson Raskob* by the David & Cheryl Buck Family  
*Ed Lindell* by Herb & Pat Fick  
*Sgt. Larry Carlson* by Bill & Charlotte Carlson  
*Our parents, Wayne & Ila Mae Christensen and Don & Lorene Hastings* by Rod & Deb Christensen  
*Tim Twito* by Rod & Deb Christensen  
*Leonard Anderson* by Phil & Barb Eaves  
*Della Gunderson and John Gunderson* by Lester Gunderson and Family  
*Gustav & Genevieve Odegaard* by David & Ruth Legvold  
*Ole & Birdie Legvold and Mayvis Harkness* by David & Ruth Legvold  
*Jon Nicholson* by the Nicholson Family  
*Agnes Hammer, Mother of Louise, whose birthday was Christmas Eve* by John & Louise Quam  
*Our Parents* by Jon & Jeanette Rondestvedt  
*Loved Ones* by Gary & Elizabeth Wicks  
*Our Parents* by Dave & Ruthie Neuger  
*Don Kasa* by wife Janice and sons Jeff & Doug  
*Jim Johnson and June & Alton Olsen* by Bev Johnson  
*Richard Kraus (brother of Joan)* by Joan & Vern Koester  
*Louis & Lucille Vang and Harold Vang* by Kathy Vang  
*Elaine Kringen* by Duane Kringen  
*Our parents, Leonard & Marie DeWolfe and Orv & Doris Marks* by the Alan & Lynette Marks Family  
*Lori Lynn Calcutt* by Merilyn Calcutt  
*Bill & Helen Cowles* by Tim & Carol Cowles  
*Grace Madson* by Marland Madson  
*Walter, Maxine & Angela Johnson* by Doug Johnson  
*Orv, Jean, Scott, Martin, and Mathilda Perman* by Tim & Carol Cowles and Paul & Anne Klinefelter  
*Hedwig & Don Sr. and Don Jr. Klinefelter* by Tim & Carol Cowles and Paul & Anne Klinefelter  
*Phyllis & Nicolai Ordahl and Norman Kmoch* by Brad, Nancy, Emma, Willa & Merri Kmoch  
*Kenneth & Patricia Conrad and Harold (Red) & Lucille Swanson* by Kristy Harms  
*Margo Otte* by Doneen and Nick Viall  
*Margaret Hayford O'Leary* by Doug, Kari, Erik & Sean O'Leary  
*Joe & Anita Hellie and Walter & Pearl Svard* by Charles & Anita Hellie  
*Dick Dahlin* by Jo Dahlin  
*Ruth Ferguson* by John Ferguson  
*Millie Berg* by Sidney Olson

# Christmas Poinsettias 2018

## Given in Honor of:

*The St. John's Chorale* by Nathan Proctor

*Our Children and their Families* by Gary & Elizabeth Wicks

*Our Children* by Dave & Ruthie Neuger

*Grandparents Pat & Herb, Grace & Jack, Frank & Karen* by the Dave & Cheryl Buck Family

*All the people who give of their time on Christmas Day* by Bill & Charlotte Carlson

*Our children, Zachary and Elizabeth Evenson* by Brian Evenson & Susan Brockman

*Our grandchildren, Emma, Grace, Gunnar, and Thea* by Duane & Marie Benson

*Zack Pelletier and the Rejoice Ringers* by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

*My children* by Ruth Dahl

*Duane & Marlene Engstrom* by Chris & Irv

## Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Herb & Pat Fick

Barb Knaak

Suzanne Pfau

Bernie & Sue Renander

Joyce Revne Stofft

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 today.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This morning's Radio Broadcast** is given in memory of Marilyn Otterness by family and friends. 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 the church office. Dates available: January 20 & 27. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television – cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Dinner for All!**

Dinner will be served today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time in helping with this important community event. Merry Christmas!

**The Church building will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, December 26.**

This week church office hours will be limited.

**There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 30, at 10:00 a.m.**

**The Church Building will be closing** at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31, and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

**We welcome the St. Olaf Choir** and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 13. 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.

**Our financial contributions** are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2018 can be received in the following ways

- given online by December 28 (processing takes time to clear)
- delivered in person by noon, December 31, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight December 31

Thank you!

## **NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**

10:00 a.m.

**Worship with Holy Communion**

*(Please note there is only one worship service this day.)*



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

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*  
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*  
Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*  
Melissa Berthelsen, *Parish Nurse*  
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*  
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*  
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*  
Angie Gehring / Emerson Clay, *Youth Support Staff*  
Christy Hall-Holt / Mary Kelvie, *Shared Ministry Coordinators*  
Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*  
Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Rings*  
Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*  
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*  
Bernie Renander, *Financial Manager*

Call the Church Office, or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.