

CHRISTMAS DAY

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2020 † 10:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances. We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.

Christmas Poinsettias 2020

In memory of Leonard Anderson by Phil & Barb Eaves

In memory of Mary Pelletier and Ken Nelson by the Pelletier Family

In Memory of David Halvorson by David & Cheryl Buck

In honor of the St. John's Chorale by Nathan Proctor

In celebration of Christmas by Bob & Cora Scholz

In honor of the St. John's Staff by Ruth Smestad Anglin

In memory of Richard, Carol, Matthew and Michelle Schaefer and Andrew and Anita Westerback by Emily Westerback

In honor of Dave Zdenek and Mark Gleason in their service on the audio/visual team during this challenging year by Pastors Pam Fickenscher and Jonathan Davis and Nathan Proctor

In honor of Nathan Proctor and David Sims in their faithful musical leadership during the pandemic by Pastor Pam Fickenscher

In memory of Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

In celebration of Christmas by Herb & Pat Fick

In honor of Nathan Proctor and David Sims by Duane & Jewell Proctor

In memory of our parents by David & Ruth Legvold

In memory of loved ones who are no longer with us by David & Debby Becker

In memory of our parents and friends by Rod & Deb Christensen

(SERVICE REBROADCAST FROM DECEMBER 25, 2016)

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Hear, King of Angels” from *Christmas Oratorio*

J. S. Bach

Jo Ann Polley, clarinet

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — No. 283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Stanzas 1, 2, and 3 (printed on page 12)

*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** — “Angels, We Have Heard on High” *stanza 1*

GLORIA

**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.**

*Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 52:7-10

After the reading:

- 📖 The word of the Lord.
- 👏 **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn — No. 292

“Love Has Come”

(printed on page 12)

Second Reading — Hebrews 1:1-12

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!**

***Gospel** — John 1:1-14

Before the reading:

- 📖 The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st 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. 299

“Cold December Flies Away”

(printed on page 13)

*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 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:

“A Little Shepherd Music”

Harald Rohlig

Based on the German carol “Es kommt ein Schiff, geladen”

*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

Ⓐ Let us pray together.

☩ **Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor
to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts,
let them be blessing for others.
With the trees of the field,
with all earth and heaven,
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



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

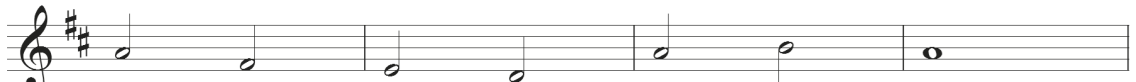


P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



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.*

As part of communion today, you will also be offered an anointing with oil. Hebrews says that God anointed Jesus with the oil of joy. As children of God, you too are anointed with oil so that the joy of God's presence may remain with you always.

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 — “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

arr. Gordon Schuster

Hymn — No. 279

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(printed on page 14)

Hymn — No. 296

“What Child Is This”

(printed on page 14)

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- L** Let us pray together.
- M** **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"

(printed on page 15)

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

*Postlude — on IN DULCI JUBILO

Eleanor Whitsett



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S **ON DECEMBER 25, 2016:**

Preaching

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Presiding

Pastor Jonathan Davis

Assisting Minister

Sue Brockman

Organist

Nathan Proctor

Clarinet

Jo Ann Polley

Communion Servers

Brockman / Evenson Family

Healing Prayers

Chuck Jacobsen and Larry Christenson

Ushers

*Dallas Berg, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund,
Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert*

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in by Duane and Marie Benson. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: February 28 and March 28. 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Music for the Service

Hymn — “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (#283)

ADESTE FIDELES



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come, ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him,
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; Son of the Fa - ther
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove! Glo - ry to God



born the king of an - gels:
now in flesh ap - pear - ing! O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
in . . . the . . . high - est:



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2; Music: attr. John Francis Wade

Hymn — “Love Has Come” (#292)

UN FLAMBEAU



Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the

you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Music: F. Seguin

Hymn — “Cold December Flies Away” (#299)

EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT

Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.

A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.

at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bear the
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its

flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it

rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee; © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin Augsburg Fortress; Music: Catalonian carol

Hymn — “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (#279)

ST. LOUIS



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, Music: Lewis H. Redner

Hymn — “What Child Is This” (#296)

GREENSLEEVES



What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

Hymn — “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (#288)

IN DULCI JUBILO



Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale; Music: German carol, 14th cent.



St. John's

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Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

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

Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*

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

Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*

Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*

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

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