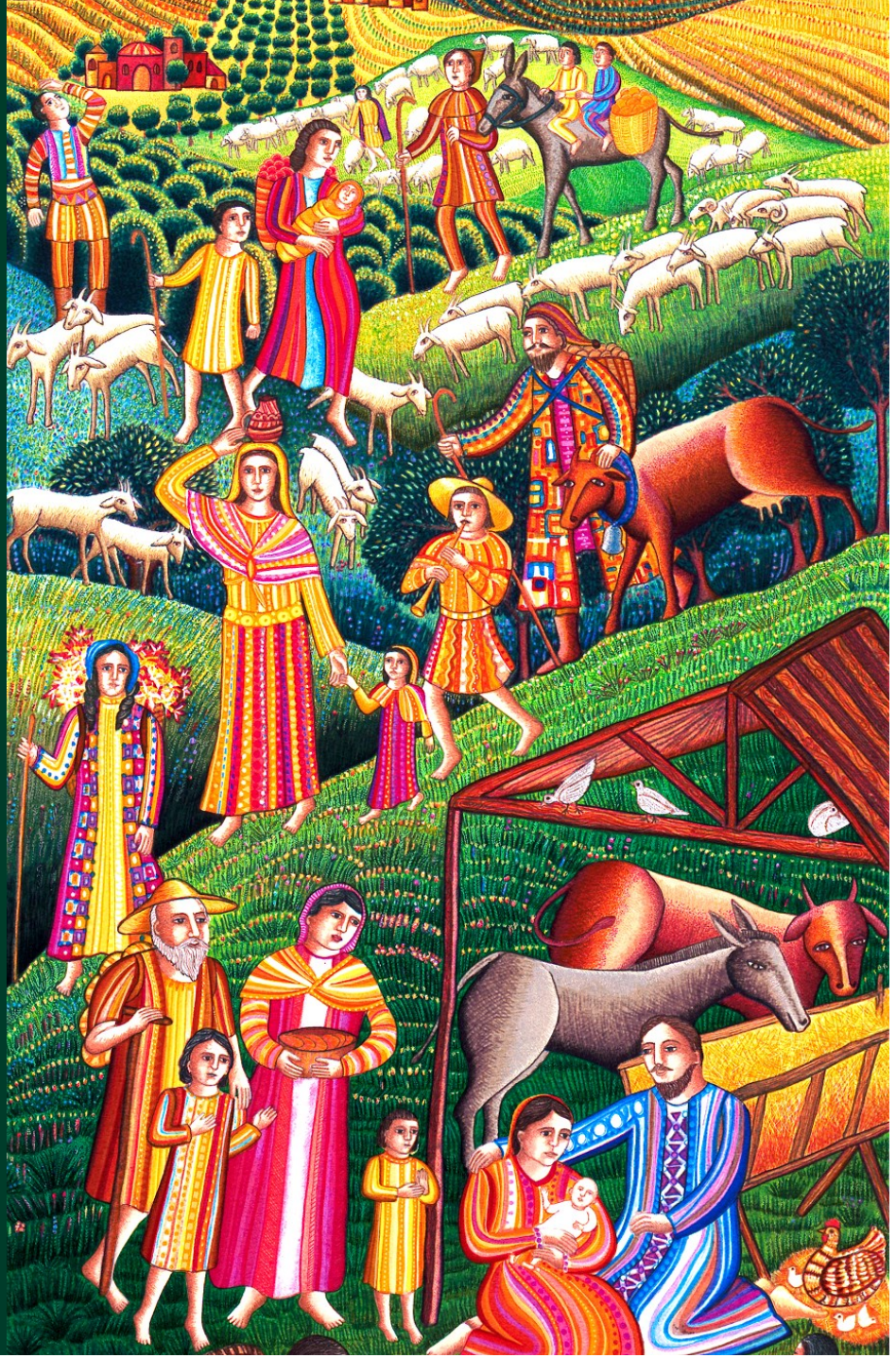


# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2021 + 10:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH + NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA



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

**We welcome all who are visiting this morning, especially those from Bethel Lutheran and St. Peter's Lutheran! We are grateful for our shared ministry together in the Northfield community.**

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.*

*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.*

# GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**Prelude** — *Three Carols for Clarinet and Organ*

Michael Burkhardt

- I. "Oh, Come, Little Children"
- II. "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
- III. "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

*Jo Ann Polley, clarinet*

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW 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** — ELW No. 279

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Stanzas 1 and 2*

## \*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

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn — ELW No. 294

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

## Second Reading — Hebrews 1:1-12

<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. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." <sup>10</sup>And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; <sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** 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

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Inger Hanson

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

**Hymn of the Day** — ACS No. 1093

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

## \*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:*

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

West Indian carol, arr. Evelyn Larter

*The offering collected this morning will go to our shared ministry  
with the Community Action Center of Northfield.*

## \*Offering Hymn — “What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

## \*Offering Prayer

**L** Let us pray.

**A** 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.

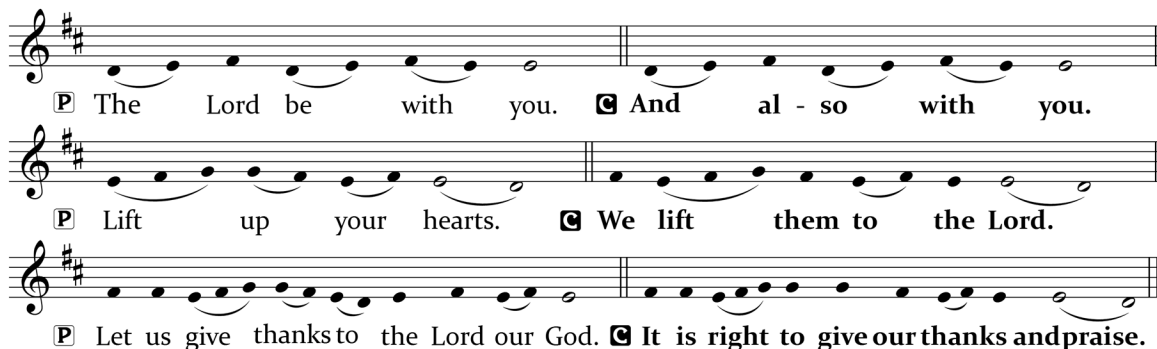
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

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

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

**Solo** — “The Sussex Carol”

English carol, arr. Evelyn Larter

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

### \*Prayer after Communion

- L 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.

C **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 — ELW No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

## \*Dismissal

℣ Go in peace. Christ is with you.

✠ Thanks be to God!

\*Postlude — on IN DULCI JUBILO

Eleanor Whitsett



# **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY**

## **Preaching**

Pastor Inger Hanson  
*Senior Pastor, Bethel Lutheran*

## **Presiding**

Pastor Jonathan Davis  
*Associate Pastor, St. John's Lutheran*

## **Assisting Minister**

Ruthie Neuger

## **Readers**

Janice Lehmkuhl  
Barb Holm

## **Organ**

Nathan Proctor  
*Director of Worship, Music, and Arts,  
St. John's Lutheran*

## **Piano**

Megan Engel  
*Director of Worship and Music,  
Bethel Lutheran*

## **Clarinet**

Jo Ann Polley

## **Greeters**

Becker Family

## **Ushers**

Ruth Dahl, Doug Johnson

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This morning's Radio Broadcast** is given in memory of Duane Benson by Jared & Arianna Anderson and Matt & Leah Garlie. 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](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: January 16 & 30 and February 6, 13, 20 & 27. 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.

**Today's plate offerings will be given the Community Action Center.**

**The Church Office and Building will be closed Monday, December 27.**

**There will be one worship service on Sundays, December 26, and January 2, at 10:00 a.m.**

**The Church Office and Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, and will be closed on Saturday, January 1, 2022.**

**Our financial contributions** are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2021 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by Tuesday, 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!

**We welcome the St. Olaf Choir** and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 16. 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, DECEMBER 26**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2**

10:00 a.m.

**Worship with Holy Communion**

*(Please note there is only one worship service both days.)*



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

# Christmas Poinsettias 2021

## Given in Memory of:

*Mary Beth Bremer* by her Family

*James R. & Frances Anderson and John Carlson* by John W. & Sue Anderson Family

*Margaret Hayford O'Leary* by Doug O'Leary

*Jim Johnson* by Beverly Johnson

*Marlene Engstrom* by Chris Engstrom and Irv Fosaaen

*Day McLaughlin* by the Bash Family

*Our Parents* by Dave & Debby Becker

*My Parents, Donovan & Beverly Lundeen* by Patricia Lundeen

*Len Anderson* by Phil & Barb Eaves

*My mother, Rosanne Fratzke* by Angie Gehring

*Our Parents* by Bill & Charlotte Carlson

*Duane Benson* by Marie Benson

*Margo Otte (mother of Doneen Viall and grandmother of Nick Viall)* by Doneen and Nick Viall

*Lori Calcutt* by Marilyn Calcutt

*Ed Lindell* by Herb & Pat Fick

*My Parents* by Cindy Clauson

*My Parents and Stepmother* by Geraldine Licke

*Our Parents* by David & Ruth Legvold

*Ruth Ferguson* by Nathan Proctor

*Kenneth & Patricia Conrad* by Kristy Harms

*Rudolph & Gladys Vorel and Aldo & Margaret Conrad* by Kristy Harms

*Lorraine & Ed Neuger and Lois & Leo Bjorlie* by Ruthie & Dave Neuger

*Jim Thompson* by Dave & Cheryl Buck

*Carolyn Moe Buzza* by Dave & Cheryl Buck

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

*Loved ones lost this year: Lyle Frerichs, Marvin Gulbrandson, and Dora Brockman*

by Susan Brockman & Brian Evenson

# Christmas Poinsettias 2021

## Given in Honor of:

*The Berthelsens* by Joyce Stofft

*Nathan Proctor and David Sims* by Nathan, Anneliese & Charlotte Goettsch

*Our Family* by David & Ruth Legvold

*St. John's Chorale* by Nathan Proctor

*Matthew, Rebecca, Maisie, Rebecca, Karl, Adam, and Marla* by Ruthie & David Neuger

## Given in Celebration of Christmas:

*Dan and Carrie Dauner*

*Doug Johnson*

*Dennis & Jane Rinehart*

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 26.





# St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*  
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*  
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 Rings*  
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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