



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 27, 2020 † 9:00 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.*



*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** — “Variations on The Holly and the Ivy”

David Sims

- I. Theme
- II. “A blossom as white as the lily flower”
- III. “A berry, as red as any blood”
- IV. “A bark, as bitter as any gall”
- V. “Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day”
- VI. “The playing of the merry organ”

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn** — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (#270)

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”  
late in time, be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

Text: Charles Wesley, alt.; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, arr. William H. Cummings

**\*Opening Litany:** Zephaniah 3:14-15, 18-20 (*Read responsively*)

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

**Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
and has turned away your enemies.

<sup>18</sup>**I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.**

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.  
**And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,**  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>**At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;**  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
**when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.**

**\*Hymn of Praise** — “Angels We Have Heard on High” (#289)

GLORIA



An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o;



glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy; Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes

### **\*Greeting**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A** And also with you.

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**P** Merciful God, through John the apostle and evangelist you have revealed the mysteries of your Word made flesh. Let the brightness of your light shine on your church, so that all your people, instructed in the holy gospel, may walk in the light of your truth and attain eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **Children's Message**

#### **First Reading — Isaiah 61:10—62:3**

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

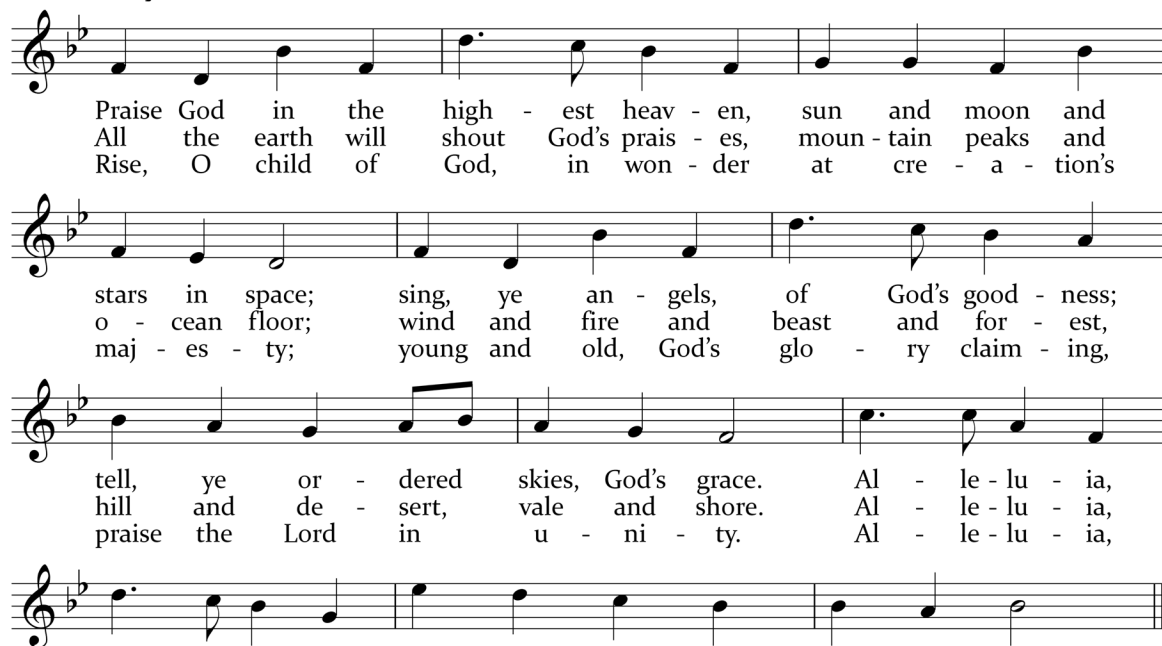
<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Psalmody — Psalm 148

REGENT SQUARE



Praise God in the high - est heav - en, sun and moon and  
 All the earth will shout God's prais - es, moun - tain peaks and  
 Rise, O child of God, in won - der at cre - a - tion's  
 stars in space; sing, ye an - gels, of God's good - ness;  
 o - cean floor; wind and fire and beast and for - est,  
 maj - es - ty; young and old, God's glo - ry claim - ing,  
 tell, ye or - dered skies, God's grace. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 hill and de - sert, vale and shore. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 praise the Lord in u - ni - ty. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia! Who but God your course can trace?  
 al - le - lu - ia! Hon - or God whom you a - dore.  
 al - le - lu - ia! Now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Psalm 148, paraphrase Michael Morgan © 1999 MM, admin. Witherspoon Press

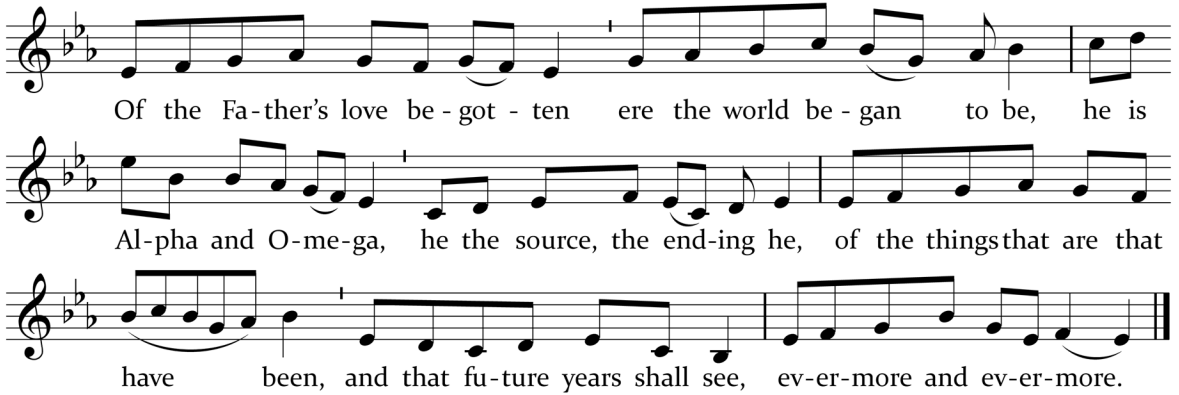
## Second Reading — 1 John 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — <sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — <sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

**\*Gospel Acclamation — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (#295) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**



Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the world be - gan to be, he is  
Al-pha and O-me-ga, he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that are that  
have been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

**\*Gospel — John 1:1-14**

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

**G** **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.

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

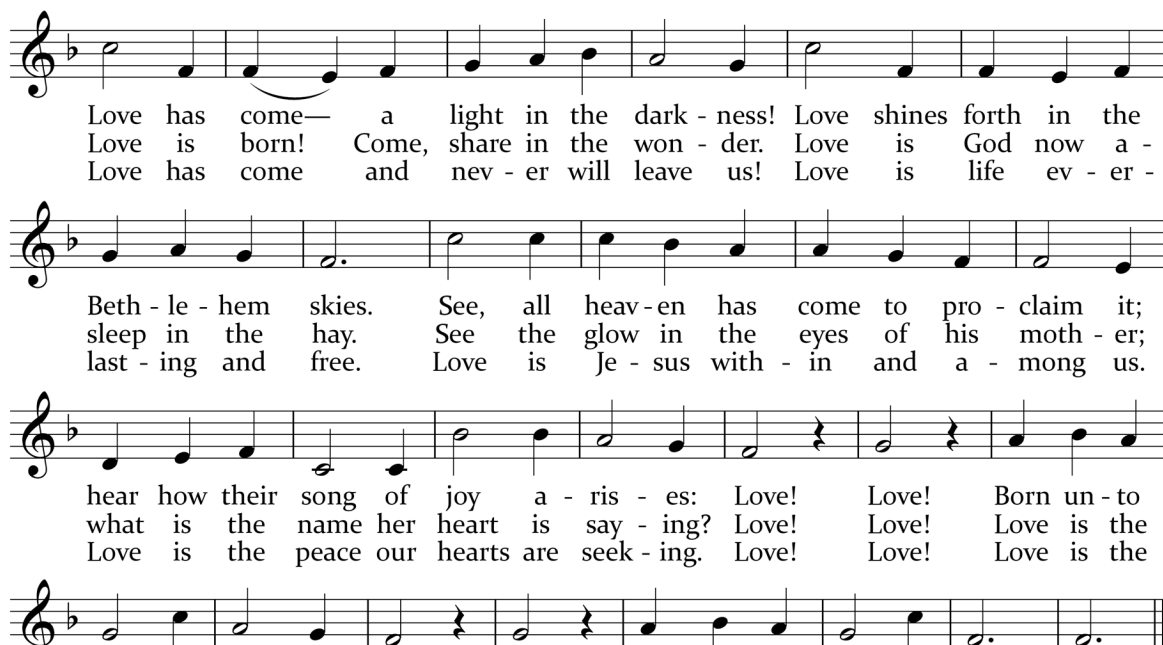
**Sermon**

**Pastor Pam Fickenschier**

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “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

## \*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 God's peace with those around you.*

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

*Music at the Offering:*

"From Heaven Above"

Walter L. Pelz

### **\*Thanksgiving for the Word**

**℟** Holy God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,  
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,  
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,  
to shine in our world's darkness,  
to speak peace to all peoples,  
and to welcome us as members of your family.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,  
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,  
we may live as your children,  
bearing your goodness throughout the world.  
All glory to you, holy 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.

## DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

### \*Blessing

*Response:*

**C** Amen.

### \*Sending Hymn — “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (#290)

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.



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;  
 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, John W. Work Jr., stanzas

### \*Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** — “From Heaven Above”

Johann Pachelbel



## **SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:**

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Emmanuel Kaghondi and Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Bulletin artwork by Judy Swanson.

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and Seasons* © 2011 Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and podcasted under One License A-708009.

# **Announcements**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given by Barbara Dettle in loving memory of Duane Olson. 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.

## **Virtual Sunday School for Grades K-5 and Virtual Youth Group Take a Break**

We will take a break during the holidays today and next Sunday, January 3. We'll be back on Sunday, January 10, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. If you would like the Zoom links for either Sunday School or Youth Group, contact Julie Brehmer ([children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) or Emmanuel Kaghondi ([youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)).

## **Stewardship Campaign Update**

Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2021 pledge card. If you have not yet indicated your intent, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our work on next year's budget. Please submit your giving intention for next year via the online form on our website or contact Leah Garlie directly at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 612-532-6863.

## **Year-End Giving**

Year-end giving typically provides an outsize portion of St. John's annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2020 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Online gifts can be given by tomorrow, December 28 at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!

## **Annual Meeting Reports**

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn your report in as soon as possible and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31 (watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting).

## **Christmas Videos**

This year, nine of St. John's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders each created a Christmas video. Each video is a portion of the story, "Christmas in a Stable" by Astrid Lindgren. The video also includes photos of the Nativity scenes created/painted by children in grades K-5. We invite you to view these on the church website: <http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org>.

## **Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps**

Contact [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) to place your order for contactless delivery.

# **Announcements (continued)**

## **Courageous Conversations Book Group**

We will discuss Alicia Garza's new book: *Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* starting in January. It is available at Content in Northfield - a discount applies when you mention the book group. We will meet via Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m., January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25. Contact [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

## ***The Plague*: Book Discussion with Charlie Wilson via Zoom**

**Thursdays, January 21, 28, and Feb 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

For this class, please purchase Stewart Gilbert's translation of this book, which will be available at Content Bookstore. Charlie Wilson, St. Olaf Religion Professor and member of St. John's, has taught Albert Camus' book *The Plague* for decades now. But this past semester, understandably, it had a deeper resonance with college students. Join Professor Wilson for a three-session class on this classic, yet still timely, book. Throughout his life, Camus struggled with the meaning of evil in the world and challenged Christians to think better about their faith. *The Plague* tells the story of a plague sweeping through a French community. The novel is told from the point of view of a narrator not revealed until the last chapter.

- Reading schedule:
  - January 21 – Part 1
  - January 28 – Parts 2 and 3
  - February 4 – Parts 4 and 5

Please sign up by January 14 via an email to Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## **Interested in putting your faith into action at the state and local level?**

Learn about opportunities to build the beloved community at ISIAH's. We Make Minnesota Virtual Launch on Sunday, January 24, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. ISIAH is a nonpartisan, multi-faith, multi-racial, statewide group of congregations, clergy, and people of faith working collectively towards racial and economic equity in Minnesota. Contact Rod Christensen ([chris719@charter.net](mailto:chris719@charter.net)) or Christy Hall-Holt ([connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) for more information.

## **Thank You for supporting the Blessing Box at St. John's!**

The Blessing Box is located on the north side of St. John's and contains hygiene and food products as a "stop and go" location for anyone needing a helping hand. It's been a busy site this fall and the need is great at this time! All donations have been greatly appreciated. Items that go quickly are: toilet paper, hand soap/sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant and feminine products, as well as take and eat food items. Feel free to donate items directly to the Blessing Box. Questions? Email Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## **Prayer Requests**

*We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.*

### **Healing and Support**

*Those in the hospital or in need of healing*

Rae Pearson, Maurilio Dorantes (father of Irene Dorantes)

*Those with ongoing health concerns*

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness,  
Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

*All who are homebound, including*

Lyla Arneson Paulson, Gordon Smith, Janice Helgeson

*Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's*

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;  
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania;  
Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

### **Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests**

*Stephen Ministry Requests*

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

*Prayer Chain Requests*

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or [macisar@gmail.com](mailto:macisar@gmail.com), or contact a pastor.

## **Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 3):**

### ***Second Sunday of Christmas***

**Jeremiah 31:7-14 † Psalm 147:12-20 † Ephesians 1:3-14 † John 1:1-18**

## **This Week At-a-Glance**

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed  
on our website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).*

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts  
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. ([www.kymnradio.net](http://www.kymnradio.net)).**

<b>Monday, Dec. 28</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 29</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 30</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Thursday, Dec. 31</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Friday, Jan. 1</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Saturday, Jan. 2</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Sunday, Jan. 3</b>	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream

### **Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream**

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is livestreamed via our website.  
We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN.

**Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.**



St. John's  
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

**500 Third Street West**

**Northfield, MN 55057**

**507-645-4429**

**office@StJohnsNorthfield.org**

**www.StJohnsNorthfield.org**

*Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor*

*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.