

# ✠ Christmas Family Vespers ✠

December 24, 2017—6 PM

PRELUDE: SPECIAL MUSIC — TIM ANDREWS, JOE CLINE, GREG STORAT  
CHOIR ANTHEM: “MANGER MEDLEY” — RUSSELL MAULDIN  
“CHRISTMAS ETUDE” — VIOLIN SOLO BY ABIGAIL DODD

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

God our creator, we praise you for this Christmas tree, gift of the earth and sign of your evergreen presence. As we illumine this tree, let your blessing come upon us. Send us your Son, the tender branch of Jesse, who brings us light and life. May we who stand in its light eagerly welcome the true Light that never fades. All glory be yours now and forever. **Amen.**

### HYMN #283 “OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

### THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.**

P: The Word became flesh and lived among, and we have seen his glory.

C: **Oh, come let us worship him.**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

C: **We have seen Christ’s glory, the glory as of a Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P: Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared.

C: **Glorify to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth!**

P: The LORD be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

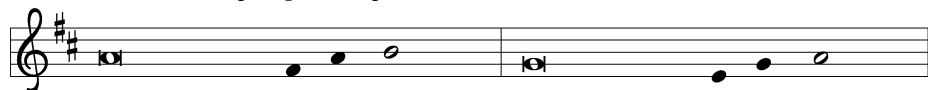
### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.**

### HYMN #282 “IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

### PSALM 96 *Sung responsively*

*LBW Tone 1*



- 1 Sing to the LORD | a new song;\*  
sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;\***  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory a- | mong the nations\*  
and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;\***  
**he is more to be feared | than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;\*  
but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.
- 6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!\***  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;\*  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- 8 **Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;\***  
**bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.**
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;\*  
let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!\***  
**He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;**  
**he will judge the peo- | ples with equity."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all | that is in it;\*  
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD | when he comes,\*  
when he comes to | judge the earth.**

### PSALM PRAYER

P: Let us pray...LORD Jesus, the incarnate Word, when you consented to dwell with us, the heavens were glad and the earth rejoiced. In hope and love we await your return. Help us to proclaim your glory to those who do not know you, until the whole earth sings a new song to you and the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7** *Silence follows the reading*

**RESPONSE: HYMN #254 "COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS"**

**READING: TITUS 2:11-14** *Silence follows the reading*

**RESPONSE: HYMN #275 "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"**

**READING: ST. LUKE 2:1-20** *Silence follows the reading*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

**RESPONSE: HYMN #276 "INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY"**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *Response* **"Hear our prayer."**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

### THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING – SPECIAL MUSIC – TIM ANDREWS, JOE CLINE,  
GREG STORAT**

### POSADA (INN) PROCESSION

P: During these past weeks we have been preparing to celebrate the LORD's coming. Today we know that he will come and in the morning we shall see his glory.

**Hymn #279 verse 1 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

*Joseph:* In the name of heaven, good friends give us a place to stay this night.

**Congregation: This is not an inn; keep going. We don't open to strangers.**

**Hymn #289 verse 1 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

*Joseph:* I am Joseph, the carpenter from Nazareth. Do not refuse us, that God may reward you.

**Congregation: We don't care who you are; let us sleep. We already told you we won't let you in.**

**Hymn #290 verse 1 "Go Tell It On the Mountain"**

*Joseph:* My beloved wife Mary can go no further. She is chosen by the Holy Spirit to bear God's Son.

**Congregation: Enter, holy pilgrims; you may use this poor place. Our houses and our hearts are open to you.**

**Hymn #296 verse 1 "What Child Is This"**

### BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

P: O LORD our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #277 "AWAY IN A MANGER"**

### PRAYER

P: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #267** "JOY TO THE WORLD"

POSTLUDE: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" – ROBERT LAU



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH  
5900 APPLEBUTTER HILL RD. COOPERSBURG, PA 18036  
THE REV. JAMES R. HAMMOND, PASTOR 610-437-1960

### LEADING OUR WORSHIP

**CELEBRANT** - The Rev. James Hammond  
**ORGANIST** - Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** - Maggie Fried  
**LECTOR/CANTOR** - Gwen Gibiser  
**GREETERS** - Sandy, Savannah, Sierra  
Giannattasio  
**USHERS** - Ron and Carol Stoudt  
**CHURCH COUNCIL REP-** Carol Stoudt

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped to decorate the church for the Christmas season.**

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**THANKS TO OUR INSTRUMENTALISTS AND MUSICIANS THIS EVENING.** Blue Church especially thanks our resident musician, Dr. Jennifer Dodd, Tim Andrews, Joe Cline, Greg Storat, Abigail Dodd, Tom Barnak, and our choir, for leading us in song and praise tonight and throughout the year. *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

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**Thanks to the following people who sponsored the poinsettia that adorn the altar area this Christmas:**

LAUREN OLESKOWITZ  
IRENE FREDERICK  
CAROL STOUTD  
LOIS & WARREN ADAMS  
SHERRY & PETER FARRELL  
JOYCE FULFORD  
PAULA & MIKE CLARK  
JOAN & GEORGE HOTTENSTEIN  
EMMETT & MARIE MILLER  
DEB & DEAN STOVER  
PASTOR JIM & JANET  
DICK & SUE STORAT  
GREG & WENDY STORAT  
ROGER & EDIE KNAPPENBERGER