

# The Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

Holy Communion ✘ December 24, 2017—9:00 PM

## PRELUDE - SPECIAL MUSIC

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-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### HYMN #283

*“OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”*

### GREETING

P: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### HYMN #289

*“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The LORD be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...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.**

### 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**

**FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7**

### HYMN #276

*“INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”*

**SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14**

### VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 2:1-20**

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

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

### THE SERMON

### HYMN #275

*“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”*

### THE PRAYERS

(Response: **“hear our prayer”**)

### THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God with us:

**C: 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.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary...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**—*prayed by the Pastor*

**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**

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

**THE HOLY COMMUNION HYMNS: #279, #296, #277, #270**

**BLESSING**

P: The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF HAND CANDLES**

*The pastor takes a large candle and lights it from the altar candle. The acolytes light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.** The choir anthem is sung while the candles are being lit.*

**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 1:1-5, 14**

**HYMN #281**

*"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"*

**PRAYER**

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #267**

*"JOY TO THE WORLD"*

**DISMISSAL**

A: Glory to God in the highest!  
**C: Peace to God's people on earth!**  
A: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE — "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" — ROBERT LAU**

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# St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, PA 18036  
The Rev. James Hammond, Pastor 610-437-1960 or 484-284-1168

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Celebrant:** The Rev. James Hammond  
**Organist:** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**Greeter:** Loraine Kline  
**Assisting Minister:** Amy Ortwein  
**Lector:** Amy Ortwein  
**Ushers:** Shirley Hildebrand  
**Church Council Rep:** Ron Fried

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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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**WORSHIP NEXT WEEKEND, CHRISTMAS 1:**  
**Sunday, December 31, 10:30 AM**  
**Infant Baptism**

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*May the twelve days of Christmas be a season of joy and renewal in spirit for you, and may the coming Epiphany of our Lord be a time when the radiance of Christ shines brightly upon our broken world as we await the promised return of our Savior Jesus Christ to redeem us all.*

**Blessed Christmas!**

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

LAUREN OLESKOWITZ  
IRENE FREDERICK  
CAROL STOUDT  
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