

# The Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

Holy Communion ✠ December 24, 2020—7:00 PM

## PRELUDE - SPECIAL MUSIC

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-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”*

### GREETING

P: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.  
God be with you.

**C: And also, with you.**

### 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

SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:1 1-14

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: “Your mercy is great”)*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The pastor offers the prayer.*

### 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**

### HOLY COMMUNION

#### 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"*

### BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

### HYMN #267

*"JOY TO THE WORLD"*

### DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

✠ ✠ ✠

*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!**



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048; e-mail:

[bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com)

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Celebrant:** The Rev. James Hammond  
**Organist:** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**Greeters:** Greg & Wendy Storat  
**Assisting Minister:** Maggie Fried  
**Lector:** Maggie Fried  
**Council Rep:** Greg Storat

### THANKS TO OUR INSTRUMENTALISTS AND MUSICIANS

**THIS EVENING.** Blue Church especially thanks our resident musician, Dr. Jennifer Dodd, and our choir, for leading us in song and praise throughout the year. *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

**PLEASE NOTE – NO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> WORSHIP. A Coronavirus break will be observed.**

**Merry Christmas to all and we will resume in-person Worship on 10:30 AM, January 3, 2021**

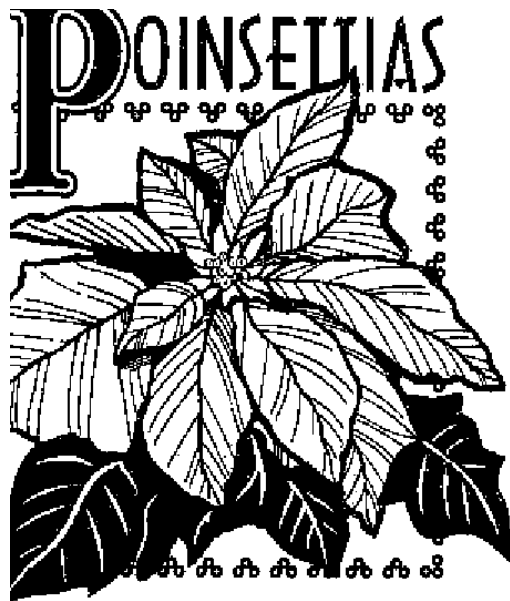
***BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!***

*We apologize for not getting our Christmas cards sent this year but due to the move to our new home on Monday, they are still packed somewhere in one of the boxes.  
Our new address is: 215 S. Muhlenberg St., Allentown, Pa 18104*

*Pastor Jim & Janet*

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

RON & CAROL STOUT  
DEAN & DEB STOVER  
ROGER & EDIE KNAPPENBERGER  
KEN & AMY ORTWEIN  
GREG & WENDY STORAT  
PASTOR JIM & JANET HAMMOND  
PAUL & KAREN KELLY



## **LESSONS**

### **Isaiah 9:2-7 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

<sup>2</sup> \*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **Titus 2:11-14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing  
salvation to all,<sup>\*</sup> <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and  
worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives  
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we  
wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the  
glory of our great God and Savior,<sup>\*</sup> Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it  
is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us  
from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his  
own who are zealous for good deeds.

### **Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) - Gospel**

<sup>2</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor  
Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This  
was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius  
was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to  
be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of  
Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called  
Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house  
and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with  
Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting  
a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her  
to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn  
son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in  
a manger, because there was no place for them in the  
inn.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the  
fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an  
angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of  
the Lord shone around them, and they were  
terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be  
afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great  
joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the  
city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>\*</sup> the

Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church  
Prayers ✠ Nativity of Our Lord ✠  
December 24, 2020

A: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding,  
**"Your mercy is great."**

*A brief silence*

A: The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

*A brief silence*

A: Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush

of a world at rest. May our wonder at our creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Today we pray especially for: Bill, Ron, Shirley, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Dean, Kevin, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

**Pastor: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

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