

# The Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

Holy Communion ✠ December 24, 2021—7:00 PM

**PRELUDES** - AWAY IN A MANGER  
- IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

**TIM ANDREWS AND GREG STORAT**

✠ ✠ ✠  
-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.**

## GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

**HYMN #283** "OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 2:11-14

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

**ANTHEM — GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN REJOICE**

**HYMN #279** "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

**THE PRAYERS** (Response: "receive our prayer")

**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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## WORSHIP LEADERS

<b>Celebrant:</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>Organist:</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>Greeters:</b>	Greg & Wendy Storat
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>Lector:</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>Council Rep:</b>	Ron Fried

## THANKS TO OUR INSTRUMENTALISTS AND MUSICIANS

**THIS EVENING.** Blue Church especially thanks Tim Andrews, Greg Storat, our resident musician, Dr. Jennifer Dodd, and our choir, for leading us in song and praise throughout the year.

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

## **"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"**

Christmas holds the mystery  
Of how God touched the earth  
By giving us the Christ child  
In a newborn baby's birth.

Great awe was in young Mary's heart,  
And in the shepherds' pace  
As they ran quickly to the town  
And found that special place.

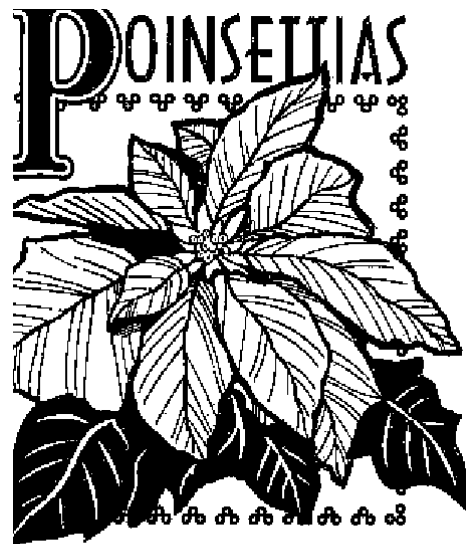
These humble shepherds knelt before  
This tiny newborn king;  
And as they did so, they could hear  
The lovely angels sing:

"Fear not, for unto you this day,  
The Prince of Peace has come  
To share God's love throughout the world.  
Rejoice now, everyone!"

Peggy Ferrell

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

ROGER & EDIE KNAPPENBERGER  
RON & CAROL STOUT  
SHERRY FARRELL  
JOYCE FULFORD  
MARCY SUMOSKI  
DEB & DEAN STOVER  
PASTOR JIM & JANET HAMMOND  
SHIRLEY HILDEBRAND  
IRENE FREDERICK  
PAULA & MIKE CLARK  
PAUL & KAREN KELLY  
WENDY STORAT



## 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.

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

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,\* <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 Saviour,\* 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,\* 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, 2021

A: Joining our voices with the song of the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,  
**"receive our prayer."**

*A brief silence*

A: Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

**"receive our prayer."**

*A brief silence*

A: Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and

sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

**"receive our prayer."**

A: Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

**"receive our prayer."**

A: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Tonight we pray especially for: Marie, Cyndi, Sandra, Irene, Gwen, Ann, Ray, Anita, Frank, Larry, Stephen, Glenn, Kathy, Brian, Ingrid, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Merciful God,

**"receive our prayer."**

A: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

**"receive our prayer."**

A: God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,

**"receive our prayer."**

**Pastor: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

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