

**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church**  
419 Bossardsville Road,  
Stroudsburg, PA

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Celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2025

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**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at [www.chrighthamilton.org](http://www.chrighthamilton.org). Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

Please know that **all are welcome** at Christ Hamilton! If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering. Please note there are also kids bags in the back for the children to utilize during the service. LARGE PRINT bulletins are available and hearing assisting devices, please ask an usher if you would like one.

**The service:** *In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**Altar flowers** are given in memory of George and Kathryn Kitchen, by George & Linda Kitchen.

## **PRELUDE**

Lena Gabrielle, soloist

*Please stand.*

## O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## **GREETING**

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

**All: And also with you.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE    Angels We Have Heard on High    LBW 71**

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain        Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
                  gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?    *Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.    *Refrain***

## **PRAYER**

Minister: 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.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**3:00 P.M.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

Reader: A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter:

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. 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.

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

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**HYMN**

*Hark the Herald, Angels Sing*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,**

**"Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."**

**Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

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

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN**

*Hark the Herald, Angels Sing*

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

*Please be seated.*

**MESSAGE**

*Please stand.*

# Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## **NICENE CREED**

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: 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

Assisting Minister: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all. Merciful God,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

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, so that they would nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

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,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

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,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

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.

**All: Amen.**

*The Peace is shared with one another.*

**PEACE**

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**3 PM OFFERING**

I Wonder as I Wander

Jeff Gilbert

**7 PM OFFERING**

Angels are Making their Rounds

Senior Choir

*Please stand.*

**OFFERTORY**

***What Child Is This***

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;**

**come, peasant, king, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings;**

**let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high,**

**the virgin sings her lullaby;**

**joy, joy, for Christ is born,**

**the babe, the son of Mary!**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . God with us:

**All: 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. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Minister: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Minister: Let us pray together with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

**All: 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**

### **Communion**

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.*

*Please come forward by way of the right hand aisle, receive the bread and wine, and return by way of the left hand aisle. If you are unable to take communion at the front, let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.*

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

# The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

## *Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

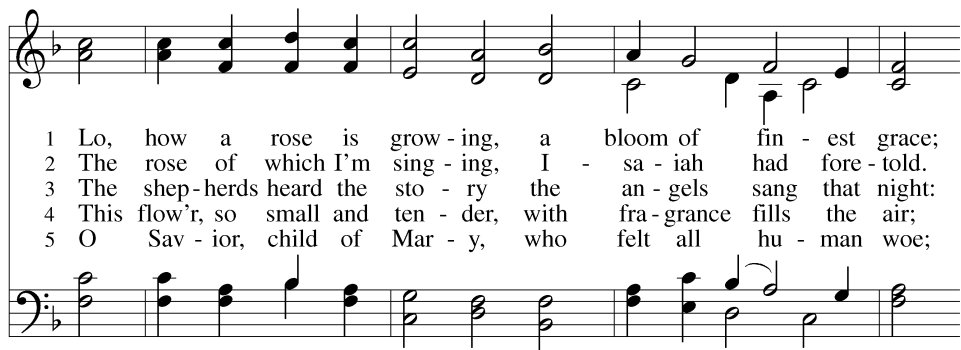
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

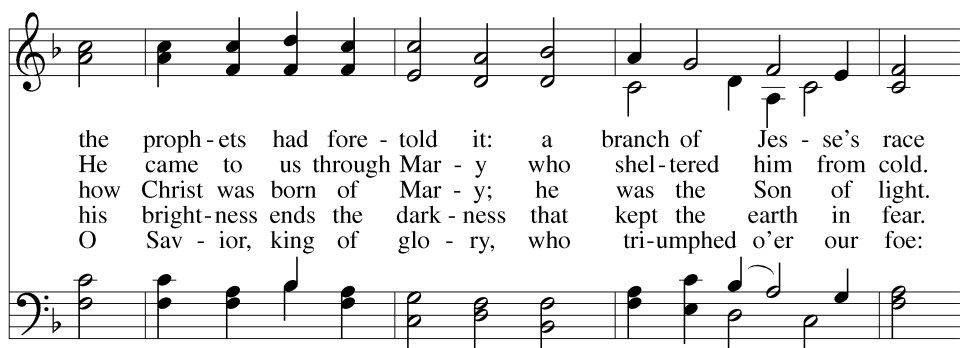
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

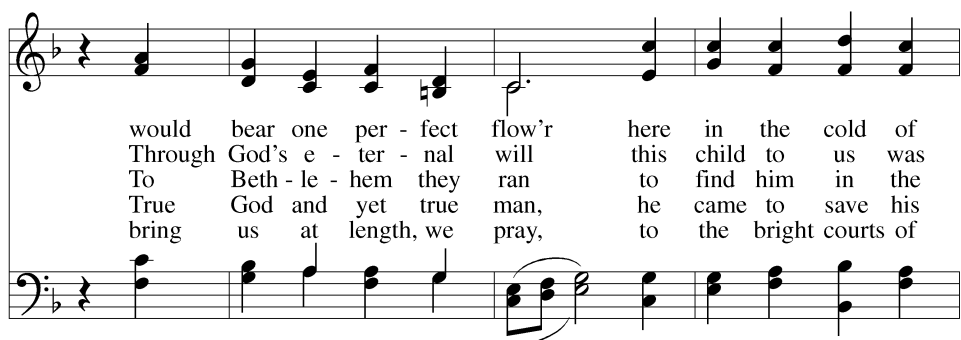
# Lo, How a Rose Is Growing



1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of fin - est grace;  
 2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.  
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry the an - gels sang that night:  
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, with fra - grance fills the air;  
 5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt all hu - man woe;



the proph - ets had fore - told it: a branch of Jes - se's race  
 He came to us through Mar - y who shel - tered him from cold.  
 how Christ was born of Mar - y; he was the Son of light.  
 his bright - ness ends the dark - ness that kept the earth in fear.  
 O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who tri - umphed o'er our foe:



would bear one per - fect flow'r here in the cold of  
 Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to us was  
 To Beth - le - hem they ran to find him in the  
 True God and yet true man, he came to save his  
 bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of



win - ter and dark - est mid - night hour.  
 giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
 man - ger as an - gel her - ald sang.  
 peo - ple from earth's dark night of sin.  
 heav - en and in - to end - less day.

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



# What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



*The assembly can remain seated.*

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Merciful God, renew us by your  
Holy Spirit, poured out richly in this meal, and renew all of  
creation with your loving kindness until all the ends of the  
earth rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ the  
Word made flesh.

**All: Amen.**

*The lights are all turned off.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

O Holy Night

Natalie Gilbert

**CANDLE LIGHTING** – *As the candles begin to be lit – please stand.  
Please tip your unlit candle to receive the light of a candle that is  
already lit. Please do not tip the candles which have already been lit.*

**READING**

**John 1:1-5, 16**

Minister: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with  
God. All things came into being through him, and without  
him not one thing came into being. What has come into being  
in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Assisting Minister: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness  
did not overcome it.

Minister: And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only  
son, full of grace and truth.

Assisting Minister: And from his fullness we have all received, grace  
upon grace.

# Silent Night, Holy Night!

## *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## **BLESSING**

Minister: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into  
new and abundant life.

**All: Amen.**

Minister: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you  
with love and strength.

**All: Amen.**

Minister: May the Word proclaimed in song bring harmony  
to our world.

**All: Amen.**

Minister: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +  
Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain  
with you always.

**All: Amen.**

*As the lights come on, please extinguish your candles.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister: Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

**All: Let earth receive her King!**

*Upon exiting place your candles in the basket in the back or with an  
usher.*

## **POSTLUDE**

\*\*\* Offering envelopes for 2026 can be found in the Lighthouse Lobby.

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## *Soli Deo Gloria*



*We thank all of those who shared the gift of music  
with us for our services.*

*Lena Gabrielle, soloist*

*Jeff Gilbert - I Wonder as I Wander*

*Natalie Gilbert - O Holy Night*

*Organist: Beth McElroy*

*Accompanist & Children's choir: Gail Derrer*

*Choir Director: Tassy Gilbert*

*Christ Hamilton Senior Choir*

### **Worship leaders 3 p.m.**

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb  
Organist: Beth McElroy  
Reader: Emil Suarez  
Assisting Minister: Janet Catina  
Greeters: Emil and Kathy Suarez, Laura Young  
Accompanist & Children's choir: Gail Derrer  
Choir Director: Tassy Gilbert  
Announcements: Amanda Balas, Office Administrator  
Videographer: Joey Marshall

### **Worship leaders 7 p.m.**

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb  
Organist: Beth McElroy  
Reader: Beth Ross  
Assisting Minister: Tassy Gilbert  
Greeters: Beth Ross, Brian Powers and April Gaugler  
Accompanist: Gail Derrer  
Choir Director: Tassy Gilbert  
Announcements: Amanda Balas, Office Administrator  
Videographer: Joey Marshall

*Glory To God In The Highest!*



*May the Choirs of Angels Fill You with  
Wonder and Song.*

*May the Birth of Christ Bring You Hope And Joy.*

*And May your Lives Always Be Different  
because God loved you enough to give you His only Son!*

*We thank you for the ministry we share as we celebrate  
the birth of the Word of God made Flesh.*

*--- The Staff of Christ Hamilton ---*