



Jesus
increased
in wisdom and
in years

LUKE 2:52



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

500 West Le Claire Road Eldridge, Iowa
Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

The First Sunday of Christmas
Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29, 2024

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

Prelude

"Good King Wenceslas"
"Sing We Now of Christmas"
"The Holly and the Ivy"

Resounding Joy
Resounding Joy
Susan Becker, piano

Welcome / Announcements

Congregational Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW #283

Promises Made

A reading from Isaiah 11:1-9

- A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
- ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.
- ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Musical Selection

"A Shoot Shall Come Forth"

Neal and Susan Becker,
vocal duet

Promises Kept

A reading from Isaiah 60:1-5

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

Congregational Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

Offering Invitation

God is all about abundance...love that never wavers...mercy that never fails. Let us offer our gifts generously, and in abundant love, as a thanksgiving to God.

Musical Selection

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen" Neal Becker, euphonium

Offering Prayer

Christ came to us! Our hearts are full and our joy is boundless. May this offering be a

living message of peace, love, joy, and hope to this church, this community, this nation, and this world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Parents, Mary and Joseph

A reading from Luke 1:26-35

²⁶ God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God.

Congregational Carol

"The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"

ELW #265

The Birthplace

A reading from Luke 2:1-7

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Musical Selection

"What Child is This?"

Neal and Susan Becker,
piano and guitar

The Angels

A reading from Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone

around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Congregational Carol

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

ELW #270

The Shepherds

A reading from Luke 2:15-16

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Congregational Carol

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

ELW #290

The Holy Child is Named

A reading from Luke 2:17-21

¹⁷ When the shepherds had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Musical Selection

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Resounding Joy

The Magi

A reading from Matthew 2:1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he

had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel. '[b]'"

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Congregational Carol

"The First Noel"

ELW #300

Benediction

Proclaim the good news. **Amen!**

The Word of God dwells among us. **Amen!**

The Light of God shines in the world. **Amen!**

Celebrate the hope and promise of this day. **Amen!**

Go with God's peace in your hearts. **Amen!**

Congregational Carol

"Joy to the World"

ELW #267

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

Neal Becker, euphonium

Wandering Away

Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). Such bold questions for a tween Jesus to press upon his worried parents! Clearly Mary and Joseph face some significant challenges as they sort out how to parent the Son of God.

If you were to wander away from your travel companions in an unfamiliar city, where would they find you? Might you duck away in search of a bookstore or a café or a particular type of museum? Would you gravitate toward a public park or cathedral or riverbank? Might you return to your room for a nap?

We can question the wisdom of wandering away from one's group without giving notice. But perhaps we can also empathize with Jesus' desire to meet his spiritual needs, and with the attraction of a place his spirit feels most at home. He takes himself somewhere he can draw close to God.

We also might identify for ourselves those times and places our spirits feel most at home, the practices in which we draw close to God in unique and personal ways. We can do this alone or with others. We can do this in explicitly sacred spaces; often, we find what we need in communal worship, shared ritual, and the study of scripture. We may also crave nourishment from art, nature, literature, music, rest, creative outlets, silence, movement, meditation, tears, and laughter . . . so many things.

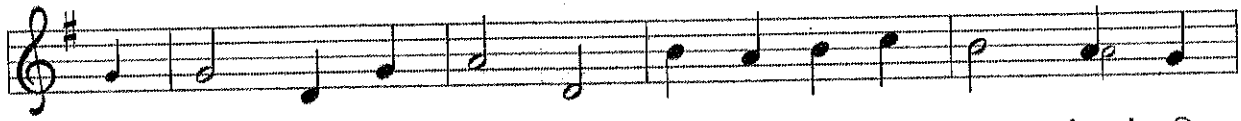
Throughout his adult life, Jesus will regularly separate himself from groups to rest and pray because these things refresh his soul. What places and practices renew your spirit? How can you create the space you need for such prayer, reflection, and rest? How can you become as attuned to the needs of your inner life as Jesus was to his?



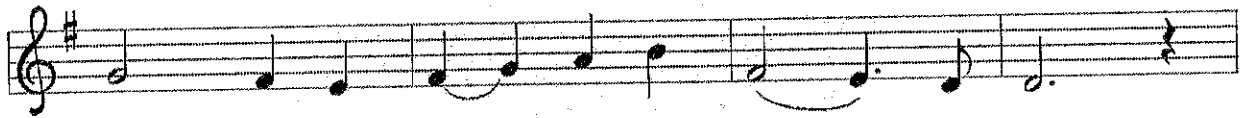
LESSONS
& CAROLS

SONGBOOK
2024

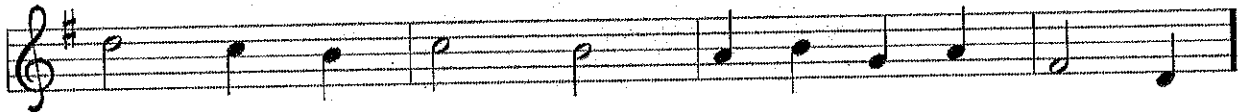
O, Come, All Ye Faithful



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;

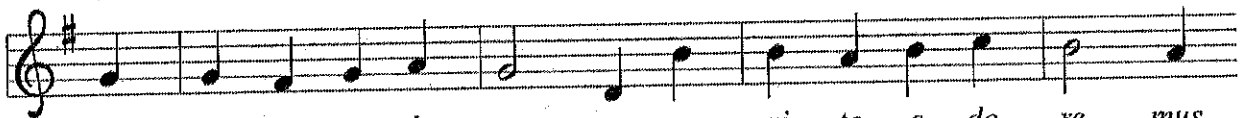


come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

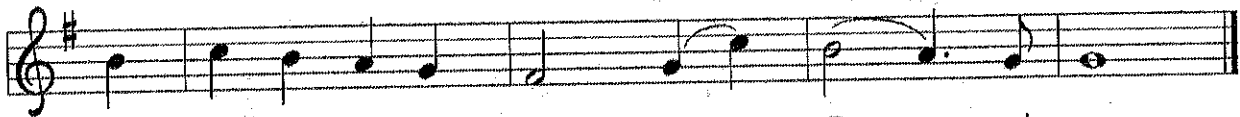


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



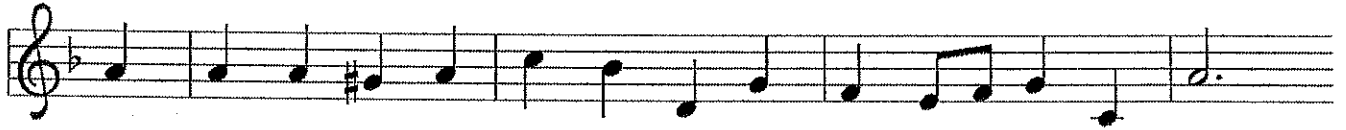
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



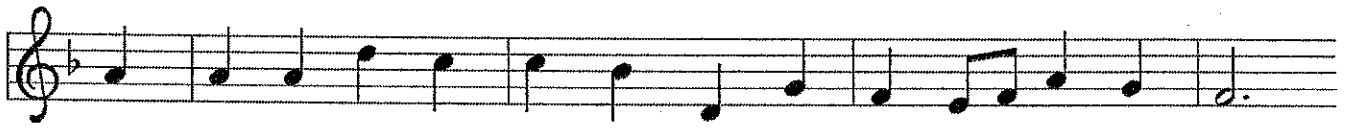
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

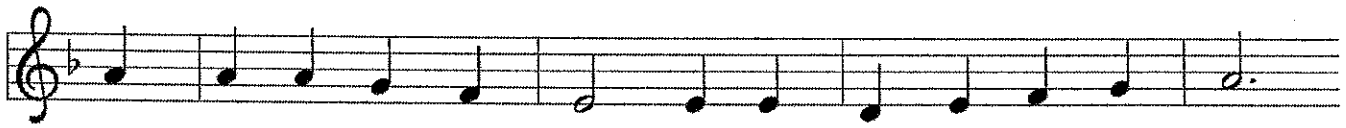
O Little Town of Bethlehem



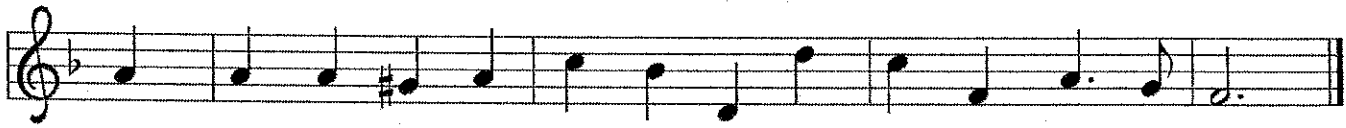
O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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;

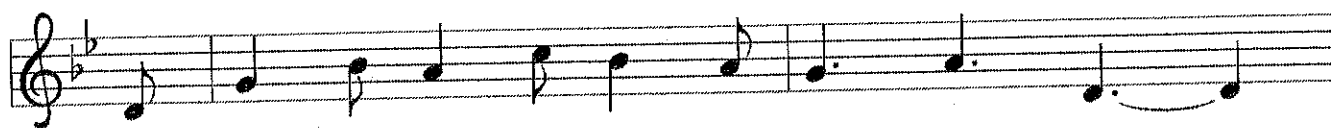


The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

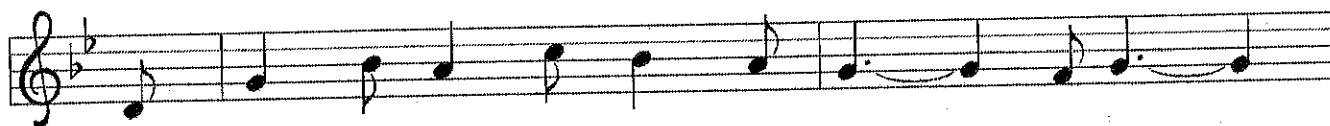
Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



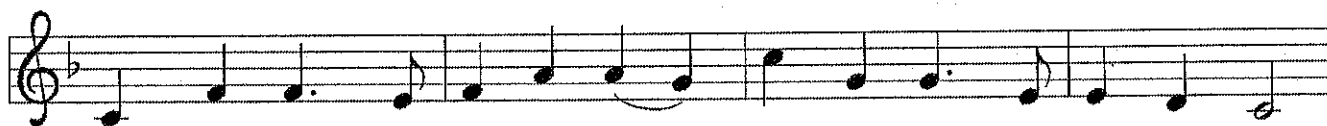
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



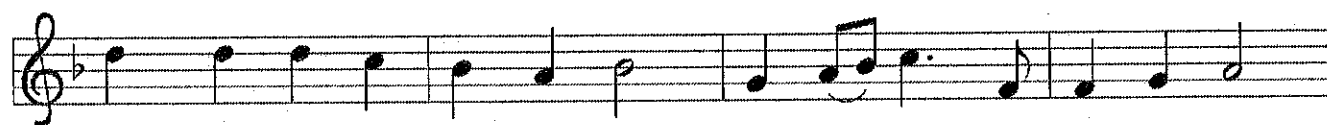
- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



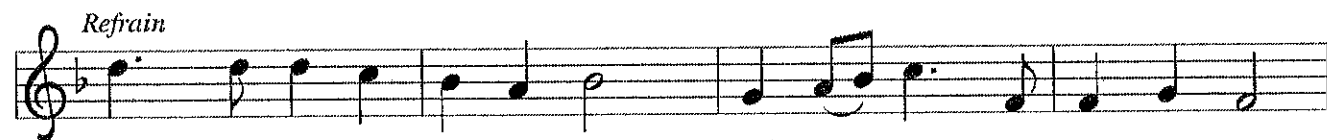
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



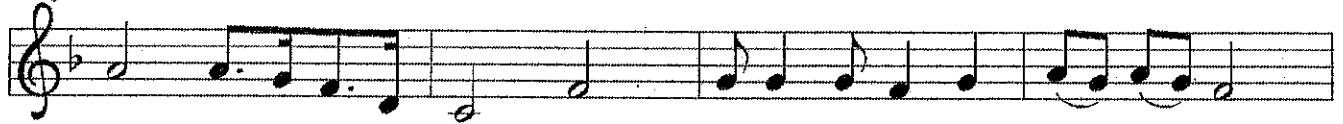
Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



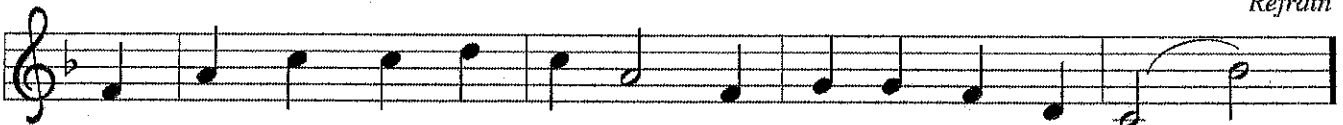
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



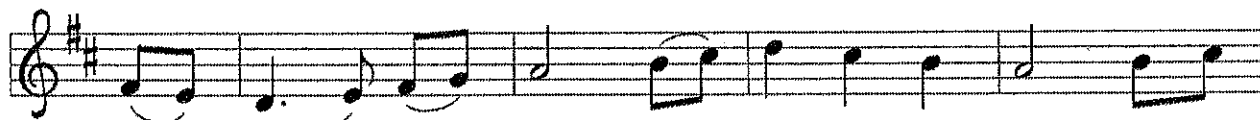
Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

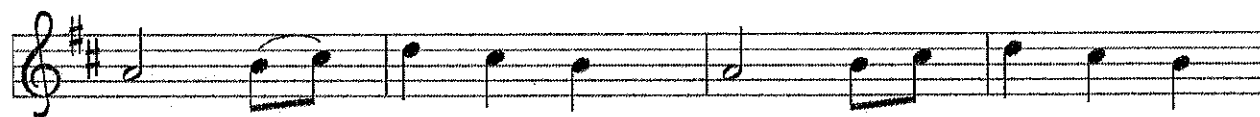
The First Noel



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 . .

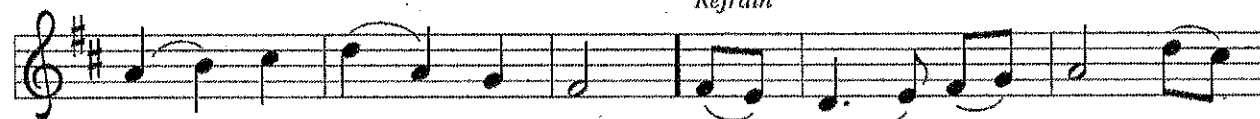


cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

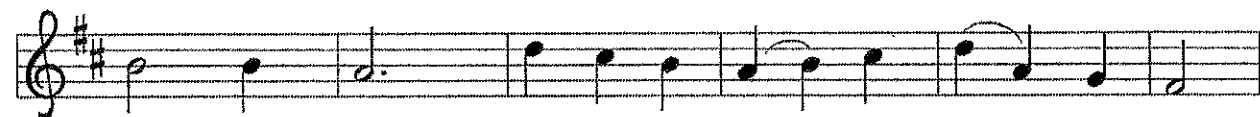


they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

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.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest
Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am
Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



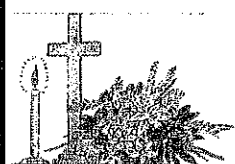
GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

The First Sunday of Christmas
December 28 & 29, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Altar Flowers

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheranelldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ann Kuehl	Carolyn Dannatt	Kelly
Kathy Stoltz	Judy Koehler	Tim
Steve Mixdorf	Brianne Tallyn	Joyce
Henry Storjohann	Ed Stoltz	James
Dan Anderson	Kim Pierce	
Jim Schneider	Barb Conklen	
Gary Oerman	Marilyn	



End -of-Year Giving

Regarding the deadline for offerings received in the church office for 2024

As the bank closes early on Tuesday, December 31st, all 2024 offerings must be received in the church office by 10:00 am on Tuesday morning, the 31st. This will provide the offering counters ample time to process and make the deposit prior to the bank closing. All offerings received after this deadline will be processed in 2025.

WINTER RALLY DAY celebration

Get ready for some camp fun! On the weekend of **January 4 and 5**, a representative from Lutheran Lakeside Camp will be here to bring greetings from our favorite summer getaway. The rep will be present during the worship on Saturday and Sunday to share a children's message. On Sunday, the rep also will join us during the Congregational Breakfast to give the children a mini-camp experience full of fun, games, and camp songs to get them excited for camp this summer. You will not want to miss this weekend as we prepare for "The Best Week Ever".



Join us on Sunday, January 5, for our monthly congregational breakfast following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.



Our Christmas special offering will go to the ELCA Disaster Response where needed most. Council chose ELCA Disaster Response because 100% of your money given goes to the disaster and ELCA provides longtime support after the disaster has occurred.



The **2025 Offering Envelopes** are now available. They are on the Welcome Center counter for you to pick up. Please contact Rhonda Webber if you have not had envelopes before, but would like some for the new year.

December 21 & 22: 5:00 pm: 40, 9:00 am: 66, Online: 26, Total: 132

December 24: 2:00 pm 112: , 4:00 pm 166; Online 4:00 pm: 64
9:00 pm: 127, Online 9:00 pm: 42, Total: 511





Christmas Worship Opportunities

This weekend we hold the service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. Join us as we hear the story of Jesus from the prophets to the coming of the wise men and sing many of our favorite Christmas carols.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with you this Christmas season.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Mark & Chris Copley
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Joni & Addy DeMoss
Counters	Ken & Sue Oetzmann

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowski and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golvinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich



THIS WEEK'S GLANCE

Saturday, December 28

Noisy Offering Weekend

5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, December 29

Noisy Offering Weekend

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Fellowship

Monday, December 30

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 31

Office Open 9-12

Wednesday, January 1

Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

Office Open 9-12

Friday, January 3

Office Open 9-12

9:00 am Food Pantry

Saturday, January 4

5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, January 5

Winer Rally Day

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Congregational Breakfast and Rally Day
with Lutheran Lakeside



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office at (563) 285-4501. **For after-hour emergencies**, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.

