CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

A Service of Word, Sacrament, and Candle Lighting



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 85 E. Brandt Boulevard Landisville, PA 17538

Connecting with God; Connecting with others; Connecting others with God

GENERAL INFORMATION

WELCOME TO ZION! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us in-person or online on this Christmas Eve! For in-person worshippers, all words and parts of the service will be projected on the screen in the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer a printed bulletin, they are available on the table in the Narthex by the entrance to the Sanctuary.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION

IN-PERSON: All are invited to join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

ONLINE: Worship services are live-streamed on the church YouTube channel: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live. If you are unable or prefer not to watch during the live-stream, the recording is available to view any time after the service concludes.

FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON

- **Mask wearing** is optional for all who attend or participate in indoor gatherings, including worship, at the church.
- **Communion** is distributed in continuous fashion or you may take one of the communion kits at the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer to commune at your seat.
- * Restrooms are available by the front entrance of the church in the Narthex and in the hallway off the back door. Infant changing tables can be found in the women's and men's bathrooms in the hallway off the back door.
- **Children** are welcome to be active participants in the worship service. There are bags located at the back of the sanctuary with quiet worship activities and goodies to take home. Currently, nursery care is not available but you may use the Parlor as a <u>cry room</u> while also still being able to listen to the service.
- **Ushers** are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating and to the offering plates.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2022 A Service of Word, Sacrament, and Candle Lighting 7:00 PM

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister R: Reader C: Congregation (bolded)

CHRISTMAS EVE INTRODUCTION

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.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Sussex Carol

M. Hayes John Landis, piano

Prelude on "Greensleeves"

R. Purvis

John Landis, organ

Joy to the World

arr. by M. Hayes Lisa Nelson, piano

Still, Still, Still

arr. by M. Hayes

Lisa Nelson & John Landis (piano duet)

Improvisation on "Adeste Fideles"

M. Dupre

John Landis, organ

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Sung by John Marrs

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, welcome to worship on this twenty-fourth day of December 2022, the eve of the birth of our hope ... the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father.

It is on this night that we worship the Father who reveals a Savior to us; the Spirit who fills us with life and leads us to joy; and the Son who came into this world as a baby.

Let us rejoice and be glad as we, in the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, worship, adore, and celebrate the birth of the King of kings, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

Please stand, if you are able, and turn to face the cross as it enters our midst on this glorious night of nights.

† THE GATHERING †

PROCESSIONAL HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

- O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
- 2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;Glory to God, glory in the highest;O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
- 3. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing,O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
- 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Chase and Hannah Pipkin

R: The waiting is over! Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Good Shepherd, the son of Mary, the son of David, and the very son of God is born. As we light the Christ Candle tonight, may we celebrate with full joy his coming among us. Amen.

Light first, second, third, and fourth candles, the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. Then light the Christ candle.

We honor Lord Jesus with the Christ candle flame, Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim. O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night, As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

PRAYER OF THE NIGHT

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.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

- Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 new-born king!"
- 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, off-spring 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 new-born king!
- 3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!

 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

 Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

Please be seated

† THE WORD †

READING Isaiah 9:2-7

A: A reading from Isaiah.

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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S CHAT

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

P. Williams/D. Lantz, III

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Shepherds Rejoice

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: 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, "Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory be to God on high! And on earth be peace to the people in whom God is well pleased." 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL HYMN

The First Noel

ELW 300

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

A CHRISTMAS SERMON

Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown



The "brain science" of Christmas

*The purpose of fear

*Survival brain, connecting brain, decision-making, meaning and purpose brain



Caesar Augustus

The
titles
conferred
upon
Octavian
(aka Caesar Augustus)
and why Rome proclaimed
his empire
was

"good news"...



The
titles
conferred
upon
the
Child
and
why his birth
was proclaimed
as Good News...



- Savior of the world
- King of kings
- Son of God
- Son of David
 - Messiah

The Baby in the Manger brings us to...

- Ultimate Trust
 - Ultimate
 Connection
 - Ultimate Joy



Please stand if you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev-'ry-where; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev-'ry-where; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev-'ry-where; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.



Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev-'ry-where; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

NICENE CREED

P: Let us profess our faith together.

C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

A: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace, hear our prayer.

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. Amen.

† THE MEAL †

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: In the spirit of Christmas and in love, may the peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING SONG

What Child Is This

ELW 296

3. 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 son on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"

- P: May the good Lord be with you. Lift your hearts to God in praise.
- C: May the Lord be with you too. To the Lord our hearts we raise. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO; GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

In the Word of God made flesh, great and wondrous mystery. Now we see with vision fresh, God's abundant majesty. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO; GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

Therefore with the church on earth, and the hosts of heav'n above, Let us praise his name whose birth brings to us eternal love. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO; GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.

- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: We pray together.
- C: 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 COMMUNION

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. You may commune in your pew with one of the individually packaged kits or you may commune by coming forward to receive the elements in continuous fashion. Those who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament may come forward and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the pastor will come to you.

FOR THOSE COMMUNING WITH THE KITS

Open the wafer packet.

P: The body of Christ given for you.

C: Amen.

Open the cup.

P: The blood of Christ shed for you.

C: Amen.

Please place communion cups & wrappers in the trash can as you exit the Sanctuary.

FOR THOSE COMMUNING BY COMING FORWARD

For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When given the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: "Amen."

AFTER COMMUNING

Please use this time for quiet reflection until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seat. Please fill out the green communion record card in your bulletin and put in the offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary at the end of the service

Please stand if you are able.

COMMMUNION HYMNS

You are encouraged to join in singing during the distribution of communion.

Mary Did You Know C. Paternoster, drum set

1. Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

2. Mary did you know, that your ancient words
Would still leap off our pages?
Mary did you know, that your spirit song
Would echo through the ages?
Did you know that your holy cry
Would be subversive word,
That the tyrants would be trembling
When they know your truth is heard?

Bridge

The truth will teach, the drum will sound, healing for the pain The poor will rise, the rich will fall. Hope will live again.



4. Mary did you know, that we hear your voice
For the healing of the nations?
Mary did you know, your unsettling cry
Can help renew creation?
Do you know, that we need your faith, the confidence of you,
May the God that you believe in, be so true.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

- It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 From heaven's all-gracious king."
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.
- 4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
 When with the ever-circling years
 Shall come the time foretold,
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendors fling,
 And all the world give back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

- Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow,
 And he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever. Christ is born for this! Christ is born for this!
- 3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

 Now ye need not fear the grace;

 Jesus Christ was born to save!

 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.

 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Please stand if you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

ANTHEM

A Christmas Blessing

P. Stewart/L. Larson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: A light no darkness can overcome.

As the candles are lit, the overhead lighting within the church will gradually dim. "Silent Night, Holy Night" will be sung during the candle lighting.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

- Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly host sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
 Radiant beams from your holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at your birth; Jesus Lord, at your birth.

At the conclusion of the hymn, please extinguish your candle. The overhead lights will be turned back on.

† THE SENDING †

BLESSING

P: God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please stand if you are able.

RECESSIONAL

Joy to the World

ELW 267

1. Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rock, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessing flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God.



JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING AT 9:00 A.M.



MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers Members of the Congregation Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown **Pastor** Music Director John Landis Parish Administrator Anne Rankin Worship Technology Assistant David Albin Diane Gerlach Lay Ministry Assistant Council President Adele King Council Vice President Dave Dumeyer Sextons Brian Bourassa (a.m.) Tom Miller (p.m.)

Assisting Minister

WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Worship Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship December 24 @ 7 p.m. Livestream & Recorded Link http://bit.ly/Zion Live Sunday Scholars Class (Parlor) Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. Wired Word Class (Zone) Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266

Brenda Stover

Note: There will be no Sunday School on 12/25 or 1/1.

Bible Study (Parlor) Tuesdays @ 9 a.m.

Note: There will be no Bible Study on 12/27.

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