# Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA Christmas Eve December 24, 2023 3:30 and 7 p.m.

#### Welcome notes:

Welcome! We're glad you are joining us for worship on this joyful evening!

Bags are available for children at both services: they contain activity sheets and a ribbon and bell wand that will be used in the service.

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude

**3:30 p.m.** Wayne Trump, Sr. Baritone selection **7:00 p.m.** Sinclaire Trump, Violin selection

Please stand.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Pastor: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! We gather on this night of the dear Savior's birth, in the name of the holy Trinity, one God, maker of all things, + Our Lord Immanuel, giver of life.

## All: Amen.

Pastor: Long lay the world in sin and ever pining. Naming our part in the world's brokenness, we confess our sin and sorrow. *Silence for reflection*.

Pastor: Son of God, love's pure light, forgive us for the things we have done: the grudges we have held, the gifts we have hoarded, the harsh words we have spoken, the resources we have wasted, the divisions we have hardened.

# All: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

Pastor: Son of God, love's pure light, forgive us for the things we have left undone: the needs we have turned away from, the justice we have failed to speak out for, the forgiveness we have refused to extend, the prayer we have neglected to offer, the opportunities to show love we have missed.

# All: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

Pastor: Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Your sins are forgiven, you are reconciled with God. Christ was born for this!

All: Amen.

Children are invited to bring their ribbon wands and join Pastor Sigrid in the back of the sanctuary to process in as we sing the Gathering Hymn.

# Gathering Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Verses 1, 3



## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all. **All: And also with you.** 

Pastor: 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.

#### Anthem

7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir

"Jesus Christ is Born Today"

## Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

<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.

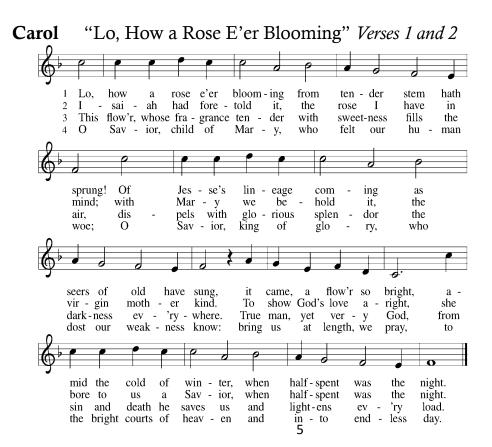
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<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 Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This 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.

# Prayer for the Holy Land



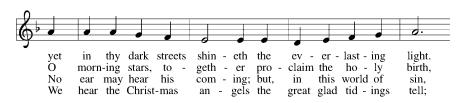
## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁶And 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.

# Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Verses 1, 4









## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14

<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!"

Children are invited to jingle the bells on their wands as we sing the word "Gloria."

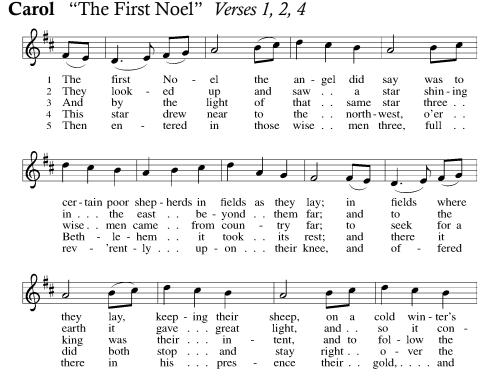




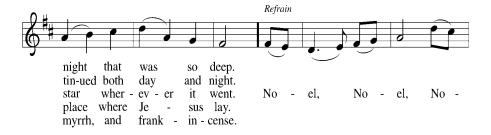
## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:15-20

<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.

Children are invited to jingle the bells on their wands each time we sing "Noel."



Continued >>>





#### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Please stand.

Carol

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Verses 1, 2, 4



- 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,
- be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
- The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old, lo!

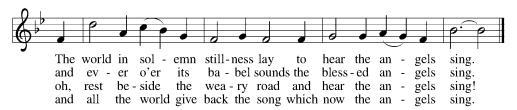


from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

#### Continued >>>



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,



#### Please be seated.

#### **Nicene Creed**

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; 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 worshiped 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.

# **Prayers of Intercession**

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

Please stand.

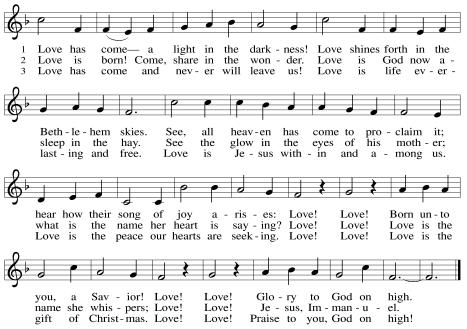
## **Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.** (Please feel free to move around and share the peace of Christ with each other with a sign, handshake, or hug.)

Children are invited to jingle the bells on their wands each time we sing "love."

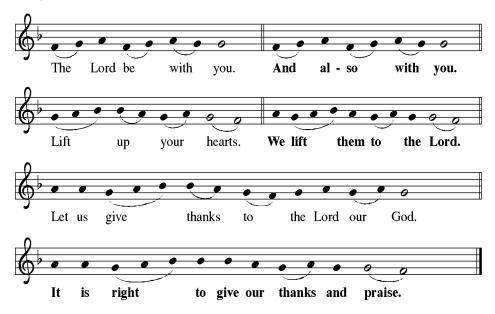
Offering Response "Love Has Come"



## **Offertory Prayer**

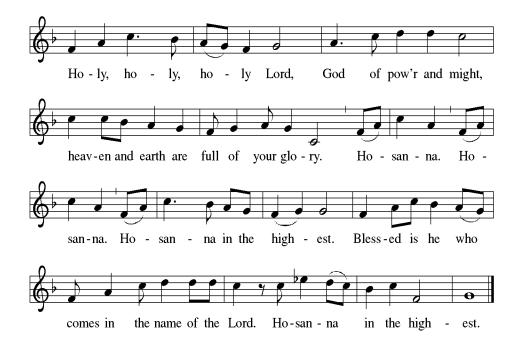
Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Our Lord Immanuel, receive and bless the gifts we have offered, signs of your goodness. As you gather us here at this table of celebration, we thank you for the wonders of your love, given for us in the bread and wine, your body and blood. Nourish us with this meal of grace, that our lives might shine with your everlasting light. **All: Amen.** 

# **Dialog**



### **Preface**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

Pastor: Holy God, angels from the realms of glory once sang creation's story as you brought life into being. Prophets rang out your word when from sin grew injustice, and people turned from you. In the fullness of time, choirs of angels sang in exultation as Jesus, the highest, most holy, light of light eternal, Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing, was born of Mary. Mild, he lay his glory by, born that we no more may die, but may live as your daughters and sons.

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.

With all creation, we await the days, 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.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us. Come to us, abide with us. Gladden our hearts with tidings of comfort and joy as we share this holy meal. All praise and glory to you, eternal God, Word made flesh, lifegiving Spirit, one God, now and forever. All: Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor: O come, all ye faithful! Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, is the host of this meal. Whether you are joyful tonight or weary, whether you have been here often or not for a while, the table is set and there is a place for you. Come, let us adore him, and receive with open hands and hearts this dearest gift.

#### Please be seated.

Jesus invites you to his feast! Come forward, as you are able, to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. (If you need to receive communion in your pew, you can alert us by holding up your hand after the line has gone through,

and we will be glad to come to you.). Please pick up a candle on the way back to your seat after taking communion. If someone sitting near you is not coming forward for communion, please take a candle for him or her.

# **Communion Hymns:** "Away in a Manger" and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"



- 1 A way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit tle Lord
- 2 The cat tle are low-ing; the ba by a wakes, but lit tle Lord
- 3 Be near me, Lord Je sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

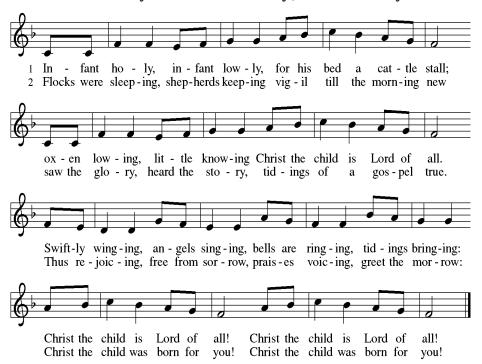


Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh. your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

## Communion Hymn: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"



When all have communed, please stand.

## **Blessing after Communion**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **All: Amen.** 

# **Post-Communion Prayer**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Joy to the world! You, Lord, have come to us in this meal and fed us with gifts of grace, truth, and life. Heaven and nature sing of the wonders of your love. Send us from this table to share the good news of great joy for all people.

All: Amen.

## **Blessing**

Pastor: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever. All: Amen.

# Candle Lighting and Carol "Silent Night"

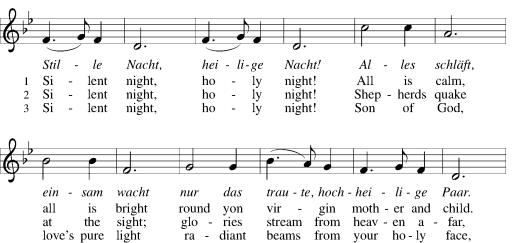
**3:30 p.m.** Sinclaire Trump, Violin accompaniment

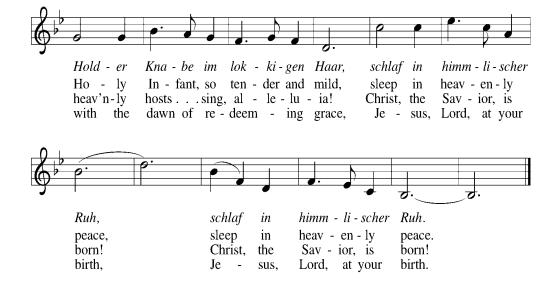
**7:00 p.m.** Michele Becker, Song Leader

**3:30 p.m.**: On the first verse, turn on your candles by twisting the bulb. On the last verse, raise the candles high.

7:00 p.m.: (weather permitting!) Please take your coat, bulletin, and candle and proceed immediately out the back of the sanctuary to the portico and lawn. We will sing "Silent Night" outside, near the nativity scene. Chairs are available on the porch for anyone who might have trouble standing.

After the hymn is finished, please return your candles to the appropriate bins provided.





Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude (3:30 only)

**WELCOME TO PARADISE!** On this holy night, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, the Light of the world. We give thanks for each person celebrating with us here. We hope you find joy and comfort in our worship service.

**OFFERING PLATES** are located at the entrances. Please put your offering in the plate before worship begins, as we will be bringing the offering forward to the altar during worship. If you forget, don't worry, a plate will be at the back at the end of worship.

**COMMUNION:** All the baptized are invited to receive Holy Communion. If we are communing by intinction, you will receive a wafer, which you can then dip in the wine. If we are communing with bread, you will receive a piece of bread from the pastor. Then proceed to pick up a cup, which a server will fill with wine. **Gluten-free wafers are always available from the pastor's communion station.** 

ATTENTION: 3:30 service attenders only – please return your bulletin to the lectern in the narthex for use by the 7 p.m. worshippers! Thank you.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by an anonymous donor.

THE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT is given to the Glory of God by Joan Huffman and family in memory of Rowlen Huffman.

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God by Doug and Stacy White.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped make the church beautiful for our Christmas celebration! And a special thank-you to Shirley Trimmer for coordinating the decorating, including gathering the mountain laurel to adorn the star. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

## **DEADLINE FOR 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS is** <u>December 29.</u>

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE** rehearsal will be held at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 31. The group will play at worship at ONE SERVICE at 9 a.m. that day! Always a bonus! THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed through <u>January 2</u>. Fear not, we will check the mailbox and answering machine.

**WEBSITE:** The church's website for **December** is sponsored by **Justice White. Next available date to sponsor: February 2025.** All months of 2024 are sponsored!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR** from the staff— Pastor Hipkiss, Julie, Kris, Allison, and Vix!



## Christmas 2023 donations

# Harvest of Hope Food Pantry

Angie and Nathan Cheek

In honor of Roy and Donna Shaffer and Betty Cheek
In memory of Pat and Ethel Shaffer; Alma Stahl; John and
Loretta Yohe; Lettie and Worth Howell; Wallace and Ella
Mae Cheek; Clyde Cheek; and Jim Linebaugh

#### Dick and Darlene Sanders

In memory of parents Pat and Ethel Shaffer and Charles and Thelma Sanders

# Rick and Joyce Hoff

In memory of Ruth and John Hoff

#### Chris and Travis Sherman

In honor of Roy and Donna Shaffer In honor of Carol Sherman In honor of the Shaffer and Sherman families

#### Doug and Kris Gabel

In honor of McKenna, Caleb, Jackson, Ellie, and Theo

#### **Endowment Fund**

Andrew and Julie Maher

In honor of Elliott, Cody, Maverick, Joel, Aubrie, Jensen, and Teagan Jade Maher

## Lutheran Disaster Response

Chris and Travis Sherman

In memory of Charlie Sherman, Roy and Ethel Shaffer, Loretta and John Yohe, Jim Linebaugh, Alma Stahl, and Rick Yohe

Rick and Joyce Hoff
In memory of Carol Sullivan

# ELCA World Hunger

Rick and Joyce Hoff
In memory of Larry and Rich Hoff



# New Life for Girls

Rick and Joyce Hoff

In memory of Jack Acker and Rita Rinehart

#### **Boiler Fund**

Greg and Roxann Harrell

In honor of their wonderful family at Christmas – The Stark, Kinard, Kline, and Harrell families

#### **Christmas 2023 Poinsettias**

(on the windowsills)

Rick and Joyce Hoff (1 red, 1 marble) In memory of their parents and Carol Sullivan

The Hipkiss family (1 red, 1 marble)
In honor of the members of Paradise Lutheran Church

Barbara and Randy Becker and family (3 red)
In honor of Mary Louise Frey and Erma Becker
In memory of Alice and Lawrence Altland

Bill and Diana Sterner (1 red, 1 marble) In honor of their family

Greg Harrell (1 red, 3 marble)
In memory of parents Sonia and Wayne Harrell

Sandra Anderson (1 red) In memory of Ted (Pappy) Anderson

Jeffrey A. Fulton (1 red, 1 marble) In memory of Deborah F. Fulton

Matt and Tara Osborne and family (2 marble)
In loving memory of Dan Osborne
In loving memory of Thomas and Dorothy Roomsburg
In honor of Carole Smith

Joe and Cindy Zurat

(1 red, 1 marble)

In memory of their parents

Cindy Zurat

In memory of Francis, Geraldine, and Terry Patterson

Clay and Brenda Black

(1 marble)

In memory of all those in heaven whom we love and miss

Pastor and Sue McConnell

(2 red)

In memory of Nancy A. McConnell In memory of Louise and Luther Wire

Christopher Davis

(1 red, 1 marble)

## Worship Participants:

Minister of Music: Allison Trump Pastor: The Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

3:30 p.m.:

**Greeters:** *Volunteer(s)* **Lector**: Clay Black

**Assisting Minister:** Sinclaire Trump **Usher captain/communion:** Pat Zech

Altar Guild: Brenda Black, Kim

Beard

7:00 p.m.:

**Greeter:** Vix Boone **Crucifer:** Paul Hipkiss

Acolytes: Daniel and Miriam Hipkiss

Lector: Heidi Wolf

**Assisting Minister:** Julie Maher **Usher/Communion:** Justice White

Tech: Mike Gautsch

#### **Church information:**

Gathered to worship, care,

and grow;

sent to love like Jesus.

Phone: 717-259-9547

Address: 3241 Church Road, Thomasville, PA

17364

Office email:

secretary.paradiselutheran(a)

gmail.com
Website

www.paradiselutheran.

weebly.com

24