

Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA
Epiphany of Our Lord January 7, 2024 10:15 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **All: Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

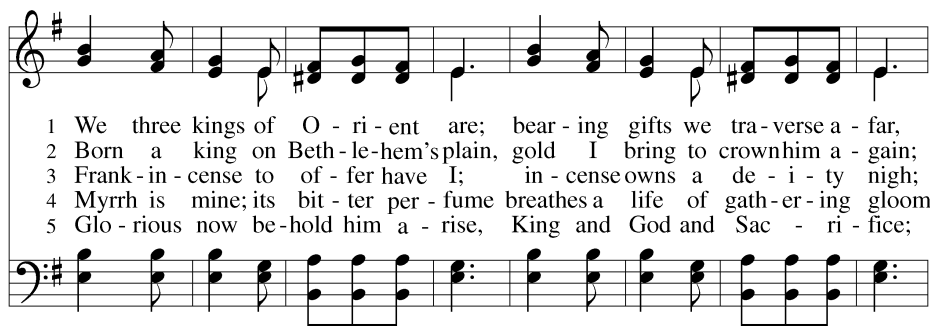
Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: God, our rock and refuge,

All: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **All: Amen.**

Gathering Song “We Three Kings”

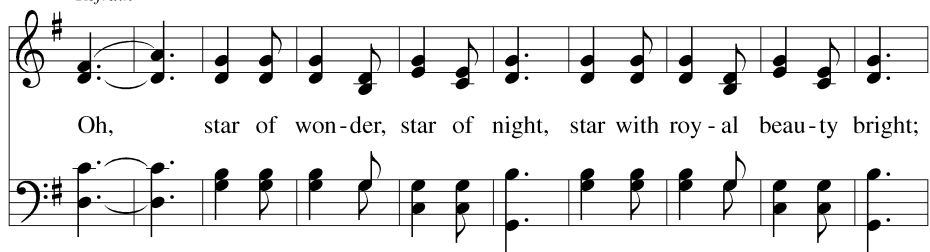


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

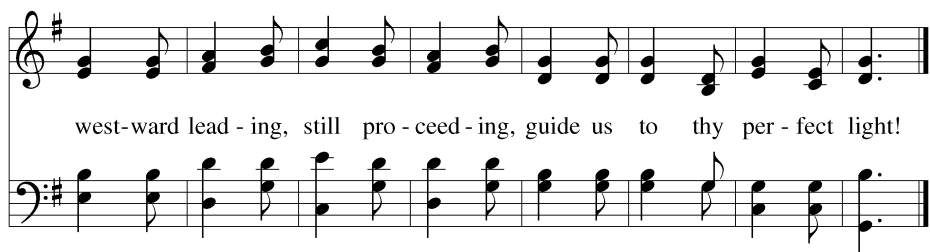


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Kyrie



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Hymn of Praise



G This is the feast of vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia. This is the feast of



vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

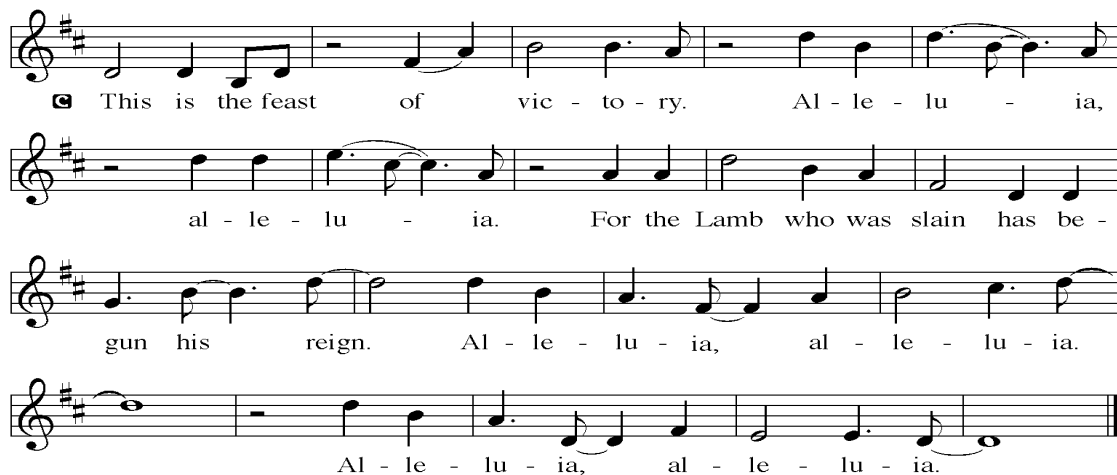
I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

II Pow-er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

III This is the feast of vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia. This is the feast of
vic - to - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

II Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be² to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your 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 "Patapan, Noel"

Sanctuary Choir
Pastor Sigrid Hipkiss, flute

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (read responsively)

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

- ⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no
more.
- ¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- ¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
- ¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- ¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Second Lesson: *Ephesians 3:1-12*

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ


Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: *Matthew 2:1-12*

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “Brightest and Best”

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Please be seated.

Apostles' Creed

Pastor: We, who are many, are one body in Christ. Together we confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Installation of Council Members

Prayers of Intercession

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

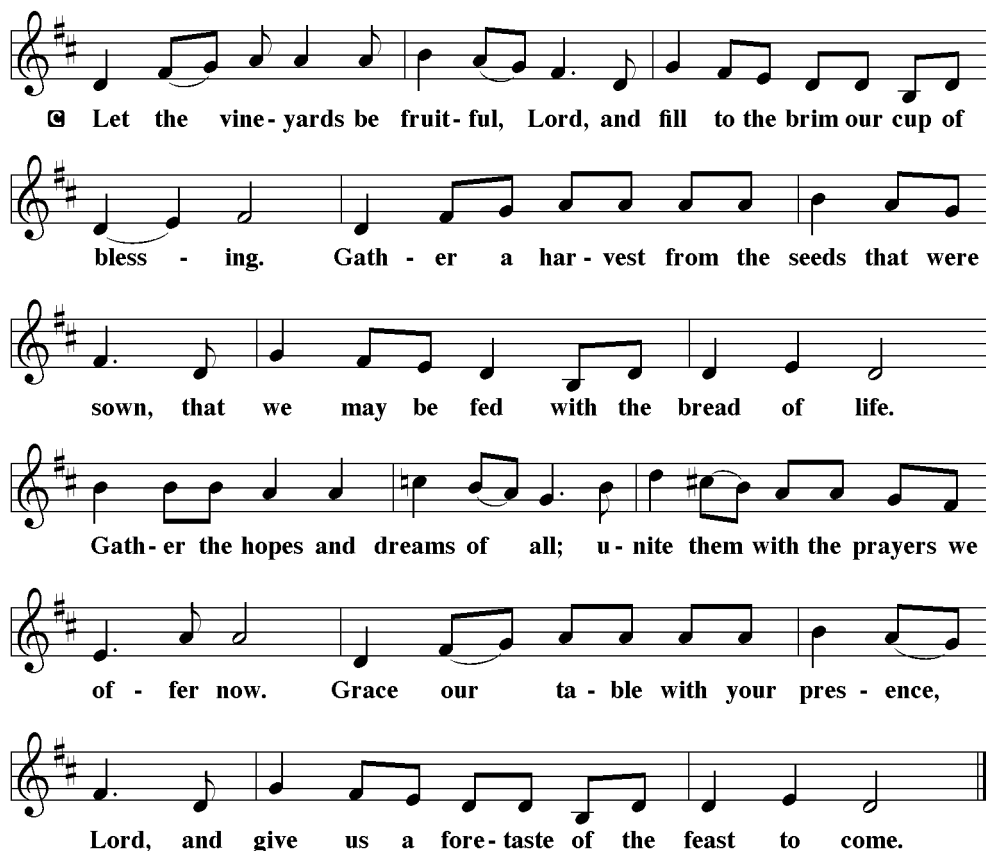
Please stand.

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.)*

Offertory Response



☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In the bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **All: Amen.**

Dialog

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Preface

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor: Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us 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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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 king sought by the wise men, is the host of this meal. Whether you are joyful today 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.)

Those present will be given a “star word” after they commune; those worshiping online can email the pastor for a “star word.”

Lamb of God

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: “As With Gladness Men of Old”

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

Continued ➤ ➤ ➤



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

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 Canticle



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Star Word Liturgy *(see insert)*

Blessing

Pastor: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ☩ bless you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

- 1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*
- 2 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, love like Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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WELCOME to Paradise! So, where have you seen God at work in your life? In following Jesus, have you had to “take a different road” in order to do so? How has that affected you? Hmmmmmm.....

IN OUR PRAYERS: Janet Mansberger, Joyce Bentzel, Kay Brady, Sherry Feeser, Gloria Krebs; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, Melissa Hipkiss, Erika Smith, Kim Culbert, Mark and Connie Keller, Heather Shoemaker, Judy Jarvis, Bernie Tucker, Sue Sell, Joe Pohlman, Linda Schreier, Connie McNeil, James Sanders, Bill Funk, Christine Ruth Smith, Jen Miller

For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith

For those who mourn

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Greg and Roxann Harrell in honor of their grandson Remington.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:

✓ Large print bulletins are available in the binders in the narthex. We have one copy of each service in each of the four binders.

✓ Offering plates are located by the entrances. Please put your offering in before worship begins, as we will be bringing the offering forward to the altar during worship. (If you forget, there will be a plate still available at the back at the end of worship.)

✓ As you share the peace, you are welcome to move around and greet one another with Christ's peace with a sign, handshake, or hug.

✓ 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.**

✓ When you leave, please dispose of any trash with you. Bulletins may be taken with you or placed in the box either on the table shelf outside the office or in the narthex for recycling. Thank you!

COUNCIL INSTALLATION TODAY! We give thanks to God for new council members **Clay Black, Dave Cassel, Linda Eisenhart, Tom Hoover, and Stacy White.** We are grateful also for those who ended their terms of service: *Justice White, Heidi Wolf, Pat Zech*, and for those who continue to serve: **Sherry Feeser, Georgetta Kreitz, Valerie Diehl, Kim Beard, Tara Osborne, Tracey Grudi, and Chris Garrett.**

DON'T FORGET -- no Friends of Paradise meetings in January and February. Keep your slippers on and stay home.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY is held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The class is available in person and through Zoom, so choose what fits your needs.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY on the Ten Commandments – Beginning on January 9, Pastor Sigrid will be offering a study on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. We will dig into a study on the role the Ten Commandments play in our personal and public lives as Christians,

using a resource by Joan Chittester. This study was originally planned to go through February 13, but, given the study chosen, will extend through Lent, probably until March 12. You can attend in person or through Zoom (link will be emailed).

MEETINGS: *Worship and Music Committee* will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9; *Property Committee* will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9; and *Council* meets on Thursday, January 11 (6:15 p.m. for new member orientation, 7:00 for the general meeting). Busy busy busy!!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY soup and subs will be available on February 11. Sub order forms will be available soon, if they're not already at each entrance.

2024 ENVELOPES are in the narthex.

GIANT and WEIS CARDS are available for purchase. See Pat Zech or Heidi Wolf. The church gets a portion of the total purchased.

WEBSITE: The **January** website is sponsored by *Dale and Barb Musser*, in memory of their parents Gordon and Helen Musser; Robert Zellers; and Rosella Buchmyer. Let Julie know if you'd like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, October, November, and December. Cost: \$20.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE for **January** will go to *our Endowment Fund*.

Giving of time and tithes:

Attendance: Christmas Eve 3:30, 75; 7:00, 98

December 31: one service, 51

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 12/24/23	Difference
Current	\$4,376.00	\$6,171.96	\$1,795.96
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$86.00	--\$197.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$194.50	--\$94.50
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$224,581.80	\$223,664.95	--\$916.85

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 12/31/23	Difference
Current	\$4,376.00	\$1,667.00	--\$2,709.00
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$154.00	--\$129.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$145.00	--\$144.00
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$228,090.16	\$225,331.95	--\$2,758.21

Worship Participants:

Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Greeter: *Volunteer*

Acolyte: Daniel Hipkiss

Lector: Paul Hipkiss

Assisting Minister: Marty Rexroth

Usher Captain/Communion:

Chris Garrett

Tech: Justice White

Altar Guild for January: Donna LeVault, Fran Nace



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@gmail.com

Website: www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com