

Christmas Eve 10 PM

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Czech Carol - Carl Simone

The Holly and the Ivy - arr. for piano duet by Victor Labenske

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Love Came Down at Christmas - arr. Krug
Handbell Choir

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

CAROL ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

GREETING

The grace of the One for whom we wait, the abiding love of God
and the joyful presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem *verses 1 & 4*

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen - English, arr. Marty Parks/Ed Hogan
David Lewis, trumpet

THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL ELW 277 Away in a Manger *verses 1 & 2*

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL ELW 275 Angels from the Realms of Glory *verses 1 & 3*

SERMON

CAROL ELW 292 Love Has Come

PRAYERS

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sing We Now of Christmas - Joyce Eilers

St. John's choir

OFFERTORY

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor *Congregation* *Pastor*

The Lord__ be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up__ your

Congregation *Pastor*

hearts. We lift them to God. Now let us give thanks to the

Congregation

Lord_ our God. How good__ it is to give thanks and praise!

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One__ God of pow - er, God_ of might. Heav'n and

earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed

is the one who comes__ Blessed! Blessed! in__ the name of God.____

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us...Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION kneeling at altar rail

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Please stand

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING

The pastor lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

MUSIC DURING CANDLELIGHTING What Child is This? - arr. Woods
Janet Aldinger, harp

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

CAROL ELW 281 Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

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 peace of the Christ Child.
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

CAROL ELW 267 Joy to the World

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy to proclaim that Christ the Savior is born this night!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune on "Gloria" - Grimoaldo Macchia

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PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ed & Billie Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Mary Eberle, Tom Gracie, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Fred Orrik, Nem Nonkovic, John Moore, Paige Seasock, Dave Nyce and Tanner Antalosky.

Poinsettias given in honor of....

the faithful disciples of St. John's by Pastor Becky.
our children, grandchildren and parents by Don and Andi Swavely
the Tregea and Fitser families by the Fitser family
our family by Bev and Steve Fretz
Rosemarie and Richard Hartzell, by daughter Cathy
In honor of Erin, Alex, Colson and Keaton by Kevin and Pastor Becky.

Poinsettias given in memory of ...

My husband, Edward F. Sweeney, III by wife, Cathy
My grandparents, Angela & Dick Hartzell, Rose & Robert Fulton from granddaughter, Cathy
Barb Davis from David, Allison, Lucas and Lelia Ramil
Our loved ones from Dean and Sue Heller
Bernice & John Schirk from their children
Grandmom from Maggie and Sadie Hanish
James Lysoby from Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby and Deanna & Matthew Cwalina
Matthew Cwalina from Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby and Deanna & Matthew Cwalina
Charles & Myrtle Brinckman from Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby and Deanna Matthew Cwalina
John & Irene Lysoby from Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby and Deanna & Matthew Cwalina
Georgiann Butler from Mike and Patti Herm
Joe Herm from Mike and Patti Herm
Claire and Robert Aldinger from Janet and Bruce Aldinger
Janet and Erle Ehly from Janet and Bruce Aldinger
Richard J. Walp from Ruth E. Walp and family
The Tregea and Fitser families from the Fitser family
Our parents, Harry & Ada Gross and Bob & Helen Haldeman from Erika and Bob Haldeman
Leroy B. Long, son, Robert Long and all loved ones from Hope K. Long and family
Our loved ones from Bev & Steve Fretz
Harvey and Sarah Bossert, Sr. by Matthew and Sheryl Soffa

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, December 26	10am Pick up Luminaries 12-5pm Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, December 28	10:15am Service of Lessons and Carols

Church office will be closed December 24, 25 and 31 and January 1

Donate Blood St. John's is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive Friday, December 26 from 12-5pm **Sign up today at redcrossblood.org**

The Community Meal at Pennsburg UCC Monday, January 5, 2026 3-7:30pm

We will be serving Pork, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes. Green Beans, Roll, Dessert, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee. The sign up link will be in the weekly email or go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAEAC23A1F9C16-49971285-community#/>

Confirmation & Mentors Bowling

Sunday, January 4th from 12-2 PM at Earl Bowling

Breakfast and a Book – Winter Book Club

We will gather on Saturday, January 17 at 9:30 AM at Friedens UCC Fellowship Hall to enjoy breakfast and discussion of the book *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal* by Christopher Moore. All are welcome!

A descriptor of the book: *The birth of Jesus has been well chronicled, as have his glorious teachings, acts, and divine sacrifice after his thirtieth birthday. But no one knows about the early life of the Son of God, the missing years—except Biff, the Messiah's best bud, who has been resurrected to tell the story in the divinely hilarious yet heartfelt work "reminiscent of Vonnegut and Douglas Adams" (Philadelphia Inquirer)*