



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Welcome to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church! Our mission is to proclaim and embody the compassionate, challenging, and inclusive love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Your age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, doubts and questions are all part of your story as a beloved child of God, and your whole self is welcome and affirmed here.

**If you are a first-time visitor, welcome!** We hope you will fill out a Welcome Card from your seat and drop it in the offering plate when it comes around - we'd love to get to know you! You are also welcome to communion today.

**The assisted listening system** in our sanctuary is compatible with personal hearing aids with the setting "T". Portable receivers and headsets are available from an usher.

**Children are always welcome in worship**. Activities for kids are located on the bookshelf located at the back of the sanctuary.

**Large print bulletins** are available from the ushers. Feel free to take home the announcements insert for your personal use.

As we begin worship, we invite you to silence your cell phone.



The concept of this service finds its origins in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols made famous by the Christmas Eve service at Kings College, Cambridge. The service was used for the first time on Christmas Eve in 1880 and its popularity grew. Since 1918, the service has been aired live throughout the world. In 1934, sixteen years after the adaptation of the Nine Lessons and Carols, Eric Milner-White composed another order of service, a Procession with Carols on Advent Sunday. In the same format as the original Nine Lessons and Carols, the purpose of this service was to "not celebrate Christmas, but to expect it." Both services combined scripture and music in an intimate way to tell the story of the expectation and birth of Christ. Today we adapt these two liturgies for this time, this space, and this community. May your hearts and minds find openness to the coming of Christ through the music offered to the glory of God.

Throughout today's worship, you are invited to participate by joining in speaking the words in bold type.

**Prelude** Meg Morgan, piano

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

# **Call to Worship**

As you are able, please stand.

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every week we break bread.

Every Sunday we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near

Yes, every minute God is near.

And so we come into God's house once again,

breathing deep, ready to sing for joy.

This is God's home.

This is every person's home.

Let us worship God.



## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

#### Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace.

We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In 

→ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

#### Amen.

#### Carol



- 1 Good Chris-tian friends, re joice
- 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re joice
- 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re joice

with heart and soul and voice;

with heart and soul and voice; with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: now ye hear of end-less bliss: now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ is born to - day; Je - sus Christ was born for this! Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and He has o - pened heav-en's door, and Calls you one and calls you all to he is in the man-ger now. we are blest for - ev - er - more. gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Let's all be seated.



First Reading Isaiah 61:10-11

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me
with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me
with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God. **And my spirit rejoices in you.** 

Please remain seated.



Second Reading Psalm 96

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song: sing to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. <sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. <sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. <sup>6</sup>Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. <sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. <sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it: <sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy <sup>13</sup>before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God. **And my spirit rejoices in you.** 

Please remain seated.



Third Reading Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-9

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow<sup>[a]</sup> out of his roots.

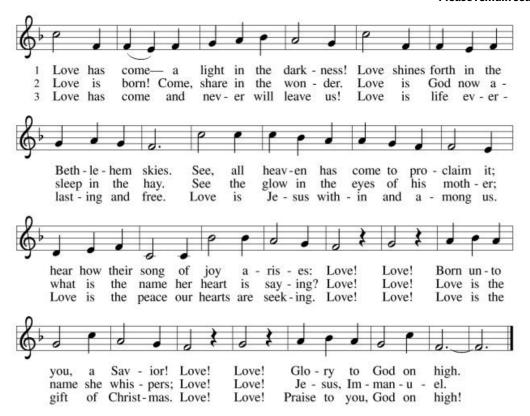
- <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed<sup>[b]</sup> together, and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God.

And my spirit rejoices in you.

Carol Love Has Come

Please remain seated.



# Fourth Reading Matthew 1:18–23

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God.

And my spirit rejoices in you.

Please stand as you are able. All will sing Verse 1. All sing refrain each time. Upper voices, verse 2. Lower voices, verse 3. All, verse 4.



My soul proclaims your greatness, O God.

# And my spirit rejoices in you.

### Carol

## Away in a Manger

Please remain seated.



- 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. Ι love you, Lord Je - sus; look pray. Bless the dear chil - dren in ev - er and love me, Ι all

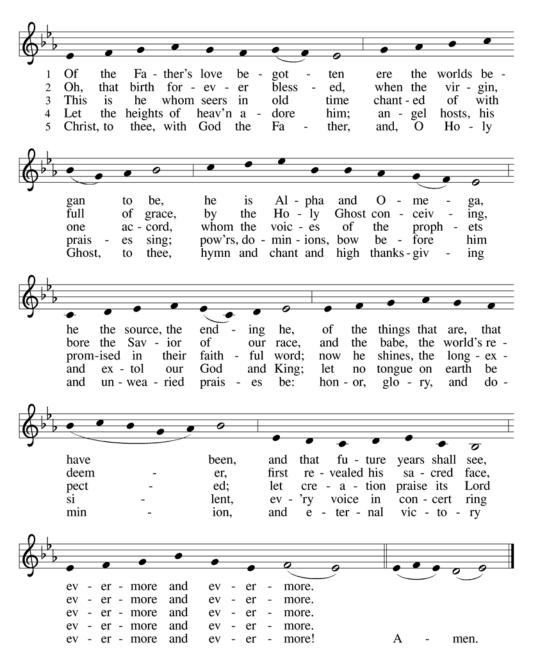


down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. sky and down from the stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there. Sixth Reading John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God.

And my spirit rejoices in you.



Seventh Reading Titus 3:4-7

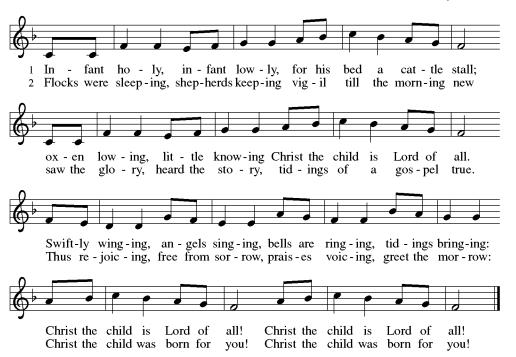
<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God.

And my spirit rejoices in you.



# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Together, let's affirm our trust in God using the words of the creed.

We have faith in God who lives among us.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

#### We believe in God:

who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

### We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek peace and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

#### Thanks be to God!

## **Prayers of the People**

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves, saying:

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.



# **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of God be always with you.

# And also with you.

Bearing in mind the personal comfort of those around you, please share a friendly sign of God's peace and reconciliation with others and then be seated.

As you are able, please stand.



# **Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times, and all places, give thanks....

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us:

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.

Let's all be seated.

### **Communion Distribution**

All are welcome to God's meal, where ordinary bread and wine become extraordinary, filled with Christ's presence. Ushers will direct you to one of the stations in front. Communion will be by intinction. You will receive a wafer, which you may dip into the chalice with wine, or with juice, then eat. Wafers in the small bowl on the side of the plate are gluten free. If you avoid gluten, please take one for yourself. If you would prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, or remain seated. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms. Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.



# **Prayer after Communion**

Please stand as you are able.

The starlight and song, the story and supper, which called us home, now send us into the world. May we who have knelt at the manger always have room to hold within us the Christmas child. May we live fully and share freely, all that we have and are, that Emmanuel may be born through us again, this day and always.

Amen.

#### **Benediction**

May you be filled with the faithfulness of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer +, and Sustainer, one God.

Amen.



### **Dismissal**

Go rejoicing! Share the love of the newborn Christ.

### Thanks be to God!

**Postlude** 

Meg Morgan, piano

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**Angels From the Realms of Glory.** Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4. Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879. Public Domain.

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**. Text: Medieval Latin carol, translated by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th century. Public Domain.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus. Text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: HYFRYDOL, Richard Pritchett. Public Domain.

Charles Wesley was the great hymn-writer of the Wesley family, perhaps, taking quantity and quality into consideration, the great hymn-writer of all ages. Charles Wesley was the youngest son and 18th child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley, and was born at Epworth Rectory, Dec. 18, 1707. In 1716 he went to Westminster School, being provided with a home and board by his elder brother Samuel, then usher at the school, until 1721, when he was elected King's Scholar, and as such received his board and education free. In 1726 Charles Wesley was elected to a Westminster studentship at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1729, and became a college tutor. In the early part of the same year his religious impressions were much deepened, and he became one of the first band of "Oxford Methodists."

Rowland H. Prichard was a Welsh textile worker and amateur musician. Many of his tunes were published in Welsh periodicals. In 1880 Prichard became a loom tender's assistant at the Welsh Flannel Manufacturing Company in Holywell. Many note parallels between the flowing, interweaving musical lines of his most well-known tune we sing today, HYFRYDOL, to the process of weaving fabric on a loom.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear. Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876. Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900. Public domain.

**Love Has Come.** Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Music: F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856. Text © 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense.net license number A-708353.

*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy.* West Indian traditional. Original © 1945 Boosey and Company, Ltd, admin. Boosey and Hawkes, Inc. Public Domain.

This is a West Indian carol that probably originated in Trinidad. It became popular in the US when Harry Belafonte recorded it in 1958 following its publication in an obscure 1945 book called "The Edric Connor Collection of West Indian Folk Songs and Tunes". Musicologist Edric Connor reported this tune as the "only West Indian negro carol I found"; he collected it from James Bryce, who gave his age as 94, in 1942. For centuries before Britain took over Trinidad in 1797, the natives of Trinidad were exposed to Roman Catholicism through Spanish priests and colonists, and later by French colonists. Among the priests were many musicians who sought out talented native musicians and helped to build a native tradition of religious festival music. For centuries, the weeks between October 1 and January 6 were filled with music as "parranderos and parranderas" went from house to house using stringed and rhythm instruments to celebrate the birth and life of Christ. In the mid-20th century, outside cultural influences began to overwhelm the local culture, but a few leading musicians made certain that public concerts kept the musical traditions of the "parang" alive. In later years, "Parang" has emerged as a musical genre its own right, and has generally left its religious roots, much as African American spirituals led to the creation of Jazz and Rock and Roll in the United States. Contemporary Parang music may include steel drums and horns, creating a louder and more percussion-oriented sound than the Parangs of the past.

**The Christmas Blessing.** Words by Erin Guendelsberger. Pictures by Gail Yerrill. Copyright © 2021 by Sourcebooks. Cover and internal design © 2021 by Sourcebooks. Published by Sourcebooks Wonderland, an imprint of Sourcebooks Kids, P.O. Box 4410, Naperville, Illinois 60567-4410.

**Away in a Manger.** Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense.net license number A-708353.

*Of the Father's Love Begotten.* Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite. Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent. Public Domain.

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.* Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M.G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol. Arr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Public Domain.

What Child is This? Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: English ballad, 16th cent. Public Domain.

**Go, Tell it On the Mountain.** Text: John W. Work. Music: GO, TELL IT. Anonymous or unknown African American origin. Public Domain.



# Thank you to our worship assistants!

SERVING TODAY – December 31	
	10:00
ACOLYTES	n/a
ASSISTING MINISTER	Jacquie Brissey
GREETERS	Ron Nitz
USHERS	Eric Henrikson Donna Morris
COMMUNION SET UP/ CLEAN UP	Teresa Henrikson