

# *First Sunday of Christmas*

## *Sunday, December 27, 2020*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
215 N. Warren St.  
Orwigsburg, PA  
570-366-2316  
[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

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### **GATHERING**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.  
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
Through Jesus Christ, made known to all people, your sins have been forgiven.  
Let us rejoice in this amazing gift of grace,  
with all who come to the manger.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has reconciled us to himself. Let us also be reconciled and at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## GATHERING HYMN

All Verses

### Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn. The second system contains the continuation of the verses. The third system is the refrain. The fourth system is the end of the refrain.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A Reading from Isaiah**

<sup>10</sup>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.  
<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

(Isaiah 61:10-62:3)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 148(Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel,  
a people who are near the LORD.**  
**Hallelujah!**

### **A Reading from Galatians**

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

(Galatians 4:4-7)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Luke 2:22-40)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Once in David's Royal City  
[See back of bulletin]

All Verses

## **SERMON**

### **THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)**

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**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions, O God. Fill  
us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear  
us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up, O God.  
Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait for longer days of awakening  
and growth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Send your spirit of discernment upon  
legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good.  
Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, break with grief, and long for wholeness,  
O God. We especially pray for health care providers, first responders, all who suffer  
from COVID-19, and everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Adopt us into your family, O God. Strengthen those who have retired, those who  
work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care.  
Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your word, O God, let us depart in peace. We give you thanks for all your saints. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)**

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.

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

Almighty God,

who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,

proclaimed joy through the angels,

sent the shepherds with good news,

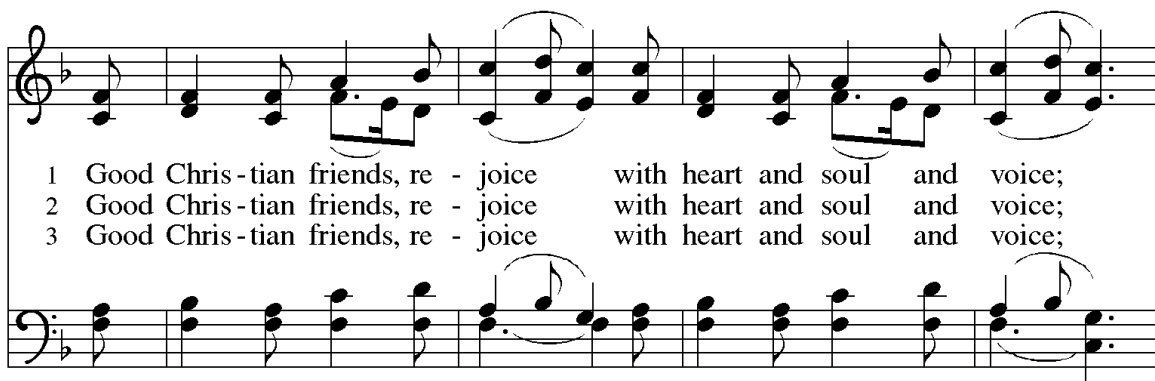
and led the magi by a star,

bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**



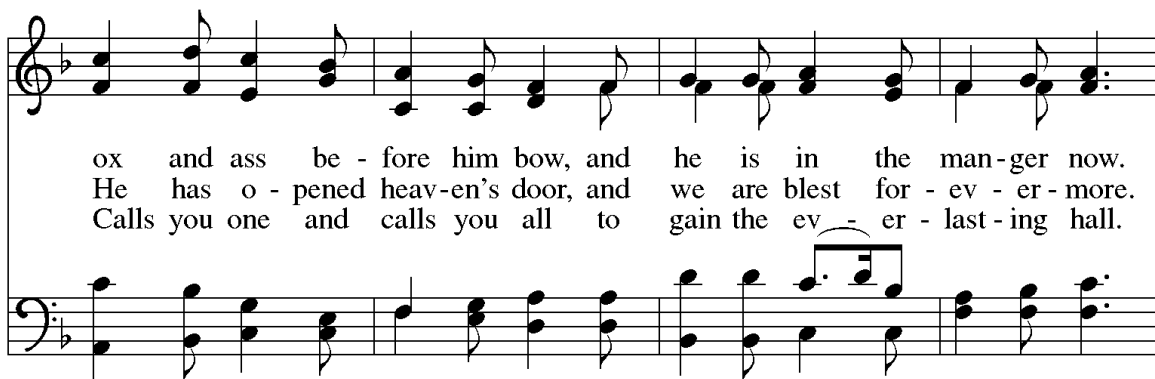
## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



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



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



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**Introduction to the Day:** The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

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<b>THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S</b>
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Sunday, December 27	8:00 AM	No worship scheduled	Worship
	10:30 AM	No worship scheduled	Worship
Thursday, December 31		New Year's Eve – No worship scheduled	
Friday, January 1		New Year's Day – No worship scheduled	
Saturday, January 2		No worship scheduled	
Sunday, January 3	8:00 AM	No worship scheduled	
	10:30 AM	No worship scheduled	

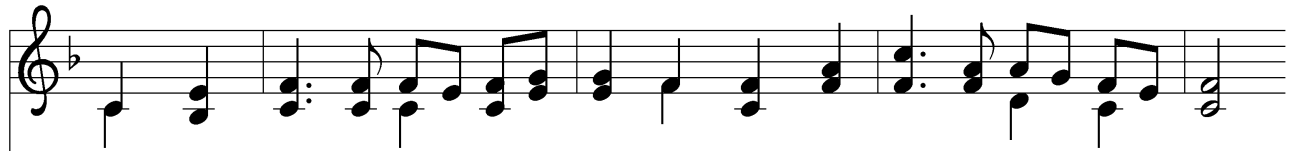
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## IN-PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED

Because of our need for greater caution due to COVID-19, our Council has decided to temporarily suspend in-person worship following our Christmas Eve worship services. There will not be in-person worship on December 26, and 27, 2020, or January 2, and 3, 2021. In-person worship with Holy Communion will return on Saturday, January 9, and Sunday, January 10, 2021.

In-person worship planning is week to week process right now. Please call the church office, check our Facebook page, or see our website -- before you come for worship!

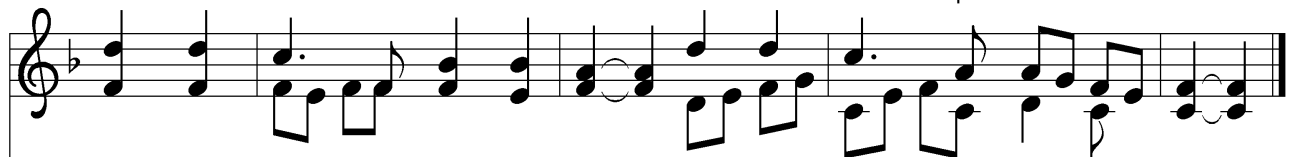
## Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

