



ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5320 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
302-239-2100
www.stphilips.us

"As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples, praise God, and serve the community."

**December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve**



Welcome to St. Philip's . . . On this most blessed and holy night. May the love of Christ be reborn within your heart this evening as we worship the babe of Bethlehem.

Holiday Worship Schedule . . . Don't forget, this coming Sunday, December 29th, we will continue our normal worship schedule with Sunday morning services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. However, there will be no Kids' Club, Breakfast Club, or Small Groups that day. Likewise, on January 5th, 2025 Sunday morning services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and, again, there will be no Kids' Club, Youth Group Breakfast Club, or Small Groups. Kids' Club will be back on January 12, 2025 and the Nursery will be open. Small Groups for Adults will be taking a break until March, but in lieu of the normal groups, you are invited to join us for a 7 Week Large Group Learning Event in weeks following. You can find more information about that on our website: www.stphilips.us

The Congregational Council and Staff of St. Philip's would like to extend to you all our warmest wishes for a Blessed Christmas, and may the love of God in Christ Jesus bring you joy and peace in the new year.

The Order for Worship

Prelude

"The Shining Night" Barber

Ryan Myers - Soloist

* The Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: He was named Jesus, for he saves his people from their sins. Gathered in his name, let us now confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: God of peace,

C: **we confess that we are not at peace - with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: **Amen**

* The Opening Hymn

"O, Come All Ye Faithful"



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, Light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

(The Hymn Continues on the Next Page ►)

come ye, oh, come . . . ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee . . . be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

*** The Greeting**

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

***The Hymn of Praise** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

* The Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray . . . 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Choir Anthem *"Angel Song "* *Martin* *St. Philip's Chancel Choir*

The Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 96*

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and bless his name;

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

(The Responsorial Psalm Continues on the Next Page ►)

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.**

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

The New Testament Lesson *Titus 2:11-14*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

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



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

* The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This 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. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

The Sermon

Rev. Patrick V. Downes

* The Hymn of the Day

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

* The Prayers of the Church

Congregation responds to each petition with: Your mercy is great.

* Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors in whatever way you are mutually comfortable with: handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps, "peace signs," or words of peace and grace.

Greetings and Announcements

At this time the Pastors will lift up some of the relevant events/happenings in the congregation. Offering plates are no longer passed around. Instead the offering plate is near the baptismal font. At some point this evening you may deposit your offering in the offering plate or you may continue to mail, automatically deposit, or use the website to continue your generous giving. Thank you so much for all you do for the ministry we are all a part of here at St. Philip's.

The Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . Gracious God,

C: **you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

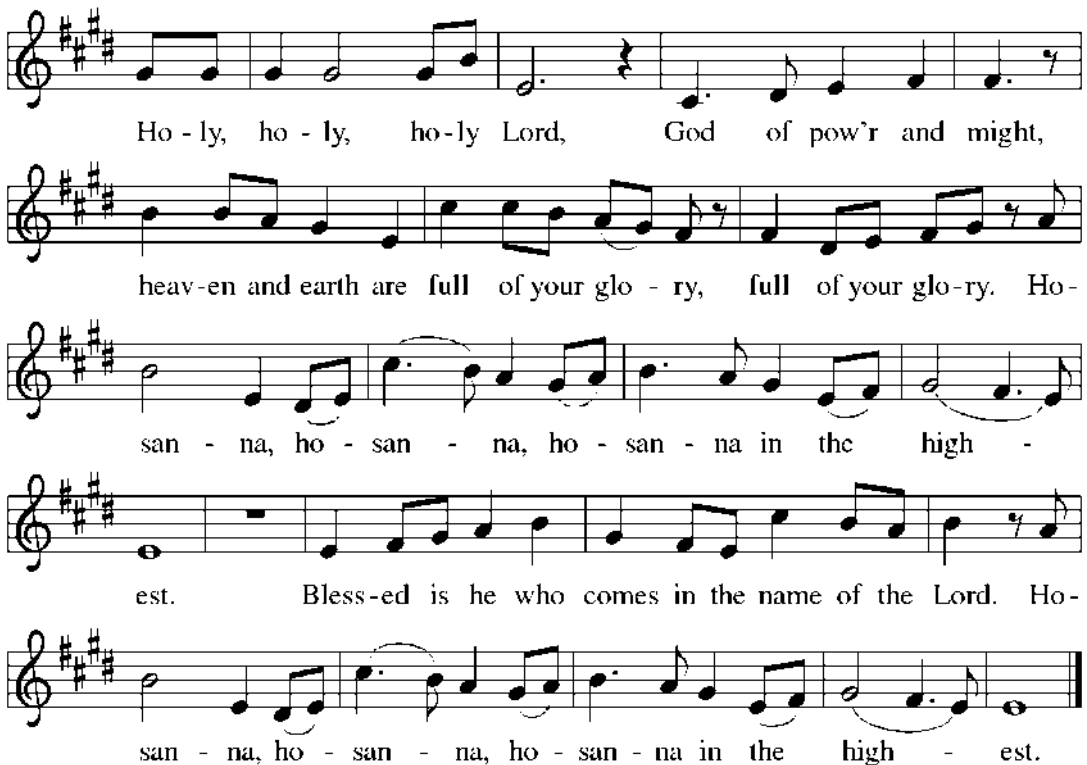
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy"



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

*** The Words of Institution**

P. Holy God, 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.

Almighty Father, by your Spirit bless 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, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*** The Lord's Prayer** *(Spoken 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;

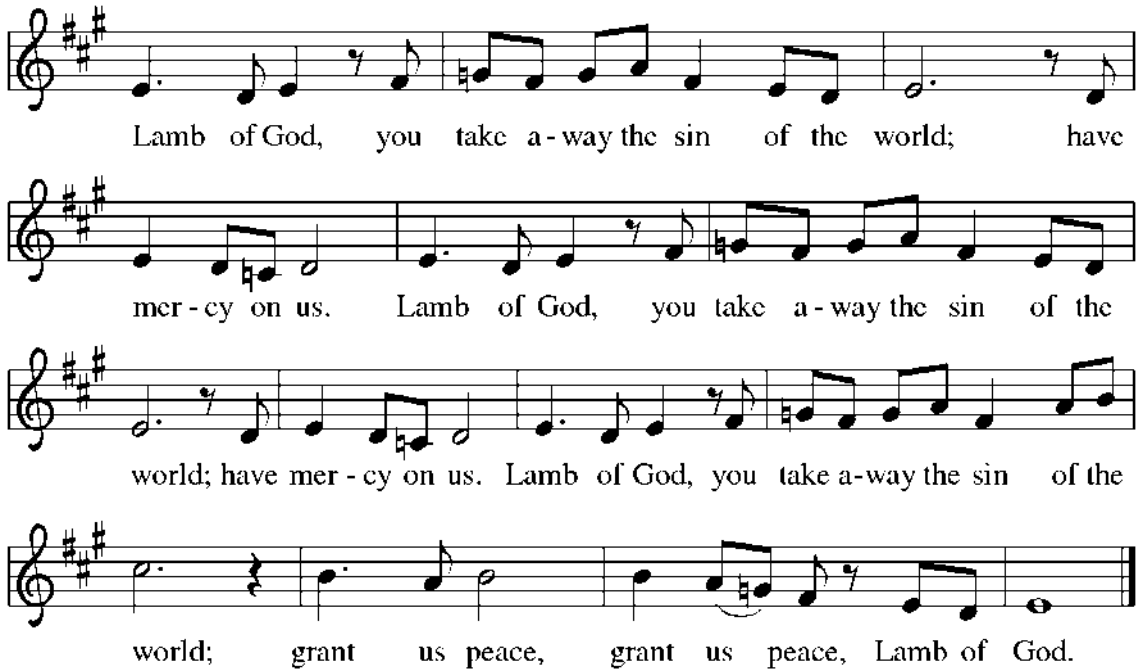
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei

("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, Lamb of God.

The Reception of Communion

*The pastors will give direction on how communion will proceed this evening.
Remain seated until directions are given.*

Communion Distribution Hymns

As you are waiting to come forward to receive the bread and the wine and/or after you are seated again, we ask you to join us in singing together the following hymns during the distribution of the Eucharist. We will sing these hymns as needed.

"Away in a Manger"

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

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

"The First Noel"

1 The first Noel the an - gel did say Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star Three .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, O'er . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; And to the .
 Wise . Men came . . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; And there it . . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, And . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay Right. . . o - ver the

Refrain

night . that was . . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . . . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . . . where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; But, in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais - es sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

* The Post Communion Blessing

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

* The Candlelight Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

(The Pastors will begin the lighting of the candles. Please hold the candles upright. Always take the light from an upright candle. When all are lit we will begin singing. The Pastors will lead the extinguishing of the candles AFTER the Benediction)

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dian

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The lyrics are provided for three different vocal parts (1, 2, and 3) and are aligned with the notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

(Remain Standing for a Moment of Silence at the End of the Hymn)

* The Benediction

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas. May Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

(You may extinguish your candle)

* The Recessional Hymn

"Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four verses of the hymn. The first line of the score includes the first four lines of lyrics. The second line of the score includes the remaining lyrics. The score ends with a final chord in the bass clef.

(The Hymn continues on the Next Page ►)

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

*** The Sending**

P: As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Noel" D'Aquin

CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS



CHRISTMAS
2024

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND:

In loving memory of John H. Newcomer, Sr., by Jane Newcomer

In loving memory of Joan Jensen, by Rev. Amy Wright

In loving memory of Walt Moyer, by Rev. Amy Wright

In loving memory of my parents, William and Helen Quashne, by Helen Pierce

In honor of our children and parents, by David and Lisa Kenney

In honor of our grandchildren, Ryan, Molly, Pearl, and George, by Paul and Maryann Shovestul

In loving memory of Sharon Marine, by Elizabeth Stirk

In loving memory of Jan, Elizabeth and David King, by Elizabeth Stirk

In loving memory of Russ McCauley, by Elizabeth Stirk

In loving memory of Woody Mutschler, by Sharon Mutschler

In loving memory of loved ones, by Lila Hall

In loving memory of our parents, by Pat and George Spae

In loving memory of Pop, Mom, and Donna, by Fred Pratola

In loving memory of all our loved ones who are no longer with us, by Sally Krapf

In loving memory of our loved ones, by Ron and Ruth Henry

In honor of the families of Lynda Sabochick and Chuck Butler, by Les and Gerry Butler

In honor of the families of Barbara Rhoads and Mike Tepper, by Les and Gerry Butler

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Throne, by the Brenneman Family

*In loving memory of Cmdr. And Mrs. Marshall E. Brenneman, Chaplain Corps, USN,
by the Brenneman Family*

In loving memory of Sharon Gardner, by Valerie Nicholas

In loving memory of Edward Hewitt and for the blessings of family, by the Litterst Family

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Litterst & Tobi and Abby Litterst, by Allison F. Hewitt

THOSE WHO SERVE

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Amy Wright	
PREACHER	Rev. Patrick V. Downes	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO	
CHOIR DIRECTOR/VOCALIST	Dr. Lauren Conrad	
ASSISTING MINISTER.....	Maryann Shovestul	(6:30 p.m. Service)
	Paul Gelesh	(8:30 p.m. Service)
	Donna Daugherty	(10:30 p.m. Service)
LAY READER:	Donna Daugherty	(6:30 p.m. Service)
	Gigi Mueller	(8:30 p.m. Service)
	Tom Krapf	(10:30 p.m. Service)
USHERS.....	Sharon Kittle and Marty Budd	(6:30 p.m. Service)
	Gerry and Les Butlerand Diana Longhenry	(8:30 p.m. Service)
	Crystal Solie and Michael and Gunner Imgarten	(10:30 p.m. Service)
GREETERS.....	Sharon Kittle and Marty Budd	(6:30 p.m. Service)
	Gerry and Les Butlerand Diana Longhenry	(8:30 p.m. Service)
	Crystal Solie and Michael and Gunner Imgarten	(10:30 p.m. Service)
ACOLYTE.....	Luke DeWeese	(6:30 p.m. Service)
	Abby Litterst	(8:30 p.m. Service)

MERRY
CHRISTMAS