



# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021

6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
www.stjohnnt.com, (716) 693-9677

## ✠ CHRISTMAS EVE HYMN SING ✠

Offering is collected at the entrance this evening. Thank you for your donation!

### WELCOME AND GREETING

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC & HYMN SING

HANDBELLS: *The First Noel*

ORGAN: *Musical Introduction*

CONGREGATION: **"THE FIRST NOEL"**

Kevin McChesney  
Neil Harmon

1. The first No - el the an-gel did say, Was to cer-tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing in the  
3. And by the light of that same star Three Wise Men  
4. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

shep-herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep-ing their  
east, be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in -  
to our heav-en-ly Lord Who hath made heaven and earth of

sheep, On a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
light, And so it con - tin-ued both day and night. No - el, No - el,  
tent, And to fol-low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
naught, And with His blood man-kind hath bought.

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

**HANDBELLS:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
**ORGAN:** *Musical Introduction*

Cathy Moklebust  
Neil Harmon

**CONGREGATION: “INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”**

LSB 393

1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new  
Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.  
Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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**HANDBELLS:** *O Come Little Children*

Linda R Lamb

**RANDOM RING:** Handbell Choir

**“O COME LITTLE CHILDREN”**

**Children/Choir:** German stanza 1, English stanzas 1-2; **All sing** stanza 3

Children/Choir	Ihr Kinderlein, kommet, o kommet doch all! Zur Krippe her kommet in Bethlehems Stall, Und seht, was in dieser hochheiligen Nacht Der Vater im Himmel für Freude uns macht.	<i>German</i>
Children/Choir	O come, little children, O come, one and all, To visit the manger in Bethlehem's stall, And see what the Father in heaven so true Has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.	
Children/Choir	O see, in the manger, this strange little bed, A Child, sweet and gentle, is resting its head, A Babe, clad in garments so pure and so white, And fairer by far than the angels of light.	
Congregation	<b>On hay and on straw in the manger he lies; Both, Mary and Joseph, with fond loving eyes Are Gazing upon him, and shepherd draw near, And jubilant angels from heaven appear.</b>	

## ✠ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ✠



### INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen**  
**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**C** **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)**  
**P** “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,  
**C** **born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, (Galatians 4:4-5)**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH and sing

#### HYMN: “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 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;

come ye, O 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*  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
**C** **Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We plead with You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.**  
**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the light shines on them. The grace of God has appeared through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, bringing salvation to all people. I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen. Glory to the newborn King!**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

## HYMN: "ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING"

LSB 377



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing To hear the news the  
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re-deem-er  
3 When sin de-parts be-fore His grace, Then life and health come  
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an-gels  
an-gels bring, On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing To  
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
in its place, When sin de-parts be-fore His grace, Then  
sing this night, All out of dark-ness we have light, Which  
hear the news the an-gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
our Re-deem-er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
life and health come in its place; An-gels and men with joy may  
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God and peace to  
mirth, News of our mer-ci-ful King's birth.  
free, All for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
sing, All for to see the new-born King.  
men Now and for-ev-er-more. A-men."

Tune and text: Public domain

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds

abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go

even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning

this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord. **C** Praise to You, O Christ!

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

## HYMN: "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

LSB 380



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!



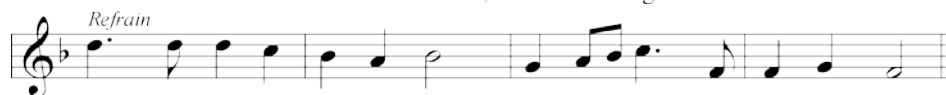
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



## PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- C** 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.

### ✠ CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY ✠

*As the lit candle is brought down the aisle, tip ONLY the UNLIT candle;  
DO NOT tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping wax.  
The lights will be turned off and we will join in singing AFTER all candles are lit.*

Bells: *Silent Night*

Sondra K. Tucker

### HYMN: "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

LSB 363, 3<sup>rd</sup> verse is sung accapella

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake

all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

*Sung Accapella* 3

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

### BENEDICTION

Luke 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 13:14

- P** Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
**C** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"  
**P** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** Amen.

*You can now extinguish your candle and return them as you leave after our final hymn.*



# HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD "

LSB 387

Organ: Introduction by Jacob B. Weber



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

**Musical Interlude between 3 & 4**



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



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.

**POSTLUDE:** *Joy To The World*

Jacob B Weber





*Flowers adorning our church have been placed to the Glory of God by the following:*

**In Memory of:**

JoAnn Durick  
Schroeder – Schumacher Family  
June Werth  
Bob and Allene Horack  
Colleen Syruws  
Mr. & Mrs. George Martin, Gordon Martin,  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lawson, Mary Ann Barnett  
Bill & Ruth Stange, Nancy & Rich Musall,  
Colleen Syruws  
Bryan, Nicole & Jamie  
Dad  
Grandpa Gordie  
Parents and Grandparents  
Rich & Nancy Musall  
June Werth  
  
Bryan & Nicole Argo  
Sam Cascio & Carole Blando  
Donald Siegmann, George Mihalko  
Ron Harder, Philip & Emma Moll,  
Norman & Mabel Harder, John Watt  
Those who have been lost this year

**In Honor of:**

Our children and grandchildren  
Nancy & Rich Musall

**In Gratitude for Blessings Received:**

Bob & Jeanne Borgstede  
Jason & Terrie Licht & Family  
Frank & Kathy Wendt  
Scive Family

**By:**

Anita Garito  
Don Schroeder  
Marvin Werth  
The Milne Family  
Frank & Kathy Wendt  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Martin & Family  
  
The Drenko Family  
  
Dad, Mom, Rita  
Greg & Sherri Martin  
Gregory, Jamie, & Alyssa Martin  
The Argo Family  
Anita Garito  
Bruce & Doreen Sutherland &  
Family  
Grandma & Grandpa Atkinson  
Paul & Mary Salefske  
Doug & Theresa Siegmann & Family  
The Harder Family  
  
Jason & Terrie Licht & Family  
  
Frank & Kathy Wendt  
Anita Garito

Flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Day service.

