



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

December 23, 2018

9:00 a.m.

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A "Chrismon" Hymn Sing Worship Service

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216

205-823-1883 Fax: 205-823-4549

Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org or lcvh.org

WORSHIP: 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM, Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

Church Office Hours: 9 AM to 1 PM Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer –pastor@vestavialutheran.org (205) 201-8866
PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers –vestluth@juno.com
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter– lwalter@vestavialutheran.org
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis—aalvis@vestavialutheran.org
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ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - shirkdavid@gmail.com



TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register during the offering. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



SUNDAY SCHOOL Christian education classes are offered for all ages at 9:00 AM.



CHILDREN’S CHURCH and NURSERY Following the Children’s Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children’s Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary during the offering. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in both individual cups and the chalice. If you wish to receive it from an individual cup, please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing.

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INTRODUCTION

Christian symbols date back to the early church. They are found on the walls of the Roman catacombs. They are found on jewelry and household items from excavations in Palestine and throughout the New Testament world. They served as a method for Christians to identify themselves, designate meeting places, and as a witness to an unbelieving world. When congregations started to meet in church buildings they adorned and enriched houses of worship. In summary, these symbols of the early church served to transmit the faith and beliefs of the followers of Christ from generation to generation.

Our worship service this morning centers on special symbols. You find these symbols on our Christmas tree here at The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills. These symbols, or ornaments, are called Chrismons. While the actual symbols on the tree are ancient, the idea of Chrismon ornaments is very modern. Chrismons originated and were first made for use at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, in 1957 by Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, a church member. At first, all the designs were monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ, which is why they are called CHRISMONS, from CHRIST and MONograms – Chris-mons.

Over the years the symbolism has grown to include symbols for the Triune God, various events in the life of Christ and the Christian church. Chrismons ornaments are made in a combination of white and gold. White is symbolic of the purity and perfection of the Son of Man. Gold is symbolic of the majesty, glory, and triumph of the Son of God. The greenery is symbolic of promised healing and eternal life. The white lights on the tree point to Christ as the light of the world.

Our service this morning will look at a few important names and titles of the babe of Bethlehem.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

LSB #376 (v. 1,2,4)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
**his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.**

The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
**all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;

let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
**He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace from on high to all the earth below. Come and give us the gift of Your Name which is above all names, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

LSB #393 (v. 1)



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swift-ly wing-ing, An - gels sing-ing, Bells are ring-ing, Tid - ings bring-ing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!



The IHS

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

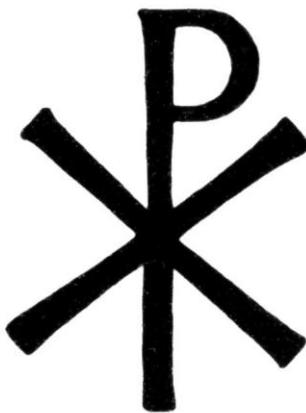
CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

LSB # 364 (v. 1)

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

The image shows a four-line musical score for the carol "Away in a Manger". Each line consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a series of notes corresponding to the lyrics. The first line starts with a quarter rest followed by a dotted quarter note on G4, then eighth notes on A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, and a half note on D4. The second line starts with a quarter note on C4, a dotted quarter note on D4, an eighth note on E4, a quarter note on F4, a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on Bb4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on Bb4, and a half note on A4. The third line starts with a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note on G4, eighth notes on A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, and a half note on D4. The fourth line starts with a quarter note on C4, a dotted quarter note on D4, an eighth note on E4, a quarter note on F4, a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on Bb4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on Bb4, and a half note on A4. The score ends with a double bar line.



The Chi Rho

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

CAROL

“What Child Is This”

LSB #370 (v. 1)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

The image shows a musical score for the carol "What Child Is This". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a carol.



The ICHTHUS

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:18-22

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

CAROL

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB #388 (v. 3)

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born;

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn. *Refrain*

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff is marked 'Refrain' and contains the melody for 'Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;'. The second staff continues the melody with 'Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!'. The third staff begins with a '3' and contains the melody for 'Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born;'. The fourth staff continues with 'And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.' and is also marked 'Refrain'.



The Alpha and Omega

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 21:1-6

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."

PRESENTATION OF CHRISMON

CAROL**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

LSB #361 (v. 1)



I O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CAROL

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

LSB #366 (v. 1)



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.

SERMON

"What's in a Name?"
Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

CHRISMON PRAYER

BLESSING

~The service concludes on the following page.~

CAROL

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB #367 (v. 1,2,5)



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

DISMISSAL

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~All are invited to enjoy a Christmas Brunch immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall~