

First Sunday of Christmas, December 27th, 2020
 Zoom Service 10:30 AM
 Immanuel Lutheran Church

Prelude The First Noel, ELW 300

1 The first No - el 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 . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

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
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

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
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

(continued on page 2)

Refrain

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

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

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

Announcements

Christmas Dialogue

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

A By day and night he shines for all to see.

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty,

A that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

A so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world

A and the light of our lives.

P Sing to God a new song!

A A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Greeting

P Christ the Lord has come to dwell with us! Alleluia! Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A And also with you!

Gloria from Angels We Have Heard on High, ELW 289

The image shows a musical score for a Gloria. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and includes the lyrics 'Glo - ri - a'. The second system includes the lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -'. The third system includes the lyrics 'ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

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.

A Amen.

Reading from the Old Testament, Isaiah 61:10--62:3

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

^{62:1}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.

²The 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.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

PSALM: Psalm 148



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,**

creeping things and | flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**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!**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

²²When 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 ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

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

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

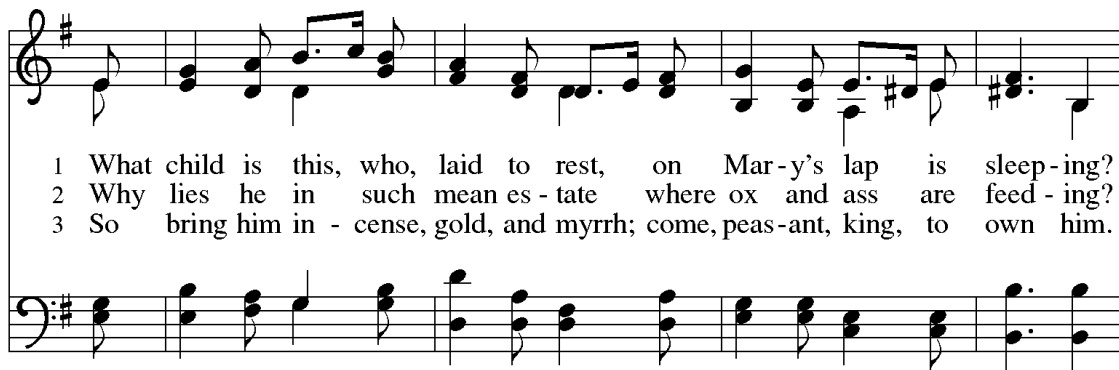
³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and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

³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

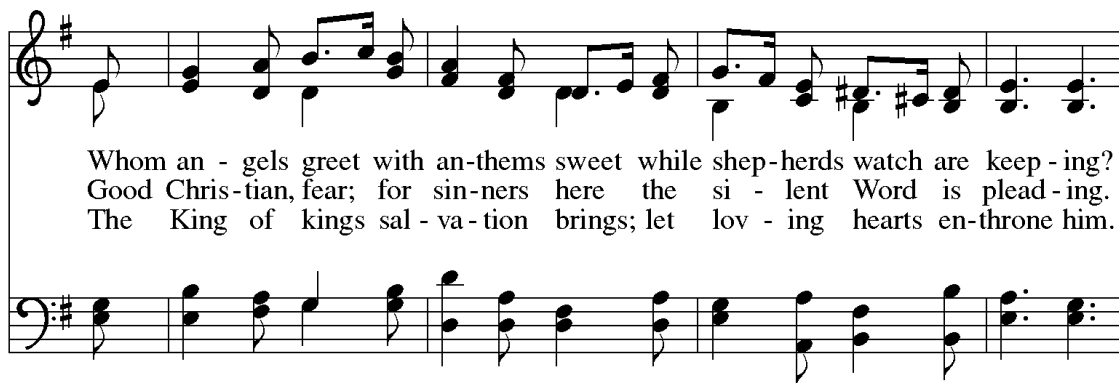
³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

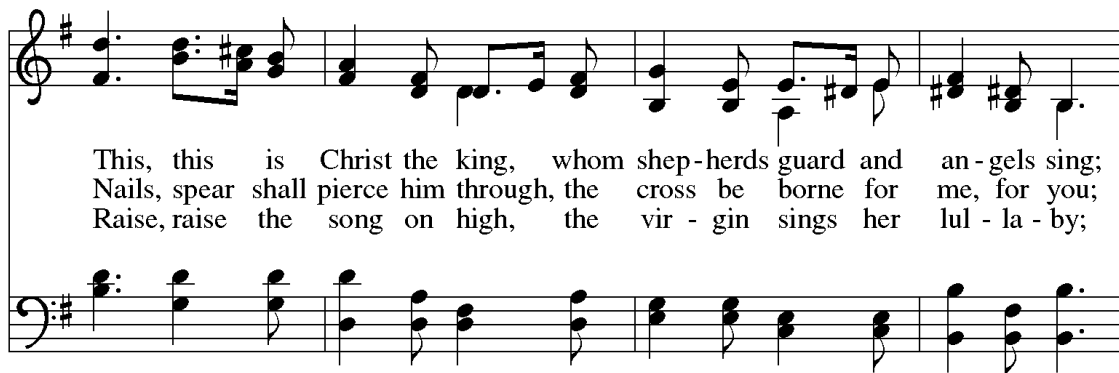
HYMN: What Child is This, ELW 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Prayers of the People

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding to each petition muted or un-muted with the words 'Your mercy is great'.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, pastor Kim, our president Scott, our council, call committee, and reopening team. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. 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.

You heal your whole creation, O God. Bring meaningful work to those furloughed. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Surround with your presence family and friends who are anxious for those on the front lines of crisis. Inspire healthcare workers and medical researchers as we rejoice in the arrival of vaccines. Be a powerful presence with those in quarantine, those who feel isolated, and with all students, teachers and staff in academic communities as they are refreshed by winter break. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. 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.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness, especially for Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Laura Burdick, Mid Carlson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Joe Harrington, Jim Jung, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Ernie LeVon, Kevin McDaniel, Elaine Nelson, Veronica Repasz, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, George Stewart, Leslie Thais, Scott Weidler, and those whose names we call out to you here, muted or un-muted: . . . *A brief silence*. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

And now, siblings, for what else shall we pray, silent or spoken aloud? *A longer period of silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, especially our dearly departed, we give you thanks. 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.

Peace

Offertory Anthem: He Shall Feed His Flock

We worship God with our offerings. We give thanks for those who support Immanuel's life and mission. [We invite you to do that online](#) or by mail, and with your presence, prayer, and talents.

Offertory Prayer

And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Prayer at the Table

Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life,

at the birth of time

your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,

you sent your Word, born of Mary,

to shine in our deepest night
and to make us your own offspring.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.
For this we pray: **Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Communion

Come for all things are now ready; the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Benediction

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.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Go Tell It on the Mountain

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!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Coffee hour/Announcements

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Finance Team

7 pm Tuesday on zoom

The World is About to Turn! New Year's Eve (EVE!) Midweek Gathering

7 pm Wednesday on zoom

As we come to the new year, we know God journeys with us. We say farewell to those things of which we want to be shed, and open ourselves to that which we wish to embrace. We'll do that either with devices, or old fashioned paper and pencil, and a shredder, or our own two hands, as we reflect in scripture, prayer and conversation.

Coffee and Connections Check in!

9:30 am Thursday on zoom Look for link on the Midweek Gathering email

On this New Year's Eve Day, start this day with a cup of coffee or tea and settle in for a little check-in hosted by Linda Edlund.

Next Sunday at Immanuel - Epiphany Sunday

We celebrate with stars and kings as we journey with the wise men to Bethlehem.

On January 10th, we'll begin worship with a house blessing and chalking of our doors, or portals to worship. This may involve chalk if you have it, or alternatives if you don't!

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Anti-Racism Event at LCMNU

DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE CHURCH: A CONVERSATION WITH REV. LENNY DUNCAN

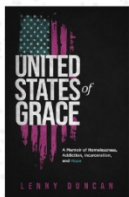
WED, JAN 13, 2021

7 PM - 8 PM CST ON ZOOM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register by 1/11 at bit.ly/lcmduncan

WRITER. WITNESS. AGITATOR.



Lenny is the author of "United States of Grace" & "Dear Church". Born on 62nd and Race in West Philly, he now lives in the Pacific Northwest. Lenny is a nationally recognized writer, speaker, preacher, thinker, and agitator who has centered most of his theological work in the task of dismantling White Supremacy in Christian community. Lenny is just another Black queer writer trying to survive America. He loves hip hop, tattoos, Jesus, liberation, and most likely you.

Upcoming Events for Interfaith Action of Evanston

1) Walk for warmth (on wheels) on Jan. 18, 2021

IAE had a very successful walk for warmth that Bert Mount and I were able to make last winter. Can you make it with us on wheels this year? Each team sets a goal for funds to be solicited from faith or work communities, family, and friends.

- When: January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 11:00am-12:00pm
- Where: Evanston, starting location TBA
- What: Drive in a “parade” the 2-mile circuit of IAE overnight shelters.
- Who: Families, folks, and youth of all ages can show compassion and creativity by decorating their car and driving all or part of the route.
- Why: On MLK’s National Day of Service, January 18, Walk for Warmth on Wheels will raise funds for operating the Emergency Overnight Shelters and heighten community awareness of people in Evanston who are homeless.



2) The annual vision keepers dinner (virtual) will be held Feb. 21 at 6 pm. Details as follows:
 Sunday Feb 21, 2020 at 6 PM

- Dinner: Participants pick up their reserved dinner from a choice of local restaurants
- Community: Each Faith Community eats their meal together in their own Zoom break out room
- Ceremony: Directly after dinner, participants attend ceremony on Zoom to honor the Vision Keepers
- Tickets: \$60.00 per person includes their choice of meal
- Benefits: IAE’s direct services including soup kitchens, warming centers, emergency overnight shelter, Producemobile, Hospitality Center, SNAPGap

GoFundMe page for Swedish Covenant Meals through Prairie Grass Café is still open. Now more than ever we give thanks for our front line medical workers. God’s work, our hands! [Go Fund Me Page](#)