

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Glen Rock, PA 17327

Service of Lessons & Carols

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE HYMN: “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

DIALOGUE

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

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

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

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

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

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

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

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 *God promises a king*

² 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.

³ You 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.

⁴ For 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For 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.

⁷ His 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time fore-told,
When the new heav'n and earth shall own
The prince of peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a *The king will come from Bethlehem*

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35,38 *The annunciation to Mary*

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ... ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald Angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled":
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Chorus

Hark! the Herald Angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King."

Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Ris'n with healing in His wings,
Light and life to all He brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!

Chorus

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

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

15 When 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.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Chorus

Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:

Chorus

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:21-36 *Jesus receives his name*

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

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

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

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Savior,
Was born upon this day:
To save us all from Satan's pow'r,
When we were gone astray:

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

SEVENTH READING: **Matthew 2:1-11** *The magi follow the star*

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

CAROL: "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.

Chorus

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Pray'r and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most High

Chorus

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

SERMON AND CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERTORY HYMN: "What Child Is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are
keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Let us pray.

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: **Our Father who art in heaven....**

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Today's altar flower arrangement is presented in honor of Nicolas Prego's birthday, by grandparents, Dave & Shirley Seitz.

Today's second altar flower arrangement is presented in celebration of the life of gratitude and kindness of Helen E. Myers, by Rebecca Myers.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 01/03/21

Jer 31:7-14, Ps 147:12-20, Eph 1:3-14, John 1:[1-9] 10-18

PRAYER REQUESTS

Roman Davis, Brian Dell, Kathy Gardner, Van Gardner, Irene Grogan, Nancy Heltzel, Andy Hill, Linda Kowalewski, Don Miller, Jim Ream, Susan Scheungrab, Steve Scott, Dave & Shirley Seitz, Susette Stallard, Earl Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Items for the Tree of Warmth can be dropped off at the church office door. Please place items in a plastic bag and hang on the inside doorknob of the church office door.

Upcoming Zoom Worship Services:

Sunday	January 3 rd	9:00 am
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You will receive a Zoom invite by email and will be able to join virtual worship 15 minutes in advance of the start time. If you have questions about joining a zoom service, please contact Joy Keller-Brown at 717-235-7044.

Please continue to support Zion's mission. Your financial contribution can be made by:

1. Mailing a check to Zion Lutheran Church, 47 Hanover Street, Glen Rock, PA 17327. (Make sure to write your envelope number on the check)
2. Online Giving at www.zionglenrock.org.

Upcoming Lectors:

Jan. 3 – Linda Beegle

If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.

PERSONNEL here at ZION

Pastor Paul Haack, Stated Sunday Supply Pastor

Pastor Katie Brantner, Interim Pastoral Care Coordinator...717-420-0779

Darryl Engler, Organist

Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant

Natalie Walker, Custodian

Chad Fisher, Sexton.....717-891-5327

Joy Keller-Brown, Council President.....717-235-7044

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joy Keller-Brown, Donna Price, Bill Ream, Tom Bailey, Susan Hengst,
George Brown, Carrie Miller, Edgar Davis and Gevene Harden

OFFICE HOURS

The office is currently closed to in person visits. Brenda can be reached on her cell phone at 717-793-7236.

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