

Gayle and Don Merritt
In memory of our parents

Audrey Pederson
In memory of Eilert Pederson

Carol and Dean Sjoquist
In memory of Wallace and Debbie Sjoquist

Marian Priest
In memory of Bruce Priest and Katy Priest

Audrey Retrum
In memory of families of Audrey and David Retrum

Tom and Kris Simon
In memory of our parents: Clint and Helen Lomis, Arnie and Fran Simon

Earl Simons, Dawn, Bill, Ryan, and Chad Bailey
In memory of Ruthanne Simons

Carol Stejskal
In memory of my husband and friends and family members now living in glory

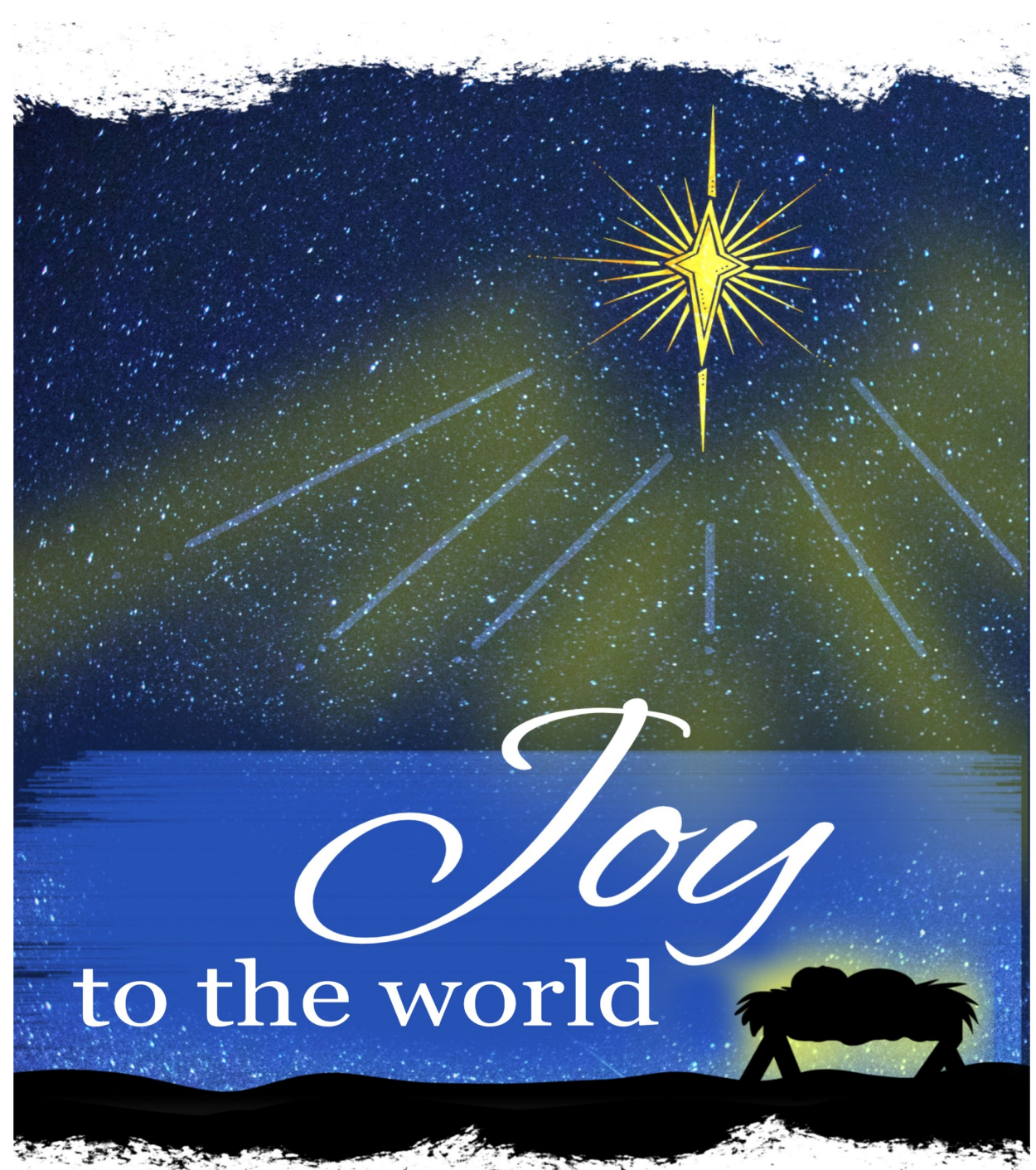
Kathy Stejskal-Swendiman
In memory of family and friends no longer with us

Bryan and Wendy Toenies
For the joy of this holiday season

Ron and Lois Tollefsrud
In memory of loved ones

Ali and Isak Tranvik
In gratitude to our parents

Mark Trease
In memory of Scott A. Wells & Markus J. Wuollet



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
December 24, 2023 at 4pm

Merry Christmas! Welcome to Cross of Glory—we are glad you're here!

- ◆ If you are a visitor, we invite you to fill out a “Welcome” card found in your pew rack and place it in the offering plates so we can extend the welcome.
- ◆ Please pick up a candle from an usher, which we will light at the end of the service. If you're worshipping online, we invite you to have a candle present with you.
- ◆ We will be celebrating Holy Communion, so if you're joining us online, please also gather bread (or a cracker) and wine (or juice).

However you are joining us today, know that you are welcome, and that God's love and joy meets you here, as together we worship Christ Emmanuel.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
O Come All Ye Faithful
Ode To Joy

Joel Sebald, piano
Adalyn Sebald, piano
Archer Dahl, clarinet

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here, in winter's deep night, we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that shines in the darkness.

All: We gather together in the wonder of this night.

L: Like Mary, we open ourselves to your unexpected arrival,

A: Longing for a different kind of world.

L: Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen,

A: Longing to hear a word of peace.

L: Like the wise ones, we come with gifts to give, and gifts to receive,

A: Longing to find a child that is born to us.

L: Like the angels, we have come as a chorus to sing of this good news of great joy.

A: Longing for the joy that is given to the world.

L: Come, let us gather, let us hear and see and sing, let us worship Emmanuel, the God who is come.

A: Amen!

Please stand as you're able

Thank You

...TO THOSE WHO ADORNED OUR SANCTUARY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR THOSE NAMED BELOW:

Cheryl and Gail Anderson

In memory of Sidney and Marian Anderson, and all our pets.

Dan and Julie Aulwes

In memory of Dan's Mom and Dad and Julie's Dad

Don and Karen Earnest

In memory of family and friends

Ardis Fairchild

In memory of Neil Fairchild and Beth Caswell

Deb Groettum and family

In memory of John Groettum

Marcy, Lynn, and Nick Hartlage

In memory of Gil Hartlage

August and Nancy Hengel

In memory of mothers, fathers, son, brothers, sisters and friends

Richard Hoium

In memory of Beverly Hoium

Marcia, Joe, and Jeff Janasz

In memory of husband and father, Chet Janasz, and family

Harvey Johnson

In memory of Patricia Ann Johnson

Abby Kelley

In memory of Jamie Hedin-Buckalew, Brian Schipper, and Ben Franke

Tom and Rachel Marquardt

In memory of our dads, Elmer Marquardt and Bill Hass

Patricia McNevin

In memory of Dolores and Neil McNevin

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharing Life Together at Cross of Glory

“Jesus Christ took on flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14). Here at Cross of Glory, we believe that Jesus is alive and indeed, lives right here in Brooklyn Center, MN! We’re a faith community that works to welcome all to experience God’s love that’s freely and abundantly given to all people, and to share God’s gift of life together across all our varied backgrounds and beliefs. Sharing life together means we worship together, break bread together, pray with and for one another, lament and celebrate together, ask questions together, and work together for justice and peace in our neighborhood and world. We give God thanks for the nearly 70 years of ministry we’ve already shared, and we continue to be open to new ways of being the church as we seek to be guided by God’s ever-moving Spirit. We welcome you to join us as we witness and share God’s joy that’s alive in our neighborhood!

Worship

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am onsite and online. Video recordings of all worship services are also posted to our website each Sunday.

WinterFest

All are welcome on Fri, Jan 26 between 5-7 pm for a neighborhood block party celebration at CoG that includes free food, a winter clothing distribution, live music, a community resource fair, kids’ activities, a covid and flu vaccination clinic, and more. If you wish to donate new or gently-used winter clothing for this event, please do so anytime before Jan 26 during office hours. Thank you!

Art Exhibit

We invite you to stop by our new gallery space (between the sanctuary and offices), where we are currently hosting an exhibit titled “Incarnation.” The series includes pieces that depict the incarnate Christ by artists across time and place, inviting us to imagine God-With-Us anew in our world today.

Pastoral Care & Visitation

If you are in need of care, prayer, or conversation, please reach out to the office to be connected with the pastor or our Care & Visitation Team.

Make a Gift

Your Christmas offering empowers us to share God's gift of life together through a variety of vibrant ministries both in our congregation and in the Brooklyn Center community. To make a contribution today, leave an offering in the plates, mail a check to the church, or scan the QR code on page 9 to give a secure online gift. Thank you for your generosity!

MUSIC

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#283 vss 1, 3, 4

Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the king of angels.

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest!
(Refrain)

Verse 4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born that happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing. (Refrain)

Please be seated

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: On this silent night when we gather to celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, we confess that our own noise has drowned out the melody of God’s redeeming love. On this silent night, we confess our sins together:

All: Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have rejected your invitation to life. We have failed to live in your love. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden in whom you dwell. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins—those we know and those known only to you—for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

L: Hear the good news of great joy: God forgives us all our sins, not through our own efforts, but through † Jesus Christ, who is born to all people. Rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

A: Amen. Thanks be to God!

MUSIC

What Child Is This?

#296 vss 1 & 3

Verse 1

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!

Verse 3

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!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS & ADVENT CANDLES

A reading from John 1:1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Please stand as you're able

MUSIC

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

#270 vss 1 and 3

Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king;
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem:

"Glory to the newborn king!"

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born
 Prince of peace!
 Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Ris'n with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise each child of earth,
 Born to give us second birth (*Refrain*)

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,

POSTLUDE

MUSIC CREDITS

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik

Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams

Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease

Kids' Message: Kris Simon

Vocalists: Erik Haugland, Laura McClanahan, Kris Simon

Guitar: Steve Sebald, Josh Smith

Special Music: Renee Dahl, Nora Kirchner, Markia Marquardt, Ravion Marquardt, Erik Haugland, Rachel Marquardt

Prelude Instrumentalists: Adalyn Sebald, Joel Sebald, Archer Dahl

Greeters: Gordy and Maggie Johnsrud

Reader: Gordy Johnsrud

Communion Servers: Linda Knudsen, Judy Lewis

Ushers: Tom Simon, Cheryl Anderson, Gayle Merritt, Josh Day

Lighting of the Advent Candles: The Smith and Kelley Families

Prayers of the People: Mike McClanahan, Carolyn Davis, Abby Kelley, Isak Tranvik, Laura McClanahan, Kris Simon

Tech Team: Ryan Bailey, Dawn Bailey & Bill Bailey

Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

Connect with Us

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Office hours: Mon-Wed 10-2

Visit our website: <http://crossofglory.us>

Email us: office@crossofglory.us

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/crossofglorymn>

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

At this time, we'll light candles, reminding us of the light of Christ that is given to us this night, and the light we're called to take forth into the world. The flame will be passed to you by a neighbor—please place your unlit candle onto the lit candle of your neighbor. If you're online, you're invited to light a candle as we sing. Candles may remain lit through the end of the service.

When lighting, please hold the unlit candle over the lit candle

Pastor: One candle is but a flicker, but our many flames join together to reflect one light, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who shines in the darkness.

MUSIC

Silent Night

#281 vss 1-3

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams
from your holy face,
with the dawn
of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

BLESSING

Pastor: Our candles reflect the star that led the magi, the angels who shone in the night sky, and the light of Christ who is come. Let your light shine as you go forth tonight, knowing that the presence of God † accompanies you, the peace of Christ dwells with you, and the love of the Holy Spirit never leaves you. Amen.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, and share God's joy with the world!

A: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together...

God Emmanuel, you come among us to grant us peace, offer us hope, fill us with joy, and embody love. Empower us to live out the good news of the birth of your Son to all the world; in the name of Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*** Please be seated ***

Word

SCRIPTURE READING

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.
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.
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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC **Away in a Manger** **#277 vss 1-3**

Verse 1
Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

Verse 2
The cattle are lowing;
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus,

no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle
till morning is nigh.

Verse 3
Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask you to stay
close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care
and fit us for heaven,
to live with you there.

** Please stand as you are able **

GOSPEL READING **Luke 2:1-20**

P: The Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

ALL: 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. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and

(grape juice option available upon request). Baskets where you can place empty cups are located at the end of the first pews. If you'd like communion to be brought to you, in your pew, we'd be glad to do so...simply cue an usher.

If you're worshipping online, you're invited to partake in this holy meal with bread and wine/juice, trusting that God is present in it, and that it draws us together as one body in Christ.

COMMUNION MUSIC **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** **#276 vss 1 & 2**

Verse 1
Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Verse 2
Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

MUSIC **Angels From the Realms of Glory** **#275 1-3**

Verse 1
Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain
Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn king.

Verse 2
Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now abiding,
yonder shines the infant light.
(Refrain)

Verse 3
Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
(Refrain)

COMMUNION PRAYER

Emmanuel, God with us, you fill us with bread for the journey. Send us out into the world that you so love, to extend the grace we've received and to share the bread we've been given, in the name of Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

All: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

—tune of “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of hosts, all praise be given!
All your glory fills the earth,
all your power fills the heavens.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Verse 2

Blessed is the child who comes,
bringing love and light divine.
Blessed is the one who's here,
in the bread and in the wine.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

ALL: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: Jesus shows up in a lowly manger, and in the simple gifts of bread and wine. Come, meet Christ in this meal.

P: The body of Christ is given for you.

A: Amen.

P: The blood of Christ is shed for you.

A: Amen.

If you're worshiping onsite, an usher will dismiss your row. You'll be invited to then come forward to receive bread (gluten-free option available upon request) and wine

wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*** Please be seated ***

SPECIAL MUSIC Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth CoG Kids

KIDS' MESSAGE

MUSIC

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#290 vss 1 & 3

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

Verse 1

While shepherds
kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

Verse 3
Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation

That blessed Christmas morn.
(Refrain)

SERMON

MUSIC **Joy to the World** **#267 vss 1, 2, 4**

Verse 1
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n
and nature sing.

Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 2
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,

Verse 4
He rules the world
with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

*** Please stand as you are able ***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*** Please be seated ***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God Emmanuel,
All: Hear our prayer.

OFFERING

The Spirit moves through the offering we joyfully share. We invite you to leave an offering in the plates or scan the QR code here to make a secure, online gift. Thank you!



SPECIAL MUSIC

We Have A Savior

Worship Team

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Generous God, you have given us the gift of new life, the gift of community, and these gifts of bread and wine that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and joy to all the tables of our lives.
All: Amen.

Table

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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant...lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing: