

*Welcome to Worship
at
Whitnall Park Lutheran Church*



*Sunday, January 4th, 2026
8:30 and 10:30 am Worship
(10:30 am Baptism)*

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead. Please sign our Guest Register and introduce yourself as you leave worship today.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are invited to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider quietly meditating. meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection
Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 47:12)

CALL TO WORSHIP **300 The First Noel Vs 1 and Refrain**

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN 275 *Angels, From The Realms of Glory*

- 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:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE Page 138 Setting 3

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 273 *All My Heart Again Rejoices Vs 1*

1 All my heart again rejoices as I hear,
far and near sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,
till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *a reading from Jeremiah 31:7-14*

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock.

Young women will express their joy in dancing, God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.
This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like breadcrumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING *a reading from Ephesians 1:3-14*

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he

lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 174 *Celtic Alleluia*

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel *according to John 1:1-18*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead

of me because he was before me.'")¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.
The is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 294 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

BAPTISM ~ ***Heath Michael Wrobel*** ~ ***10:30 Service***

APOSTLE'S CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.
a brief silence.

A: O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in blessing. Help us to look for you in all people. Let us seek you in many places, praising you always. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of illness. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day, especially those who are ill Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN *465 As the Grains of Wheat*

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were
gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people
from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . .

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW Setting One Pg 108

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life; Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in His death and resurrection. We look with hope for His coming.

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.**

COMMUNION

As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our prefilled cups containing the wafer and juice or at the rail in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.

We receive the Lord and share in this holy meal; One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.

COMMUNION SONG 195 *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS **299 *Cold December Flies Away*** **296 *What Child is This?***

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE 207 *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.

**Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us now to love and serve all those in need and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, + guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *287 Let All Together Praise Our God*

- 1 Let all together praise our God before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.
- 2 From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small,
and lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall,
a manger in a stall.
- 3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might;
a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light,
who clothed the sky with light.
- 4 Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings you a lullaby,
while angels, hailing David's heir, your glory magnify,
your glory magnify.
- 5 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.
- 6 Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more, to God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

