

***Welcome To Worship At
Whitnall Park Lutheran Church
Lessons and Carols
December 28th, 2025***



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 welcome 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 on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection.
The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

OPENING HYMN 242 *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.**

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.

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 humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL PROCLAIMED THROUGH WORD AND HYMN

CAROL 283 *O Come, All Ye Faithful vs 1*

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

A: FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 63:7-9*

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL 272 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming vs 1*

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

P: SECOND LESSON: *Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephratha, 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. 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. 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; and he shall be the one of peace.

CAROL 279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem Vs 1*

- 1 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.**

A: THIRD LESSON: *Luke 1:26-35,38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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 the Son of God." 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.

CAROL 275 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory vs 1*

- 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.**

P: FOURTH LESSON: *Luke 2:1-6*

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

CAROL *277 Away in a Manger vs 1*

**Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.**

A: FIFTH LESSON: *Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood over 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 Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find the 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 favors!"

CAROL: 290 Go Tell it On The Mountain vs 1

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks
by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a
holy light. *Refrain***

P: SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

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 things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, as it had been told them.

CAROL 300 The First Noel Vs 1

- 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.

P: This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world,
we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.
a brief silence.

A: Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our
hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are
persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee
Services. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air.
Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year
strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further
harm to the environment. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase
justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this
new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict
throughout the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase
our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship
and deepen our faith. Sustain our pastor's and all who minister in your
name. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. Watch over all who are ill . . . God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERATORY HYMN *270 Hark the Angels Sing Vs 1*

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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 by intinction 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 HYMNS 462 Now We Join in Celebration

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 270 *Hark !The Herald Angels Sing Vs 3 & Refrain*

- 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

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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.

CLOSING HYMN 292 *Love Has Come*

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the
Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. The light of Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

