

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2021**  
**4 pm**



**St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville**

[www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org)

(410) 665-1234

After hour emergency: (443) 844-9314

[Office@stjohnsparkville.org](mailto:Office@stjohnsparkville.org)

Text SJPARKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.



**CHRISTMAS EVE 2021**  
**4 pm Family Service (outside)**

**WELCOME**

Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Join us in the telling of the story and singing of our favorite hymns.

**Luke 2:1-4**

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.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*ELW 279 (verse 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.*

*(Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908)*

**Reading**

**Mary and Joseph travel.**

*Once in Royal David's City*

*ELW 269 (verse 1)*

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876)*

**Luke 2:5-6**

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.

**Reading**

*Silent Night*

*ELW 281 (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.*

*(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1972-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863)*

## **Luke 2:7**

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.

### ***Once in Royal David's City***

*ELW 269 (verse 2)*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876)*

### ***Reading***

#### ***Away in a Manger***

*ELW 277 (verses 1 and 2)*

*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.*

*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.*

*(Text: North American, 19th cent.; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905)*

## **Luke 2:8**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

### ***Reading***

#### **Shepherds appear**

##### ***The First Noel***

*ELW 300 (verse 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

*(Text and Music: English traditional; arr. John Strainer, 1840-1901)*

## **Luke 2:9**

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

## **Reading**

### **Angel appears**

#### ***It Came upon the Midnight Clear***

***ELW 270 (verse 1)***

***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 all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.***

*(Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876; Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900)*

### **Luke 2:10-13**

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 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,

### **More Angels appear**

praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

#### ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

***ELW 289 (verse 1)***

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.***

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

### **Luke 2:15-16**

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.

## **Reading**

### ***What Child is This?***

***ELW 296 (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!***

*(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Music: English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> cent.)*

## **Luke 2:17-20**

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.

### ***Reading***

*Joy to the World*

*ELW 267 (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.*

*(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.,; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872).*

## **PRAYERS**

### **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.**

### **BLESSING**

*Go Tell It on the Mountains*

*ELW 290 (verses 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!*

*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*

*(Text and music: African American spiritual; refrain, John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925)*

## **DISMISSAL**

### Staff

Joseph Lettrich, Interim Pastor	M. Claire Miller, OSSD Deacon
Carol Erpenstein, Church Secretary	Martha Requard, Director of Music

Scott Becker, Sexton



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May the Blessings of The  
Christ Child...  
Hope & Peace, Joy & Love...  
Fill Your Christmas with Light  
And Your Hearts with Joy!