

**Upper Susquehanna Synod – ELCA**  
**Service of Lessons and Carols for the First Sunday of Christmas**



**December 27, 2020**  
**St. John, the Evangelist**

**Gathering Song**

Joy to the world ELW 267 – **Buffalo Valley Conference Choir**

**Dialog**

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.**



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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:** Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 *Terry Gardner, Synod Council*

Reflection

Music: 'Twas in the moon of wintertime ELW 284

*Christine Wilhelm – Evangelical, Reedsville & Holy Communion, Yeagertown*

**Second Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a *Malin Kint, Synod Council*

Music: O little town of Bethlehem ELW 279

*Amy Kacyon, The Table - Bloomsburg*

**Third Reading:** Luke 1:26-35, 38 *Lucas Bingman, Synod Council*

Music: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - ELW # 272

*Brandy Aguire & Christ's Lewisburg Orchestra*

**Fourth Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25 *Wendy Davis, Synod Council*

Music: That boy-child of Mary ELW 293

*Kristina and Gabriel Schaeffer, piano Kim Bolig – Salem, Selinsgrove*

**Fifth Reading:** Luke 2:8-20 *Audrey Brosius, Synod Council*

Music: On Christmas night ELW 274

*Sam Robinson, St. Mark's, Williamsport*

**Sixth Reading:** Matthew 2:1-11 *Ray Huff, Synod Council*

Music: Your little ones, dear Lord ELW 286

*Chad, Claire, and Rev. Sarah Hershberger*

**Seventh Reading:** John 1:1-14 *Holly Fry, synod Vice President*

Music: Love has come ELW 292

*Jolynn Heckman, United In Christ, West Milton*

### **Responsive Prayer**

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.**



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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.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **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 Song** – Angels we have heard on high ELW 289  
*United In Christ, West Milton*



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## Joy to the World

- 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

- 1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime  
when all the birds had fled,  
that \*God the Lord of all the earth  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:

### *Refrain*

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria!

- 2 Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high: *Refrain*

- 3 The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *Refrain*
- 4 O children of the forest free,  
the angel-song is true;  
the holy child of earth and heav'n  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.  
*Refrain*

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.

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## O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893



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## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

- 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.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

## That Boy-Child of Mary

### *Refrain*

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,  
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

- 1 What shall we call him, child of the manger?  
What name is given in Bethlehem?
- 2 His name is Jesus, God ever with us,  
God given for us in Bethlehem. *Refrain*
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,  
born here among us in Bethlehem?
- 4 Gift of the Father, to human mother,  
makes him our brother in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

- 5 One with the Father, he is our Savior,  
heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.
- 6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,  
give ourselves to him in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000

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## On Christmas Night

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful king's birth.
- 2 Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our redeemer made us glad?  
Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?
- 3 When sin departs before his face,  
then life and health come in its place.  
When sin departs before his face,  
then life and health come in its place.  
Angels rejoice with us and sing,  
all for to see the newborn king.
- 4 All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God in highest heav'n;  
peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.



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## Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
and come your lowly bed to see;  
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
that we the way to you may find.
- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,  
and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.
- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
and to us all your grace accord;  
true faith and love to us impart,  
that we may hold you in our heart.
- 4 Until at last we too proclaim,  
with all your saints, your glorious name;  
in paradise our songs renew,  
and praise you as the angels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

## 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!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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## Angels We Have Heard on High

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

### *Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

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