

December 27, 2020

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still

Pastor Aleese Kenitzer, Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church, Muscatine

## GATHERING

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GREETING

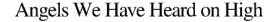
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

GATHERING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High – ELW 289

Ensemble, Zion Lutheran Church, Princeton





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

### DIALOGUE

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.

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

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.

# WORD

READING Hebrews 2:10-18

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

SERMON Bishop Amy Current

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Of the Father's Love Begotten – ELW 295* Pastor Richard Webb, Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines

Of the Father's Love Begotten ø Of the Fa - ther's love worlds be -1 be got ten еге the birth for - ev -2 Oh, that er bless \_ ed, when the vir - gin, 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with the heights of heav'n a Let dore 4 \_ him; an gel hosts, his Christ, to thee, with God the and, ŏ Ho - Iv 5 Fa ther. is Al - pha 0 gan to be, he and me \_ ga, full of grace, the Ho - ly Ghost con by ceiv \_ ing, voic - es one ac - cord, whom the of the proph ets pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be fore prais es sing; him Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv ing . 0 . . he the source, the end ing he, of the things that are, that \_ babe, the world's re bore the the Sav - ior of our race, and their faith ful word; shines, the long - ex prom-ised in now he and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be un - wea - ried prais be: glo - ry, and es hon - or, and do -. . 0 fu - ture years shall have been, and that see, deem re - vealed his er, first sa - cred face, ed; pect let cre - a - tion praise its Lord si lent, ev -'ту voice in con - cert ring ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry min and ev - er - more er more. ev ev - er - more and ev - $\operatorname{er}$ more. ev - er - more and more. ev er -ev - er - more ev - er - more and ev - $\operatorname{er}$ more. and more! men. ev $\operatorname{er}$ А

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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#### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life. For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

#### We thank you, O God.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh, to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all people, and to welcome us as members of your family. For your loving Word, we adore you, O God. **We adore you, O God.** 

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit, that held, nourished, and protected by your Word, we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world. For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.** 

All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. Amen.

#### 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. SONG In the Bleak Midwinter Pastor Susan Bantz, Lutheran Living Senior Campus, Muscatine

# SENDING

BLESSING FOR RETIREMENT Pastor Paul Ostrem, Assistant to the Bishop, is retiring Dec. 31, 2020

#### 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.

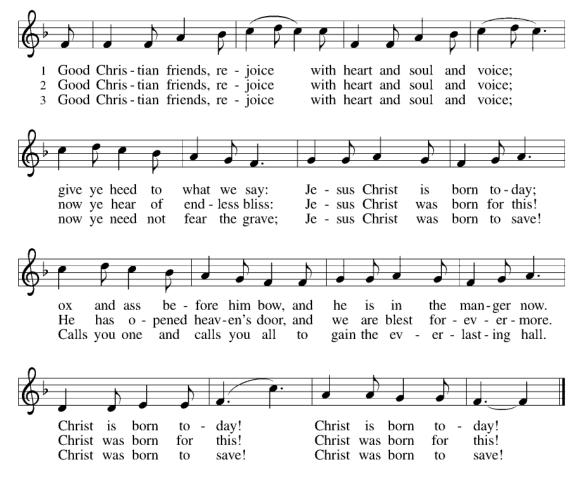
Almighty God, Father, 🕂 Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

## *Good Christian Friends Rejoice –ELW 288* Chime Choir, Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming David Krueger & Robin Wagner, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

#### Worship Leaders:

Bishop Amy Current Shonagh Current Giere Emily Harlynn Val Harlynn Kathy Smith Gary Smith Pastor Paul Ostrem Carol Ostrem Pastor Erika Uthe Charlotte Uthe Frankie Uthe

#### **Music provided by:**

Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church, Muscatine Pastor Aleese Kenitzer Zion Lutheran Church, Princeton Roger Huff Jon Dohrmann Sheila Bosworth Holly Mangels Joan Huff Pam Opolka Shauna Bullard-Kane, accompanist Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines Pastor Richard Webb Lutheran Living Senior Campus, Muscatine Pastor Susan Bantz St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids David Krueger Robin Wagner, Organist Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge Linda Szemkus Beth Ann Anderson Linda Golinghorst Neal Becker Susan Becker, Director

Thank you worship musicians, leaders, sound, and A/V technicians. Blessings to Pastor Paul Ostrem on his retirement on December 31, 2020.

> Merry Christmas! From Bishop Current and the Office of the Bishop staff Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

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