December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Communion Service

For this service, Christ Church is using BCP'2019, Anglican Standard Text

Please silence your cell phones.

Christmas 2024 has arrived, and I pray for the next hour you can take a deep breath and relax with us tonight amidst the wonder of the season. Like every year, this Christmas season has been filled with joy and much activity. Cookies are baked, cards sent, special music in church is performed, and presents of all shapes and sizes will be exchanged. We all have been on the lookout since Thanksgiving for the perfect gift, the one that will bring great delight to our loved ones.

And as always, you know the story we speak of tonight. You know the characters, you know the plot, and you know the climax. I know that you know all of that, but I ask you to stop for a moment tonight and reflect with me. It's the Christmas story – Christ's mass story. You've made this journey what - 15, 25 45, maybe 90 times! Is this story nothing more than a Christmas Day yawn for you? Or are you amazed all over again?

Has familiarity bred contempt this Christmas? Or does your face light up like a Christmas tree when you hear of the star lighting up the Bethlehem night sky.

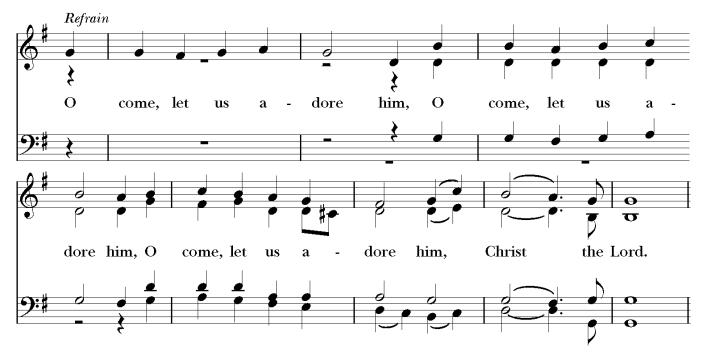
Have you let the miraculous become mundane, or do you still marvel at the shepherds running to Bethlehem to see the babe lying in a manger?

It's Christmas! I invite you to run with me to the Savior born in Bethlehem – because it's true! And because the narrative is true – we have hope for today, tomorrow, and into eternity!

Merry Christmas, Gene

WELCOME





6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

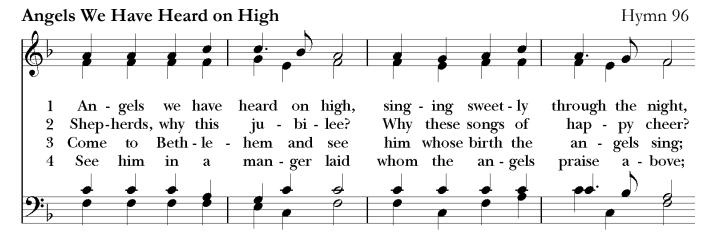
Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal 1906

For unto us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light: Grant that we, who have known the revelation of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The people sit.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:1 – 7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Verse 3 will be sung 2X, the people will join in for the 2^{nd} time.

(4:00 pm Service Only)

"Saw You Never in the Twilight"*

Children's Choir

Verse 3

Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning star? He who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar? And we, too, may seek his cradle, There our hearts' best treasures bring, Love and faith and true devotion for our Savior, God and King.

Lutheran Hymnal, # 228 | Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1853 | Arr. By Charles Wood, alt. 1990 | French Melody, 15th cent | Hymnal.org | Public Domain

Psalm 96 (6:00 pm Service Only, please pray responsively by half verse)

- O sing unto the Lord a new song; *
 sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
- Sing unto the Lord and praise his Name; *
 tell of his salvation from day to day.
- Declare his honor to the nations, *
 and his wonders to all peoples.
- 3. For the Lord is great, and highly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 4. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 5. Glory and majesty are before him; * power and honor are in his sanctuary.

CHRIST CHURCH WESTSHORE Christmas Eve 5

- 6. Ascribe unto the Lord, O you families of the peoples, * ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
- 7. Ascribe unto the Lord the honor due unto his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 8. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 9. Tell it out among the nations, "The Lord is King; *

 it is he who has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he shall judge the peoples righteously."
- 10. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; *

 let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein.
- 11. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; *

 then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.
- 12. For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth, *

 and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

The Epistle Titus 2:11 – 14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

Sequence Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 87, vv. 1-2

Verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!

Verse 2

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity.

Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

Refrain

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The people remain standing.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Luke 2: 1 – 20

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sequence Hymn Hark the Herald Angels Sing Hymn 87, v 3

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Refrain

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!

The Sermon Rev. Gene Sherman

"The Shepherd's Faith"

The people stand.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in

accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The people sit.

The Prayers of the People

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us pray for the people he came to save.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Wonderful Counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the spirit of truth:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families, and renew our communities:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We remember those who have died in Christ...

Let us commend the world, to which Christ came, to the mercy and protection of God. Amen.

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and

forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements / Birthdays / Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Carol Ball 12/25

Offertory

"Saw You Never in the Twilight"

Adult Ensemble

Verse 3

Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning star? He who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar? And we, too, may seek his cradle, There our hearts' best treasures bring, Love and faith and true devotion for our Savior, God and King.

The people stand.

Doxology Hymn 380, v. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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The people remain standing.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who forever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

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.

The people sit or stand.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us, also, that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed once for all upon the cross.

Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

We do not presume to come to this, your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. Apart from your grace, we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music (*Please join in singing.*)
Behold the Lamb of God

Peterson & Story

Verse 1

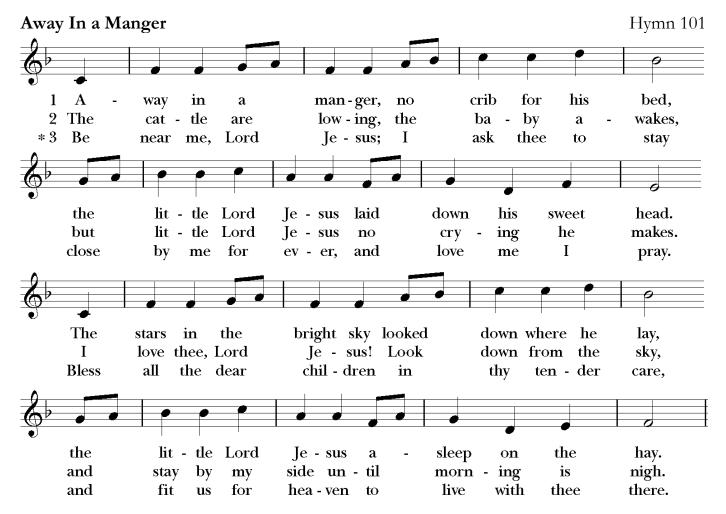
We who walk in darkness deep Now see the light of morning. The Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, a child to us is born.

Chorus

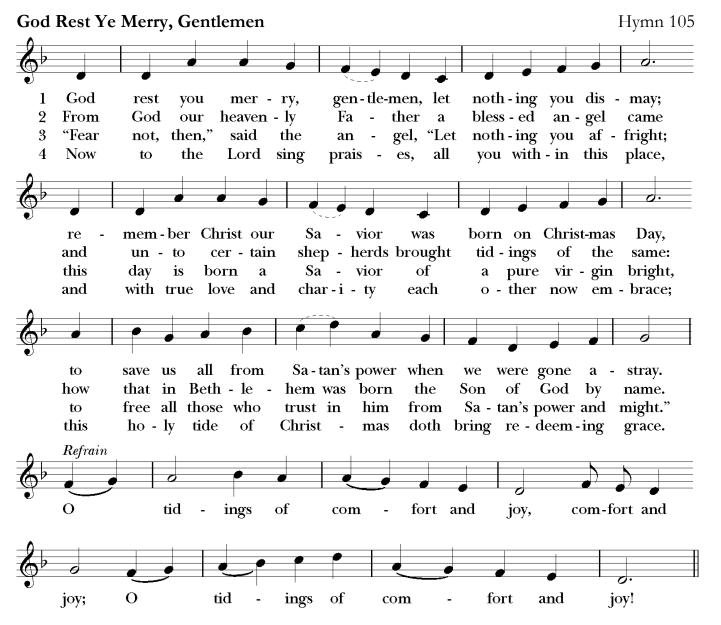
Behold, the Lamb of God
Who takes away our sin.
Behold the Lamb of God,
The life and light of men.
Behold the Lamb of God
Who died and rose a-gain.
Behold the Lamb of God
Who comes to take away our sin.

Verse 2
Wanderers in the wilderness,
O Hear! A voice is crying,
"Prepare the way! Make straight the path!
Your King has come to die."
Chorus 2X

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Words: Traditional carol Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright:

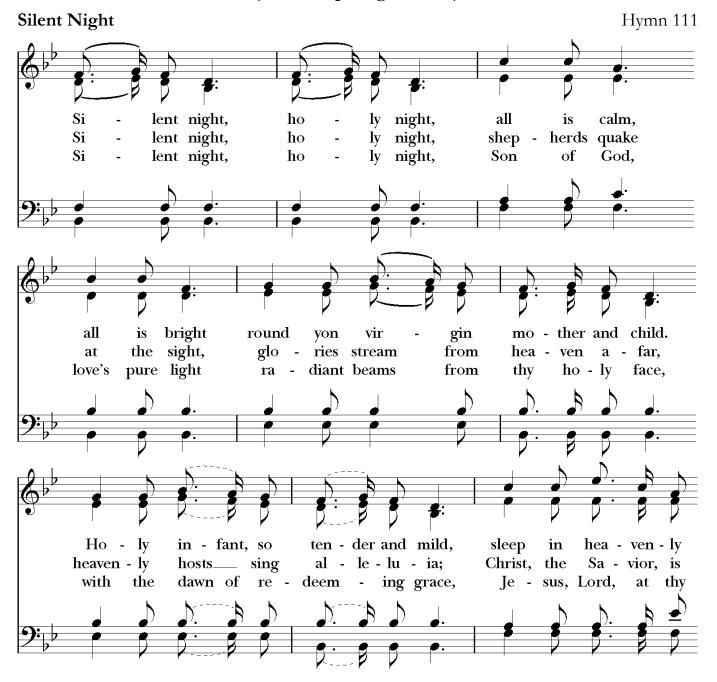
Music: Copyright © The Church Pension Fund

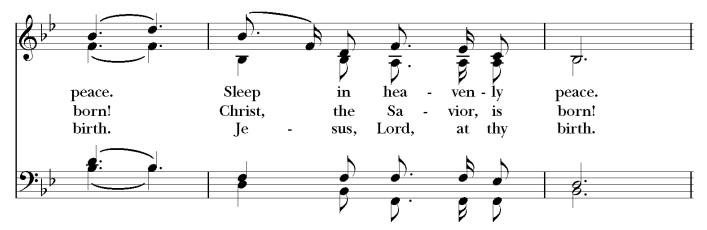
Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Once the altar has been cleared the lights are shut off, the acolyte will bring the light of Christ to light the candles. Please stand to light the candles. Please tip the unlit candle into the flame (to avoid spilling hot wax).





Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

The Blessing

The people respond: Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God

<i>By:</i>	In loving memory of:
Sue Hill	Gerry Hill, Beverly Oring, & Andrea Coleman
Bob & CathieVasko	William & Mary Cush & George & Martha Vasko
Barbara Finley	Bob Finley, Marie Davis, our parents, Helen & Bob Finley, & Dorothy & Al Humbel
Joe & Adele Torok	Family members & friends
John & Laurel Ryan	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Vandermark Mr. & Mrs. John F. Ryan, Jr. Mr. Worth A. Fauver, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Husted Ms. Suzi Fox
Harry and Karen Huhndorff	Our daughter, Lisa Jane Huhndorff
Dotty Reichenbach	My parents, Hugo & Madeline, my sister, Ann, & my brother, John.
Robert & Linda Jackson Gary & Iris Neel	Family & friends that have touched our lives Our parents, Paul & Betty Neel & Leon & Edith Haco

Jane Rolf David Rolf, and loved ones of the Rolf & Hunt family

members

Sue Williams Tommy, Hootie, & Tom

Fred & Sarah Rice Beloved family
Vic Evin Judy Evin

Gene & Kim Sherman My parents, Charles & Carole Cordove, Bonnie Cress

(Amy's mom), & Ann Sherman (Gene's mom)

Greg & Marie Tench Our parents, Maisie & Ernest Nicolette and Leonard &

Willene Tench

The Poinsettias are also given as thank offerings:

By:

Harry and Karen Huhndorff Our son, Mark, and his family

Bob & Cathie Vasko Katie & Ward Collins, & Bobby & Gabrielle Vasko

Joe & Adele Torok Blessings of family & CCW family

Sue Hill The gift of Jesus and the kindness of family & friends

Bob & Carroll Middlemiss To God for loving us more than we deserve.

Fred & Sarah Rice For all of God's blessings in life Dotty Reichenbach A loving and merciful Lord.

Joseph and Adel Torok All of God's blessings

Greg & Marie Tench God's grace & power to heal

Robert & Linda Jackson God's many blessings in 2023, the blessing of family,

and for His care & provisions

Gary & Iris Neel God's amazing blessings

Fred & Sarah Rice Family and the many blessings in our lives

Gene & Kim Sherman God's gift of Kimberly Ann, my family, & the CCW

family

Bob Drusendahl All of God's blessings

Nona & Papa Sherman Church family & God's faithfulness! Thanksgivings for

all our sweet grandchildren & for our latest, Camille

Sherman (11/7/24)

+ + + + + + + + + + + +

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1 – 20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it, wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Giving

The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God by Chris & Nancy Hund in loving memory of their parents, Doc & Rusty Davis, Harry & Virginia Hund, & for all that God has blessed us with including the Two-Year Anniversary of our long-awaited CHURCH HOME!

2024 Financials		
Through Sunday	12/15/2024	
<u>Offerings</u>		
Current Month Total Expense Budget	\$45,026	
Current Month Actual Revenues	\$41,000	
YTD Total Expense Budget	\$555,002	
YTD Actual Revenues	\$530,363	
Annual 2024 Total Expense Budget	\$555,002	

Attendance for 12/15/2024

10:00 am - 102

Wednesday - 15

Online — 27