

December 26, 2021  
First Sunday of Christmas

Prelude ~ *Prelude, Fugue, and Toccata on "Ade Fideles"* ~ M. Dupre

Announcements

*All people must wear a facemask covering mouth and nose.*

God is Good  
**Everyday**  
And Everyday  
**God is Good**

Call to Worship

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen,  
**longing to hear a word of peace and joy.**

Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer,  
**and hope in our hearts, that this world can change for the better.**

Here, in the calm of a winter's morning, we gather together.  
**We gather together this morning to share our joy for the birth of Christ.**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* ~ No. 143

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

### Prayer of Confession

**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 and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

The good news is that God became incarnate in Christ. This morning we celebrate God becoming human and dwelling among us, to live like us, and to restore us as children of God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

### Opening Prayer

**God of all goodness, we delight in this time of worship. Help us focus this morning on the amazing gift you've given the world in the birth of Jesus. Tune our hearts to sing your praise today as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Amen.**

### Children's Time

### Prayers of the People

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Presentation of the Offering

### Doxology ~ No. 606

**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.**

### Prayer of thanksgiving

### Special Music ~ Rick Snyder

## Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read, your Word is proclaimed, and our hymns are sung, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

## Scripture Readings

*Isaiah 9:6-7* ~ New Revised Standard Version

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

*Titus 3:4-7* ~ New Revised Standard Version

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of God

**The Word of Life**

*What Child is This?* ~ No. 145

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!

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Once in Royal David's City* ~ No. 140

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.

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 mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

*Angels We Have Heard on High* ~ No. 113

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* ~ No. 123

It came upon a 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 heaven's gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong,  
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring.  
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time fore-told,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*Joy to the World* ~ No. 134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

No more let sins and sorrows 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.

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.

Benediction

Postlude ~ *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ~ Lani Smith

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## Prayer List

Dale Isenberg	Michael Ahrens & Family	Craig Polson
Emily Kennedy	Frank Jester	Chase Ewoldt
Martin Hatch	Chris Gruver	Avrie Sinesiou
Barb & Chuck Compher	Matt Isenberg	Gretchen Randon
Lewis Christman	David Collins	Renee Ensell

*\*\*Please let the office know who can be removed and who needs to be added.  
Thank you for your help! \*\**

Happy Birthday to:

26 ~ Tom Bowersox

27 ~ Ryan Whitney

Happy Anniversary to:

31 ~ John & Verna Linney

## CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/26/21

Sunday –Dec. 26	11am Worship ~ Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Heather McDivitt
Tuesday – Dec. 28	6:30pm Scouts in Basement
Thursday – Dec. 30	5pm Finance Meeting 6:45pm Scouts in Basement
Sunday – January 2	11am Worship ~ Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Heather McDivitt

*If you wish to speak with Pastor Bruce, please call 716-378-6773.*

*Please note:*

- Pastor Bruce will be out of the office from Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> until the afternoon of Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Andrea will be out of the office from Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Messages will be checked during this time.