



The Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Eve 2020

# Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

[www.stjohnbluebell.org](http://www.stjohnbluebell.org) [www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell)

Nursery School website: [www.stjohnsns.com](http://www.stjohnsns.com)

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*Our Council Members are listed on our website.*

*Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Order for Worship

## Proclamation for Christmas Eve

P: Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Prelude ~ “Hodie, Christus natus est”

Chamber Choir

Hodie Christus natus est  
hodie Salvator apparuit:  
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,  
Laetantur Archangeli:  
hodie exsultant justī, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluja.

*Today is Christ born;  
today the Savior has appeared;  
today the Angels sing,  
the Archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

Music: Healey Willan

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**

**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

# Gathering Hymn ~ "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## Greeting

P: A child has been born for us, a son given to us.

C: **He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: The grace and lovingkindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Children's Message

## Word

### First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A: The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
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.  
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.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Response~ "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

Chamber Choir

Second Reading~ Titus 2:11-14

A: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Chamber Choir

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.  
In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God.  
In Him was life; and the life was the light of all.  
He came to his own, and his own received him not.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: 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. 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. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

Pastor Rachel Manke

*Following a time of silence for reflection, the assembly may rise.*



Hymn of the Day ~ "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

1. See a-mid the win-ter's snow, born for us on earth be-low,  
 2. Lo, with-in a man-ger lies He who built the star-ry skies;  
 3. Say, ye ho-ly shep-herds, say, what your joy-ful news to-day;  
 4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won-drous light;  
 5. Sa-cred In-fant, all di-vine, what a ten-der love was Thine;  
 6. Teach, O teach us, Ho-ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,

see the ten-der Lamb ap-pears, prom-ised from e-ter-nal years.  
 He, who throned in height sub-lime, sits a-mid the cher-u-bim!  
 where-fore have ye left yoursheep on the lone-ly moun-tain steep?  
 an-gels sing-ing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Sav-ior's birth."  
 thus to come from high-est bliss down to such a world as this!  
 teach us to re-sem-ble Thee in Thy sweet hu-mil-i-ty!

Hail! Thou ev-er-bless-ed morn! Hail, re-demp-tion's hap-py dawn!

Sing through all Je-ru-sa-lem, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem."

WORDS: Edward Caswall, 1858  
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1870

7.7.7.7.Ref

## Nicene Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

A: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

A: Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest, there are so many. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting Martyne, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Martin, Jenny, Scott, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Anthem~ “Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”

Chamber Choir

O you have been chosen to bring us the king,  
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance  
Thus was I knit to man's nature  
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard I from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.

Music: Matthew Culloton

Text: *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*, 1833.

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:*

- 1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this ([stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com)).*
- 2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*
- 3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*

*Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.*

### Voluntary~ “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

William Ringham

## Offertory Hymn~ “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

## Offertory Prayer

P: Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **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.**

## Benediction

**P:** Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Candle lighting

**P:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C:** **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P:** Those who lived in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

**C:** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

**P:** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C:** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all.**

# Sending Hymn~ "Silent Night"

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

## **Assisting with Worship**

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Chamber Choir

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Diane Stein

Cheryl Posen

Deborah Swider, Kathleen Thren, Maja Lisa Fritzhusten,

Robert Laird, Steven Rowe, Jonathan Oehler

## **A Note about Simply Giving...**

If anyone is changing their simply giving amount starting January 2021, please email Marcie @ [stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com). The pledge cards do not initiate a change in your simply giving amount.







