



Epiphany of Our Lord

January 3, 2021

Welcome to St. John

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

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: 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

Prelude ~ “Come, Jesus, Come Morning Star”

Quartet

Come, Jesus, come Morning Star: come with rays of joy and peace.
Word of hope, whom fears would bar, from our darkness bring release.

Come, Jesus, come Holy Child: come enfleshed in humble birth.
Word of love, though scorned, reviled, give our human life new worth.

Come, Jesus, come, living Lord: come in pray’r and sacraments.
Word of blessing still out-poured, work in ways transcending sense.

Come, Jesus, King of kings: come to rule on earth again.
Word for whom creation sings, “O come, Prince of Peace, and reign.”

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Music: Linda Cable Shute

Confession and Forgiveness

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

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 ~ “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your 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 60:1-6

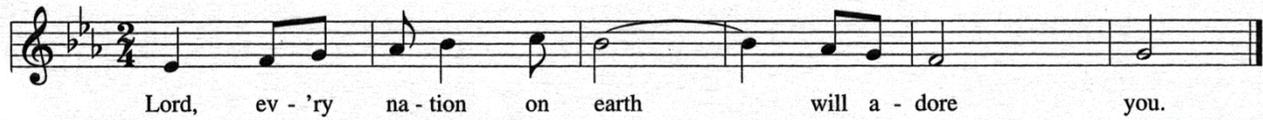
A: Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72



O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. *Refrain.*

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. *Refrain.*

The kings of Tarshish and the seacoasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all rulers shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. *Refrain.*

For he shall save the poor when they cry, and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. *Refrain.*

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

P: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day ~ "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

(Turn page for last stanza)

5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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: Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling. We pray especially for 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: Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. 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~ "Star in the East"

Quartet

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Hail the blest morn!

See the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger.
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odors of Edom and off'rings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure.
Richer by far, is the heart's adoration;
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Music: William Allen Pasch

Text: Reginald Heber

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).

2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.

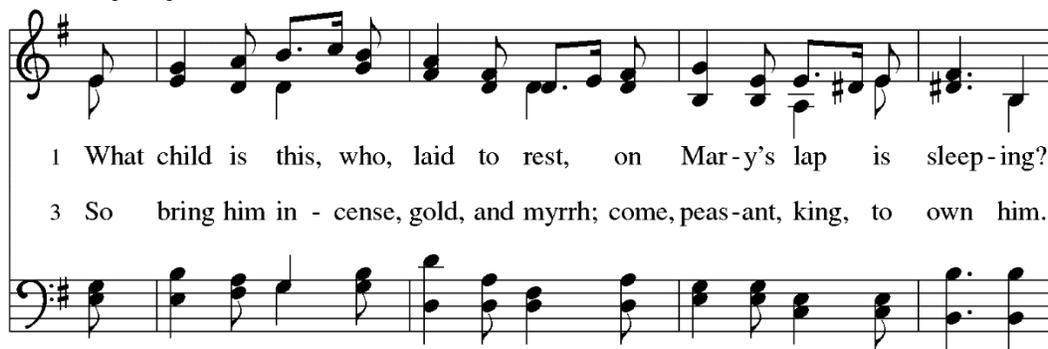
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

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

Voluntary~ “Greensleeves”

Christopher Uehlein

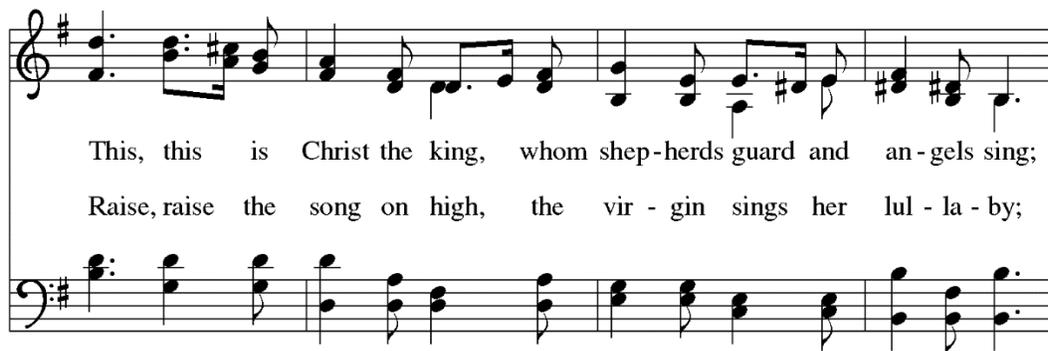
Offertory Hymn~ "What Child is This"



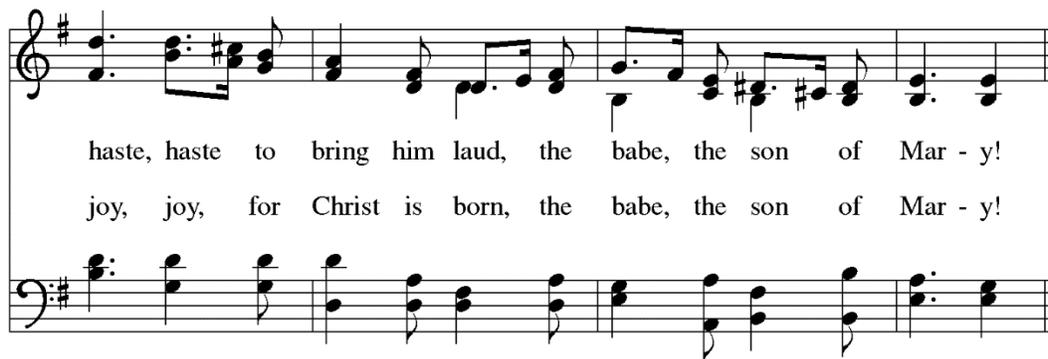
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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.**

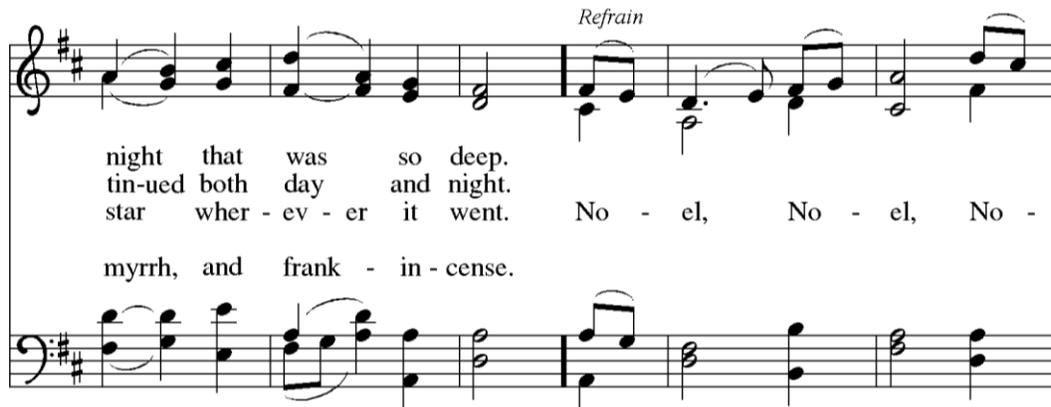
Sending Hymn~ "The First Noel"

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "Wie schön leuchtet"

Jan Bender

Additional music links:

“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”

<https://youtu.be/Wyhc255IEDc>

“There Shall A Star from Jacob”

<https://youtu.be/yZCEPhHfMY4>

“Star of the East, Bethlehem’s Star”

<https://youtu.be/OedfdfUBF8Y>

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Nicene Creed

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Don Killian

Barbara Speece

Linda Maurer

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhusten,

Robert Laird, Jonathan Oehler

A Note about Simply Giving... If anyone is changing their simply giving amount starting January 2021, please email Marcie @ stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com. The pledge cards do not initiate a change in your simply giving amount.

