

**First Sunday of Christmas  
December 26, 2021**

*Rev. Kelley L. Pedersen, Interim Pastor*



*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

(\*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

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**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

**God our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in your light. You reveal your saving love, but we hide your love from others, You claim us as your children, but we do not claim you as our God. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your will be done in our lives so that we may live in peace according to your word; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✝ your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" #288

**\*Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

**\*Call To Worship**

There is good news of great joy for all!

**Our Savior is born; the Messiah, the Lord.**

The Word become flesh to live among us;

**now we have seen the glory of God.**

Let us worship God! Amen.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** "Angels We Have Heard on High" #289

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good tidings,  
who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup> Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice,  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**Hymn** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #282

**Psalm 98**

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD has made known his victory,  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

<sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!

<sup>8</sup> **Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together**

<sup>9</sup> before the LORD, for he comes  
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

**Hymn** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #279

## Hebrews 1:1-4[5-12]

**1** In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

**5** For to what angel did God ever say, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? **6** And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." **7** Of the angels he says, "Who makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

**8** But of the Son he says, "Thy throne, O God, <sup>[a]</sup> is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy <sup>[b]</sup> kingdom.

**9** Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, thy God, has anointed thee with the oil of gladness beyond thy comrades."

**10** And, "Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands;

**11** they will perish, but thou remainest;

they will all grow old like a garment,

**12** like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. <sup>[c]</sup>

But thou art the same,

and thy years will never end."

**13** But to what angel has he ever said,

"Sit at my right hand

till I make thy enemies

a stool for thy feet"?

**14** Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

**Hymn** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #272

## John 1:1-8

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God; **3** all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **4** In him was life, <sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

**Hymn** "Away in a Manger" #277

**John 1: 9-14**

<sup>9</sup> The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

**Hymn** "Silent Night, Holy Night" #281

**\*Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the

Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever (*especially*). We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

May the peace of God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Doxology #884**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Gracious God,

your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,

prepare us to receive the grace and truth

you offer at this table

and renew in us the song of your salvation,

in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy p. 144**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer** p. 145

**\*Invitation to Communion**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
come, see what God makes known for you.

**Communion (continuous)**

*Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.*

*Those who wish to be served at their seats or use the individual pre-packaged elements at their seats may stand to hear the words for individual distribution.*

*Distribution Hymns: What Child is This? #296, Love Has Come #292*

**\*Prayer after Communion**

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,  
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.  
As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Let all God's people say Amen.

**Amen!**

**\*Sending Hymn** "Go Tell It On The Mountain" #290

**\*Dismissal**

May God's blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in God's way.  
May God's presence within you guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

**Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.**

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**Welcome!** May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

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**This Week's Events: Dec 26-Jan 2**

Sun. Jan 2 9:00am **Second Sunday of Christmas**  
Mon. **Office Closed**  
Tues. 7:00pm **AA Meeting** (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)

**Upcoming Events:**

Sun. Jan 9 TLC Council Meeting after worship  
Mon. Jan 10 Annual Meeting reports due; please drop off in the church office  
or email to [tlchurchmoville@gmail.com](mailto:tlchurchmoville@gmail.com)  
Sun. Jan 23 TLC Annual Meeting Preview Discussion after worship  
Sun. Jan 30 TLC Annual Meeting after worship

**Worship Assistants for December:**

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Roger Christiansen	Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: Rex Morgan	Crucifer: Carson Coulter

**Worship Assistants for January:**

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp	Offertory Accountants: Irv Martin & Roger Christiansen
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: Leah Cross	Crucifer: Natalie Stamm

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**Birthdays:** 26-Denny Bain; 27-Steve Gray; 28-Gavin Cross; 30-Joe Bremer, Jasper Rogers, Jan Stroman; 31-Rebekah Healy; 1-Jayme Webb

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**Prayers**

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke-Cancer has returned and seems to be spreading, is at home recovering from chemo; Brad Pautsch (Cindy Ploen's brother)-started his immunizations Michelle Stovie (Harry Kloewer's daughter)-chemo, PET scan at the end of October.

We also pray for Norma Thies-meeting with hospice; Carla Boggs; Jon Kleemeier-rehab at home; Barb Kunkel; Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)-heart and lung issues, hospitalized with Covid; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm (10-yrs old)-Crohn's, doing well at home while waiting for surgery; Kelly Martin; Paula Roling; Kereen Swanger-recovering from stroke; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

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**THANK YOU!**

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree project. It is always heartwarming to see the response of our members to provide gifts for others. This year we provided gifts for 55 individuals with CAA and 10 children from LSI. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. May you be blessed as you have blessed others. Gloria Healy

**On Ushers' Table:**

- Children's bulletins
- Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
- 2021 January Devotional (large and small print available)
- Seminal sheets for confirmation students
- Survey for the Call Committee
- Worship Helpers sign-up sheet

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**God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!**

Electronic giving	\$ 142.50
Mission Support	\$ 30.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 250.00
Bathroom Fund	\$ 100.00
Special Offerings	\$ 480.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$3,575.00</u>
Total	\$4,527.50

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