

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## *The First Sunday After Christmas*

December 27, 2020

9:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

***Masks are to be worn throughout the service.  
Please remain seated for the hymns.***

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

*Now Sing We All Noel*

Gordon Young

The Call To Worship (*Psalm 148*)

Jan Erkert, liturgist

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

**All the shining stars praise You, O God, for You commanded and they were created.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let everyone praise the Name of the Lord, for Your glory is above earth and heaven.**

The Prayer of Adoration

**Eternal God of the covenant, You have clothed Your people with the garments of salvation, and covered them with the robe of righteousness. We praise Your Name for Your work of redemption, sending us Jesus as the promise of peace. Hear our rejoicing as we sing hymns of thanksgiving; hear our prayers as we give voice to our inmost thoughts. Fill us with the presence of Your living Spirit, and give us wisdom to live in the light of Your gifts. Glory be to You the One Eternal God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.**

The Hymn 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*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 new born King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,*

*late in time behold him come, off spring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,*

*Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. REFRAIN*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!*

*Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,*

*born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. REFRAIN*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as Your faithful children. Too often, we have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed Your glory. We have failed to follow Your way of humility, love and peace. Forgive us, Merciful God ... (time for silent confession)... . Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us Your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

The Gloria Patri (spoken)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.**

\*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

The Anthem

*Angels' Carol*

John Rutter

Chris Fisher, Mary Ann Casey, Roy Jarnecke, Larry Casey

*Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?  
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?  
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.  
He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;  
He is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light.  
He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable we have seen his birth:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Peace on earth".  
He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above;  
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love.  
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming; Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Christ is born."*

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Galatians 4:4-7*

A Moment With the Children

\*The Hymn 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

*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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.  
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.*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Luke 2:22-40*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

*Make Way*  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

The *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The 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 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.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

\*The Hymn 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*REFRAIN Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN*

\*The Charge & Benediction

\*The Postlude

***Kindly remain seated during the Postlude.  
You will be dismissed by our Safety Ushers  
from the back to the front of the Sanctuary.  
We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.***



# Announcements for December 23-30

## **Christmas Greetings**

As Advent draws to a close with the celebration of Christ's birth, your staff is deeply appreciative for your encouragement, understanding and cooperation in the most unusual months any of us have known. Our prayer for you, your household and families is that the peace of Christ will blossom in the hearts and lives of those you love. And may the New Year be one of blessings and renewal for each of you.

Fondly,  
Your Church Staff

Please remember to enjoy our music department's vesper service, now available online.

Thanks for the food collected and distributed to refugee families. Thanks for the dinner prepared and delivered to Micah ministries clients. Thanks for the gloves, mittens and scarves hung on our cold weather clotheslines along the church fence. And thanks for the ornaments hung on our tree in the church yard.

Reminder, our Christmas Eve virtual service will be live streamed beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Regular Sunday morning worship resumes on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with reservations requested. Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we continue to limit seating, observe social distancing, and the use of masks.



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## **Reserve Your Seat for Sunday Worship by FRIDAY NOON**

If you would like to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary this Sunday, please make a reservation by calling the church office, 540-373-7057, Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and Noon.

You may also make your reservation online by using ACSReservations by clicking on this link:

[https://secure.accessacs.com/access/login\\_guest.aspx?sn=90894](https://secure.accessacs.com/access/login_guest.aspx?sn=90894). This is a new system so don't hesitate to call the church office if you have questions.

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## **Church Family News:**

**Capsule of Concern:** Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Donna Hughes, John LeFebre, Karla Lewis, Joe Mathias, Jim Miller, Debra Myers, Billie Plank, Larry Repanshek, Pam Werner

**Condolences to** Roxanne Nance and family on the death of her mother, Mary, who died on December 15, 2020.

### Lectionary Readings for Sunday, January 3:

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

## **Birthdays this week December 27-January 3**

27. Jack Spinnanger
28. Connie Barnes
29. Stella Jones, Graham Major, Noah Swift
30. Mary Lowman, Jo Anne Smith, Katya Zabloutney
31. Gene Bingham, Linda Carpenter, Sarah Demarest, Edward Langdon, Linda Sweet
2. Libby Humes, Mike O'Brien, Scott Theado, Tom Wimberly
3. Brent McGhee

## **Weekly Meetings & Activities**

Wed. (12/23) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

Contact Marsha Luckett ([marshajluckett@gmail.com](mailto:marshajluckett@gmail.com))

Thurs. (12/24) — Christmas Eve Service, 7pm (YouTube)

Fri. (12/25) — Merry Christmas

Sun. (12/27) — Worship, 9am (Sanctuary & Youtube)

Tues. (12/29) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH & Zoom)

Contact John Howe ([jhowe1969@cox.net](mailto:jhowe1969@cox.net)).

Wed. (12/30) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

Live stream at **7:00 p.m. on December 24** through [fredericksburgpc.org](http://fredericksburgpc.org). or our Facebook page.

(There will be no available in-person seating for this service.)

Please plan to have a candle available for all members of your household as you participate from home or remotely.

A worship bulletin for the service can be found on our website: [fredericksburgpc.org](http://fredericksburgpc.org); you may wish to download it in advance of the service.

Mark your calendar for our annual January **Red Cross Blood Drive**: January 26, 2021, from 1:30-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More detail will be coming in future weekly announcements.

### **Staying Connected at Christmas**

The following are a few opportunities for you and your families to engage with one another and witness to the light and love of Christ to our community this Christmastide.

**Help Decorate Our Community Christmas Tree** ~ A tree has been setup on the Church grounds, between the Church House and the Sanctuary. We invite you to help decorate our tree by dropping by anytime to add an ornament. If you want to get really creative, you and the members of your household may create an ornament together!

**Cold Weather Clothesline** ~ Are you looking for ways to serve neighbors in need? As the months grow colder, consider hanging a scarf, hat, gloves, socks, etc. on our Cold Weather Clothesline we have placed along our church fence (both George and Princess Streets). All donations should be placed in Ziplock bags and then hung (using clothespins we will provide) anytime along the clotheslines. Passersby will be encouraged to take as they have need.



### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS ~ Winter/Spring Semester, 2021**

Our Christian Ed. goals are to create community, teach the biblical story, and equip disciples to respond to the call of the gospel in our world. This semester's course offerings and opportunities for faith formation will kick off via Zoom the week of **January 10**.

#### **Children and Family**

This semester, we will give children and families opportunities to grow in Christ's love, learn the stories of Jesus, and be supported by a strong community of faith with at-home resources.

#### **Youth**

This semester, we will have discussion-based education via Zoom. All in-person youth activities are suspended through January.

#### **Adults (Youth participation is welcomed and encouraged)**

We are committed to providing learning opportunities that allow participants to engage in a range of study options.

We encourage your participation in one or more of the following **Church School Classes via Zoom**.

#### **Faith and Movie Class**

*Sunday, 10:30 am, led by Marty and Vicky Wilder*

Do you enjoy watching movies – old favorites and unfamiliar titles? If you enjoy discussing stories and themes in movies, and relating them to our own sacred stories and faith, this class is for you. Class participants choose a movie for everyone to watch during the week and then lead the discussion in class.

#### **Discovering the Psalms**

*Sunday, 12:00 pm, led by Brittany Tamminga & Lindsey Williams*

The book of Psalms is the one book of the Bible everyone can find easily, and hardly a person in or out of the church is not familiar with the words, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." However, there are many psalms and many aspects of psalms as literature with which few of us are familiar. This class invites participants to journey toward a greater understanding and love for these sacred verses. With more information about the book as a whole, as well as particular psalms, we will find Psalms nurturing our spirits in a more profound, helpful way.

#### **Creation Care and the Congregation**

*Sunday, 2:00 pm, led by James Lockett*

This class will use *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis*. This thoughtful study by respected Old Testament scholar Patricia K. Tull explores the Scriptures for guidance on today's ecological crisis. Tull looks to the Bible for what it can tell us about our relationships, not just to the earth itself, but also to plant and animal life, to each other, to

descendants who will inherit the planet from us, and to our Creator. We will engage in discussions on many current ecological problems that humans contribute to, such as the overuse of energy resources like gas and electricity, consumerism, food production systems—including land use and factory farming—and toxic waste. This study will help us look at our role as a congregation in the work of creation care from a theological and biblical perspective as well as tangible action steps for us individually and collectively.

#### **Book Study: Learning to Speak God from Scratch**

*Tuesday, 7:00 pm, led by Jen Rowe*

This class will examine the book, *Learning to Speak God from Scratch: Why Sacred Words are Vanishing - and How We Can Revive Them*, by Jonathan Merritt who, after moving from the Bible Belt to New York City, discovered that the sacred terms he used to describe his spiritual life didn't connect as they had in the past. This launched him into an exploration of an increasing American reluctance to talk about faith. In this book study, we will explore vague and cliché-ridden words like blessed, disappointment, mystery, and even God to help restore and revive a vocabulary of faith and find a renewed ability to connect with our neighbors and friends in richer and more meaningful conversations of religious identity and practice.