

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828
973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org
Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Christmas Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher, if they would like a follow up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through on-line bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving..

Holy Communion: We serve communion at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward. We offer either wine or juice and allergen-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate this request.

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WORDS FOR REFLECTION

This service is structured on the tradition of Lessons and Carols. Music is a great testament to the faith that brought us here. We sing heartily and with joy, not only at the blessed birth of our Lord, but also his glorious Resurrection and Ascension. We encourage you to fully participate in singing the carols—listening to the Word—and meditating on the arc of the sacred story.

PRELUDE

By the Cradle

Edvard Grieg

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand, if you are able

P Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

C **Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.**

P Come! Listen to the choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

C **Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!**

P Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as gift.

C **Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.**

GATHERING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High **ELW 289**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

-

ri - a

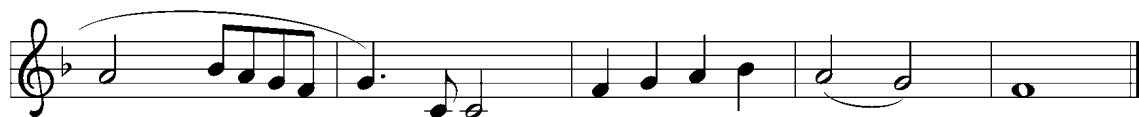


in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo

-



-

ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

- o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

P Let us Pray. Almighty God,

C O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

L A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

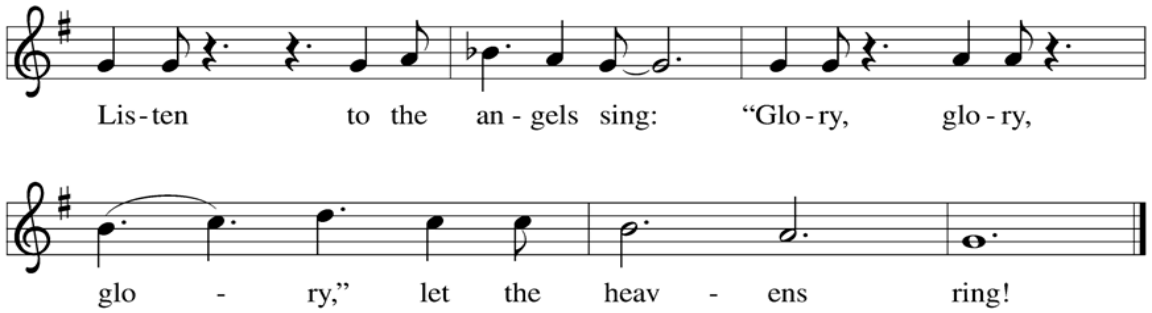
THE FIRST CAROL

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child **ELW 297**

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Text: African American traditional, alt.
Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional

THE SECOND READING

Micah 5:2–5a

L A reading from the Prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

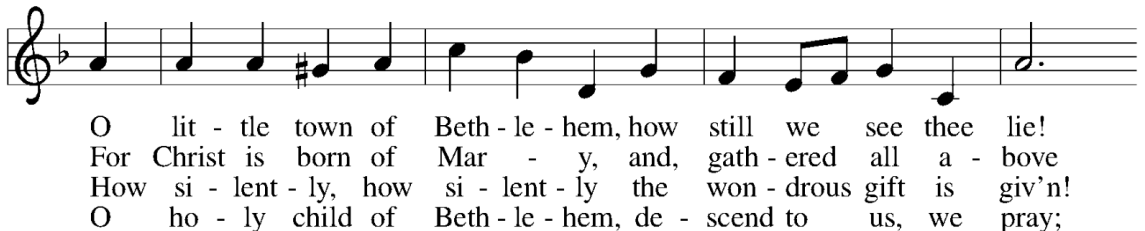
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem **ELW 279**





A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

THE THIRD READING

Luke 1:26–35, 38

L A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said

to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE THIRD CAROL

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came **ELW 265**



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

THE FOURTH READING

Luke 2:1–7

L A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE FOURTH CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly **ELW 276**



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

THE FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8–16

L A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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: unto 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!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE FIFTH CAROL

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (vs. 1, 3–4, 6)
ACS 913



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
3 “To you, in Da - vid’s town this day, is
4 “The heav’n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
born of Da - vid’s line the Sav - ior, who is
hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid.”

6 “All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heav’n
begin and never cease!”

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715

Music: WINCHESTER OLD, Este’s *Psalmes*, 1592; arr. George Kirbye, 1560–1634

THE SIXTH READING

Luke 2:21–38

L A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to

Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them

and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

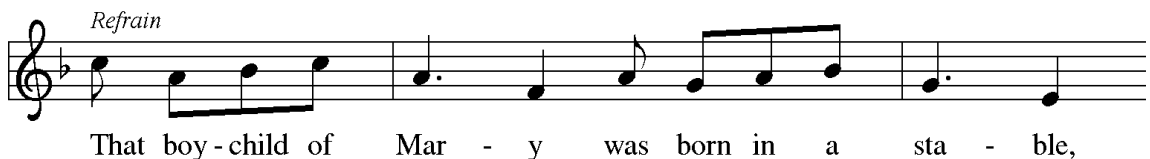
There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SIXTH CAROL

That Boy-Child of Mary (vs. 1–4) **ELW 293**



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin

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a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



Refrain

What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

THE SEVENTH READING

Matthew 2:1–11

L A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

THE SEVENTH CAROL As with Gladness Men of Old (vs. 1–4) **ELW 302**



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

THE EIGHTH READING

Matthew 2:13–18

L A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated,

and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:


“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

L The Word of the Lord.

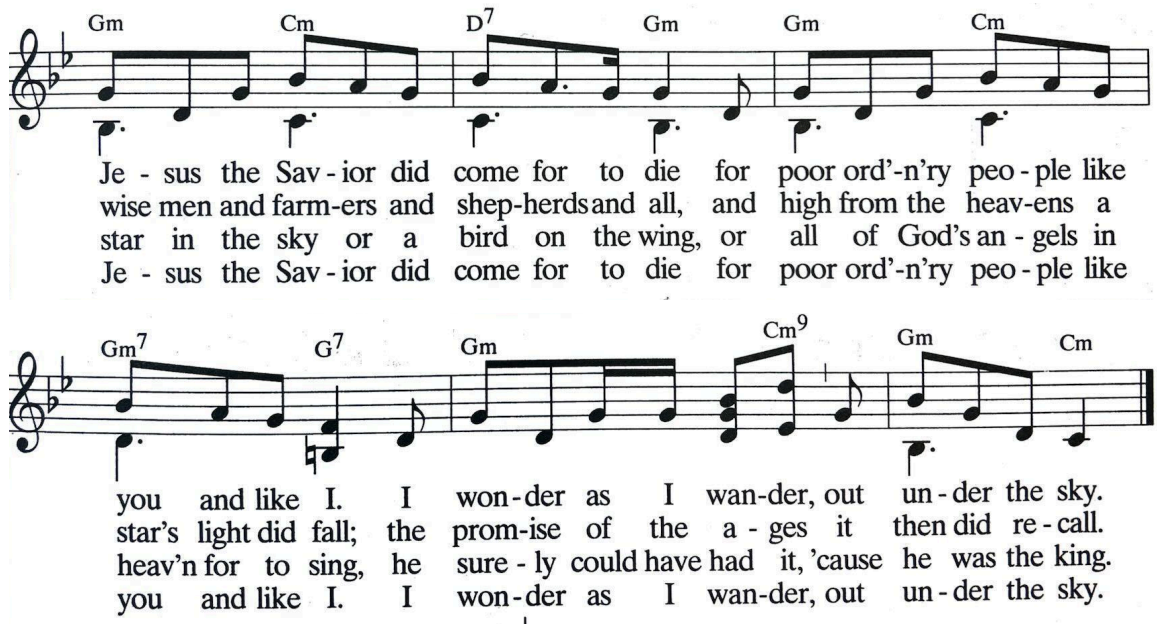
C **Thanks be to God**

THE EIGHTH CAROL

I Wonder As I Wander **WOV 642**



1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how



Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892–1980
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892–1980
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

Please stand, if you are able.

THE NINTH READING

John 1:1–14

L A reading from the Gospel of John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He

came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word

became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE NINTH CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten **ELW 295**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

continued...

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A God of love, you console us when we weep for lost beloved ones in our lives and in our world. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Attend to us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the limitlessness of your love. Grant us the courage to go into the world with the same openness and abundance. Attend to us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A God of infinite beauty, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where humanity has desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Attend to us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice and care of the vulnerable, you suffer alongside your children in need. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all whom they are called to serve. Attend to us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for Joan, Jose, Brian, Judy, Mary Beth, Joseph, Chris, Linn, Nancy, Bill, Joshua, Jon, and Cheryl. *(Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.)* We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. Attend to us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A God of compassion, you value and nurture those who are most defenseless. As you sheltered the holy family from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. Teach us how to stand up for those who are targeted by power. Attend to us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

A With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Abiding Peace
@Abiding-Peace-BuddLake



venmo

OFFERTORY

The Golden Carol

Traditional English carol
arr. Roger C. Wilson

Stand if you are able



What shall I ren - der, what shall I ren - der to the Lord

for all God's ben - e - fits to me, for all God's ben - e - fits to me?

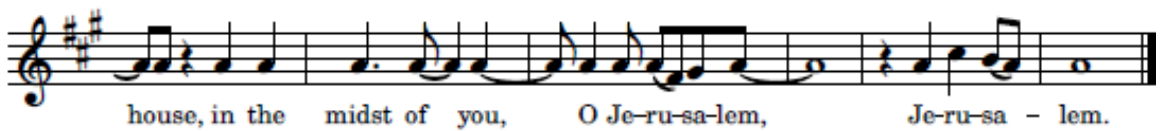
I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will call

on the name, the name of the Lord. I will

take the cup of sal - va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will

pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all God's peo -

- ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the courts of the Lord's

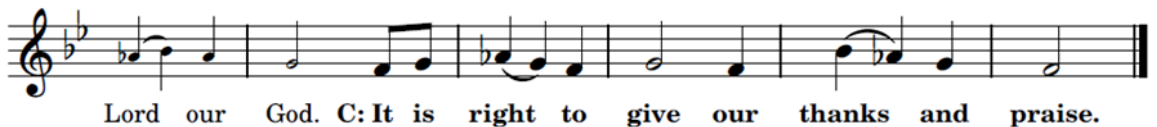


A God of glory,

C great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please stand, if you are able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of

might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. (Ho - san-na) Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. (in the high - est.)

P God with us, you showed us your love by choosing to live as one of us, taking on our vulnerability, being born as a helpless baby, embracing the fullness of human experience, and opening your arms to all.

On the night when he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, the life you lived with us and the life you gave for us, we await your return with joy. Send your Spirit to us now, to birth in us the same love that you have shown us, and unite us to follow your example in the world. All honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Jesus, give us faith to pray,

C **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**

Please be seated

P God is now in flesh appearing.

C **We come to the feast of joy!**

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, hold your hand flat for the bread and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Lamb, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Have". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "mer-cy on us. Lamb, Lamb of God, you take a - way the". Above the second staff, the text "add optional harmony" is written. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and ties.

Lamb, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Have

add optional harmony

mer-cy on us. Lamb, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

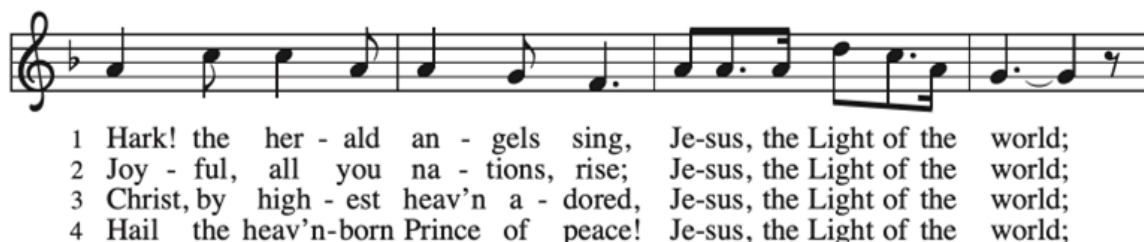
add optional descant



sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us. Lamb, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world. Grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, the Light of the World ACS 914



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

continued...

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain
Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Stand if you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

A Incarnate God,

C **you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-



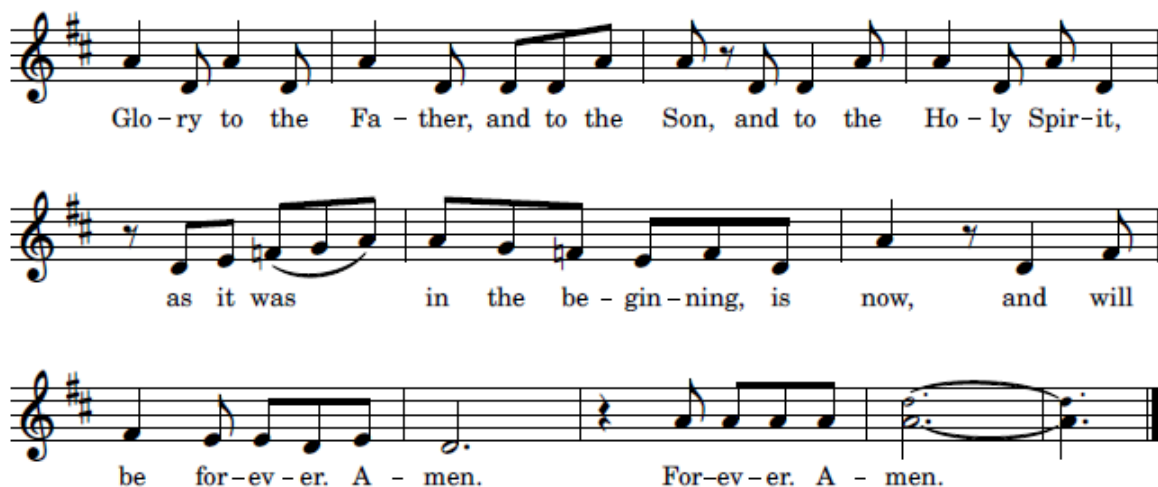
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you've pre -



pared in the sight of all peo-ples: A light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



SENDING

BENEDICTION

P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
⊕ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

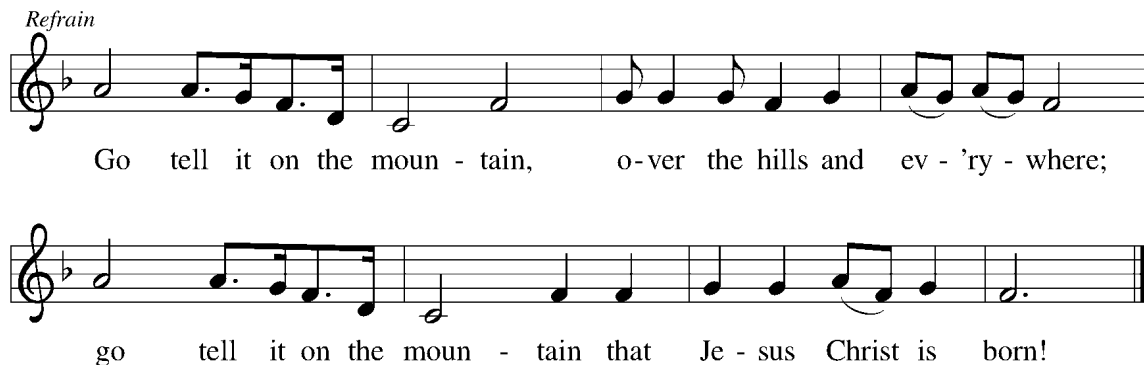
C **Amen.**

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain **ELW 290**





1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

A Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on GO TELL IT

African American spiritual
 arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Next Week's Lessons:

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Serving in Worship		
	Today, Dec. 28	Next Week, Jan. 4
Altar Guild	Mary Kasakove	Mary Kasakove
Counter	Anna Santino	George Pawlo
Assistant Minister	Doug Laird	Mary Kasakove
Lector	Various	Sue Stirrat
Communion Assist.	Cindy Pawlo	George Pawlo
Usher/Greeter	Sibylle Schroeder	Howard Corneilson
Acolyte	Howard Corneilson	Sibylle Schroeder
Soloist	Linda Langsam	TBD
Livestream Assistant	Nick Senior	Ray Mueller

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Tues, Dec 30, 10:00am-5:00pm; Sunday, January 4 9:00am - 12:00pm

Catherine: Wednesday, December 31, 9:00-12:00

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginetz, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore, David Breault, Charles Wetzels, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Aimee Nilsen, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, Audrey Moehringer, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Leslie Picinich, Hailey Ochs Plante, Kate Draven, Dawn Huber, Heinz, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Shariff Stewart, Lisa Wolper, Maxine Wolper, Samy Dawood, David Laird, Peter Jensen, Joan Lewis, Jose, Brian Henkel, Judy Day, Mary Beth Mueller, Joseph DeSantis, Chris Laird, Linn Fisher, and Nancy Ayotte.

Those in mourning: The Persson Family on the loss of Kayla; those mourning Dan Filin (partner of Pastor Serena's mom); The family of Dawn Parks; the loved ones of Carole Ernstrom; those mourning Maria's mother, Juanita; the friends and family of Kenneth Johanson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ **Church office hours:** Pastor Serena will hold limited office hours on Christmas Eve. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). Our office administrator, Catherine, is in the office on Thursday mornings, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin. If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.

~ **Food Pantry Needs for December:** Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot-dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten free pasta.

~ **Altar Flowers:** Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested send an email to Erin Porter with your dedication and date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.

~ **Interested in hosting a coffee hour?** Not hard. Just bring some store bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

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This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, December 28

- Lessons & Carols Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. - In-person and Live-streamed

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

- Pastor's office hours, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 31

- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1

- Happy New Year!

Friday, January 2

Saturday, January 3

- Zumba class, 9:00 a.m.

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, January 4: Epiphany Sunday

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. - In-person and Live-streamed. (Draw your Star Word for the Year!)
- Little Learner's Sunday School during worship.
- Forum: Being an Inviting Church, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, January 5

- Worship & Music Committee, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 6

- Faith Kitchen, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Tullo's Ballroom - Cha Cha 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 7

- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice

Thursday, January 8

- Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

- Zumba class, 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, January 11, New members received into the congregation.
 - Sunday, January 25, Congregational Meeting

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live>