

St. Luke 2:22-40



Simeon holding up the Baby Jesus smiling.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW) No. 270

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *People, Look East* (ELW) NO. 275

Go Tell It on the Mountain

290

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: **Almighty God, You have given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made Your children by grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them.**

³His work is full of majesty and splendor, and His righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He makes His marvelous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵He gives food to those who fear Him; He is ever mindful of His covenant.

⁶**He has shown His people the power of His works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of His hands are faithfulness and justice; all His commandments are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹He sent redemption to His people; He commanded His covenant forever; holy and awesome is His Name.

¹⁰**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; His praise endures forever.**

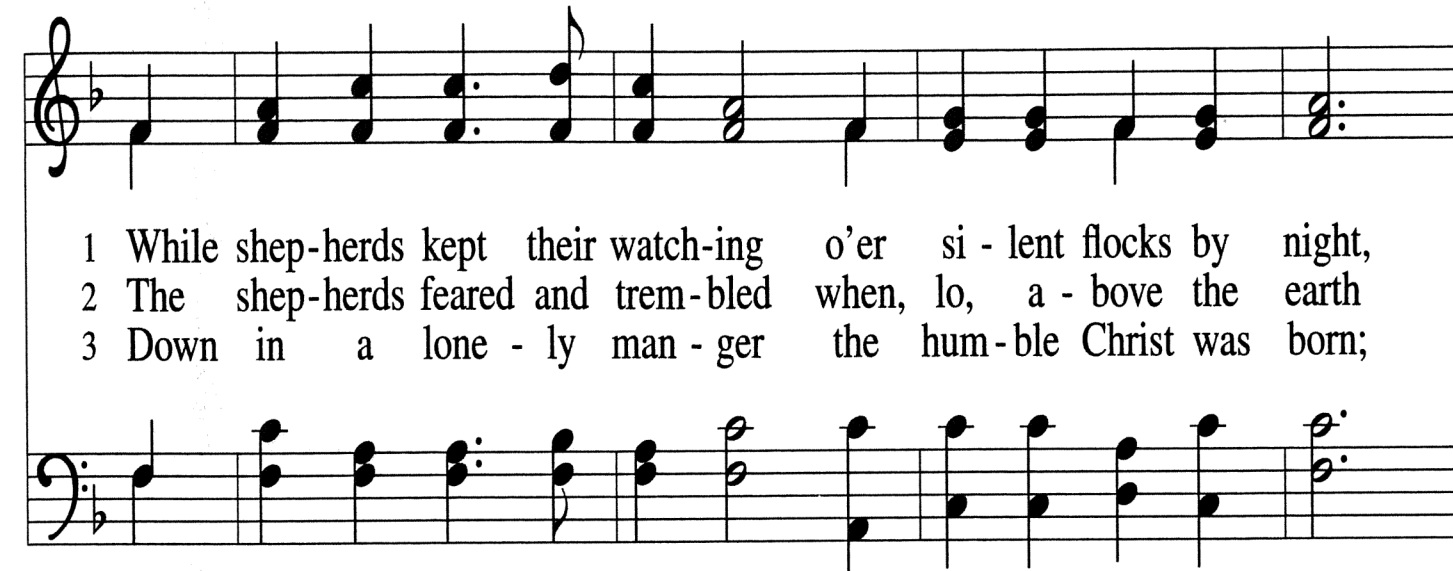
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

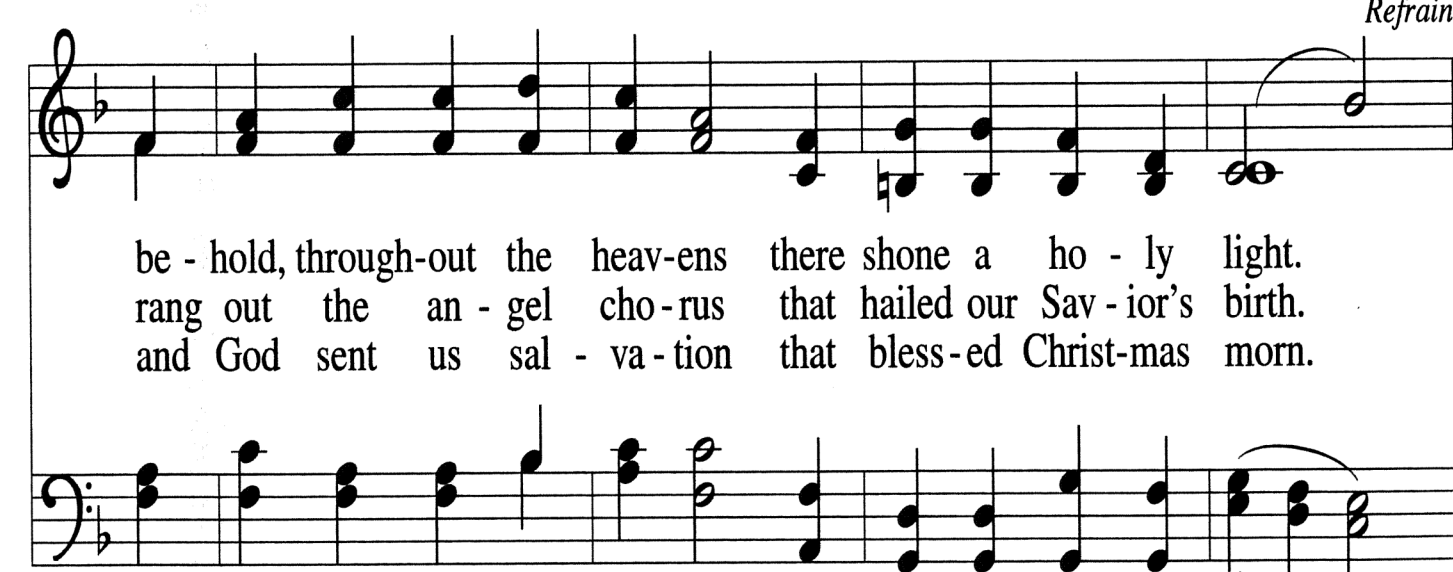


go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



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.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung)

(ELW) page 142

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

(ELW) No. 284

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

188

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

284



1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled, that
2 With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found; a
3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as
4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an-gel choirs in-stead; be-
rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round; but
was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there. The
ho-ly child of earth and heav'n is born to-day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an-gel song rang loud and high:
chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt.
kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.

Refrain



Je-sus your king is born! Je-sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a!

* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.

Music: French folk tune, c. 16th cent.

Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

86 86 88 and refrain

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(ELW) No. 188

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(ELW) No. 290

*FLC Sending Hymn

Be The Love of Christ

arr. Michael Showalter

Roger Thornhill

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

First Lutheran Church

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724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Kristina Schuerle

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God by Sonie Rea and family in memory of her husband Albert, parents Bud & Judy Hanam, parents-in-law Jack & Ann Rea, and grandmother Anna Stolfer

The Lay Reader is Kris Briggs.

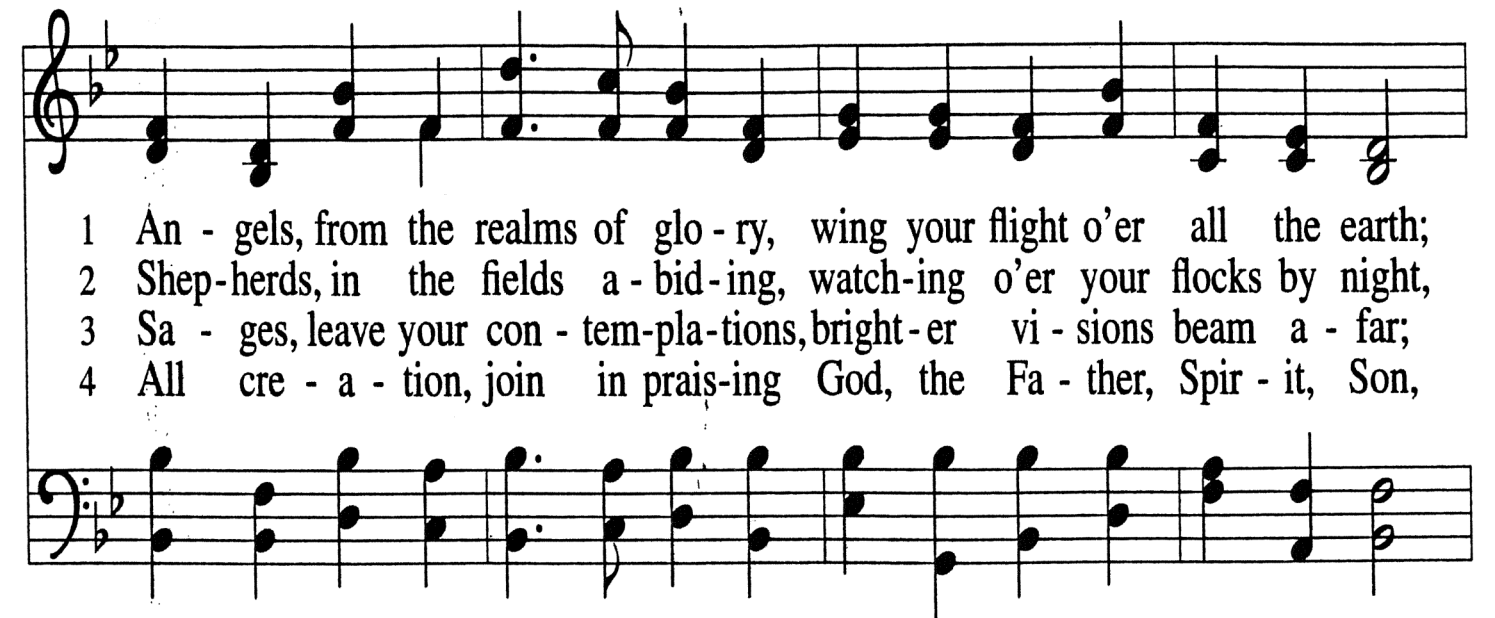
Counters/Greeters today are S. Berry and S. Rea.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

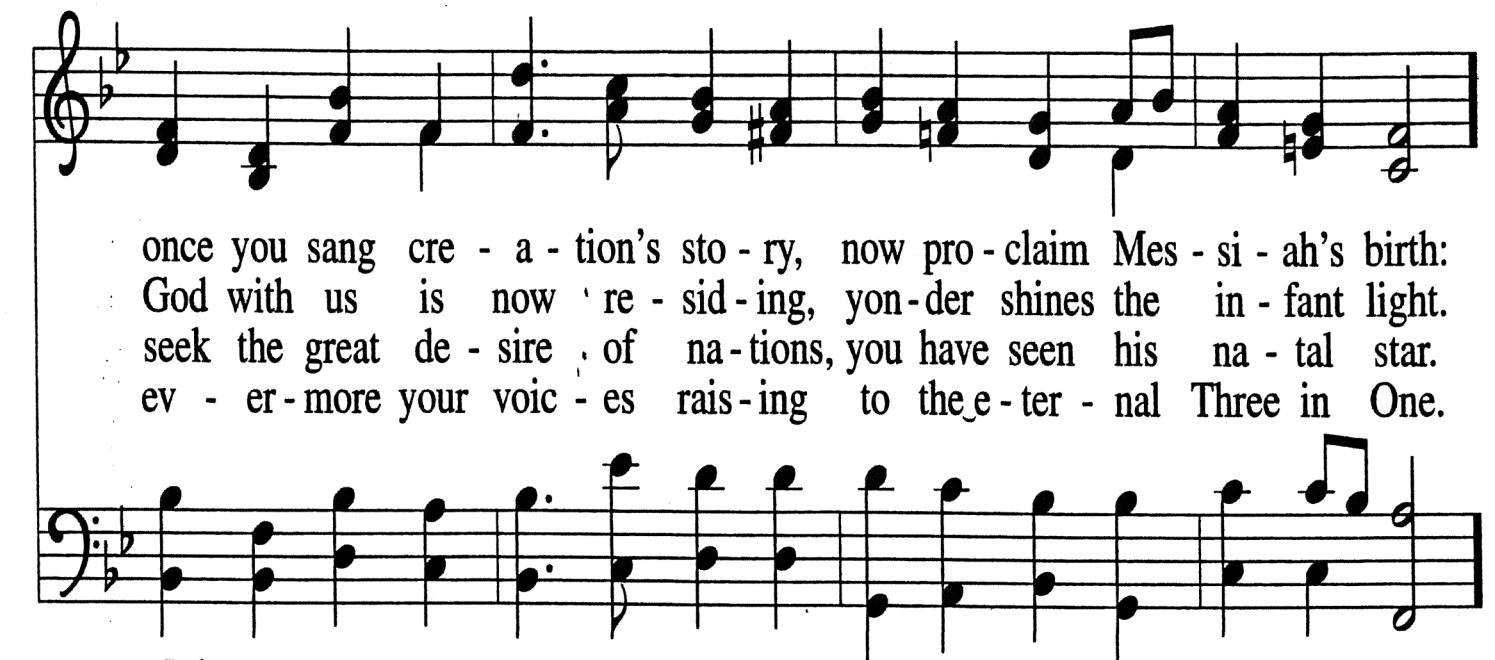
Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

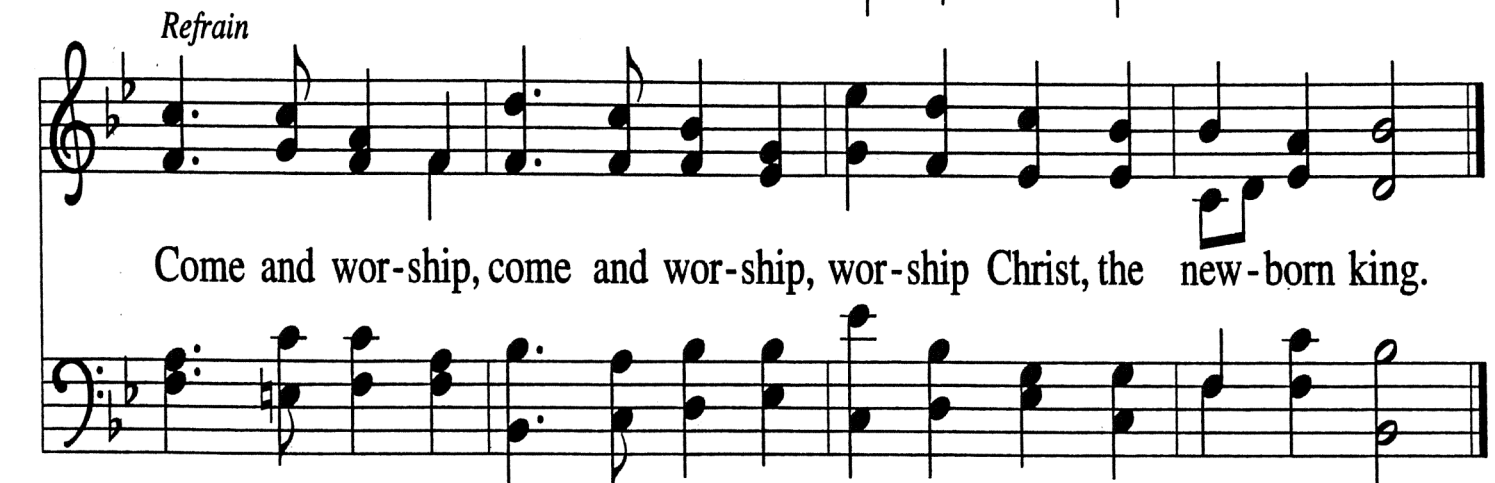


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Bell Choir Practice on Monday at 7 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2022 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2022. Please write you names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2022. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.

Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Sandy Hebrank, Lynn Hudak, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Ashley McCartney, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, Bob Cable, baby Ryan David Mayer, Danielle Pinkerton, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Stephanie Kennedy, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Becky, Mel & Klaus Behrens, Joanne Reck, Barbara, Michael Selarud, Jackie, Jeff Ulanich, Carolyn Wright, Bill Stewart, the Penvose family, Morgan, Sharon Fritz, baby Matthew, Tim & Karen Edwards, and Tom Liam.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

December 26, 2021—First Sunday in Christmas

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” (Luke 2:25)

In my mind, Simeon was an old man. I say this because Luke mentions the word “death.” He probably lived near the Temple and made his way to the Temple at least three times every day, since the Halakha (the Jewish religious laws) required men to pray between three and five times daily, depending if the day was a holiday, a Shabbat, or a week day.

Simeon made his way to the Temple that day and as usual, there were tens if not hundreds of parents with their babies to be presented. There were Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the Temple. There was nothing noticeably unique about this family; they were simply a husband with his wife and their newly born son. There was no halo around the head of Jesus to give his identity away. However, Simeon walked up to the couple, picked up the baby from his mother's arms, lifted him high and blessed him. This blessing was for the father to give, not for a stranger. (In the Temple the father blesses the reading from the Torah. During the reading, the father recites a blessing for the health of the mother and her child.) This, I believe, is what Simeon did.

Why would such a stranger act in such a strange way? First, we need to know what was going on in his mind when he saw the baby Jesus. He remembered the promise of the Holy Spirit: that he will not see death until he sees the Messiah of God. Second, he was waiting for the salvation of the house of Israel and this is what he announced. In his short prayer, he preached the sermon that every Jew wanted to hear: [my] eyes have seen thy salvation... a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel. (Luke 2:30-32) As Simeon was lifting the baby Jesus, I can easily see the smile on his face and feel the joy that filled his heart. He held the baby for a couple of minutes, gave him back to his mother, and walked back to his home. Scripture tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Just as Jesus was in the Temple then, so he is in you since you are the temple of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20) Prayer: Lord Jesus, lead me to faith that I can feel your presence in my life always. Amen.