

# A Fireside Christmas

December 24, 2021

God's

*Presence*

is here

John 1:1-18



MUHLENBERG  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

## GATHERING

We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God’s people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness.

### PRELUDE

Coventry Carol

Gloria Dei Ringers

### WELCOME

### GATHERING HYMN ~ JOY TO THE WORLD



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.*

## CHRISTMAS GOSPEL ~ John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Lauren Eanes

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## PRAYERS

*After each petition:*

... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*The Pastor concludes the prayers:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Maintaining physical distancing, and only making physical contact with members of your own household, the congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace (i.e., hand over heart, nod, wave, etc.), using these or similar words: "Peace be with you."*

## MEAL

*In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus' invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.*

### 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.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

### COMMUNION

*All are welcome to come to the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, you may come forward to receive the prepackaged communion kit. If you are unable to come forward, signal a pastor and they will bring the elements to you. As the minister says, "The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you," you may take the elements and say: "Amen." Gluten-free and/or non-alcoholic juice communion elements are available.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Rather than lighting candles, gather close around the light of our fires as we pray through this familiar Christmas hymn.

## HYMN OF LIGHT ~ Silent Night, Holy Night!



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## SENDING

*Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.*

### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Love's Pure Light, by your holy birth you have brought us dignity, hope, and salvation. May the beams radiating from your face shine in our hearts and lives. May the good news of your birth pierce the silence of this and every night. And may you lead us from this place into the darkness of the world, there to share your glorious presence and love. **Amen.**

### BLESSING

Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✝ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN ~** Go Tell It on the Mountain (*see next page*)

### DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!  
**Peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World* (arr. B. Ingram)

Gloria Dei Ringers

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# Go Tell It on the Mountain

*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.

The Congregation Council and staff  
of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church  
wish you a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jensen

Pastor Jensen

Sarah

Jenny

Linda



Kevin

Beta

Paul

Crystal

Elizabeth

Rachel

Ch

Merry Christmas!  
Ted

Lus Ashley

Meg

Christian