

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Serving Absecon - Galloway Township**  
**Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor**  
**Brian Conover - Music Director**

**Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS / 10:00 AM**

**\* OPENING SONG**

**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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**\* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)**

**\* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14** *(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;  
praise your | God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates  
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace | on your borders  
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command | to the earth,  
a word that runs | very swiftly. R**

<sup>16</sup>God gives | snow like wool,  
scattering | frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the | word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> **The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah! R**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14** (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE**

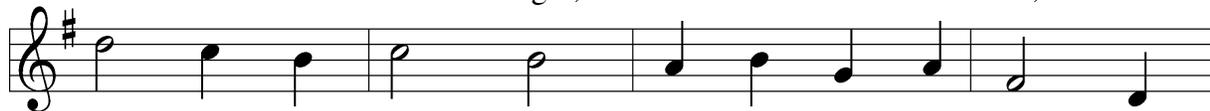
## Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,



oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

**\* THE WORD OF GOD: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

A reading from the Gospel of John:

(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

# CONGREGATIONAL SONG

## The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . . and

### *Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We 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.**

**We 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 worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities (*especially*). As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service (*especially Wilhelm Loehe, whom we commemorate today*). Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. 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.**

## OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

### \* OFFERING SONG

#### What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray: 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.**

**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\* 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 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**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)*

**\* POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\* POST COMMUNION HYMN**

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: 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**

And now a blessing: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

**\* CLOSING SONG**

## Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman  
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**\* SENDING**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

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