

# The Nativity of Our Lord

+ Christmas Eve, 2020 + 10:00pm

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church + Akron, Ohio*

**Merry Christmas and Welcome!** Thank you for being with us this evening. May our worship together be a blessing to you. And may the light of Christ whose birth we celebrate this holy night illumine your life with God's peace and joy!

**Notes on the liturgy:** Boldface print indicates the congregation's responses. At the sign of the cross (✝), you are invited to make that same sign upon yourself in remembrance of your baptism.

## + Christmas Prelude +

*Greensleeves (What Child Is This)*      Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Organ voluntary

*Maria Walks Amid the Thorn*      Hugo Distler  
Vocal quartet

Maria walks amid the thorn, Kyrie eleison! ("Lord, have mercy!")  
Maria walks amid the thorn, which seven years no leaf has borne. Jesus and Maria!

What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison!  
A little Child doth Mary bear, beneath her heart He nestles there. Jesus and Maria!

And as the two were passing by, Kyrie eleison!  
Lo, roses on the thorn appear. Jesus and Maria!

*I Saw Three Ships*      English carol, arr. Patricia S. Cota  
Trinity Bell Choir

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*      arr. Gail Salvatori  
Harp, cello

*Joy to the World*      G. F. Handel, arr. Patricia S. Cota  
Trinity Bell Choir

*Rejoice and Be Merry*  
Vocal quartet

English carol

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth; O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth!  
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation - his praises we'll sing!

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky; vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,  
proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation - his praises we'll sing!

Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear, which led the wise men from the east to draw near;  
they found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King, who brought us salvation - his praises we'll sing!

And when they were come, they their treasures unfold, and unto him offered myrrh, incense and  
gold. So blessed for ever be Jesus our King, who brought us salvation - his praises we'll sing!

*All My Heart Again Rejoices*  
Organ voluntary

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

*Still, Still, Still*  
Harp, cello

arr. Daniel & Barbara Fackler

*West Indies Carol*  
Trinity Bell Choir

arr. Patricia S. Cota

*Shepherd's Carol*  
Vocal quartet

William Billings

Methinks I see a heav'nly host of angels on the wing; Methinks I hear their cheerful notes,  
so merrily they sing.

'Let all your Fears be banished hence, glad tidings I proclaim, for there's a Saviour born today,  
and Jesus is his Name. Seek not in courts or palaces, to Bethlehem repair; and follow the star to  
see your God, who lies in manger bare. The lowly child whom you will find is not of common  
birth; but second in the Trinity, the Son of heav'n and earth.'

Then suddenly a heav'nly host around the shepherds throng, exulting in the threefold God, and  
thus addressed their song. 'To God the Father, Christ the Son, and Holy Ghost ador'd; the first  
and last, the last and first, eternal praise afford.'

*In dulci jubilo (In quiet joy)*  
Organ voluntary

Dietrich Buxtehude

*The Savior of the World Is Born*  
Harp, cello

arr. Gail Salvatori

*Noël Nouvelet*  
Harp

arr. Barbara Fackler

## + We Gather in Wonder +

### Christmas Proclamation

\*Gathering Hymn No. 283

*Oh, Come All Ye Faithful*

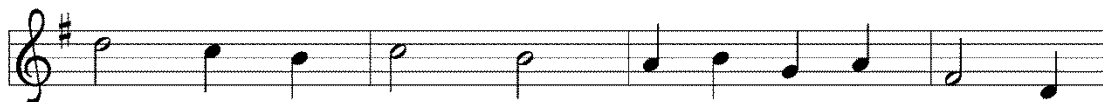
ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

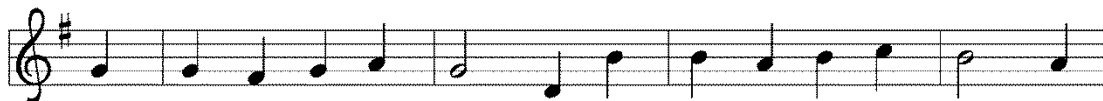


come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

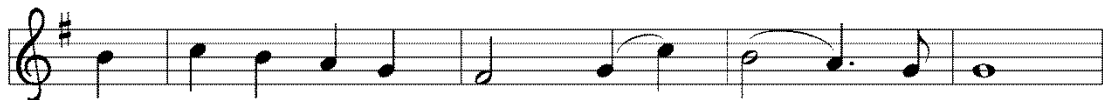


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

### \*Christmas Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is born for us.

**Oh, come, let us adore him.**

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.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 270**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

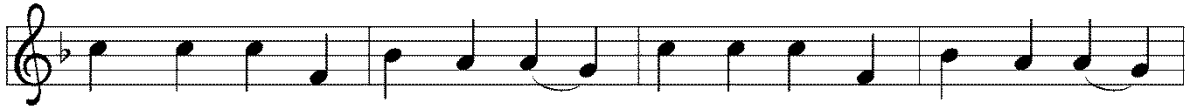
MENDELSSOHN



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!



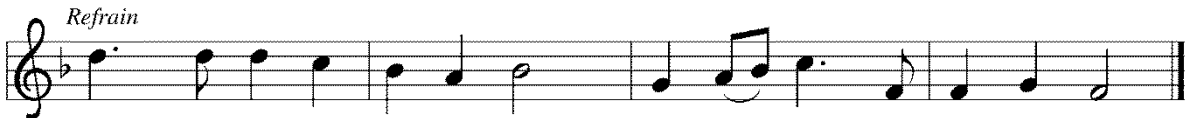
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



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

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

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**

**+ We Listen for God's Word +**

**First Reading** Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96

1. Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to God, all you lands. Sing  
2. Let earth and heav-en glo - ry; let o - cean depths re - joice. Let

of sal - va - tion al - ways; God's glo - ry now at hand. God's love shall nev - er  
hills and plains and for - ests sing prais - es with one voice.

cease. God comes to rule with jus - tice; God comes to rule with peace.

## Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*Gospel Acclamation



### \*Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

\*Hymn of the Day No. 274

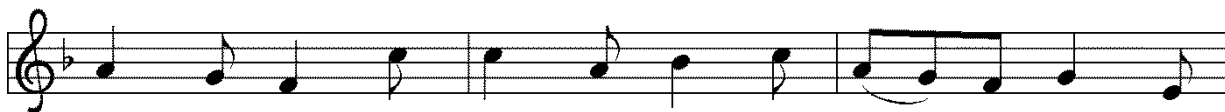
*On Christmas Night*

SUSSEX CAROL

*The quartet sings an alternate setting of stanza 2.*



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."



## **\*The 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 the People**

*Each petition ends "Hear us, O God;" we respond "your mercy is great."*

*A collect concludes the prayers with the words "Jesus Christ, our Lord." We respond "Amen."*

## + We Are Fed at Christ's Table +

### \*Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

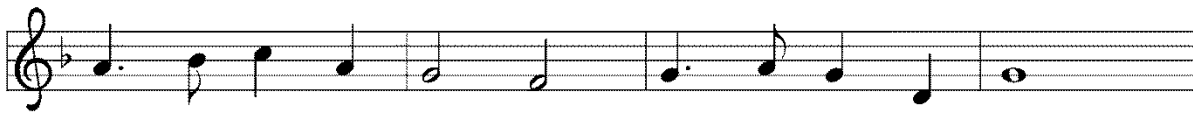
*We share the peace of Christ with one another.*

### \*Offertory Hymn No. 294

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

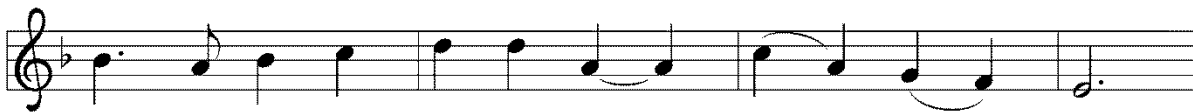
*The table is prepared. You, too, are invited to bring bread and wine to share in your household.*



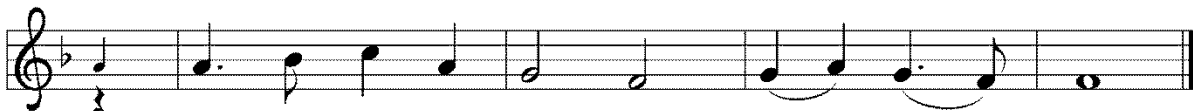
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## \*Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

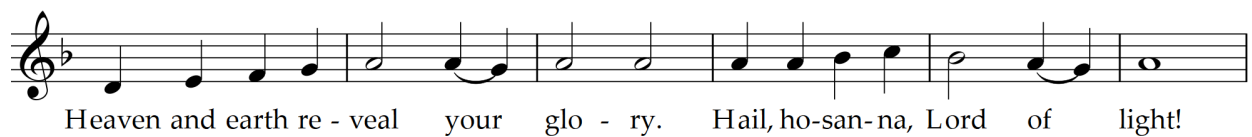
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end...the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup...with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God...the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory...one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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;**

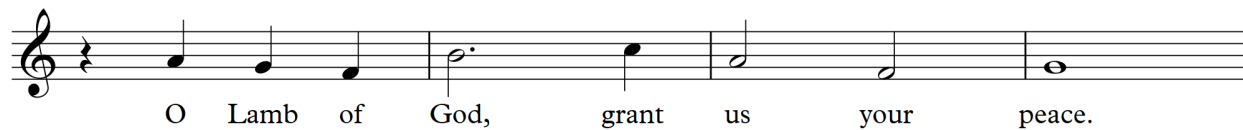
**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**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.**

**Communion Hymn**

*Lamb of God*



## Music at Communion

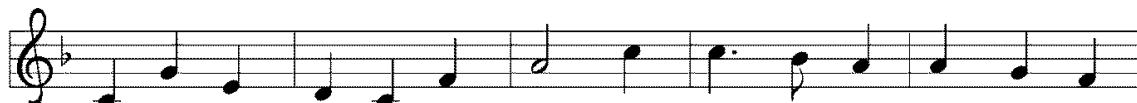
Hymn No. 277

*Away in a Manger*

AWAY IN A MANGER



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Anthem

*Away in a Manger*  
Trinity Bell Choir

arr. Patricia S. Cota

## + We Bear God's Light into the World +

### \*Blessing of Candles

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,  
for in the beginning you called forth light by your Word,  
setting lights in the sky to govern night and day.  
And in these latter days, you have sent your Son, our Lord Jesus,  
to be the light and life of all creation.

Bless, we pray, these candles and those who bear them,  
that our whole lives might burn bright against the darkness of this night  
with honor and thanksgiving and praise to you, merciful Father,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

**\*Hymn No. 281**

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

We sing the first stanza in German (unison); then stanzas 1-3 in harmony; then hum together for a final stanza.

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,

Hol - der 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  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

**\*Prayer**

God of light, with our own eyes we have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples;  
a light to reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.  
Send us forth into the world to bear this light,  
showing forth the grace and glory made known to us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**\*Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen**

**\*Sending Hymn No. 267**

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*The quartet sings an alternate setting of stanza 2.*



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.

## **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with us.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** *Noel: A minuit fut fait un Reveil (At Midnight They Were Roused)* J.-F. Dandrieu

+ + +

**Our thanks to those leading us in worship this evening...**Karen Nevergall, Assisting Minister; Bob Keener, Lector; Frederica Cohen, Brad Crock, Jennifer Keller, John Stefanik, Jacquie Wert, Trinity Bell Choir; Hannah Miller, Cello; Barbara Fackler, Harp; McKayla Ferguson, Hannah Miller, Drew Russell, Marshall Thomas, Vocal Quartet; Deacon Ruth Anderson, Director of Music Ministries, The Rev. David L. Nevergall, preaching and presiding.

## **Acknowledgements...**

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*Rejoice and Be Merry*, English traditional. P.D.

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*In dulci jubilo* by Dietrich Buxtehude. P.D.

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*Noël Nouvelet* Tune: French carol, arr. Barbara Fackler © 2020. Used by permission.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2; Music: attr. John Francis Wade P. D.

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915. P.D.

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*On Christmas Night* Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.; Music: English traditional. P.D.

*In the Bleak Midwinter* Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894; Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934. P.D.

*Sanctus* Text: Anonymous; Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17<sup>th</sup> cent. P.D.

*Agnus Dei* Text: David Nevergall, © 2020. Used by permission. Music: SCHNEIDER, Paul Manz, b. 1919 © 1991 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702599.

*Away in a Manger* Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905. P.D.

*Away in a Manger* by Patricia A. Sanders, from *The Twelve Bells of Christmas* © 1994 Agape. All rights reserved. Presented under OneLicense.net #A-702599.

*Silent Night, Holy Night!* Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. P.D.

*Joy to the World* Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. P.D.

## **Our Christmas celebration continues...**

- Friday, December 25, at 9:30am: a service of Lessons, Carols and Holy Communion available online at [www.holytrinityakron.org/live](http://www.holytrinityakron.org/live), on our YouTube channel, and on Facebook Live.
- Sunday, December 27, at 9:30am: Word and Sacrament worship available online at [www.holytrinityakron.org/live](http://www.holytrinityakron.org/live), on our YouTube channel, and on Facebook Live.
- At this time, all worship services are offered online only. In-person worship is suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

*The poinsettias which beautify the chancel are given...*

**In Memory of:**

*G. Ronald Hervol – Ruth Hervol*

*Don & Rosanne Wight – Tim & Karen Snyder*

*Coleman and Julia Beahn – Pam & Craig Marko*

*Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Radanof; Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Yoder; Mr. & Mrs. Chester Radanof – Gary Radanof*

*Larry Morton – Sophia Morton*

*Loved ones – John & Ruth Stefanik*

*Loved ones – Alexa Sandmann*

*Our parents – John & Sandy Hamilton*

*Robert Spannbauer – Spannbauer family*

**In Honor of:**

*The Feeman family – Jim Feeman*

*Jill, Mike, Harrison & Anderson Lauf; Ali, Ryan, Reese & Aniston Prudoff – Gary Radanof*

*Our children & grandchildren – John & Ruth Stefanik*

*Loved ones – Alexa Sandmann*

*Our grandson Augustus Matthew – John & Sandy Hamilton*

*Our family – Robert & Dorothea Wise*

*Holy Trinity's choir members and other music leaders – Deacon Ruth Anderson*

*Holy Trinity staff and volunteers – Pastor David & Karen Nevergall*

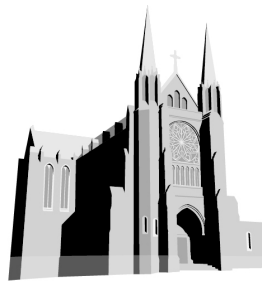
**To the Glory of God:**

Shirley E. Jordan

Alexa Sandmann

Robert & Dorothea Wise

*This is a partial listing of donors as available at the time of printing. A complete listing of poinsettia donors will be included in the January edition of the Highlights newsletter.*



**HOLY TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.*