
We Gather in God’s Name

As We Prepare for Worship

We shake with joy, we shake with grief. What a time they have, these two housed as they are in the same body.

– Mary Oliver

Prelude “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” Smith

Choral Introit “Celtic Advent Carol” Angerman & Barrett

***Gathering Words** *Luke 1:47-49 (NRSV)*

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God our Savior.

For even though I am a lowly servant,
the Lord has looked upon me with favor.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me.

Holy is the name of the Lord.
Let us worship with joy.

***Gathering Song #109** “Blest Be the God of Israel”
(The music is printed on page 12 of the bulletin.)

Call to Prayer

With joy, as we remember Christ’s birth, and with hope, as we anticipate Christ’s return, let us come together in prayer.

Our Prayer of Grief and Joy

In this blessed season, as we celebrate the incarnation, we marvel in your miracles, O Lord. The Word made flesh, a babe in the manger, the hope of the world, Immanuel: we ponder these things in our hearts.

But in our pondering, these joyful miracles can be crowded out by the very real cares of our lives. We find ourselves sick or we are lost in mourning those we love but are no longer with us.

We turn on our TVs or our computers and we get lost in the news of the day. And we grieve how polarized – and therefore isolated – we are as a society. We worry about our future and our children’s future. We worry about the planet. Our hearts break for the suffering of others.

And we wonder about Immanuel. Are you indeed with us God?

silence

We don’t confess these things to you, God, because they are not sins. Rather, they are the reality of our humanity and the truth of a world that has not yet realized its full redemption.

Instead, we ask that you would hold our grief for a moment, for a season, so that we can fully hold onto joy. Joy in the Word made flesh, a babe in the manger, the hope of the world, Immanuel.

Jesus, you told us many things so that our joy would be complete. Please make it so, even as we grieve. Amen.

Words of Light *Psalm 27:1, 13 (CEB)*

The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

We remain confident of this: We will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Today we light a candle recognizing the joy that cannot be taken from us, even in a dark world. It is the joy of our salvation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Our Response #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*refrain*)

The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

God’s Word Comes Alive

Prayer for Illumination *Daniel 2:22*

The Lord reveals deep and hidden things. The Lord knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. Holy Spirit, reveal the deep and hidden things of God, so that light may dwell in us. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Epistles Philippians 2:1-11 (NRSV)

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Message “Finding the Mind of Christ” Rev. Michelle Henrichs

Our Shared Life

Welcome, members, guests and residents of Tudor Oaks! We hope that you will join us again soon. Please sign the red fellowship folder as it is passed and read the announcements in the bulletin.

If you have an announcement, please alert the liturgist, who will bring the microphone to you.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

(Please use whichever words are most familiar to you.)

God’s Gifts Are Recognized with Thanks

Call to Offering

Let us persevere in the things of God with our tithes and offerings.

Offertory “Sing We Now of Christmas” French carol, arr. Cain

***Doxology #117**

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” *verse 6*

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

God, Immanuel, we offer these gifts to help others persevere in their humanity as we bring the Good News to them. We also dedicate our Christmas Joy Offering this Sunday, supporting past, present, and future leaders of the Church. Amen.

***Sending Song #110** “Love Has Come”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

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You may wish to be seated for the postlude and then stay for coffee and fellowship.

**Today & This Week at Heritage
4th Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship: Rev. Michelle Henrichs
Liturgist: Judi Fellows
Ushers/Greeters: Jean Ripple
Jan Tesch
Set-up / Take-down: Ron Kohler & helpers
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship time
- 11:20 a.m. Caroling at Tudor Oaks

Monday: Christmas Eve; Sacrament of Holy Communion

- 4:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 5:10 p.m. Caroling band warm-up
- 5:17 p.m. Caroling band plays in lobby
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve worship

**Sunday, Dec. 30
1st Sunday after Christmas Day**

- 10:00 a.m. Worship: Lessons & Carols
Liturgists: Paul & Janet Ahrens
Brandy Bohman
Ushers/Greeters: Glenn & Kathy Kozicki
Set-up / Take-down: Ron Kohler & helpers
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship time

A Visit with the Pastor

Pastor Michelle is in the office on Tuesday afternoons (except the 3rd Tuesday) from 2:00 - 4:30. Pastor Michelle will also be out of

the office on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. If you would like a visit with Pastor Michelle at another time, please contact her at 262-488-5100 or mahenrichs@gmail.com. You may also leave a message with the church office at 414-425-2050.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Each week, we remember two families in prayer. We thank God for them, ask God's blessing upon them and God's presence with them. Please keep these highlighted families and the other listed people and places in your personal prayers throughout the week.

Highlighted Families: Gary & Charlotte Stewart
Heidi Surprenant
Jessica and Isaac

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Presbytery of Milwaukee, WI
The people of Pakistan

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Kuwait

Birthdays: Dec. 23 Susan Fellows
Dec. 25 Jerry Zebrick
Dec. 27 Roger Bohman
Dec. 27 Jonah Pforr

Anniversary: Dec. 29 Lee & Lisa Surprenant

In Our Prayers

Prayer Fellowship Request:

Long-time members, Jerry and Pat Zebrick are in need of some Heritage help. Jerry is recently home from the hospital after experiencing heart issues and falling. Pat welcomes some meals to supplement those being supplied by their children in the area. Gigi and Glenn Sheridan (414.690.4220; 414.248.4352) are willing to deliver those meals (The Zebricks live in Brookfield). Visiting nurses are attending to Jerry now with hopes to have him stay out

of the hospital. Please also pray for Pat's encouragement and energy as she cares for Jerry.

Our on-going prayer list:

Karen Anderson, Roxanne Lawrence, Jean Ripple, Steve Seeker, Jane Arloszynski's brother Earl Duckwall.

Announcements

In case a Tudor Oaks resident needs assistance, please notify the Nursing Station in the Health Center or the Front Desk or call 1-414-529-0100.

The Wired Word Update

The Wired Word will not meet during December. Starting January 6, we will be changing our meeting time and place to 11:15 in the Olive Wood Theater.

Pastor's Bible Study Update

The Bible Study group meets at 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday of the month except the third Tuesday. The group will not meet on Dec. 25, or Jan. 1, but will resume on Jan. 8. For more information, please contact Pastor Michelle at mahenrichs@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Service

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on Monday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Olive Wood Theater. Worship will include candlelight, carols, beautiful choral music and the festive sounds of brass, strings, and woodwinds.

Follow-up on Richard

Here's a follow-up on Richard from our Shelter Service presentations.

Richard is in his new home and is the first from the Ezekiel Project HOPE (Home-Ownership-Partnership-Employment) to work on and then move into the same home. As a first-time homeowner, Richard was in need of furniture, cleaning products and appliances... well, as of Saturday Dec. 15th, mission accomplished. A welcome basket (and more) consisting of cleaning products, mop, broom, vacuum, etc. was delivered on Dec. 12th. On Dec. 15th, Richard received a 2nd delivery of furniture from Heritage storage and a new stove and refrigerator – all compliments of our Heritage Church. It looks like Richard is on the path to a tremendous success story and we at Heritage take pride in helping him.