



# Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Come Together Grow in Faith Serve the Lord*



**December 24, 2021 4:00 PM**

**Christmas Eve Family Worship Service**



**Rev. Brad Wolff, Pastor**

[www.htelc.com](http://www.htelc.com)

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22 Fox Run Rd. Newington, NH 03801



**A Warm Welcome as you worship with us today!** Whether you are here for the first time or a long time member, know that you are welcomed in Christ's Name, joined to be with us, Christ's Body the Church, as we worship God.

**We love having children worship with us!** We invite parents or care givers to sit with their child(ren) around one of our children's worship tables where they can be a part of our service and engaging in quiet activities. Children's bulletins and activities are located on the tables inside the sanctuary. **Currently, our Nursery is not staffed.** You are welcome to accompany your own child at our Nursery, located near the kitchen.

**Communion will be social-distanced for this service.** You can find pre-filled communion cups on the table next to the bulletins, by the outdoor entrance. Please take one communion cup per person. We welcome all who are baptized and wish to receive the promise offered in the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, to come and share in receiving Holy Communion.

*At Holy Trinity, we welcome and affirm everyone—because God welcomes and affirms everyone— regardless of age, race, ability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other life circumstance. You are welcome. Your family, children, friends, spouses, and partners are welcome. You are welcome, whether you are a believer, a doubter, or a seeker. Your diversity and uniqueness are welcomed and affirmed into the full life of Holy Trinity.*



***You are wanted here.***

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Musician(s)</b>	Judy Evans
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	TBD & TBD
<b>Sound System</b>	Mark Donahue

**Church Office Hours:** Sunday-Thursday 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

(603) 436-1704 office@htelc.com

facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch

## Introductory Music

### WELCOME

#### Opening Carol: “Light a Candle Bright and Tall”

Please use the ELW hymnal. We will use ELW 302 “As With Gladness” for this hymn.

Light a candle bright and tall  
For a Love which knows no end.  
Love that comes to one and all.  
Fear and hatred to upend.  
Shine within our hearts today  
Come, O Love, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall  
For the Christ we greet today.  
Christ has come, our all in all.  
With the angels, let us say:  
Shine within our hearts today  
Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1838

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#### Lighting the Advent Candle

During this reading the Christ candle, symbolizing Jesus as the Light of the World, is lit. Even though it is just one candle, its singular flame reminds us that the Light of Christ disperses the gloom and darkness of our lives and in this world.

P: Now is the time to light the Advent Candles, and the much awaited Christmas Candle! This past Sunday was the final Sunday of Advent, and we lit four candles: the candle of Hope (purple), the candle of Love (purple), the candle of Joy (pink), and the candle of Peace (purple). Tonight, Christmas Eve, we light the white candle, the Christ candle, which symbolizes the Light – along with the hope, love, joy, and peace – that Christ brought into the world.

## Opening Prayer

P: Please pray with me as we worship together.

**C: Almighty God, we thank you for the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem, as announced by the angels on this holy night. May the mystery of the Word made flesh fill our souls with wonder and yearning. Change our hearts from a busy inn to a quiet chamber for your glory. May we who are gathered here join in song with the angels, share the delight of the shepherds, and adore him with the wise men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

—A brief silence—

P: God of goodness, God of peace,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **A Litany of Praise for Christ's Birth**

Adults: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: Angels opened the doors of heaven, and sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: In the darkest winter night, Magi followed God's shining sign.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

Adults: And on this Christmas Eve night, with joy, we too come to see.

**Kids: Welcome the Light!**

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

## The Reading

## Isaiah 9:2-7

- <sup>2</sup> [a] The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup> You 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.
- <sup>4</sup> For 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.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For 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.
- <sup>7</sup> His 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.

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
 ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
 Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

## Gospel Reading

### The Birth of Jesus

### Luke 2:1-14

<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.



## **The Shepherds and the Angels**

<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 see—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,[a] 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,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

### **Sermon**

### **“Not One Light, but Two”**

### **The Offering**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Our offering plate is located at the entrance of the Sanctuary. After the service, please make your offering there. You may also donate online at [htelc.com/giving-online](http://htelc.com/giving-online) OR scan the QR code in the front of the bulletin.

# Offertory Carol

# ELW 300

## The First Noel

1 The first Noel the an - gel did say was to  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the

*Refrain*

night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No -  
star wher - ev - er it went.

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

Text: English traditional  
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## Offertory Prayer

**P:** Let us pray.

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C:** Amen.

## Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life itself:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation, Blessed are you for the  
darkness and the light. Blessed are you for your promise to the people.  
Blessed are you for the prophet's hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for  
Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the  
Word made flesh among us.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and  
gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat,  
this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to  
drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and  
for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of  
me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth. Awaken us to remember our new birth in Christ's  
death and resurrection. Fill us with light. Bring us the gift of peace. Teach  
us to pray:

## The Lord's Prayer

P: Now as our Lord has taught us, we are bold to pray.

**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.**

**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,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## The Distribution of Holy Communion

—Please be seated—

As you come to the Lord's Table, know that it is Christ who invites you to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood. We will receive communion by using pre-filled communion cups. Please find the basket on the table by the outdoor entrance for our pre-filled communion cups.

P: Receive the body of Christ, given for you.  
Receive the blood of Christ, given for you.

# SENDING

## Communion Blessing

**P:** Now may the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, his precious blood, and his blessing, which we have received together, be with you this night, and always.

**C:** Amen.

## Lighting the Christmas Candles

Pastor will take the light from the Christ candle to share with the ushers who will assist in passing the light through the sanctuary. Glowsticks are available for young children, available in the Gathering Area.

**P:** Almighty God, You have made yourself known through Jesus, Redeemer of the world. You have filled our lives with the light of the world, who came and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we believe, in what we say, and in all things we do.

Silent Night, Holy Night!  
*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*



*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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Benediction

—Please stand as able—

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this night ✠ through God's Word made flesh.

C: **Amen.**

## Dismissal

—Please remain standing—

P: Go in peace. Share the light of Christmas.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Please carefully extinguish the individual candles and return them to a basket in the narthex.***

*As you depart, go renewed in God's promise in Christ for you. Be safe in your travels!  
May this Christmas season offer you peace!*

Please return to join us for worship in-person or online: **Sundays at 9:30 AM.**

**Tonight's 8:00 PM Candlelight service will be livestreamed on [htelc.com](http://htelc.com).**

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