



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Come Together Grow in Faith Serve the Lord



December 24, 2022 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Family Worship Service



Rev. Brad Wolff, Pastor

www.htelc.com

(603) 436-1704

office@htelc.com

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.

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube: @HolyTrinityEvangelicalLutheranChurch

All Worship Services are livestreamed and available to watch on YouTube after the service ends.

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.

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

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

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facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch

Poinsettia's donated by:

In honor of or In memory of:

Julie Anderson

In memory of Donald Anderson and loved ones

Martha and Rich Belanger

In memory of our Parents: Elmer & Florence Klopp, and Ray & Therese Belanger

Scott and Leslie Carson

In memory of Grace and George Carson

Margereta Claesson

In memory of the Ukraine people who passed on.

Eileen and Carl Kackenmeister

In memory of loved ones

Paul and Jackie Karl

In memory of our parents.

Dot and Kurt Kasik

In honor of family

Fred and Betty King

In honor of our great-granddaughters Ava, Emily, Etta, and Hadleigh.

Jea Klein and Family

In memory of Len Klein

Billy and Jil Larson

In memory of Thomas and Adelaide Olsen, & Bill and Florance Larson.

Lois Laurence

In memory of loved ones

Ed and Fran Mallon

In memory of Ed's parents and Fran's parents

Scott and Rani Marcus

In memory of Elsa Marcus (Scott's Mom), Augustine Sange (Rani's mom), and Leonygo Patrio (Rani's Brother)

The Monareh Family

In honor of Betsy-Tirie-Ratu, the Soeun family and Kairupa family. In memory of Gaihans Tirie, Meihy Kairupan, and Benjamin & Sunarjati Monareh.

Julie Moore

In honor of Barry and Phyllis Philbrick, for their love and service to Holy Trinity

Lena Olsson Noonan

In honor of the people in Ukraine, and in memory of mom and dad.

The Parseghian Family

In memory of our son, Brian

Bonnie and Larry Sanders

In honor of our parents: Hallman and Dorothy Sanders, Marie Roth, and Dorothy Gelelein. In memory of Sue Diot and Karla Roth.

Dan and Lara Scammon

In memory of Edward and Richard Hook, & Marilyn Gupthi and Nancy Kilmain.

Dave and Betty Smith

In memory of our parent: Anne and Issac Smith, & Elsie and George Busick

Richard and Yvonne Topping

In memory of Joy Topping

Gisela Wemple

In memory of Stuart Wemple

Thank you to all who donated Christmas Poinsettias this year

Prelude Music

WELCOME

The Invocation

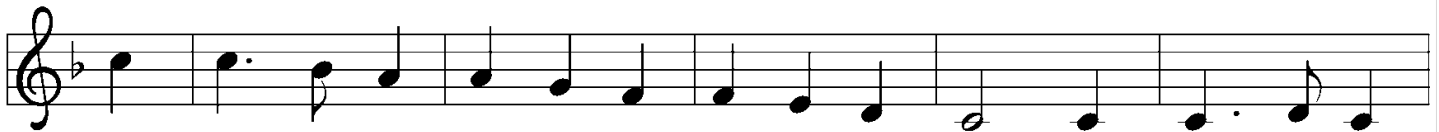
P: Let us gather for worship this Christmas Eve embracing the faith of Mary and Joseph, anticipating with the watchfulness of the shepherds, knowing the happiness that accompanies the great joy of the angels, with the praise in our hearts of the multitude of the heavenly host, and with wonder in our lives that our God comes to us as a child born in a manger. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW 277

— Please stand as able—

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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Lighting the Advent Candles

P: Now is the time to light the Advent Candles, and the long anticipated 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 five candles, including the white candle, the Christ candle, which symbolizes the Light – along with the hope, love, joy, and peace – that Christ brought into the world.

Hymn

ELW 271, v. 1 & 2 — Please stand as able—

During the lighting of the candles, please sing Hymn 271, verses 1 and 2

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve *Jeg er så glad hver julekvel*



1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!



Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

The Christmas Eve Prayer

P: 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 gather here believe and embrace the miracle of you coming to earth in the form of a baby, bringing salvation to all. Amen.

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

— Silence is kept for reflection —

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.

Christmas Litany

P: Gracious, generous God: On this day we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Your Self in human form.

All: We celebrate the birth of the Son of God.

P: We are captivated by the story of Jesus.
The world looked for a mighty ruler;

Children: You sent a baby.

P: The world looked for pageantry and royalty;

All: Jesus was born to ordinary people.

P: The world looked for power and strength;

Children: You showed us meekness.

P: The world looked among rulers and politicians;

All: You were found among cattle and shepherds.

P: The world looked for some kind of mighty victory;

Children: You gave us resurrection.

P: The world looked for riches and great wealth;

All: You gave us selflessness.

P: The world looked for a mighty ruler;

Children: You gave us a servant.

P: The world looked for someone who would take it by storm,

**All: You showed us how you would hold the world in your hands.
Thank you for that most precious gift, which we receive again
this Christmas!**

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

L: A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV

² [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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

ELW 288, verse 1 — Please stand as able—

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;'. The second staff continues: 'give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;'. The third staff continues: 'ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.'. The fourth staff concludes with: 'Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!'. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases marked by slurs.

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke 2:1-14 NRSV

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Birth of Jesus

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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.

⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, ^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

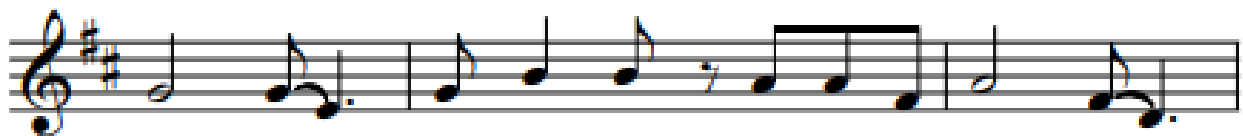
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

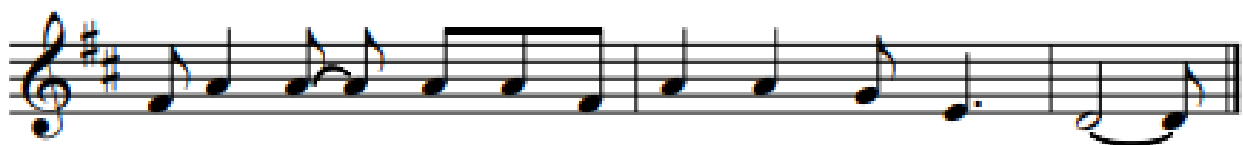
Hymn “He’s Got the Whole World” — Please stand as able—



1 He's got the whole world in his hands. He's got the



whole world in his hands. He's got the whole world



in his hands. He's got the whole world in his hands.

Source: Afro-American spiritual. Image courtesy of hymnary.org

Sermon “Looking for Life Somewhere, Anywhere”

Choir Anthem

The Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.

Offertory Carol

ELW 279, vs. 1, 4 — Please stand as able—

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

A Christmas “Gift” Prayer

C: Lord, bless us all during this Christmas season. Help us to be kind to others, love one another, and pray for each other. Help us to realize that Christmas is a gift from our God. Keep our minds on the reasons why Christmas is about You. Help us not to be self-centered with presents or food, but help us to be generous at all times, and in all places. Thank you for reminding us about the real reasons we have Christmas, and that the world and all it contains is really in your hands. In Jesus’s name, we pray. 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 the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our 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

Feel free to use the version of the Lord's Prayer you are most comfortable with.
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P: Now, as our Lord taught us, we are bold 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.**

The Distribution

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. Everyone is invited to take communion. There will be a single communion station around the altar. You will receive a wafer (gluten free wafers are available). Next you may take a pre-filled glass of wine. Please put the glass in the basket by the baptismal font or the lectern. Pre-filled Communion Cups are still available for anyone uncomfortable coming forward to the altar. If you would like to receive communion from the Pastor, but you are unable to come forward, please talk to the ushers and we will bring communion to you.

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

Prayer after Communion

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:

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 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

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

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*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](https://www.htelc.com).

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