



December 24, 2023 8:00 PM – Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service



Rev. Luther Zeigler, Pastor
PastorLuther@htelc.com • office@htelc.com • (603) 436-1704 • htelc.com



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)	Jon Bock & Dot Kasik
Sound System	Franklyn Vosburg
Liturgical Deacon	Glenn Oswald
Ushers	Paul Karl & Franklyn Vosburg
Altar Guild	Julie Moore & Pam Shaw

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

facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch

Poinsettia's donated by:

In honor of or In memory of:

Julie Anderson
Martha and Rich Belanger
Tom and Michelle Bernth
Scott and Leslie Carson

Margereta Claesson

Jessica Feeley
Meredith Goodwin
Paul and Helen Goransson
Paul and Jackie Karl
Dot and Kurt Kasik

Bud and Ida Klasner

Billy and Jill Larson

Lois Laurence
Tina and John Maiorino
Ed and Fran Mallon

Scott and Rani Marcus

The Monareh Family

Julie Moore

Lena Olsson
The Parseghian Family
Bonnie and Larry Sanders
Dave and Betty Smith

In memory of Donald Anderson.
In memory of Martha's Parents: Elmer & Florence Klopp
In memory of Christina Bernth & Tom Willis
In memory of Grace and George Carson
In memory of my parents: Astrid & Nils Kjallstrom and sister:
Ulla-Britt Johansson, and Barbro Bohl.
In memory of Stephen O'Shoughnessy
In honor of my mother Dorothy Mae
In memory of Helen Sewell
In memory of loved ones
In honor of family & In Memory of Joe Lugalla
In honor of Doug & Mavis Day and In memory of Robert &
Dorothy Klasner
In memory of Thomas and Adelaide Olsen, & Bill and Florance
Larson.
In memory of loved ones
In memory of Linda Sunderland
In memory of our parents
In memory of Elsa Marcus (Scott's Mom), and Augustine Sanger
(Rani's mom).
In honor of Monareh-Tirie family, Kairupan-Monareh family, &
Soeun family. In memory of Hans Tirie & Meity Najoan.
In honor or Barry and Phyllis Philbrick, for all you do for Holy
Trinity
In memory of Gisela Wemple & Judy Degroney
In memory of our son, Brian
In honor of Paul Wright, our deceased brother-in-law.
In memory of Elsie and George Busick and In Honor of Isaac &
Anne Smith.



**Thank you to all who donated
Christmas Poinsettias this year.**

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 24, 2023 — 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Prelude Music

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Dot Kasik

Welcome

Christmas Eve Prayer

P: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen



O, Come, All Ye Faithful



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,



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!



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:

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!

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

First Lesson

During this reading, all four Advent candles and then the Christ Candle are lit, symbolizing that, with Christ's birth, God's Light has dispersed the darkness of our broken world.

L: A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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

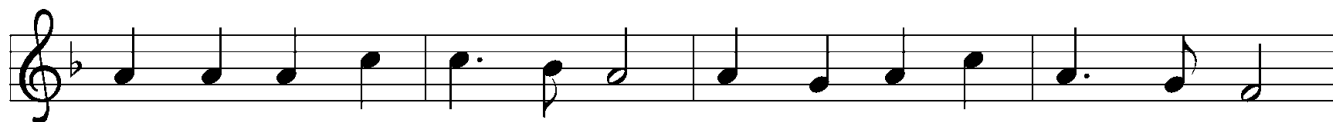
ELW 289

— Please stand as able—

Angels We Have Heard on High

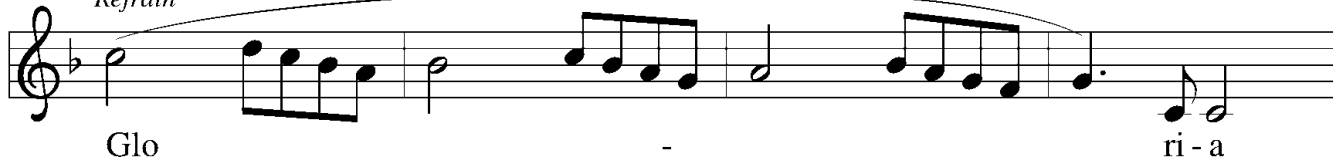


1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

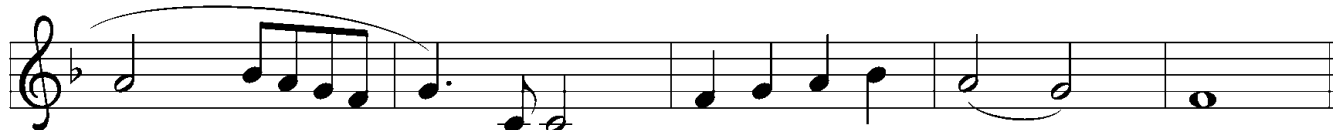
Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

The Christmas Gospel, Part 1

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2:1-7

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

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

The Christmas Gospel, Part 2

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2:8-20

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

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

Sermon

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

Prayers of Intercession

LD: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

— **A brief silence**—

LD: Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

LD: Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

LD: Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

LD: Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. We pray especially for those whose names we say out loud or silently. — **A brief silence**— Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

LD: We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the New England Synod, and their leaders. We also pray for all of our partners in mission and ministry, locally and abroad. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

LD: Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

LD: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C: Amen.

The Sharing of God's Peace

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to exchange expressions of peace with those near them.

MEAL

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.

Choir Anthem "I Wonder as I Wander"

Offertory Prayer

LD: 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.

The Celebration of 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: It is indeed right, our duty, delight and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory and Your grace.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who

Comes in the name of the Lord God most high.

Words of Institution

P: 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 for the 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.

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Reception 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. Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. If you would like to receive communion, but you are unable to come forward, please ask someone to talk to the ushers and we will bring communion to you.

Communion Hymns:

While others are communing, you are invited to sing a communion hymn or to meditate on the readings and prayers for the day. **Communion Hymn #1: ELW 296**

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.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



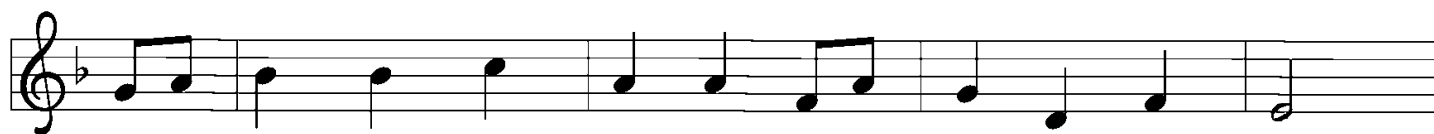
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Away in a Manger



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



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



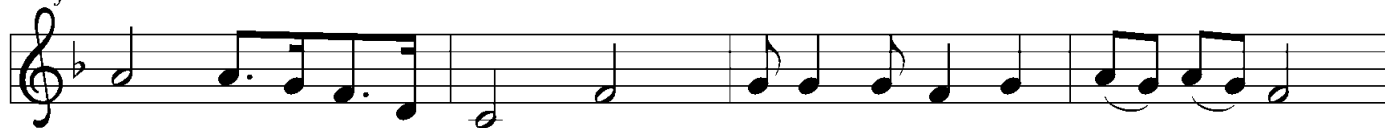
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

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.

Pastor will take the light from the Christ candle to share with the ushers who will assist in passing the light through the sanctuary. Individual candles will be lit by tipping only unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit. Worshipers are cautioned not to tip burning candles, lest hot wax spill. Adults are asked to assist and help children.

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

Blessing

—Please remain standing—

Pastor Luther will lead our congregation with a Blessing.

Dismissal

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.**

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

(603) 436-1704 office@htelc.com

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