



*Christmas Day*  
*The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish*  
*December 25, 2021*

*We welcome visitors into our community!*  
*May you be blessed as you join us in Worship!*

\* Indicates when congregation stands for indoor only.  
Hearing assistance is available, indoor services only.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\* RESPONSIVE LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

Pastor: Our Savior's birth is celebrated with bold faith.

**Congregation: Make our hearts willing.**

P: Like Mary, who showed humble surrender:

**C: Make our hearts willing.**

P: Like Joseph, who exhibited unconditional trust:

**C: Make our hearts willing.**

P: Like the shepherds, who displayed awestruck wonder:

**C: Make our hearts willing.**

P: Like the angels, who sang glorious praise:

**C: Make our hearts willing.**

P: For all receiving the gift of the Savior born in Bethlehem:

**C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

P: Jesus Christ IS the light of the world.

**C: The light no darkness can overcome.**

P: As we are gathered today, let's join in singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

#### **\* HYMN**

#### ***O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1)***

*O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!*

*O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880  
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**\* GREETING & OPENING PRAYER**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P: Let us pray. . .

**C: God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Day and in the year ahead.**

**Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives.**

**Amen.**

**BAPTISM OF Lochlan Dyreby Bruce**

Infant son of Alexander & Alissa Bruce

Baptismal service      ELW pages 227-231

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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.

**CAROL**

***Joy to the World (vs 1)***

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
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**\* GOSPEL READING**

**John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**SERMON**

**\* HYMN**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Refrain*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain**

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain**

### \* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Petitions end: Merciful God,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**ALL: Amen.**

### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

## SENDING

### OFFERING

*(As a spiritual discipline, ask the Holy Spirit to nudge you in offering yourself and a portion of God's many blessings God has given you for God's use in the church and world. A collection box is available in the narthex of the church for the indoor service and at the side door of Nelsonville for the outdoor service. To support the ministries during this pandemic time and as a response to God's love for you, consider using electronic giving at [www.trchurch.org/electronic-giving](http://www.trchurch.org/electronic-giving).)*

### \* BENEDICTION

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

**C: Amen**

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

**C: Amen**

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

**C: Amen**

P: And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen**

