



*Christmas Eve*  
*The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish*  
*December 24, 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**

**(4:30 only) SPECIAL MUSIC**

Presley Voss

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* OPENING PRAYER**

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Holy God,

**All: we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put our love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,  
that all we do, in word or deed,  
may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

Pastor: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us  
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven  
and you are clothed in peace.

**All: Amen.**

**HYMN**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**#279**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**HYMN**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs 1)***

**#270**

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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
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**GOSPEL READING**

**Pastor Gretchen Anderson**

**Luke 2:1-7**

<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.

**HYMN****O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1)****#283**

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 © Public Domain

**GOSPEL READING****Pastor Gretchen Anderson****Luke 2:8-14**

<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, 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, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**SERMON****Pastor Dwight Anderson****HYMN*****Away in a Manger (vs 1)*****#277**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
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**CLOSING PRAYER****Pastor Dwight Anderson****BENEDICTION****HYMN*****Silent Night, Holy Night!*****#281**

*Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,*

*heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885  
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**HYMN**

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

**#267**

*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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## **Christmas Worship Services Schedule**

***Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services:***

Indoors at Peace 4:30 pm \* Outdoors at Nelsonville 6:00 pm \* Indoors at Nelsonville 7:00 pm

***Saturday, December 25th - Christmas Day Service:***

Indoors at Peace 9:00 am

***Sunday, December 26th:***

Indoors at Peace 8:30 am \* Indoors at Nelsonville 10:15 am \* NO OUTDOOR SERVICE ON 12/26