

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem flute & piano God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. James Rae

Welcome & Announcements

Mark Jurries

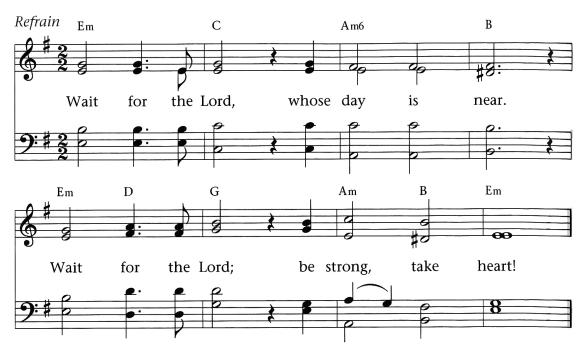
Advent Wreath

The Candle of Shepherds

Jake and Miriam Nienhuis (8:30 service) Berend, Sylvie, Wendell, Beatrix

Doug and Linda Sniesak (11:15 service)

Psalm 40: Wait for the Lord



^{*} Please rise in body and/or in spirit.

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to worship Psalm 16:9-11

Elder David deJong

...my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

* Litany for Gaudete Sunday (the Sunday of rejoicing, marking the midpoint of advent)

Elder Rejoice, rejoice!

Christ is born

Of the Virgin Mary-

Rejoice!

People The time of grace has come-

What we have longed for;

Songs of joy

Let us give back faithfully.

Elder God has become man,

With nature marveling,

The world has been renewed

By the reigning Christ.

People Therefore, let our assembly

Now sing in brightness. Let it bless the Lord: Greetings to our King.

^{*} Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn Trinity Hymnal 209

* Invocation

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy choir

West Indies arr. Robert DeCormier

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy The Virgin Mary had a baby boy The Virgin Mary had a baby boy And they said that his name was Jesus

He come from the Glory (He come down)
He come from the Glorious Kingdom
He come from the Glory (He come down)
He come from the Glorious Kingdom
Oh yes, believer, oh, yes, believer
He come from the Glory (He come down)
He come from the Glorious Kingdom

The wise men saw when the baby born (he was hiding in the manger) The wise men saw where the baby born (with a donkey, and a sheep) The wise men saw where the baby born And they said that his name was Jesus

The angels sang when the baby was born The angels sang when the baby was born The angels sang when the baby was born And they sang that his name was Jesus

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy The Virgin Mary had a baby boy The Virgin Mary had a baby boy And they said that his name was Jesus

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession

Psalm 18:4-6

The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalm 18:16-19

He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.
He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.
They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
but the Lord was my support.
He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

* The Apostles' Creed spoken together

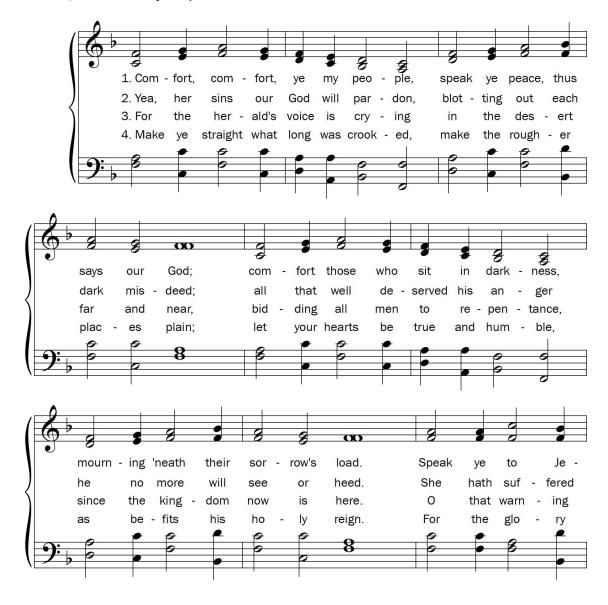
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

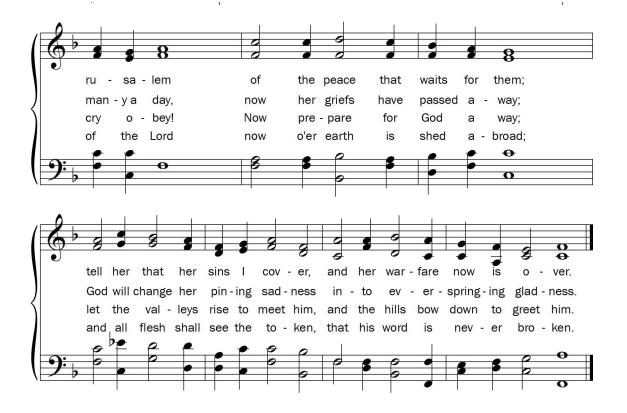
8:30 service: During the following song, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and

will return following the sermon.

11:15 service Church bags are available in the foyer.

* Comfort, Comfort Ye My People





GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading Jonah 1:17-2:10

 $^{1:17}$ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

³ For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'

⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head

6 at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD my God.

⁷ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

^{*} Prayer

Sermon	When Being Swallowed by a Fish is Not Your Biggest Problem	Pastor Andrew Vander Maas
Diso	bedient of God	
Dista	ance from God	
Dull	to the Magnificence, Grandeur, Overwhelmingly Amazing	Richness of God's Free and
Und	eserved Grace	Memiess of God 3 free and

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* What Child Is This?

Trinity Hymnal 213

* There Is a Redeemer



Advent Offering Highlight

Ramadan 2023 Prayer

Lee DeHoog

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows. Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (616) 208-2820

Offertory The Wexford Carol

saxophone & congas

arr. Rick Hirsch

Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind What our good God for us has done, In sending His belovèd Son. As Mary blessèd may we pray To God with love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon that morn There was a blest Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angels did appear Which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid; For there you'll find, this happy morn, A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born." With thankful heart and joyful mind, The shepherds went this Babe to find, And as God's angel had foretold, They did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger He was laid, And by His side the virgin maid Attending on the Lord of Life, Who came on earth to end all strife.

* Gloria Patri

Trinity Hymnal 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

* Benediction

* Amen!



Worship musiciansAdult choir
Sarah Griffioen, director

Linus Guerra, alto saxophone and flute Susan Guerra, piano and organ Jesse Guerra, percussion Rebekah LaPlaca, percussion Cover art Lys Blakeslee

Reader Beth Kusserow

Advent Wreath Readings: "The Shepherd's Candle" by Théa Rosenburg, © 2015 *Deeply Rooted Magazine*