



Christmas Eve

Worship with Holy Communion

December 24, 2023

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

Communion - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

GATHERING

Prelude

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
By Robert Hunter MacGimsey



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender restroom is located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • **Portland, Oregon** 97217 • **Email** bethel@bethelpdx.org • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Children's Time and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Children's Time will conclude with the following prayer as the Christ Candle is lit:

Let us Pray:

Loving God, we are thankful that the waiting of Advent is over. We rejoice that today in the city of David a Savior is born. We rejoice that our hope is fulfilled, and God's peace has come to earth. We rejoice that we can fully know God's love in Jesus Christ. Help us to celebrate today and always that a Savior has been born to us.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
**Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**
Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Gathering Song of Praise

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

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.

Please be seated.

WORD

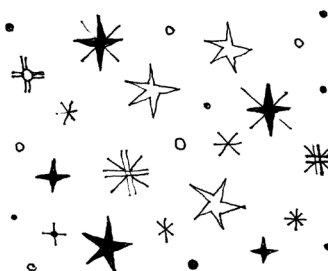
Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You 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.
⁴For 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.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For 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.
⁷His 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.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm

Psalm 96

*The Psalm will be read responsively: those sitting on the pulpit side are invited to read the plain text, those sitting on the **piano side are invited to read the bold text**, those worshipping online get to choose which text they'd like to read.*

¹Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Scripture Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

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.

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Sermon


Hymn of the Day

Please Stand in body or spirit


Go Tell It on the Mountain

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



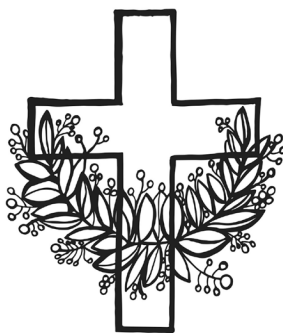
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

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

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*



COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshiping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.

Offering

You may use one of our options for giving: The offering plate will be passed by the ushers, Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, PayPal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may give by mail. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offertory

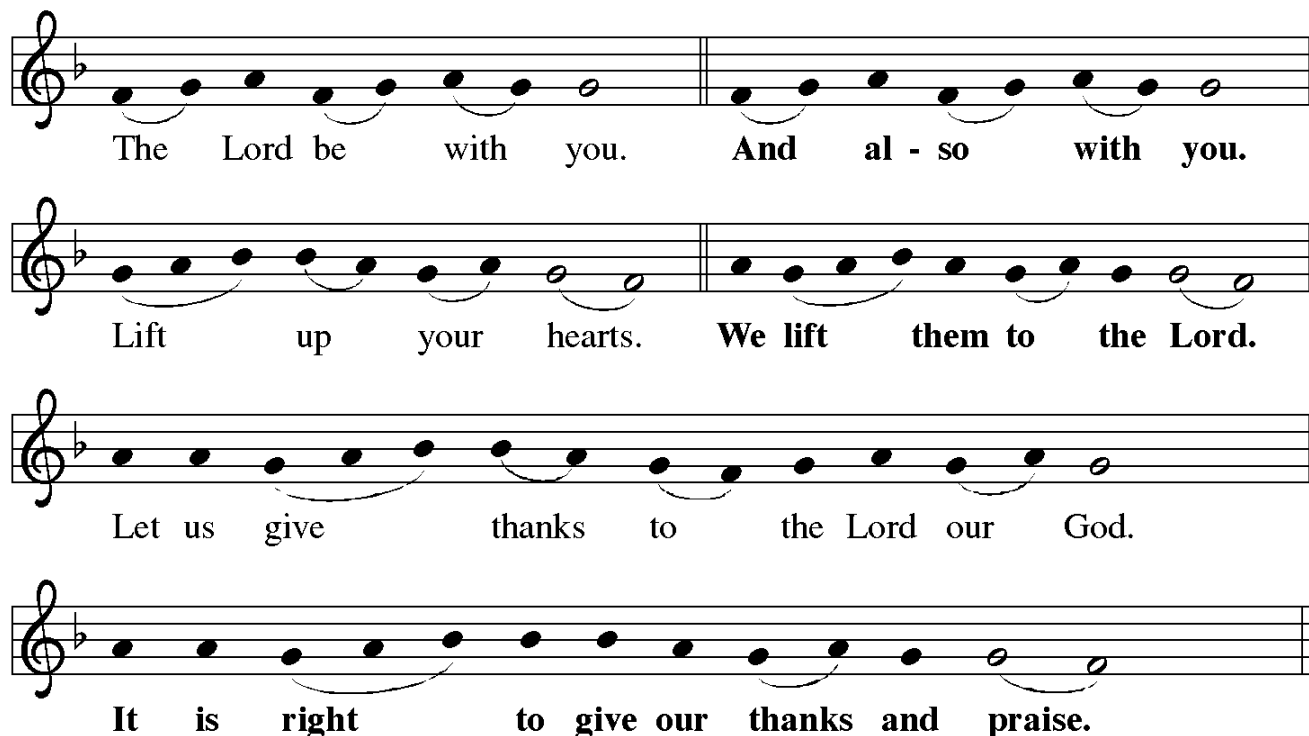
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Pastor will guide you when to take the bread and cup to eat and drink.



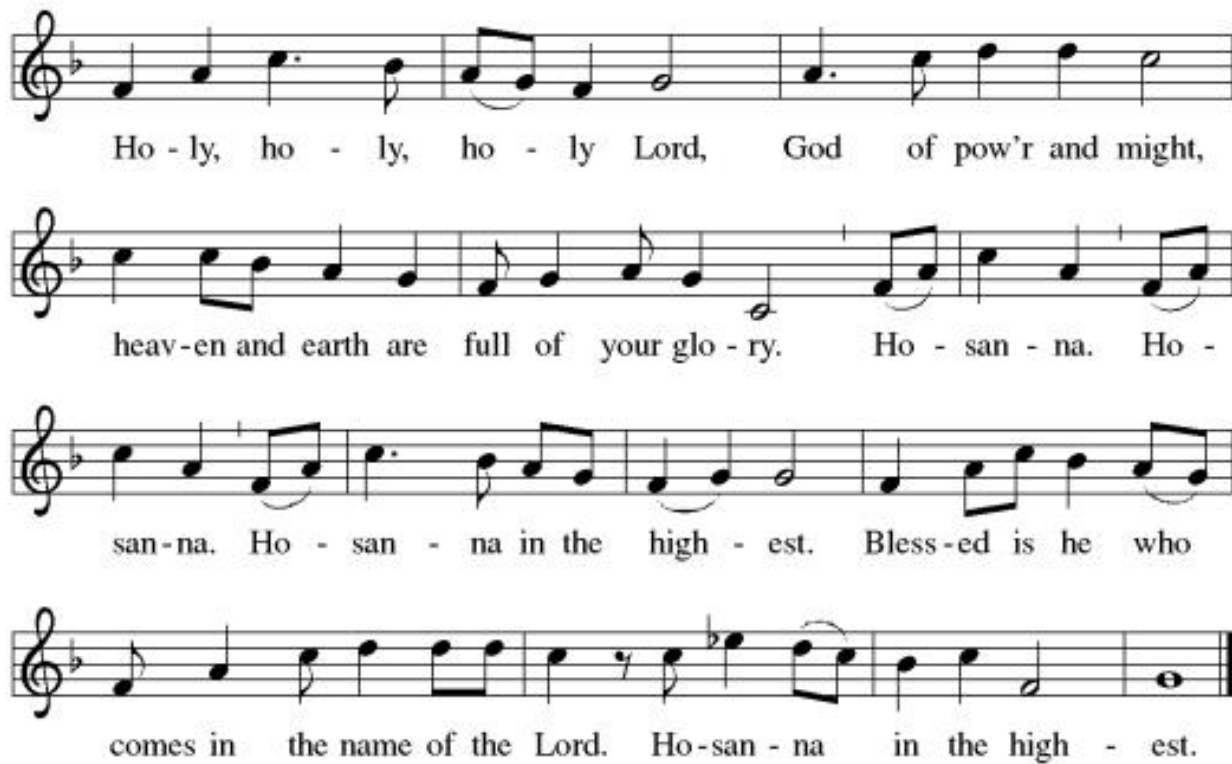
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Thanksgiving continues with the preface.



*The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Christmas Concerto: VI. Largo

By Arcangelo Corelli

Lighting of the Candles

When lighting your candle, please hold the lit candle upright and dip the unlit candle into the flame. Parents, please keep a close eye on your child(ren) if they are holding a candle. When extinguishing your candle, please cup your hand around the flame.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



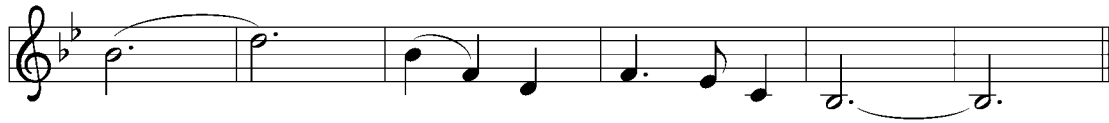
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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

Christmas Prayer

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All extinguish their flames

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen

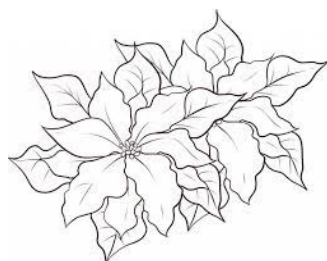
Sending Song

White Christmas
By Irving Berlin

The Sending.

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.



Thank you to

Ronda Bard, Holly Redfern and Lisa Siems

for donating poinsettias, bringing the beauty of the
Christmas season to Bethel.

Stewardship of Service	This evening – Dec. 24, 2023	Next week – Dec. 31, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Music Director	Shlomo Farber	Shlomo Farber
Reader	Holly Redfern	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, and all of the Middle East as they suffer war, violence, terror, and retribution. Show the world a path to peace and justice.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Pray for peace and justice and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

Pray for Bethel leaders, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2023 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for Ju Ju Moody for a successful immigration process.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as they prepare for the Summer 2024 Day Camp. Send us excellent applicants for Director and Staff.

Pray for Shlomo Farber, that his family and friends in Israel may be safe.

Pray for JulieAnn and Marlo Edman as they move into their new home. In thanksgiving for their family as they assist through that process.

Pray for Ella Belle Schwartz, Pr. Leon's cousin's baby, as she is welcomed into the world and getting stronger in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Pray for the young leaders who recently received confirmation, that they grow in faith and gain a deeper understanding of Jesus as a guiding, loving force in their lives.

Pray for our children, while they take time off during winter break to celebrate family and friends.

Pray for those who are ill:

- **Mark Sjostrom**, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications.
- **Mary Jo Swalwell**, Kerry Czuba's mom, as she transitions from this life into God's hands.
- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor.
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) as Faith enters her second century!
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care.
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.
- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.

- **Glenn Chase**, in thanks for his continued good health.
- **Jackie Calder** for healing and health that allows travel and volunteer work
- **Mary Rix**** as she moves through a possible second surgery and continued radiation beginning Jan. 3 for cancer.
- **JulieAnn Edman*** for continued healing as she undergoes her treatment.

*Send notes to JulieAnn please email her at jedman999@gmail.com.

**Mary would like to say Thank You to all who are keeping her in prayer.

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Andrew, Nash, and Patricia--may they walk in light and peace.

Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

Pray we know that God is close and that we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Mark Your Calendars...See what's happening at Bethel and Beyond this week:

12/24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship: in-person or on Zoom

12/25 No Service

12/28 2:00 PM Meal Prep for Renaissance Commons

12/28 5:00 PM Serve Meal at Renaissance Commons

12/28 4:30-5:30 Happy Hour on Zoom

12/31 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom

12/31 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in-person or on Zoom



Joy to the world!

Joy to the World, *Silent Night*, and many other hymns help us celebrate Jesus' birthday. Sing them often, especially your favorites!

Match the title of the hymn on the left with the illustration on the right.

ANGELS WE HAVE
HEARD ON HIGH



AWAY IN A MANGER



GO TELL IT ON
THE MOUNTAIN



JOY TO THE WORLD



This week

Celebrate Jesus' birthday with family and friends. Make a birthday cake and sing a few carols!

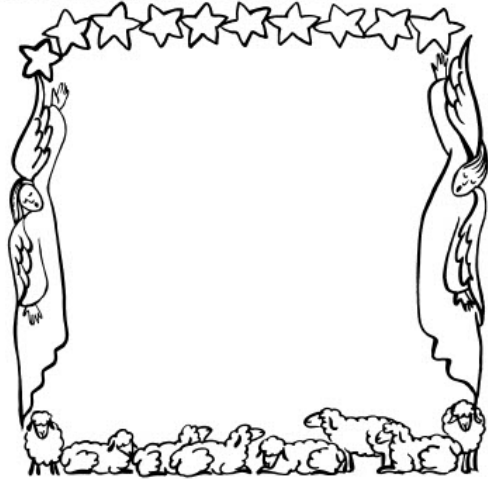
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Kids Celebrate
Nativity of Our Lord



gather

Welcome to worship. It's Christmas and the angels are singing *Glory to God in the highest!* Jesus is here and our long wait is over. Use all of your senses to experience this wonderful time. Look around—what do you see? Listen—what do you hear? Close your eyes and breathe deeply—what do you smell? What can you taste? What can you touch?



Draw a picture of your special Christmas, and show how you might celebrate with the angels.



Angels and shepherds

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Luke 2:1-20 tells the Christmas story differently from the way Matthew 1:18-2:12 tells it. Listen carefully as the gospel is read, and color in all of the characters you hear about. Next, circle those things you didn't hear about, and read about them in Matthew's story when you get home.

Trace the letters in the sky to learn what the angels were singing.

Draw a sign for Bethlehem.



Draw a few more sheep for the shepherds.

Draw Mary and Joseph's faces.

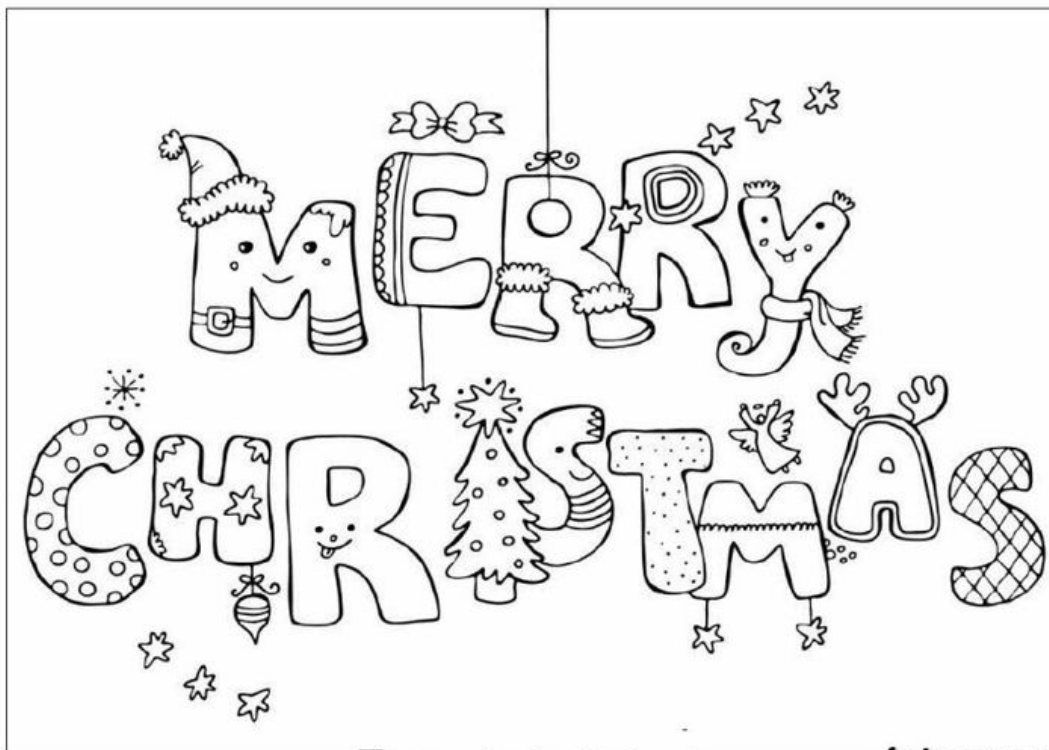
What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? Who can you tell?



Gloria! Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Amen



At home, light candles to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.



Merry Christmas



FIRST COMING

by Madeleine L'Engle

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.*

*He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy he
came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*