

# JESUS - IN FLESH

## JOHN 1:14



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
[WWW.SHEPHILLS.ORG/WATCH](http://WWW.SHEPHILLS.ORG/WATCH)  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 | 7:00 PM

# The Christmas Story

**Gathering Music** String Ensemble *Rejoice, Rejoice Greatly* Handel

**Call to Worship...Isaiah 9:2-7** (NRSV) Read by: Caroline Cullinane

**Opening Song #283**      *O Come, All ye Faithful*

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:

Refrain

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

2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: Refrain

## Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**All: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.  
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.  
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.  
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through +Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**All: Amen.**

## Song of Response #270 vs 1 & 3

### *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!"

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

## Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

**All: Amen.**

## Welcome/Life in Community

### Gospel Acclamation #289 vs 1 & 2

#### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

### Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

## **Gospel Reading...Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

## **Song of Response # 277 vs 1 & 3 *Away in a Manger***

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 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!”

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Gospel Acclamation #289 v 3

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Message      *Choose Joy!*      Pastor Tom Grevlos

## Hymn of the Day #289      *Joy to the World*

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## APOSTLES' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will 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.**

## Prayers of the Community Led by: Audrey Cullinane

### Sharing of the Peace (Virtual Greeting)

### Offering

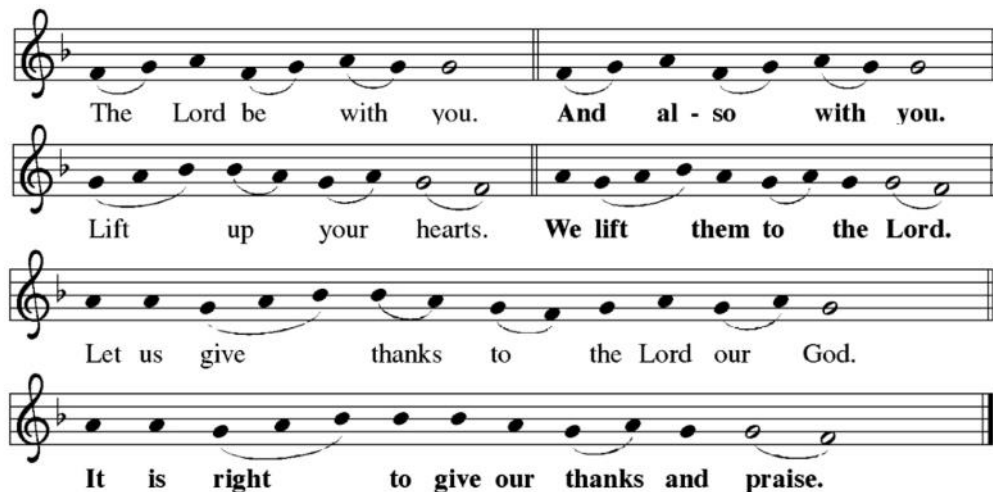
Our Christmas Eve envelope offering will go to support our ministry partner Upbring, specifically the care of children. Upbring is a changemaking organization whose mission is to create a world where all children are cherished. 100% of your generosity will go to New Life Center in Canyon Lake and BeReal Program in Austin/San Marcos. To learn more go to [Upbring.org](https://upbring.org).

Thank you for creating a neighborhood for these children through your special offering!



## Offering Prayer

### The Great Thanksgiving



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

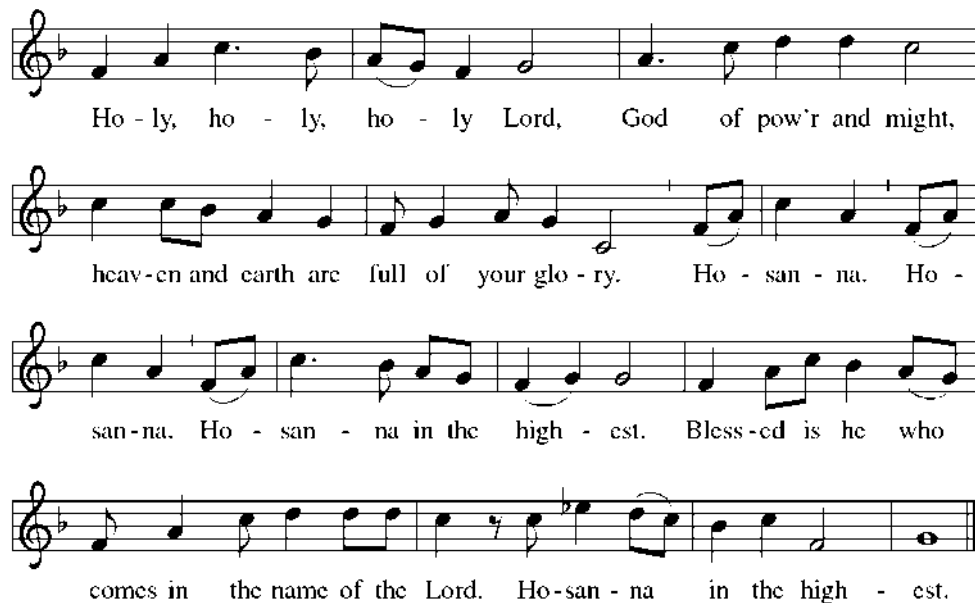
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



# Words of Institution

## Lord's Prayer

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;  
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.

## Communion

*As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to the Lord's Table.*

*God is really present - in bread and wine - forgiving sins and promising new life.*

*Bread/cracker -*

*"The Body of Christ given for you."*

*Wine/juice -*

*"The Blood of Christ shed for you."*

## Communion Music

## Communion Prayer/Blessing

## Christmas Proclamation...John 1:1-5, 14 (NRSV)

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

All: **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.**

## Candle Lighting      Dim Your Lights!

### Light Candles

#### Carol of Light #281 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

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.

### Blessing

Pastor: Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day + through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

### Extinguish Candles

## Song of Sending

## *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

### *Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## Dismissal

Pastor: Go in Peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

All: **Thanks be to God - and we will!**

## Postlude

## Christmas Greeting

### Jesus – In Flesh!

Blessings to you and your families in these holy days of celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world... **Jesus—in Flesh!**

While you may participate in this year's Christmas Eve or Christmas Day virtually, there is really no such thing as a "virtual Christmas". Why? Because we hear the poetic brilliance of John's Gospel; "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). We should never grow tired in hearing this Real Good News! It is God's Promise that sustains us and gives us hope even as we are physically separated from one another.

The Pastors and Staff at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church want to thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas, 2020. Please know that you are always welcome at Shepherd of the Hills because God's Love that we see in the manger, makes no distinction! We invite you to participate in the mysterious presence of Christ that comes to us in bread and wine, because the Love we see in the manger welcomes all to the Table! We encourage you to consider giving a special Christmas offering to help support the young girls at the residential New Life Center in Canyon Lake and help transition our young adults who are aging out of the foster system through a ministry called BeReal, because God's Love is most evident through our generosity on behalf of others.

May the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of **Jesus—in Flesh** touch your heart and impact your life this Christmas and in the New Year, 2021.

Pastor Lauren

Dr. Tom

## *Christmas Poinsettias Given By*

Betty and Tom Lueders in honor of their grandchildren Mary, Drew and Gabe Dunsmore,  
and Jackson and Carson Lueders

The Conners Family in memory of Adelaide and George Carlson, Benton and Phyliss Howell,  
Phyliss and Mikey Brickley, Bill Brokaw, John Conners, and Joe Evans

John and Melissa Robertson in honor of our dear family and friends, near and far!

Pete and Amanda Forsberg in memory of their family in heaven

Pastor Tom and Jeanne Grevlos in memory of Dr. Peter Steinke

Linda Roesle in memory of La Verne and Arthur Kalbow

The Wegner Family in honor of the people of God at Shepherd of the Hills

Don and Sandy Gaskin in memory of their parents

Cisco and Dabney Gomes in honor of their sons, Walt and Ansel

Sara and Bill Dawson in memory of Janet and Lee Dawson, and Patricia Reed

Ronny and Janice Pinckard in memory of Royce Berger

John and Cathy Thompson in memory of Jay Johnson

Audrey and Dan Lunecki in memory of John Perkunas and in honor of Bowen Brunner



## *Christmas Day Worship*

### Lessons and Carols

*10:45 am Online*

*[www.shephills.org/watch](http://www.shephills.org/watch)*



*Join Us after Christmas!*

# Worship

5:30 pm Saturday, December 26 in the Courtyard

8:15 am Sunday, December 27 in the Courtyard

10:45 am Sunday, Livestream [www.shephills.org/watch](http://www.shephills.org/watch)

## NEW YEARS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 31  
5:30 pm in the Courtyard

COME AND REFLECT ON THIS PAST YEAR AND START 2021 IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY!

Join Us Outdoors

# COURTYARD WORSHIP

5:30 pm Saturdays  
8:15 am Sundays

wear a mask, bring a chair



# Christmas Blessings!



from the Staff of ShepHills