



December 27, 2020

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still

Pastor Aleese Kenitzer, Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church, Muscatine

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

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

And also with you.

GATHERING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High – ELW 289

Ensemble, Zion Lutheran Church, Princeton

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts.

Amen.

WORD

READING Hebrews 2:10-18

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

SERMON Bishop Amy Current

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



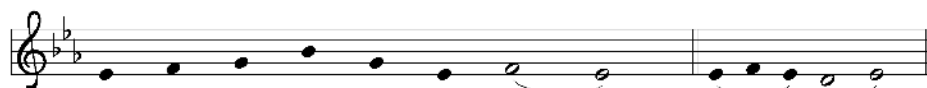
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voice - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; fr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.
For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,
to shine in our world's darkness,
to speak peace to all people,
and to welcome us as members of your family.
For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.

We adore you, O God.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,
we may live as your children,
bearing your goodness throughout the world.
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

All glory to you, holy God,
now and forever.

Amen.

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;
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.**

SONG *In the Bleak Midwinter*
Pastor Susan Bantz, Lutheran Living Senior Campus, Muscatine

SENDING

BLESSING FOR RETIREMENT Pastor Paul Ostrem, Assistant to the Bishop, is retiring Dec. 31, 2020

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends Rejoice –ELW 288

Chime Choir, Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming

David Krueger & Robin Wagner, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

Worship Leaders:

Bishop Amy Current
Shonagh Current Giere
Emily Harlynn
Val Harlynn
Kathy Smith
Gary Smith
Pastor Paul Ostrem
Carol Ostrem
Pastor Erika Uthe
Charlotte Uthe
Frankie Uthe

Music provided by:

Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church,
Muscatine
Pastor Aleese Kenitzer
Zion Lutheran Church, Princeton
Roger Huff
Jon Dohrmann
Sheila Bosworth
Holly Mangels
Joan Huff
Pam Opolka
Shauna Bullard-Kane, accompanist
Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines
Pastor Richard Webb
Lutheran Living Senior Campus, Muscatine
Pastor Susan Bantz
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids
David Krueger
Robin Wagner, Organist
Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge
Linda Szemkus
Beth Ann Anderson
Linda Golinghorst
Neal Becker
Susan Becker, Director

Thank you worship musicians, leaders, sound, and A/V technicians.
Blessings to Pastor Paul Ostrem on his retirement on December 31, 2020.

Merry Christmas!
From Bishop Current and the Office of the Bishop staff
Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

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