

# **JANUARY 3, 2021**

# **WELCOME**

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME, If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

**PRE-SERVICE** 

Son of God Hamilton/Smith/Wood arr. by Mark Hayes © CCLI 5052639

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

For unto Us a Child is Born Handel arr. by Mark Hayes © CCLI 3490729

# THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.** 

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness, 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.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through <sup>‡</sup> Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. *Amen.* 



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## 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.* 



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

We pray together.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

# THE WORD

## **READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

A reading from Jeremiah.
<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."
<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.
<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The word of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.* 

## Psalm 147:12-20

Read responsively.

<sup>12</sup>Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you. <sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

#### <sup>15</sup>God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

#### <sup>17</sup>God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

<sup>18</sup>The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

#### <sup>19</sup>God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

<sup>20</sup>The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## **READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

#### A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we,

who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.* 



## GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

#### We sit. CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation. Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

## SERMON

The Holy Spirit rests on you

We stand.

Hymn

Let Our Gladness Have No End

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the 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 to the dead. 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 INTERCESSION**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

The Prayers conclude:

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. *Amen.* 

#### We sit.

#### OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.com and click on "On-line Giving." You may also mail your check to 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

#### OFFERING

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst © OneLicense.net



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

# THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places. The Lord be with you. **And also 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Your Son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a manger, Jesus Christ, born of Mary and lauded by angels. Glory to you, O God: **Glory to you, O God.** 

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son. Make known to the whole earth your steadfast love. Glory to you, O God: **Glory to you, O God.**  In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands. In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life-giving Spirit. Glory to you, O God: **Glory to you, O God.** 

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the hosts of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God Most High, Light of the earth, and Judge of the world, today and forever. **Amen.** 

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

TODAY! Drive-In Communion from 10:30-12:00. You may also call the church office and schedule an additional time to receive communion.



# THE SENDING

## BLESSING

**Hymn** 

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. **Amen.** 

## Light Dawns on a Weary World

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## DISMISSAL

We are God's people on a mission.

#### We have gathered and have been fed. We are now sent to make a difference in the world. Amen.

We sit.

#### POSTLUDE

Brightest and Best Wagner arr. by Mark Hayes © CCLI 7053914

Please remain seated until the usher instructs you to exit. Also, please maintain proper distancing as you proceed to receive communion at the doors of the sanctuary.

# **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in gratefulness for the Mt. Hermon family. The kindness and generosity you display to my family, not only at Christmas, but all year long, deeply touches my heart! Pastor Gina



# 2021 Altar Flowers

Sign-up board is in the office hallway. You can sign-up when in the church or by calling the church.

Many thanks to the Mt. Hermon congregation for the generous gift at Christmas. Blessings on each day of your New Year! *Ruthie Brannen* 





# Epiphany of Our Lord Service

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7:00 pm Live Stream and In-person

# **Tithes, Attendance, and Offering**

12/24/20 Live Stream Worship – 173 + In-person Worship 52 = 225 12/27/20 Live Stream Worship – 141 + In-person Worship 26 = 167

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$3,330.76
<b>Building Improvement</b>	Received	\$90.00
Growing on Holy Ground	Received	\$15,740.00
Live Streaming This Week		\$0.00
Live Streaming Total Rec'd		\$6,791.85

#### Honorariums and Memorials (all funds)

In memory of Mike Watford by Ronnie & Debbie Fulmer, Danny & Jenny Scott, Olin Jenkins

In memory of the birthday of Frances Porth by Earl & Mary Frances

Your continued financial support to the work of God at Mt. Hermon is needed. You may drop your check in the US Mail: 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. You may also drop it in the locked box on Leaphart Road. Some of you have taken advantage of banks mailing a check straight to Mt. Hermon. Many of you are taking the opportunity to use online giving. Thank you for your financial and spiritual support to Mt. Hermon!



Tithe.ly Online Giving.

You may download the Tithely app and select Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church 3011 Leaphart Road

Or you may give from our website at www.mthlc.com and select Online Giving http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com/onlinegiving.html

# MT HERMON PRAYS ...

#### In the hospital Marvin Mathias, Prisma Baptist

#### **Continual Prayers**

Patricia Bachman, Carolina Gardens Alberta Berry, home Hazel Bockus, Carolina Gardens Nell Buff, hone Lila Catt, home Margie Hook, home Rev. Everette Price, home June Roof, Rapha Tom Roof, home Lois Watson, home Lena Wessinger, Presby. Home

#### Members in Special Need of Prayer

\*Buddy Hydrick Jo Leach Jane Sexton

#### Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Lois Moore & family, family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman Bill Harrell, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price Don Morris, father of Keith Morris Iris Wellborn, sister of Earl Sease Richie Tallent, friend of Danny Scott Mandy McLemore, co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price John Catoe, family of Ellisors Sherri Crapps, sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton Megan Sease, granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease Martha Eastwood, sister of Marie Kleckley Eric Powell, friend of Kim Fulmer Jason Wardlaw, friend of congregation Andrew & Candice Coleman, friends of Erica Conklin David Hydrick, cousin of Buddy Hydrick Clara Shultz, friend of Sheila Starkey Debbie Smith & family, niece of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman Sarah Hiltz, granddaughter of Buddy & Angie Hydrick Charlotte & Paul Nelson, friends of Herb Bucknam Richard Lindler, friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart Robert Lindler, father of Cassie Swygert Bob Eastwood, brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley Harold & Mary Prater, parents of Ray Prater Molly Kate Shealy, friend of Jean Shealy Chuck Bachman, nephew of Jean Shealy Floyd Fuller, uncle of David Marsh Dawn McIlwain-Merck, friend of Robin Ellisor Gary & Linda Hodgin, friends of Herb Bucknam Ted Franklin, cousin of Cyndi Leaphart Kathy Brown, friend of congregation Donnie Shumpert, brother-in-law of Andrea Bowers & Jan Schofield Jim Maddox, son of Doris Maddox Melinda Ruff, friend of Gene & Jan Schofield Tressa Oswalt, sister of Angie Hydrick Sally Ortmann, friend of Ricky & Lynn Bouknight Don Cope, friend of Ricky & Lynn Bouknight The Logan Sharpe family, teammate/friend of Skyler Miller \*Patricia Barber, sister of Danny Scott

## **NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS**

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Our Lord

- 9:00 am Worship In-person and Live Stream
- 10:30 am Sunday School via Zoom
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00 – 11:00 Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Mary Frances Sease)

#### Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

12:00 pm Bulletins will be in mailboxes

#### Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 – 11:00 am Food Pantry (Mike Rawl)



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Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music* Susan LaCons, *Parish Administrator* Matt Hansen, *Seminarian* 

www.WeAreMtHermon.com 3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 803.794.6430 Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm 803.951.3784 PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com Ruthie Brannen@gmail.com 803.794.6430 Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu

#### **CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

Ronnie Fulmer, *President* Robin Ellisor, *Secretary* Annette Price, *Financial Secretary* 

Marion Leaphart, Vice President Parker Boulware, Treasurer Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

## **THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Second Sunday after Christmas 9:00 am Worship – In-person & Live Stream 10:30 – 12:00 Drive-In Communion

#### Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Staff Meeting6:00 pm Worship Team Meeting via Zoom

#### Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

#### Wednesday, January 6th Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 – 11:00 Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick & Doris Maddox) 7:00 pm Epiphany Service – In-person & Live Stream

#### Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm Health & Safety Task Force Meeting via Zoom

#### Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

12:00 pm Bulletins will be in mailboxes

#### Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

## 9:00 – 11:00 Food Pantry (Parker & Diane Boulware)