

# Lessons and Carols

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020



**Messiah Lutheran Church**

Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org)

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

**It is good to be together**, even if we are meeting online and/or in the church parking lot. If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org) or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org) or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

**Prayer Concerns** can be shared via email ([pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org)) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship. Please note that some elements of the service are pre-recorded and prayer requests may not make it in until the following week.

**Children** are encouraged to participate at home as they are able. If you would like an at-home Sunday School Lesson Packet, please contact Cheryl Moser for more info.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is typically celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as on festival days. The date of our next Communion Sunday is TBD. If Communion is new for you, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

## Serving in Worship Today:

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	The Rev. Paul Moody
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jim Burghart
<b>Keyboards</b>	Glenn Odenbrett
<b>Trumpet</b>	Tom Trost
<b>Readers</b>	Drinda Kiner, the Murphy Family, Irene Rogner

# GATHERING

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming*  
(based on ELW #272)  
Henry Kihlken

*(As God gathers us on this day of resurrection,  
we take time during the prelude to center ourselves  
and prepare to receive the Gospel: both its proclamation of grace  
and its call to action.)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

Amid the troubles and fears of this world,  
let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear.

For I bring you good news of great joy.

Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In † Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven.

May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens.

Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Joy to the World*  
ELW #267

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 4 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.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# LESSONS AND CAROLS

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

## CAROL

*Prepare the Royal Highway*  
ELW #264

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!
  
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

## SECOND READING

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## CAROL

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*  
ELW #265

- 1      The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
          with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
          "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
          most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2      "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
          all generations laud and honor thee;  
          thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
          most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 4      Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
          in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
          and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
          "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

## THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7

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.

## **CAROL**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
ELW #276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!
  
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

## **FOURTH READING**

Luke 2:8-16

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, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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.

## **CAROL**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*  
ELW #289

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

## **FIFTH READING**

Luke 2:25-36

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." 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.

## CAROL

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
ELW #288

- 1      Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!
- 3      Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## SIXTH READING

John 1:1-14

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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

## CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
ELW #279

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.  
You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.  
You share our humanity.  
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,  
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.  
You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament  
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

## 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.

*(A brief silence)*

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness (*especially*). Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For (*John, apostle and evangelist, and*) all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)*

# THANKSGIVING

## **OFFERING**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

# SENDING

## MISSION PRAYER

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with the Gospel, now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

**Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.  
Amen.**

## BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*  
ELW #290

### *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*

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

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)*

## **POSTLUDE**

*He is Born*  
(based on a traditional French carol)  
Robert J. Powell

### **Messiah Staff Members**

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett  
Choir Director: Vicki Lester  
Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser  
Office Administrator: Steven Liss  
Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

### **Attributions**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Portions of Service of the Word.*

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## ***Announcements***

### ***Prayers***

**Prayer Team & Partners:** Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. Messiah has a Prayer Team which will pray with/for you. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue Prayer Request Card – available in the sanctuary – which offer these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the

intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

*(Contact Nancy Pittard to participate in the Prayer Partner Email Chain and/or to serve on the Prayer Team)*

**Please pray for our siblings in Christ:** The family and friends of Ginny Edwards, the family and friends of Lois Ehlenfeldt, the family and friends of Jay Imel, the family and friends of Sid Pryor, Lila Boehler, Jim Butler, Lise Davis, Una and Bob Durheim, Dan Filer, Tracy Galvin, Sue Howe, Jayne Imel, Retta Kalcik, Bob Kopsak, John Lincoln, Christine Maharg and family, Craig Orosz, Lisa Perry, the Sauder family, Jill Shemory, Phyllis Short, Amy Square, Kathy Strom, Jim Szatkowski, and all in need of comfort and healing.

*(Your prayer request, printed in the bulletin, will remain active for a period of four weeks. If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please fill out a new request card.)*

## **Announcements**

**PLEASE NOTE: All upcoming activities and events are subject to change as Messiah responds to the ongoing world health crisis.**

**Pastoral Care:** The world is experiencing an unprecedented season of difficulty, and all of us are affected in our own way. If you would like to connect with Pastor Paul for a conversation, please call or email the church office: 440-442-6941 or [pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org).

**OHIO Covid-19:** Now that testing is more widely available – we wanted to share some of the key resources:

- *Ohio Corona Virus Portal:*  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>
- *Link/Map for Testing Sites:*  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/>
- *Phone for Info:* 1-833-427-5634

**LWR Personal Care Kits:** Messiah is collecting items to assemble Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Collection bins for the items are located by the coffee area. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Church Council:** the next meeting is on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Miles of Quarters:** To help with Messiah's budget deficit, we are collecting a mile of quarters – over 63,000 quarters – more than \$15,000. Put your quarters in the glass jug by the easel. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Church Office Hours This Week:**

The Church Office will not be open until further notice. However, we will be checking voicemail and email regularly.

**Attendance and Offering** for the week of December 20, 2020:

YouTube Views: 55

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$7,716.60

(NOTE: \$4,000 a week is needed to remain current with our budget)

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service:** Social Ministry has placed educational posters about the ELCA's history of helping refugees through the work of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Take a look at the new posters in the coffee area when you are able, or check out the LIRS website: <https://www.lirs.org/>.



## **Special Acknowledgments**

*This is our space to honor expressions of appreciation. Email items c/o [office@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:office@messiahlyndhurst.org) by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.*

- ♥ Thank you to Jim Rase for sharing his singing talents during this season of Advent! And to James Timko for being a part of our service.  
*c/o Michael and Vicki Lester*
- ♥ Thanks to Pastor (and Katie) for including Children's Moments in the services. The kids look forward to that, along with watching to see what extra footage is at the very end of the virtual service. We all get a kick out of that..lol.  
*c/o Kristy Bohinc*
- ♥ Thanks to Kathy Johnson, Lisa Halberg, Sarah Dellinger, Allison Schreiber, the Trosts and Pastor Paul for all of their contributions to virtual Sunday School and Zooms!! Much appreciated!  
*c/o Kristy Bohinc*

- ♥ Thanks to all of the youth who signed up to read during Advent. It's wonderful to see all of your faces!  
*c/o Kristy Bohinc*
- ♥ Thank you Kristy for your beautiful singing and video style on Sunday 12/13/2020. I found myself entranced with the beauty of the whole presentation. Blessings and Thank You.  
*Love, Drinda Kiner*
- ♥ First and foremost, we would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. We hope you are all safe and well. I wanted to express our continued gratitude for everything our Messiah Family has done for us these last few months. I wanted to give a quick update on Jaime...He will be 3 months post-op on Christmas from his major chest surgery in September. We are headed back to Cincinnati next week (Dec. 16-18) for post-op care. He's still on physical restrictions (no lifting, no twisting, no lying flat, no rolling over, no vigorous activity of any kind), but just started virtual physical therapy this past week to learn how to safely strengthen his core and chest post-operatively. He continues to have difficulty with coughing and sneezing, so we are trying VERY hard to keep him (and the rest of our family) in quarantine. Overall, I am happy to report, that at this time, Jaime is healing nicely and getting used to his "new chest" every day. Thank you for the continued thoughts, prayers, well wishes and gifts you've sent us, all have been so very much appreciated. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such amazing people in our lives. Here's to a blessed Holiday Season and happy, HEALTHY, 2021 for all!  
*Love, The Trost Family*
- ♥ Much appreciation goes to Katie Moody for being an integral part of Pastor's online services. We do thank you for making us comfortable in your home setting.  
*c/o the Messiah family*
- ♥ Thank you to Vicki Lester for including the music in this past week's service that featured Jay Imel. It was a lovely tribute to Jay and brought a smile to my face and a tear to my eye as I remembered how his voice could fill the church and stir the soul. Thank you, Vicki!  
*c/o Gail Ross*

# Messiah Cookbook Project:



to **DEC. 27<sup>th</sup>**



recipes, table graces, cooking stories, pics & more!

## Dear Messiah Members,

What have you been cooking up in your kitchen the last several months? What recipes and table graces have you been using? Do you have any cooking stories or kitchen pictures that you are willing to share?

This is an historical time! Social Ministry is creating a congregational cookbook this year to bring us closer together during this time of social distancing. We are asking Messiah members to share their **recipes, table graces, cooking stories and pictures** for a cookbook that we are assembling in November and email distributing in December. There is no limit to the number of recipes, table graces, pictures and stories that we can include. Share your feasts and flops. All in good taste, we hope! – LOL

**Please email or use the USPS to send your cookbook submissions to Jill Snellman: [jillsnellman@yahoo.com](mailto:jillsnellman@yahoo.com) by **Sunday, December 27**.** Any format is fine for your recipes, table graces, story submissions and pics. Please make sure it is legible.

