



First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2017

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350

(209) 523-4531 • www.emanuellutheran.org

Welcome to Emanuel

Communion Service 9:30 a.m..... Page 3
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Staff

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Lyn Crase

Organist & Choir Director

Barbara Vukich

Secretary

Paula Braxton

Day Care Director

Laura Marquez

Bookkeeper

Maria Ojeda

Council Officers

President

Suzanne Wilke

Vice President

Dan Johnson

Treasurer

Bob Reuter

Secretary

Mike Epting

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by filling out a worship attendance form (located in your bulletin) and placing it in the offering plate.

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available. •

(Please ask an usher)

Children/Youth & Family:

Council member – Pat Smith and Sam Gierhan

Spiritual Life:

Council member – Lois Owen and Dan Johnson

Worship:

Council member – Suzanne Wilke

Outreach:

Council members — Bob Dailey

Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship — Jim Barton, Janice Watkins, Bob Dailey and
Lois Silva

Property — Dick Norquist

Fellowship:

Council member—Janice Watkins

Social Media:

Council member – Mike Epting and Rick Unruh

Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Dick Norquist, Rob Shank, Bill Reinheimer

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
A Service of lessons & Carols

DECEMBER 31, 2014

9:30 AM

PRELUDE *Roses and Angels* Jeremy Young

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *Joy to the World* ELW #267

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P Holy One,
the beginning and the end,
the giver of life:
Blessed are you,

C for the birth of creation.

A Blessed are you,

C in the darkness and in the light.

P Blessed are you,

C for your promise to your people.

A Blessed are you,

C in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

P Blessed are you,

C for Mary's openness to your will.

A Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

C the Word made flesh.

P Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace throughout the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen

P Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

FIRST READING CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming #272

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem #279

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's
name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with
you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this
might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
³² 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of
his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a
virgin?" ³⁵ 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." ³⁸ 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.

THIRD READING CAROL

Away in a Manger #277

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

FOURTH READING CAROL

What Child Is This? #296

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-16

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

FIFTH READING CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly #276

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

P Please stand.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 2.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for the revelation to the Gentiles
and for the glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ 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.

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

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

L Please be seated.

MEDITATION

Pastor Lyn Crase

HYMN

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

#288

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

A In his light, draw all to the manger
C to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

P In his light, draw all to the manger
C to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

A In his light, draw all to the manger
C to sing for joy with the angels.

P In the brightness of his life
C cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger.

A It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
C In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

P Please be seated as we collect the offering.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

What Child Is This

Eugenie Rocherolle

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray
Blessed are you,

C God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

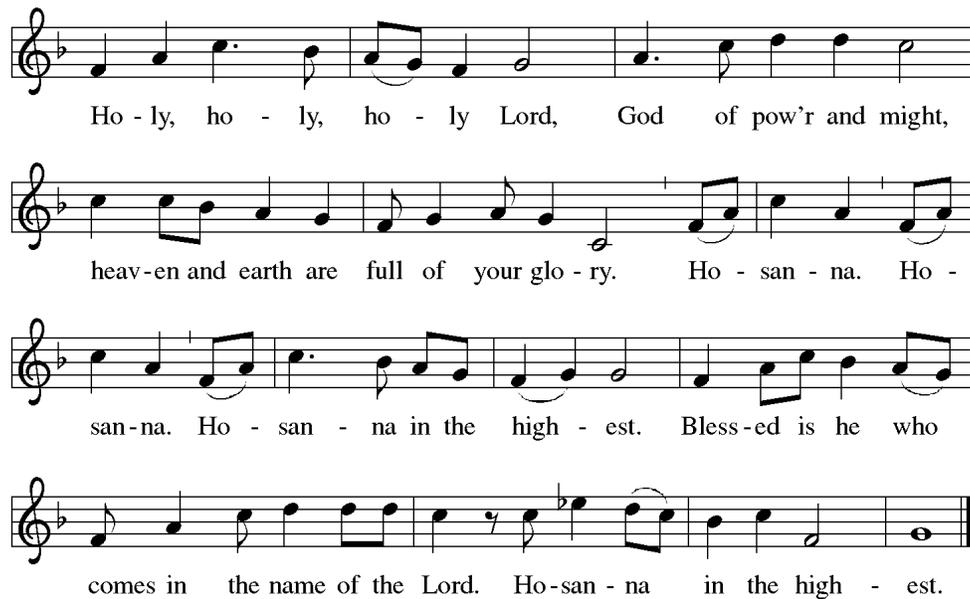
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

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

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our lord Jesus **took bread**, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he **took the cup**, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.

Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

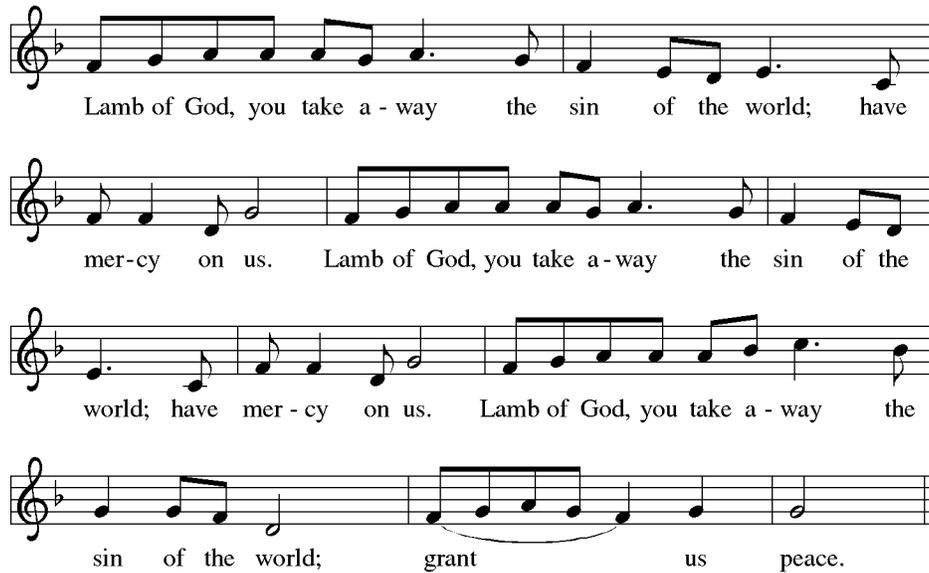
P Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

Let every heart receive your Savior.

Please be seated.

We practice continuous communion at the altar rail. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
Of the Father's Love Begotten*

ELW #284

ELW #295

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

P God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

C ***The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live. The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name; that falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.***

ELW 538

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Angels form the Realms of Glory

ELW #275

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Eugenie Rocherolle

THOSE WHO SERVED US TODAY

Presiding Minister Pastor Lyn Crase
Assisting Minister Sheri Delvin
Acolyte..... Chris Schmidt
Ministers of the Word Bill Reinheimer, Paula Kroeze
Communion Assistant..... Paula Kroeze
Usher/Greeter Delvin/Reuter
Altar Team Lois Silva

Announcements

Please use your "soft" voice during and following the Prelude, as others may be in prayer and meditation. Thank you.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the worship experience at Emanuel rich & meaningful over the past year!

A special thank you to all involved in Advent & Christmas special this year!

Thank you to Paula Barton, Pat Smith, Sam Gierhan, Victor Berg-Haglund, Martha Strand and multiple others who helped make "Don't Forget the Carol" a success!

Thank you to David Holtz for opening his home for Christmas caroling and Lois Owen for hosting the New Year's Eve party at her home.

Thank you to Sue Wilke for writing & directing the Christmas Pageant, to Paula Barton for costumes, Paul Owen for set arrangements, and to all the actors & actresses who gave meaningful performances.

Thank you to Barbara Vukich for another outstanding musical year and for the extra work through the holidays!

Thank you to Marilyn Rowland & Victor Berg-Haglund for piano accompaniment during Advent and to Victor, David, Paula, & Kathleen for leading Holden Evening Prayer.

Thank you to Kathleen Reuter for all she does throughout the year to ensure weekly worship assistants are in place and additionally for special services.

Thank you to the Sanctuary Arts Team for their thoughtful approach toward enhancing the worship experience through use of multiple art mediums.

Thank you to all ministry leaders and council members for the inspiration you share and the work that you do throughout the year, it is appreciated!

Thank you to you - the congregation of Emanuel for your faithful support and encouragement of this ministry - you are appreciated!

Thank you to the office support team who are a pleasure to work with - without them, we would be truly befuddled!

As with any thank you list, there is risk of forgetting someone. If I left off your name for something special that you did, it wasn't intentional, please know every good and precious thing you did makes me grateful. As we move into 2018 remember this, change is inevitable - change is always present; but so is God's grace....always present, always with us and will never leave us. Thanks be to God for all of you! Thanks be to God for Grace!

In deep gratitude,

Pastor Lynn

First Saturday Worship. Every 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30 pm. An informal & interactive and contemplative worship experience.

Choir rehearsals will resume in January.

1st Sunday Care Cupboard

Bring your donations for the Care Cupboard –see list in the announcement box on page 16 of the bulletin. Donations will be accepted anytime.

Next Care Cupboard date is January 8.

Tuesday Breakfast is on break until January 9

Young Adult Bible Study is on break and resumes on January 8 at 1:15 pm.

Text Study will resume on January 2. All are welcome. Bring along your lunch.

Thursday Morning Bible Study, resumes January 4 at Casa de Modesto, continuing “Grace in a Tree Stump” by J. E. Kalas. We will be back to Emanuel on January 11, 2018. All are welcome!

If you have decided to tithe on your yearly pledge, below are some suggestions as to where/how to target that donation:

*Audio/visual technology upgrade
Care Cupboard
Katie's Kitchen
Piecemakers Quilting
Sanctuary Arts Team*

*Modesto Shower Shuttle
12 New Lutheran Study Bibles
Education (VBS curriculum)
Family Promise Modesto
Easter Advertising*

There's a convenient way to make donations to Emanuel. Simply install **Give+Church** on your Apple or Android phone or tablet, or with your computer, visit www.emanuellutheran.org. On the website, choose the “Contact Us/Donations” menu item. Both options are extremely easy and walk you through the process.

Sierra Pacific Synod is suggesting donations to two agencies: Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and Lutheran Disaster Response. **Donations to Lutheran Social Services** can be designated through their “Wildfire Relief Fund” for needs in northern California in general. To donate to specific congregations, indicate the name of the congregation in the designated box. 100% of these monies will be given directly to churches and ministries that have been affected by the fires. **Donations to Lutheran Disaster Relief** can be designated to “U.S. Fire Relief” and will be used more generally to support churches and ministries and communities that have been affected by fires through the fall and throughout the west. 100% of donations so designated will be used by LDR to offer support to affected communities.

Emanuel Lutheran Care Cupboard

HELP! HELP! HELP! Our cupboard is almost bare! Can you help us?

We are in desperate need of the following items before December 18th—our distribution date for sharing food with MJC students in need:

Individual servings of tuna/crackers boxes, small jars of jam, small jars of peanut butter, cans of soup, chili or vegetables, single-serve cracker packets, individual servings of mac 'n cheese, small boxes of cold cereal or individual servings of oatmeal, fruit or jello cups, pudding cups, packets of hot chocolate or apple cider, and Capri Sun juices. We are also in need of pet food.

Thanks so much for your generosity! =)



WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THUR 4	FRI 5	SAT 6	SUN 7
NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	10:30 am Daycare Yoga Class	7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's	9:30 am Adult Bible Study @ Casa de Modesto	OFFICE CLOSED		9:30 am Worship Service Care Cupboard Sunday
Day Care Closed	12:00 pm Text Study			1:30 pm Memorial service for Donald Murray		
					5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Assistant Minister	Ministers of the Word	Cantor	Communion Assist	Acolyte	Usher Greeter	Altar Care
Jan 7 Epiphany 1	Brett Shank	B Rokaitis P Cousins	Kathleen Reuter	Peter Cousins	Alexandria Taylor	Shank Family	
Jan 14 Epiphany 1	Sam Gierhan	M Rowland L Owen	Paula Barton	Owen/ Epting	Fanney B	Petersen/ Troedson	
Jan 21 Epiphany 2	Marilyn Rowland	S Delvin D Holtz	David Holtz	Sheri Delvin	Gregory Taylor	Smith/ Knoll	

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

January 7 Epiphany 1	January 14 Epiphany 2	January 21 Epiphany 3
Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	1 Samuel 3:1-20 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-5	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20



New Prayer Requests: Carolyn Crenwelge—health & well-being; Charlotte Yardy—(an ELDC child, age 4) health & well-being (Marquez); Ali Moraitis—healing & well-being (Watkins); Joyce Bachmann—health & well-being; Patsy Natvig—health, well-being and healing (Hoover)

Our Members: Linda Nelson; Laurie Spinuzzi; Pat Smith; Sherm Petersen; Dr. Van Allen; Joanne Trana; the Tisdell family; Jennaca Hollinger; Rev. Ralph Herman; Roland Loeffler; Bill Beasley; Teri Scott; Millie Golding; Rue Knoll; Mary Murray

Our Homebound Members: Florence Broden, Shelda Fritts; Alice Hine; Marj Sample; Vera Eden

Our Family: Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer); Ian McKenzie (Schmidt); Jane Tisdell (Tisdell); Patsy Natvig (Hoover); David Massingill (Reuter); Pastor Roger Lee and family; Janet Barkley (Deutsch); Nancy Jones' brother-in-law; the Hunwardsen family, Hazel Holyfield; Joyce & Manuel Dillard (Scott); Michael Bach (Scott); Moira & Ron Wilhelm (Clarke); Billie Cannon (Cannon); Carolyn & Jake Strand Maret (Strand); Nick Berlin (L. Skustad); Mabel Kraft (Kraft); Lisa Schenewark (Martin); George and Glenn Massingill (Reuter); Virginia Comella (Silva); Art Ludke (Norquist); Joyce Inell, Alley Taylor (Scott); Olaf Bergstrom (Poston); Joy, Manuel & Hazel (Scott)

Our Friends: Roger Warner (Schmidt); Jennifer Turner (Dieterich); Priscilla Pino (Ixcot); Tyler (Norquist); Dawn & Alexander Piscitello (Watkins); Charlie Wilson, churches and families in Napa Valley & Santa Rosa affected by the fires; Kathy & Lee van Boven (Reinheimer); Shey's family (Billie Cannon); the Vogelzang family; Judy Darby (Schmidt); Julie Moore, Jeff Hendrick (Barton); Ken Jensen (Norquist); the Ellsworth family (Wagonner); Sandy & Chris (Hooper); Bill Leshner (Hoaglund)

We Pray for Peace in the Middle East, and for all those serving in our armed forces:

T/Sgt. Ryan Dangerfield, USAF at Ramstein AB, Germany and **SSgt. Joey Sabel, USMC** at Camp Lejeune, NC (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need.

For the faith communities of this city and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For peace among nations, for peace in our homes, and for peace in our hearts. Urge us to cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who wait in the shadow of death, for those who are ill, for those who struggle to see the future, and for all who lack even their basic needs. Transform our love toward them with the vision of eyes that have seen the salvation of God. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your healing touch on those we name before you now, aloud or in silence (*pause for silence*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who cannot see, for those who cannot hear, for those who have varied use of their limbs, and for those able to exercise all the senses. Help us to appreciate the fullness of God's gift of life in our varied abilities, and to celebrate the diversity that reveals a more complete image of the one who makes us all family. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have gone before us in this year and now rest in you. Led by Mary and Joseph, Anna and Simeon, let us live in your praise until the day we depart in your peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN #254

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

MEDITATION HYMN #263

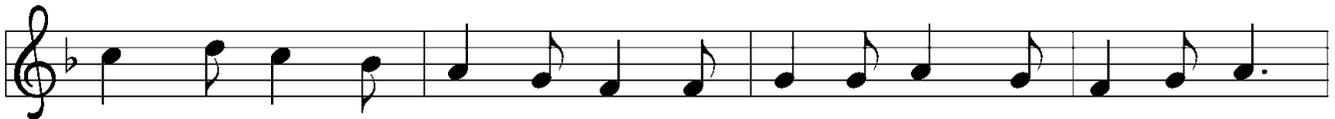
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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.

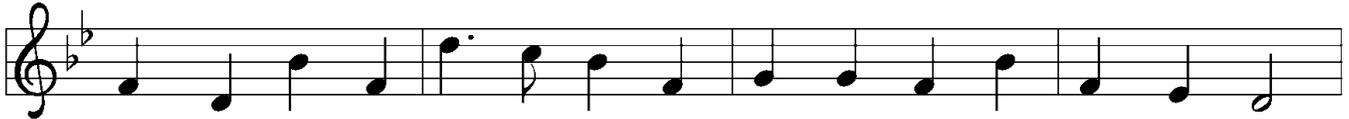


Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

SENDING HYMN #275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the • e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879