



Christmas Day

December 25, 2016

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
Announcements and Prayer Concerns Page 14

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

Jim Barton

Vice President

Bob Dailey

Treasurer

Bob Reuter

Secretary

Susan Hall

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 Hailey Rios

Spiritual Life:

Council member – Lois Owen

Worship:

Council member – Dianne Santana

Outreach:

Council members — Karl Williams and Bob Dailey

Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship — Jim Barton and Janice Watkins

Property — Dick Norquist and Tom Hardin

Fellowship:

Council member – Susan Hall

Social Media:

Council member – Mike Epting and Rick Unruh

Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Dick Norquist, Rob Shank, Bill Reinheimer

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2016

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Three Preludes on Christmas Hymns

John David Peterson

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

WELCOME

Pastor Lyn Crase

OPENING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
✝ one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

**C in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess our failure to welcome this light.
Forgive us and renew our hope,
so that we may live in the light of your grace,
and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord.**

C Amen

P I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.
Your sins are forgiven in ✝ Jesus' name.

C Amen

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

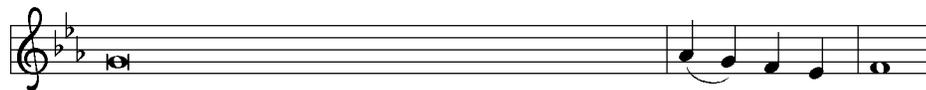
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



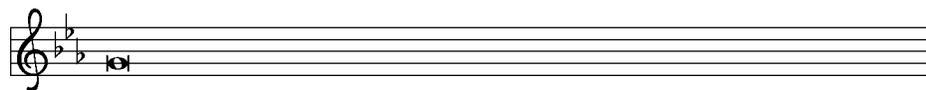
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



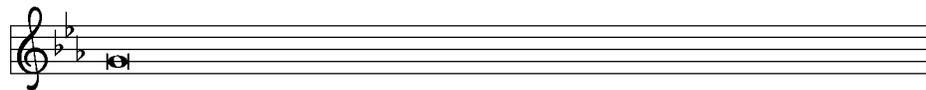
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together....

C All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 62:6-12

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord, a City Not Forsaken.

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
¹¹The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 97



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- 1 The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
- 2 **Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD,**
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God's throne.
- 3 Fire goes be- | fore the LORD,
burning up enemies on | every side.
- 4 **Lightnings light | up the world;**
the earth | sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains | melt like wax
before the Lord of | all the earth.
- 6 **The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD,**
and all the peoples | see your glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods.
- 8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,**
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
- 10 **You who love the | LORD, hate evil!**
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.
- 11 Light dawns | for the righteous,
and joy for the hon- | est of heart.
- 12 **Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,**
and give thanks to God's | holy name.

SECOND READING: TITUS 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Gospel according to Luke Chapter 2

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

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This 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!”

¹⁵When 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.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (REPEATED)

CHILDREN’S TIME // INTERFAITH COLLECTION

SERMON

Pastor Lyn Crase

SERMON HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW #267

APOSTLE’S CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s 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

A Rejoicing in the good news of Christ’s birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Response: ... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

The offering is an act of worship; a response of gratitude and thankfulness.

OFFERTORY

Noel Provençal

Leon Roques

OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

SHARING THE PEACE

The sharing of peace is an individual and communal act of forgiveness.

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please return to your seats at the signal from the organ and remain standing after the Peace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

A In recognition of God's forgiveness, mercy and grace let us continue with 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.

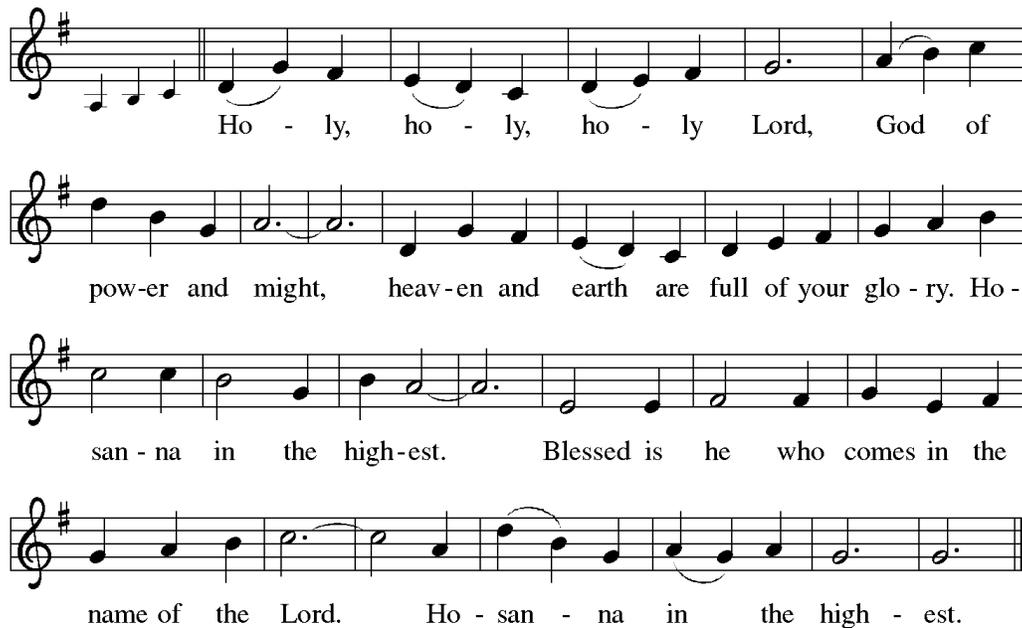
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

We offer 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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Of the Father's Love Begotten

The Bells of Christmas

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

ELW #295

ELW #298

ELW #286

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 OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Home Communion Minister(s) come(s) forward.

P Let us pray,

C **O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are homebound. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

P May Christ, who by his incarnation

has filled us with grace and truth,

give you peace this Christmas and always.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

DISMISSAL

- A Glory to God in the highest!
- C Peace to God’s people on earth!**
- A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Gordon Young

THOSE WHO SERVED US TODAY

- Presiding Minister** Pastor Lyn Crase
- Assisting Minister** Mike Epting
- Acolyte**..... Alora Skustad
- Ministers of the Word** Kathleen Reuter, Paula Kroeze
- Cantor**..... Kathleen Reuter
- Communion Assistant(s)**..... Paula Kroeze
- Usher/Greeter** Susan Hall, Lois Owen
- Altar Care**..... Lois Silva

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Upcoming Events

New Year’s Day -

First Sunday of Christmas: Service of Lessons & Carols at 9:30 am

Announcements

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



Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Jim and Paula Barton.

If you are in need of offering envelopes please Contact Maria in the church office.

Sam Gierhan Sam Gierhan is raising money for an eagle scout project here at the church. The cost will be around \$600 or more. If you would like to donate, please give the donation to the church and have it designated for the eagle scout project. The project will consist of removing the overgrown plants and bushes from behind the Daycare Center and replacing them with bark and amaryllis plants. Also, a large bush in the front of the church that is blocking a spotlight on the Emanuel Lutheran sign on the front of the building will be removed. Thank you and your help is much appreciated. For more information, please see Sam or Pr. Lyn.

Choir Rehearsal will resume in February.

Adult Education is on break until January 8.

Biblical Art Journaling is on break until January 15.

Text Study meets Tuesdays at noon in Katie’s Room. All are welcome. Bring along your lunch.

Thursday Morning Bible Study is on break until January 12.

2nd Sunday of each month Healing Prayer during communion.

Special Interfaith Ministries collection on Christmas day.

Gently used or new knit stocking hats will be collected until December 29 for Focus on Prevention’s Faith Sector group, a county-wide initiative working on homelessness and other community issues.

For hat drop-offs, bring them to the church office or email Pastor Lyn:
pastor@emanuellutheran.org

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Pastor Roger, Karen, and Xander are settled in their new home, though they still miss everyone at Emanuel. They have had some snow which Roger says is beautiful but is not staying on the ground.

They want to thank our church family for the monetary going away gift which has been used to purchase (in Pastor Roger's words) a large, beautiful power driven chair which helps him get up and down. He says it is so comfortable that he might use it for long afternoon naps.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Mon. 12/26 CLOSED

Tue. 12/27 8 am to 12 pm

Wed. 12/28 8 am to 12 pm

Thu. 12/29 CLOSED

Fri. 12/30 CLOSED

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

The Reformation Spreads in Europe

Martin Luther is, deservedly, receiving most of the attention as we mark the beginning of the Reformation in Saxony. But with remarkable speed, those teachings spread to other countries in Europe. How did that occur? Largely through the work of some courageous leaders. Let's look at how the Reformation came to a few countries whose descendants have helped shape the ELCA.

In **Sweden**, two brothers, Olavus and Laurentius Petri, spearheaded the Reformation. Both had studied theology with Luther in Wittenberg. They returned to Sweden around the same time King Gustav I Vasa was creating an independent nation. He made Olavus pastor of the city church in Stockholm, where he translated the New Testament into Swedish, created a catechism, published an order of worship, and provided a Swedish hymnal. Meanwhile his younger brother, Laurentius, was made the first Lutheran archbishop of Sweden; he and Olavus jointly produced a complete Bible in Swedish.



In **Denmark**, too, the Reformation came early. As in Sweden, it was led by a young man who had studied under Luther in Wittenberg—Hans Tausen. The ruler at the time, Frederick I, was formally opposed to Reformation ideas, but he protected Tausen and tolerated Lutheran writings. The next king, Christian III, stripped the Roman Catholic Church of its wealth, and Luther's pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen, made a journey from Wittenberg to crown the king and help organize the Danish church.

REFORMATION 500

Norway was, at the time, ruled by Denmark, and initially the spread of the Reformation there was slower. Christian III tried to encourage its growth there, but at first there wasn't much popular support; it was more of a top-down reformation. Nevertheless, pastors such as Jorgen Eriksson, who would become bishop of Stavanger, preached Lutheran teachings, and the Reformation gradually took hold.

Mikael Agricola was yet another student of Luther, and it was he who led the Reformation in **Finland**. At that time, Finland was ruled by Sweden. The first Lutheran bishop of Turku (and thus of Finland), Martinus Skytte, left most Roman Catholic orders in place. Agricola's ministry as the next bishop, though, mirrored much of Luther's: he translated the New Testament into Finnish, and in the process created the Finnish literary language. He prepared a prayer book in Finnish, created a vernacular order of communion, and collected Finnish hymns. He was also the first married bishop of Turku.



Moving southeast from Wittenberg, **Slovakia** is another area where the Reformation took hold. Two visionary people must receive much of the credit. Jan Hus lived about a century before Luther and ministered in neighboring Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), but his reforming teachings influenced Slovak Christians, as they did Martin Luther himself. So the way was prepared for the Reformation from Wittenberg. And in the early seventeenth century, another graduate of the University of Wittenberg, Jiří (or Juraj) Třanovský, helped cement the Reformation in Slovakia by translating many hymns and collecting them into a hymnal called *Cithara Sanctorum* ("Lyre of the Saints").

Lutherans from these lands and many others came to America, establishing first separate enclaves, but gradually merging with other Lutherans into church bodies, including our current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THUR 29	FRI 30	SAT 31	SUN 1
ECHOES DEADLINE		7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's	9:30 am NO Adult Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED		9:30 am New Year's Day Worship Service
OFFICE CLOSED		10:00 am NO Staff Mtg.				

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Assisting Minister	Ministers of the Word	Cantor	Communion Assist	Acolyte	Usher Greeter	Altar Care
Dec 25 Christmas Day	Mike Epting	K Reuter P Kroeze	Kathleen Reuter	Paula Kroeze	Alora Skustad	Susan Hall	Lois Silva
Jan 1 Christmas 1	David Holtz	S McCreedy L Owen		Lois Owen	Fanney B.	Owen Family	
Jan 8 Epiphany	Suzanne Wilke	D Santana Y Troedson	Paula Barton	D Santana Y Troedson	Kailyn Knoll	Smith/ Knoll	

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

December 25 Christmas Day II	January 1 Christmas 1	January 8 Epiphany
Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17



New Prayer Requests: Stephanie Dishneau (Yvonne Troedson’s niece) - health, healing & well being; Marsha Blomquist—renewed health, Tim Purvis—acceptance of health diagnosis (Waggoner); Elizabeth Estrads—health Deborah, Abel, Mercedes, Sofia, Martin, and her brothers and sisters—(visitor, Eugenia Juarez); Elizabeth Estrada—health (Estrada)

Our Members: Drew Shank; Ben Knoll; Lori Knoll; Carolyn Crenwelge; Bob Dailey; Kelly Dailey; Gary Knoll; Bill Fox; Virginia Dall; Keith Thurston; Anthony Pino & Aaron Daubenspeck; Lena Shirley; Marj Sample; Teri Scott; Pat Smith; Jill Klenz; Alice Hine, Larry Decker

Our Homebound Members: Florence Broden, Shelda Fritts

Our Family: Ian McKenzie (Schmidt); Sheila Barton (Barton); Joy Morgan (Scott); Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer); Evelyn Thurston (Thurston); Cindy Johnson (Salonen); Helen Opitz (Smith); Robert Schlipman; Sherry Orsetti; Laurie Spinuzzi (Silva); Linda Luis-Thompson (Strand); Bobby Horton (Crawford); Joyce & Manuel (Scott); Richard Epting (Epting); Sue and George Reinheimer; Gregory & Alley (Scott); Donald Murray (Murray); Christine Williams (Dieterich); Alexander Smith (Pino); Adeline Otterness (Hoaglund); Dan Porter (Ixcot); Sean Pascoe (Waggoner); Adriana Johnson (Marquez); Tiffany Stone

Our Friends: Mark, Matthew & Amanda (Scott); Roger Warner (Schmidt); Adrienne (Nelson); Pastor Stan Niemi; Tom Aja (Crawford); Jennifer Turner (Dieterich); John Pienado (Knoll); Dawn Wagner; Leila Afshin (Skustad); Donna Thayer (Petersen); Mary Martin (Martin); Cheryle Pickel (Crawford); Jerry Larson (Clarke); David and Jeffrey Hudson (Reinheimer); Stephen Washer (Norquist); Roxie Parker (Wilke); Ken (Norquist)

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

T/Sgt. Ryan Dangerfield, USAF in Ramstein AB, Germany and **SSgt. Joey Sabel, USMC** in Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, Hawaii (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland’s grandson & grandson-in-law); **Capt. Tim Kramer** (Megan Armes’ brother) will be in Kuwait through June of 2016; **Ryan Powell** (grandson of Yvonne Troedson) USN, Connecticut; **Chad Vander Veen** (friend of Susan Hall), US Army in Iraq.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Holy God, you raise up leaders throughout the church to proclaim your word of hope. Unite the church through the good news of salvation, so that all will know and experience your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you created mountains and hills, seas and rivers, and all creatures. Reveal to us the goodness of all you have made so that we live wisely with these your gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you desire that all people live in peace. Guide all in positions of authority to lead with equity, and give courage to advocates who speak for the voiceless. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you sent your Son to be our physician and remedy. Strengthen medical professionals and counselors to care for the sick and grieving, so that all people experience healing and consolation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you gather us together in community, blessing us with friends and family. Make yourself known to all who participate in worship today, and send us forth to serve our neighbors. 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*). Let us pray.

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you show your love and faithfulness in every generation. Through the witness of our ancestors in the faith, you have shown us how to testify to your grace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN #288

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.

SERMON HYMN #267

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.

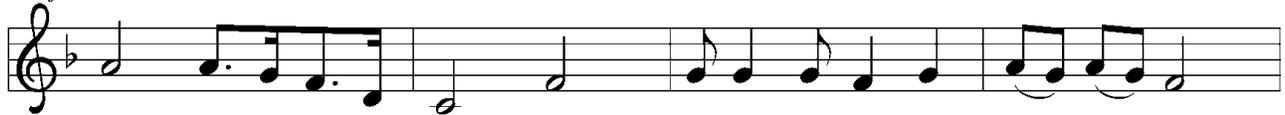
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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

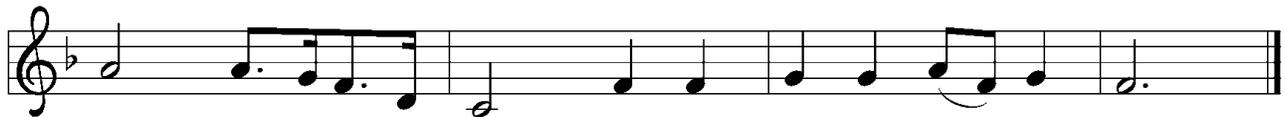
SENDING HYMN #290

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual