



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
Sunday Worship  
December 19, 2021



**Rev. Rennie Kaufmann – Pastor    Eileen Young – Music Leader    Karen Kaufmann – Administrator**  
**Miss Esther Kaufmann – Youth Ministries and Worship Arts Assistant**  
**Risen Christ Lutheran Church**  
**46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170**  
**734.453.5252 [www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)**

**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

**OFFERING** – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

**Large Print Bulletins** – Available from an usher.

**Listening Assistance Devices** – Available at the Sound Booth.

**Parent Room** – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

**For Children** – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

**As We Gather** – Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. Today’s Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God’s Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

## **Pre-service Advent and Christmas Music**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.

- P** The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.  
**C** **We thank You, O Lord!**
- P** The Lord’s mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.  
**C** **We adore You, O Lord!**
- P** The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.  
**C** **We praise You, O Lord!**
- P** The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.  
**C** **We worship You, O Lord!**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

- P** Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**

## Hark The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king

2. Christ by highest heaven adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of the virgin’s womb  
Veiled in flesh the godhead see  
Hail the incarnate deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king

3. Hail the heaven born prince of peace  
Hail the son of righteousness  
Light and life to all he brings  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lay his glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the songs of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king

## Confession and Absolution Psalm 25:6–7

- P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

- P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

**C Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**Forgive us, Lord, for times when love was lost,  
and moments when we never thought to care,  
For times when we destroy and subdue  
The Word that brings Your people close to You.  
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins  
And help us love so newness can begin.**

Text: © 2015 Stephen M. Fearing. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110002690

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Introit 1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b–47

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,

**C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

- P** My mouth derides my enemies,

**C because I rejoice in Your salvation.**

- P** There is none holy like the LORD;

**C there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.**

- P** The barren has borne seven,

**C but she who has many children is forlorn.**

- P** The LORD kills and brings to life;

**C He brings down to Sheol and raises up.**

- P** The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

**C He brings low and He exalts.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,

**C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

**C** **that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;**

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2–5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 80:1-7

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts; **C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, **C** **You who lead Joseph like a flock!**

**P** You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!

**C** **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

**C** **You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

**P** You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

**C** **and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts; **C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts; **C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

## Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

<sup>5</sup> When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.      **C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**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.

**2.** For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

**3.** How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

**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;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

### **Verse** Matthew 1:23a

**P** Alleluia! Alleluia!      **C** **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**P** Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

**C** **and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Holy Gospel** Luke 1:39–45

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.      **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.      **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Sermon – "Mary, the First 'Church' in Flesh"**

**"Joy to the World"** *Saxophone solo by Jeremy Poegel*

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

**P** O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers. We pray,

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

**MEN** – O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray, **C** hear us, coming Lord.

**WOMEN** – O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

**MEN** – O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation.

Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

**WOMEN** – O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray, **C** hear us, coming Lord.

**MEN** – O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

**P** You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C** **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.**

**Offering – DURING THE OFFERING: Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.**

### **God Rest You Merry Gentlemen**

**1.** God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

**2.** In Bethlehem in Jewry  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

**3.** Now to the Lord sing praises  
All you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

### **Benediction**

### **Closing Song - Emmanuel**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called  
Emmanuel.  
God with us.  
Revealed in us,  
His name is called  
Emmanuel.