



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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January 3, 2021

PRELUDE

Three Christmas Carol Improvisations

Paul Manz

Prayer of the Day

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

Amen.

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

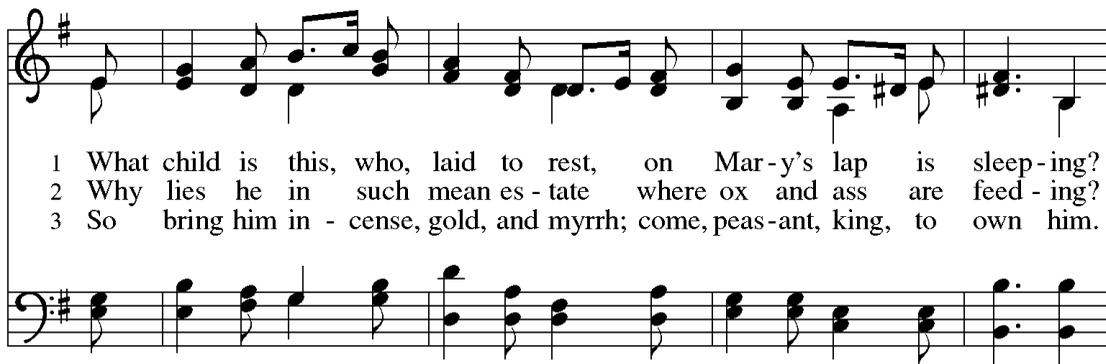
[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

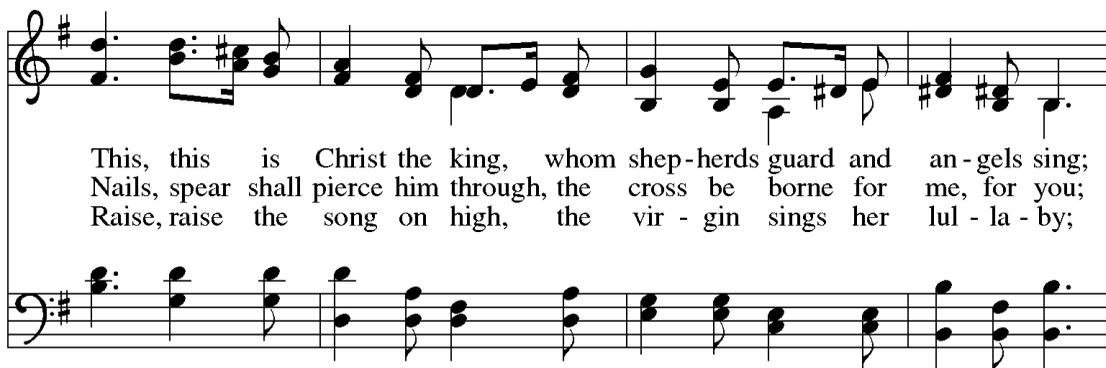
What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-12

The figure of Wisdom played a major role in early discussions of Christology. Wisdom is the divine word, coming from the mouth of God, and ruling over all of creation. Wisdom, created at the beginning of time, made her dwelling place in Jerusalem among God's people.

¹Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

²In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ³"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. ⁴I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. ⁵Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. ⁶Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. ⁷Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide?

⁸"Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent.

He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.'⁹Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. ¹¹Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. ¹²I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage."

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;



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.



Refrain

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

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it

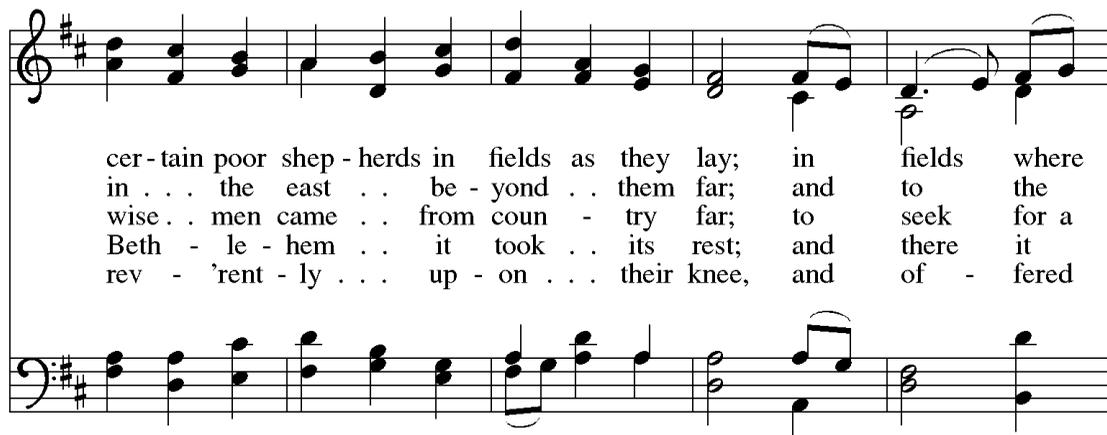
has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
rev - `rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

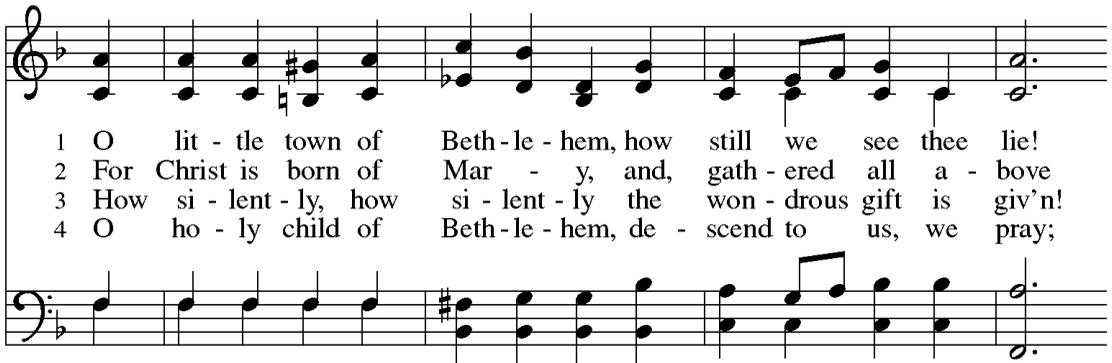
Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Luke 2:41-52

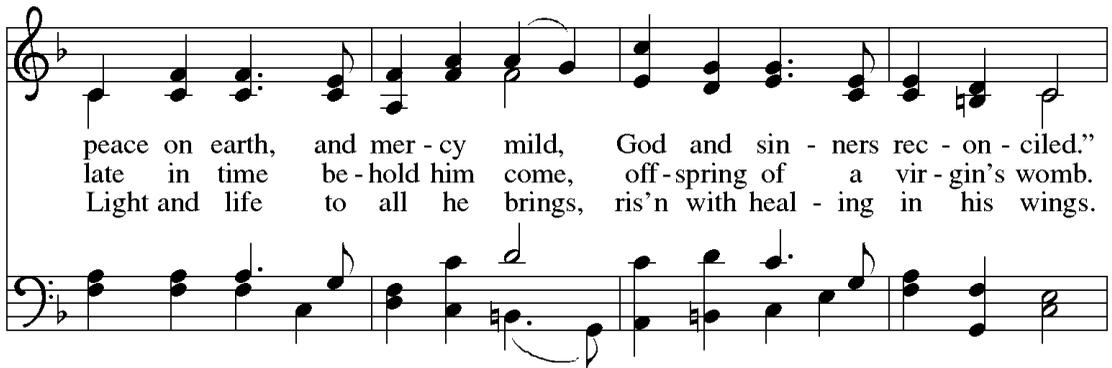
The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

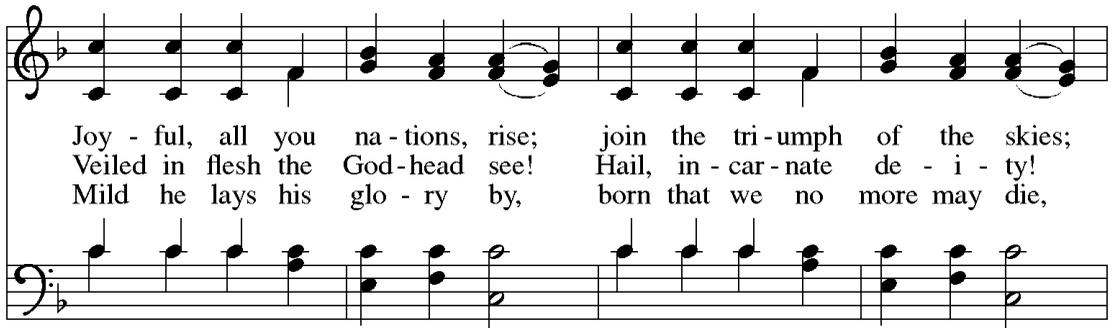
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Sending 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.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing and Dismissal

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.**

POSTLUDE

Let All Together Praise Our God

Paul Manz

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The council meeting will be on January 13th at 6:30. Please respond if you will attend virtually or in person.

The next committee meeting will be January 12th at 3:30. Please submit reports from each committee.

Logan will be hosting a Dala Pantry volunteer appreciation lunch and meeting on Saturday, January 16th at 12 noon at Messiah Lutheran Church. Thank you to all of our Dala Pantry volunteers and contributors, we couldn't do it without you!

Messiah Lutheran Church
11/30/2020

	Actual Nov-20	Actual Jan - Nov 20	Budget Jan - Nov 20
Revenue	\$8,692.64	\$142,970.41	\$135,905.00
Expenses	<u>14,237.45</u>	<u>142,984.44</u>	<u>150,977.80</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>-\$5,544.81</u></u>	<u><u>-\$14.03</u></u>	<u><u>-\$15,072.80</u></u>
Reserve Balance	<u><u>\$70,284.07</u></u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, we pray especially for the family of Har Shogren

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

JANUARY 1, 2021 NEW YEAR'S EVE, NEW YEAR'S DAY



A time for new beginnings.

NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's celebration.

Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	A time for everything
	Psalm 8	Divine majesty and human dignity

Friday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
	Matthew 25:31-46	Parable of final judgment

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. **Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the New Year:

God of our future, give us peace and joy as we anticipate the new year ahead with faith, hope, and love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a gift of your love that we may take pleasure in all we do. Amen. (Ecclesiastes 3:13)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega give you joy as you serve your neighbor in love. (Revelation 21:6a and Matthew 25:34-40)

HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S

Canticle of the Turning

NEW YEAR'S MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some of your mountain highs and valley lows from 2020?
- What are some of your hopes and dreams for 2021?
- Our future is in God's hands. How does this affect your thoughts about the future?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

The new year is a time for reflection. It can also be a time of panic, both personal and global. Remember the potential chaos around the year 2000 A.D. and Y2K, the fear that computers around the globe would stop working on December 31, 1999? Concerns about personal health, relationships, and lifestyle as well as global concerns lead to those deeper reflections. The Book of Revelation was written at a time of grave concerns about the hostilities of the Roman government toward Christians as an expression of Satan's control of the earth. Instead of a message of escape from this earth, John the Seer, the author, gives us a vision of God's future that promises a new heaven and a new earth. God will not abandon God's creation but renew it, however Satan will not. God wins by making a home with us. God will dwell with us. It will be a time when suffering, grief, and worries will be no more. Therefore, be of good courage. Our future is well established and in God's hands. Yes, even as you begin 2021! How does faith in Christ, the Lamb who was slain and begins his reign, give you comfort today? **Pray: God of the ages, through Christ Jesus our Lord you promise a future filled with light and life; give us a vision of your presence in our lives as we move into a new year. Amen.**

SERVICE

Choose an organization or a charity that helps and serves those in need. How will you support them during the coming year? Discuss ways in which you can set aside or raise money to support the cause. What plan of action will you take?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Write on a piece of paper one experience of joy from 2020, one of sadness, and one worry you may have for 2021. Make a cross out of two sticks or use a cross from your home and tape your paper on the cross. Then pray the following prayer.

Pray: Almighty God, you who promise a new heaven and a new earth filled with your holy presence, bless us as we enter this new year. As we place our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, free us from the sadness of the past and worries for the future. Amen.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org