

CHRISTMAS DAY



*Merry Christmas*

December 25, 2023

# Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

(\* indicates the assembly stands)

## Gathering

Prelude *"Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep"* A. Wyton

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

\*Hymn 288 *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

\*Greeting

\*Glory to God p. 99

\*Prayer of the Day

Anthem *"Mary's Lullaby"* M. Hare Brown

## Word

First Reading Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms 97 (see page 3) (assembly sings refrain)

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

\*Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia!"* p. 102

\*Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-20

Sermon

\*Hymn of the Day (see page 4) *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

\*Nicene Creed p. 104

\*Prayers of Intercession **A: Your mercy is great.**

\*Peace

## Meal

Offering Solo *"Blessed be that maid Marie"* C. Wood

*Offering Hymn 292		<i>“Love Has Come”</i>
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 107
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 108
*Thanksgiving at the Table III		p. 110
*Lord’s Prayer ( <i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i> )		p. 112
Lamb of God		p. 112
Communion Hymn 298		<i>“The Bells of Christmas”</i>
Table Blessing		
Prayer after Communion		
<b>Sending</b>		
General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 289		<i>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</i>
*Dismissal		<b>A: Thanks be to God.</b>
Postlude	<i>“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”</i>	R. Powell

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**As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day** the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ’s birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of “the salvation of our God.” O come, let us adore!

## Psalm 97

Refrain:



To - day a Sa-viour has been born to us:  
He is Christ the Lord.

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. Clouds and darkness surround the Lord, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

### Refrain

Fire goes before the Lord, burning up enemies on every side. Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord, and all the peoples see your glory.

### Refrain

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the Lord, all you gods. Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. You who love the Lord, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

### Refrain

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

### Refrain

# While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is  
 4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to

5 seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the  
 6 seized their trou - bled mind: "Glad tid - ings of great  
 7 born of Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is  
 8 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in

9 Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 10 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.  
 11 Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:  
 12 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
 appeared a shining throng  
 of angels praising God, who thus  
 addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,  
 and to the earth be peace;  
 good will to all from highest heav'n  
 begin and never cease!"

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715

Music: WINCHESTER OLD, Este's *Psalmes*, 1592; arr. George Kirbye, 1560–1634

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## **Leading Worship Today**

**Minister:** Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Assisting Minister:** Scott Kuschnerreit

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Communion Server:** Jeanette Harrop

**Choral Scholar:** Hannah Swiderski

**Broadcast:** Jason Smolak

**Building Monitor:** Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

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## **Worship Notes**

**In our prayers** Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen and John.

## **General Announcements**

**The 2024 Offering Envelope Boxes** are available for pickup outside the church office.

**There will be no Coffee Hour** on Sunday, December 31. We will see you on January 7!

**Church Fire Plan** For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

## Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** The offering will be collected during the offering solo today.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Lower Level Sanctuary Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.

## Contact Information

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