

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Day Worship Service
 + Service of Holy Communion +
December 25, 2018
10:00 AM

AS WE GATHER - Whether your family exchanges Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (or at all), Christians gather here to celebrate, receive, and unwrap the perfect Gift, that is, Jesus Christ Himself. The wrapping paper in our homes temporarily covers a gift and is soon thrown away, but Jesus comes to us this day by His Means of Grace to give to us infinite things we can't find anywhere else—the love of His life, the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation of our souls. We rejoice in the gift of the Child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in the manger, knowing the great gifts the Lord comes to bring for us and for the whole world through the Savior given and born for us.

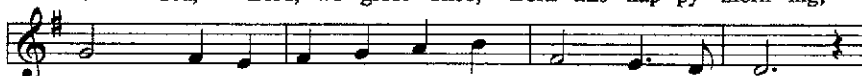
PRESERVICE MUSIC **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** by Jeffrey Blesch
WELCOME [Please fill out prayer request cards.]

[♯Means please stand; ♪Means please be seated]

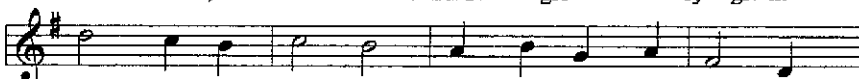
♯**OPENING HYMN** **O Come, All Ye Faithful**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee be - glo - ry giv'n!

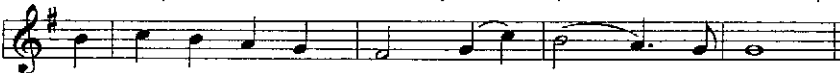


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

John 1:1, 4-5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 1 John 1:5-7

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the -I- Son and of the Holy Spirit.* **C** **Amen.**
- P** *In the beginning was the Word,*
- C** **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- P** *In Him was life,*
- C** **and the life was the light of men.**
- P** *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
- C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P** *To us a child is born, to us a son is given;*
- C** **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**
- P** *and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*
- C** **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** *And so this is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light,*
- C** **and in Him is no darkness at all.**
- P** *If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*
- C** **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** *Jesus, the Word made flesh, You dwell among us, but how can we continually abide in Your dwelling?*
- C** **For we are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**
- P** *For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.*
- C** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** *Almighty God in His mercy has given the gracious gift of His Son to be born into this world, wrapped in our flesh, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice that for His sake He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live among us, to die for us, and to rise in victory for us. He was given and born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the -I- Son and of the Holy Spirit.* **C** **Amen.**

INTROIT

Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 9:6

- P** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;*
- C** **and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**
- P** *and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,*
- C** **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** *Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!*
- C** **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- P** *The LORD has made known his salvation;*
- C** **he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** *He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*
- C** **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

All: 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 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

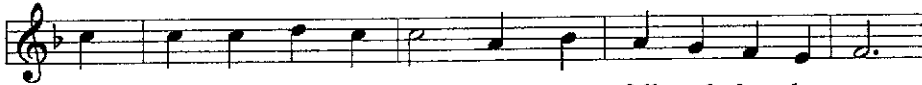
C and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE

A Great and Mighty Wonder

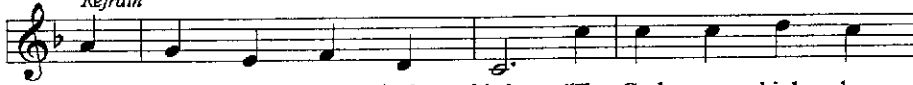


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all - He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;

for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

♪ ALLELUIA VERSE

John 1:14

All: Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.*

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

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PCHILDREN'S MESSAGE

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For
2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With
3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy

sin - ners You be - came a child. You came from
God we now are rec - on - ciled. You have for
fills the world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we

heav - en down to earth In hu - man flesh through
all the ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's righ - teous
have be - longs to You; O keep us faith - ful,

hu - man birth. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
an - ger stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
strong, and true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

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SERMON

"A PERFECT CHRISTMAS"

John 1:1-14

NICENE CREED

C I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING / CHORAL SELECTION

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

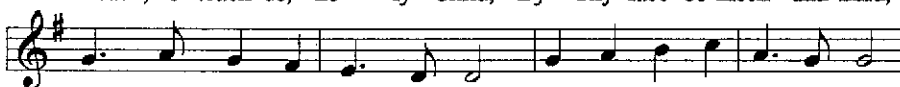
[Ideo in excelsis deo means "So, glory to God in the highest"]

OFFERTORY

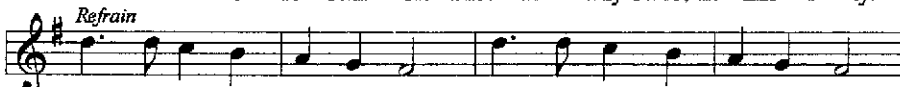
See Amid the Winter's Snow



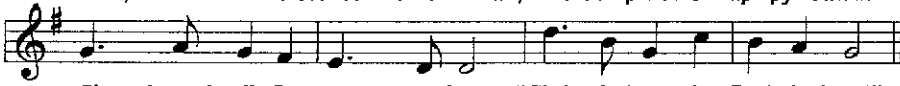
1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[Congregation sings]

C 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!

P *Father, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins.*

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

[Congregation sings]

C Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

P *Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.*

C Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

[Congregation sings]

C Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,

Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,

A quiet chamber set apart

For You to dwell within my heart.

(continued)

P *Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.*

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal. Amen.**

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P *It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:*

Ho-ly! Ho-ly! Ho-ly Lord! God of pow-er and of might: Shep-herds and the
kings a-dored; fol-lowed your most glor-ious light. Ho-
ly Lord! Bles-sed is Your name... Ho-
ly Lord! Ho-san-na in the high-est

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P *Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and entered human history wrapped up in flesh through the gracious gift of Your Son, Jesus, that we with joy receive Your infinite gifts and by faith enter Your eternal kingdom. Christ fulfilled all prophecy and was born of a virgin so that He might live a perfect and blameless life, die on a cross, rise from the dead, and thereby give us eternal life. We give thanks for the assurance of heaven He won for us. Grant us now that we may faithfully receive Him as the gift for us still wrapped in, with, and under bread and wine, together with the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

[Remain standing]

♩ AGNUS DEI

The King Shall Come

O lamb of God that takes a way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us and grant us peace, the peace of Christ. A - men.

(Reminder: gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are also available.)

♩ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

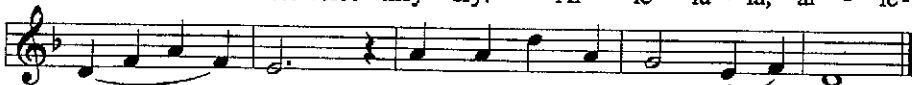
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van-guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with
trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence

(continued)



For with bless-ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de-
 In the bod-y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end-less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-



scend - ing Comes our hom-age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

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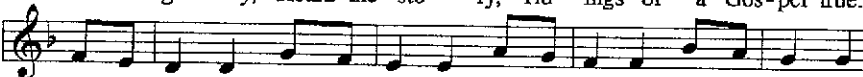
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



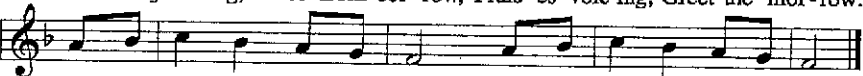
1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, Shep-herds keep-ing Vig-il till the morn-ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos-pel true.



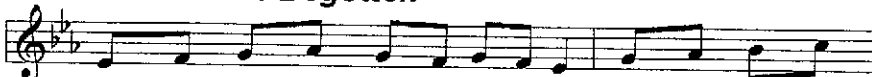
Swift-ly wing-ing, An - gels sing-ing, Bells are ring-ing, Tid - ings bring-ing:
 Thus re-joic-ing, Free from sor-row, Prais-es voic-ing, Greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

[stand]



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

(continued)

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that as You have given the greatest gift in Christ our Savior, the Word made flesh, You still come to us in Your Word and Sacrament through this salutary gift. We implore You that of Your infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, that we would share the gifts of grace and good news in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Christmas peace and joy through God's infinite love given in Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, -I- Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

(continued)

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POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

by Kenneth D. Varner

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 Rob Hatton, Congregation Chairman..... 303-906-9395 / email: roberthatton1@gmail.com

WE WISH TO THANK everyone who participated in this morning's worship:

Acolyte Rhys Tyler
 Altar Guild Elsie Leiker, Sharon Milliken, Beth Tevah
 Communion Assistant..... Bill Milliken
 Greeter..... Marcella Marshall
 Music Director / Organist Beth Buss
 Special Music..... Handbells & Christ Choristers; Beth Buss, Director
 Kae Kemerling, Keyboard
 Ushers..... *Naomi Kettner, Bob Sees, Phil Vandre