

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 – 7:00 PM

PRELUDE “Carol of the Bells”

Leotovyeh

Anna Hildebrandt (violin) Rae Ann (piano)

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: All the world this night rejoices.

C: The stars shine more brightly,

P: The mountains echo their joy,

C: For a Savior is born.

P: On this holy night,

C: All the animals bow in adoration.

P: The birds lift their voices in song.

C: All creatures know the Good News of the birth of a Savior,

P: And we feel drawn to this holy night,

C: Beckoned by some deep longing

P: For our lives to be made whole,

**C: Our hearts to be filled with joy and our lips to constantly sing
praises.**

P: All the world this night rejoices.

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
† forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING HYMN** – “*Angels from the Realm of Glory*” (Verses 1 & 4)
Hymn 275

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
once you sang creation’s story,
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

* **GREETING**

P I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

C Alleluia!

* **KYRIE**

(Setting 10 – page 203)



S 203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow’r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*** GLORY BE TO GOD**

(Setting 10 – page 204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

HYMN “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” (stanza 1)

Hymn 283

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9:2-7*

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in
blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his
kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (stanza 2 & 3)

Hymn 283

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

PSALMODY – Psalm 96

- P** ¹Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- C** ²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**
- P** ³Declare God’s glory among the nations
and God’s wonders among all peoples.
- C** ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- P** ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
- C** ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

- P** ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- C** ⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
- P** ⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
- C** ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity.”
- P** ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- C** ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- P** ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING – *Titus 2:11-14*

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – *“Angels We Have Heard On High”*
(Verse 1) Hymn 289

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

GOSPEL – *Luke 2:1-20*

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; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

“Angels We Have Heard On High” (Verse 2 & 3)

Hymn 289

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him, whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Daniel Swanson

HYMN – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymn 282

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From Heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
Oh, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
The earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

*** THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty.
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with
the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became
truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*** THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Organ Voluntary

Our Christmas offerings will be divided between:

Lutheran World Relief and South Penn Elementary School

Anthem

Chancel Choir

“Christmas Grace”

Kern

*** PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*** OFFERTORY**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (Verse 2)

Hymn 288

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: God with us:

C: You came as a baby to a manger.

L: You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

C: You come again in bread and wine.

L: Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

C: And then, through these gifts,

L: help us to bless the lives of others

C: In the strength of your holy name. Amen.

*** 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 God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed rightand join their unending hymn:

*** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(Setting 10, page 207)
S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** THE 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.

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

THE AGNES DEI (LAMB OF GOD) (Setting 10, Page 208)

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Music
"Christmas Communion Song"

Chancel Choir
Calloway

*** POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

*** THANKSGIVING HYMN "Joy to the World" (Verses 1 & 4) Hymn 267**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*** THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: God our redeemer,

C: you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*** THE LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLES**

The Ushers will receive lighted candles from Pastor, then move down the center aisle, lighting the candles of the worshipers. The person seated closest to the center aisle will receive the light, and in turn give the light to the one by his side. (Only the unlighted candles should be tilted to receive the light.)

The Lector will read from the Gospel of John 1:1-14 while the candles are being lit.

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.

*** PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS**

WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED, WHEN THE STAR IN THE SKY IS GONE, WHEN THE KINGS AND THE PRINCES ARE HOME, WHEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE BACK WITH THEIR FLOCKS; THEN THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS – TO FIND THE LOST, TO HEAL THE BROKEN, TO FEED THE HUNGRY, TO RELEASE THE PRISONER, TO REBUILD THE NATIONS, TO BRING PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLE, TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART. AND MAY THE LOVE OF GOD, THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT KEEP US AND EMPOWER US NOW AND FOREVER! AMEN.

* **CANDLELIGHT HYMN** – “*Silent Night*”

Hymn 281

**Silent Night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Duet by Heidi Rose and Becca Forrest

“O Holy Night”

* **CHRISTMAS BENDICTION**

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C: Amen.

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C: Amen.

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C: Amen.

P: And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

(Please extinguish your candles).

Please keep candles in an upright position until wax has dried.)

* **SENDING HYMN** – “*Hark ! The Herald Angels Sing*” *Hymn 270*

**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 th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

***Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

***Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.**

***Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

*** DISMISSAL**

L: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** POSTLUDE**

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo” Vivaldi (arr. Fenech)

Anna Hildebrandt (violin) Rae Ann (piano)

Pastor Daniel and Kathy wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas. May it be a time of joy and hope, as we celebrate the coming of our Lord! May it be a time of sharing God's love with one another and the world, and may we also remember those who struggle this holiday season. May the light of Christ be with you always!

We THANK everyone who provided special music for this evening service!



**THE POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY:**

Phillip & Carolyn Bush –
In memory of Clyde & Elizabeth Bush
In memory of Jared Bush

Brian and Jenni Crawford – *In memory of a wonderful Aunt, Pat Crawford*
In honor of our wonderful mom & dad, Becky & Rosie McIntyre

Mark Lathrop – *In memory of Parents, James & Patricia Lathrop,*
Brother, Robert Lathrop

Sonya Cooper Lathrop – *In honor of Mom, Jackie Cooper*
In memory of Dad and Brother John Westly Cooper III & IV

Stephen and Patricia Owen – *In memory of Trevor Owen*

Fred & Kathy Powell – *In honor of our daughter, Abby*
In memory of our son, Joshua

Elaine Reuschlein – *In memory of John Reuschlein,*
Harry & Arlene Foreback and George & Alice Reuschlein

Jeff & Rae Ann Smith – *In honor of our grandchildren: Jacob, Eva,*
Emma, Ian and Harrison
In memory of our parents, John & Cynthia Smith
Cecil & Helen Brenneman
In memory of Rae Ann's sister, Betty Kroll

Kevin & Lori Wolfe – *In honor of Sister, Gina, my Kids and Grandkids*
In memory of my mom & dad. Richard & Patricia Hastie,
and father-in-law, Larry Wolfe

*OUR THANKS to all who gave poinsettia plants
to beautify our Sanctuary. Your plant/plants may be taken home
after this 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.*

*The Altars Flowers have been given to the glory of God in memory of a
wonderful sister, Pat Crawford's first birthday in heaven by Bill &
MarySue Crawford*

Pastor: **Rev Daniel T. Swanson**

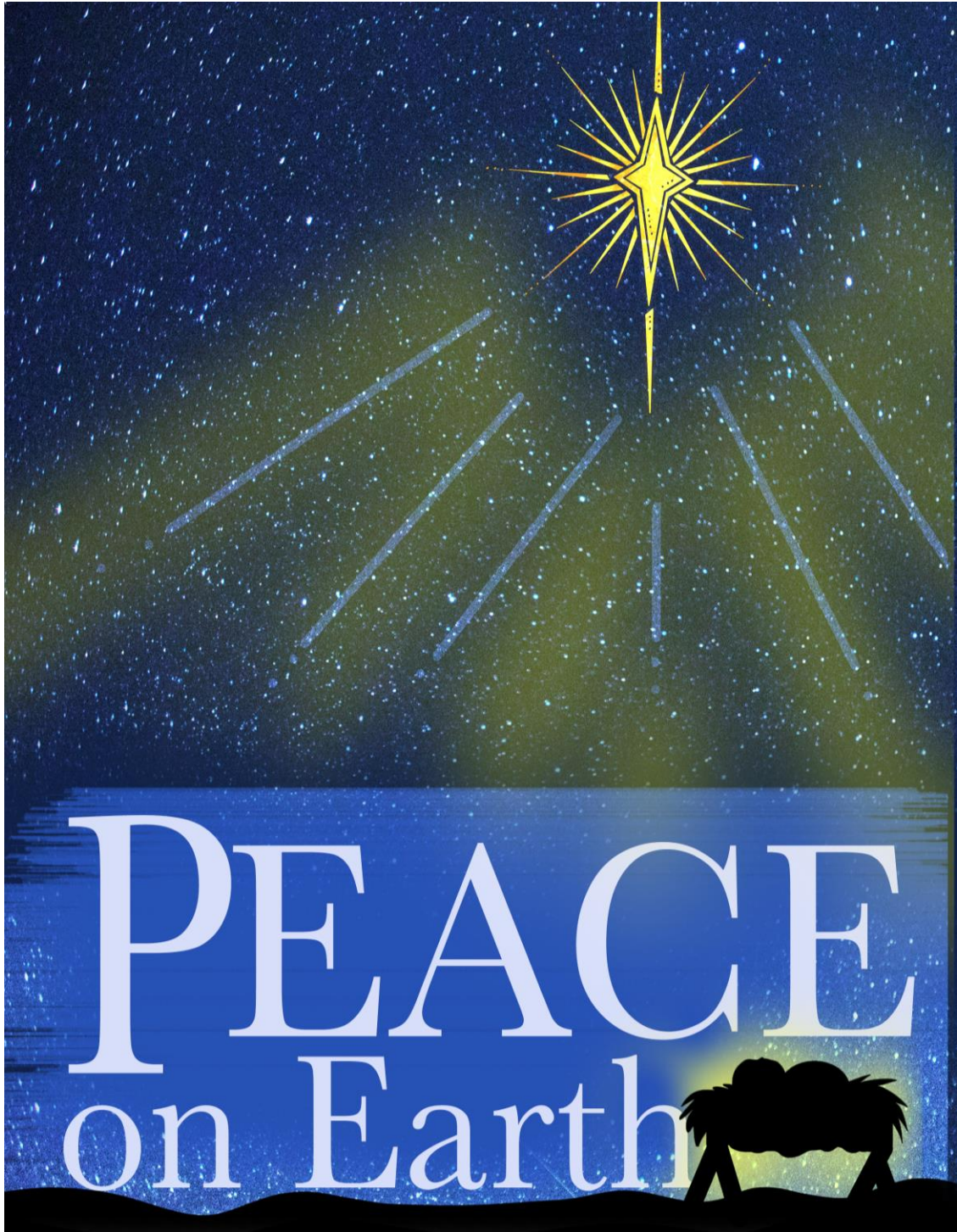
Lector: **Sally Buser**

Ushers: **Jeff Smith, Ken Wendell, Fred Powell**

Organist: **Rae Ann Smith**

Chancel Choir Director: **Debbie Fornwalt**





PEACE
on Earth