



**GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST**

Christmas Eve Worship
Perry Highway Lutheran Church

Shepherds, by John August Swanson

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, who invited us in reconciling love and grace to join the reign of God, this church welcomes all. We extend this welcome to all believers and non-believers regardless of age, cultural background, economic status, ethnic or linguistic heritage, employment status, housing status, substance dependence, marital status, physical or mental abilities, race, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other distinction. As we are all one in God's eyes, we encourage any who express an interest to become an active part of the full life of this congregation as we witness to the love of God. This is our response to the Gospel, as we understand it, and to do any less would deny to others the welcome we ourselves have received from the Creator of us all.

PHLC is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

For more information about Perry Highway Lutheran Church (PHLC), you can email Pastor Ryan at pastor@phlc.org, call the church office at (724)935-1226, or visit www.phlc.org.



The Nativity of Our Lord - Order of Worship

PROCESSION TO CRECHE AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Special Music

BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Be with us this night, and bless (+) this creche, that it may be a visible sign of your saving grace and love in all our Christmas celebrations; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG O Come, All Ye Faithful Congregation vs 1, 3, Choir vs 2

1 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:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Please stand as you are able for vs 3

3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Music by John Francis Wade, Arranged by Mary McDonald

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.
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.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of the Child born for us, the joy of God's love given to us, and the gift of the Spirit living in us, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #270 vs 1, 3

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heav'n-born 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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God,

C: 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.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

See Insert

L: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 (Spoken Responsively)

See Insert

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

See Insert

L: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Angels We Have Heard on High #289 Vs. 1

Please stand as you are able.

1 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.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

See Insert

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY What Child is This #296 Vs. 1,2

Please stand as you are able.

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition of the prayers concludes with:

A: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: At the birth of Jesus, the angels sang a song of peace and goodwill. Now may the peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

A: Good and loving God,

C: we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken responsively)*

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 right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request. Young children are welcome to come forward for a blessing. We

believe that Christ has promised to be present in this meal for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

P: In the manger, at this table, come and see what God makes known for you.

Please be seated- the ushers will come to each pew to invite you forward for communion.

DISTRIBUTION

Special Music

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able.

A: Radiant God,

C: **with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

As we light candles in church and at home, we experience the light of Christ spread out among us, shining into our lives and our world this Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed human beings in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the
covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and
Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam
danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Text: Traditional, adapt. Brian T. Johnson

HYMN: Silent Night #281

- 1 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.

- 2 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!

- 3 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

BLESSING

P: The God of love,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN Joy to the World ELW #267 Vs.1, 2, 4

- 1 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.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 4 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DISMISSAL

A: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE