

WEISENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

7645 Weisenberg Church Road

New Tripoli, PA 18066

January 10, 2021

with Pastor Jerel, Pastor Guy and Marie

PRELUDE

“Melody for Christmas” ~ Hegarty

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

RINGING OF THE BELL

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace. **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG (vs 1&5)

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

No. 302

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with you they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

In the heavenly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: **Genesis 1:1-5**

A reading from Genesis.

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;

give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

A reading from Acts.

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"O Holy Night"

~Adam/arr. Thygerson

***GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11**

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed,

“The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE BY PASTOR GUY GRUBE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: (vs. 1&2)

“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

No. 304

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God’s Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.

God called you, “My beloved Son”; you are God’s servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heaven, God’s holy will to do, God’s holy will to do.

***APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer (*especially*), that God shower compassion, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***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**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG** (verses 3&5)

“The First Noel”

No. 300

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel

***SONG:** *“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”*

POSTLUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”

~ Bach/arr.

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Melody for Christmas ~ David H. Hegarty, 1985 Lorenz

O Holy Night ~ Adolph Adam/arr. Robert W. Thygeson, 1996 Lorenz

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized ~ Text-F. Blank Tucker, 1985 The Church Pension Fund

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring ~ J.S. Bach/arr. Dorothy Wells, 1995 Lorenz