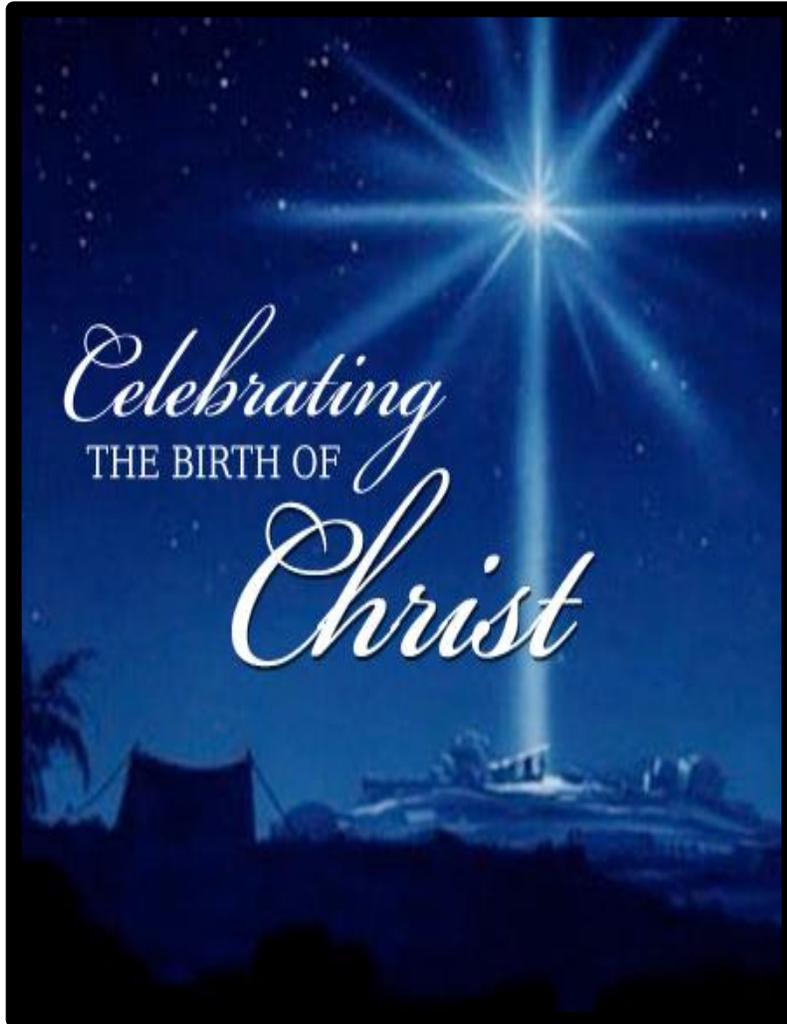


*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

******Please tune your radios to 103.1 FM******

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today.
You are invited to make Messiah your church home.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We hear the call of love, ringing in our ears: "The Savior is born!"

C: Come and see!

L: We see the light of stars and candles, leading the way. Follow the star!

C: Come and see!

L: We're waiting for a sign, a something, to meet God face to face – look in the manger!

C: Come and see!

L: We come together tonight to be part of God's story of love. Tell everyone you meet!

C: Come and see!

GATHERING SONG: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283) – with instruments

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!

2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: Refrain

4 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

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND BLESSING

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: *We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.*

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: *In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: *Joy to the world! Our Lord Jesus has come! Grant that we might welcome and serve our king and his reign in this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

Lector

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289) vv.1-2

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

P: Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Luke. Each time the reader announces, "To us is born a Savior"; please respond, "Jesus Christ our Lord."

P: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

P: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior:

C: *Jesus Christ our Lord!*

CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL: *Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)* v. 3

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Away in a Manger (ELW 277)*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

PRAYERS

A: Glory to God in the highest,

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

A: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: *Send your gift of peace to all peoples of the world.*

A: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten all hearts with your steadfast love.

C: *Wake up your church so that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.*

A: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: *Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.*

A: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: *Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.*

A: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: *Show yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.*

PEACE-IN-PLACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Youth: We love to open presents at Christmas time!

Adults: *We love to give presents, too!*

Youth: Thank you, God, for all that you give us.

Adults: *Thank you for giving us everything!*

Youth: Thank you for the gift of Jesus.

Adults: *Thank you for the meal we're about to share.*

Youth: Teach us how to give like you give.

Adults: *Fill us up with good things so we can share them.*

Youth: Make us into your gifts to the world

Adults: *through the gift of Jesus, in whose name we pray.*

All: *Amen!*

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.*

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

COMMUNION

SONG DURING COMMUNION: What Child Is This? (ELW 296)

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!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, 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.

C: Amen

QUIETING PRAYER – Lights gradually dimming

L: AN ANGEL APPEARED, DAZZLING BRIGHT!!!

C: I HAVE GOOD NEWS!!! THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!!

L: Even more angels filled the sky!

C: Glory to God in heaven and peace on earth!

L: The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see this baby in a manger.

C: Help us, God, to see your love in even the most unlikely places.

L: *The shepherds arrived and were filled with wonder.*

C: Thank you, God, for that first silent night.

Candles are lit as hymn is played through.

CANDLELIGHT HYMN: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

P: May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

LOUDENING PRAYER – Lights gradually brightening,

L: *The shepherds, with awe, told Mary and Joseph everything*

C: *Mary pondered these words in her heart.*

L: The shepherds didn't stay in the manger.

C: Their sheep were waiting; but so was the world.

L: As they departed, they spread the word!

C: They told their friends and neighbors about the Savior in the manger!

L: THEY GLORIFIED GOD!!! THEY SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!!!

C: SEND US OUT FROM HERE FULL OF LOVE AND WONDER, BURSTING AT THE SEAMS TO SHARE THE NEWS!!!

Extinguish Candles

SENDING SONG: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290) with instruments (recess on last refrain, deposit instruments with usher)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ has come.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, December 24, 2021

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn (2nd Lay Asst.) Becky Collie
- Lectors: Becky Collie
- Acolyte: Anna Radtke
- Greeters: Gordon Gunn
- Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Jake Addair
- Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
- Counters: N/A

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our worship service on Sunday, December 26th, will be a service of Lessons and Carols. Kids (of all ages) are also invited to bring along their favorite Christmas present from this year (or a past year) for a Blessing of Teddy Bears and Toys.



from
Messiah Lutheran Church