

*Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
Christmas Day  
December 25, 2017*



*Artwork by  
Anna Patterson*

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*Martin Luther based his carol “From heaven above” (ELW 268, LBW 51) on a refrain used for a sixteenth-century singing game. In the game, the song sets up a riddle to be solved. Within the nativity story, who would have proclaimed this text?*

*“From heaven above to earth I come  
to bear good news to every home!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to all the world, and gladly sing.”*

*In the hymn, the stanzas in quotation marks become the words of the angels rejoicing at Jesus’ birth, while the other stanzas offer commentary and prayers. By sending Jesus into our world, God answers the riddle of sin and our human condition. We are set free to proclaim with the angels: “Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given.”*

**Gathering Hymn** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice. **ELW#288**

### **Dialogue**

P: Who are these angels who come to earth,

**C: bearing the news of the Christ child’s birth?**

P: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

**C: and worship the babe on bended knee?**

P: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

**C: of whom the angels sang that night?**

P: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

**C: who humbles himself to make us his own?**

P: Who is this God who sends a Son

**C: into our midst, the promised one?**

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness.

## Greeting and Prayer

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. **C: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

## Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?

Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

**C: who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: From Heaven Above (*Verses 1-3*) **ELW #268**

## Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?

Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

**C: who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: From Heaven Above (*Verses 4-6*) **ELW #268**

## Who Is This Child, So Small, So Slight?

Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

**C: who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: From Heaven Above (*Verses 7-9*) **ELW #268**

## Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne?

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

**C: who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: From Heaven Above (*Verses 10-11*) **ELW #268**

## Who Is This God, Who Sends a Son?

**Lesson:** John 1:1-14

*Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:*

**L:** Glory to God in highest heaven,

**C: who unto us the Son has given.**

**Carol:** From Heaven Above (*Verses 12-14*) **ELW #268**

**Meditation**

**Rene Johnson**

**Hymn of the Day** In The Bleak Midwinter **ELW#294**

### Prayers of Intercession

**P:** Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

**C: Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

**P:** You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

**C: Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

**P:** You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

**C: Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

**P:** You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

**C: May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

### Peace

**P:** The peace of Christ who became one of us be with us always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Offering Song** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (*Verse 1*)  
**ELW#270**

## **Offering Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray, **C:** **God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

## **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 our thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn .

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy,  
God of pow'r and God of might:  
heav'n and earth reveal your glory.**

**Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

**Blessed be the coming Savior.**

**Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

**Tune:** PICARDY (see ELW #490)

## **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.**

**Communion Song** Tune: JEG ER SÅ GLAD (see ELW #271)

**1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save:  
have mercy now, we pray.**

**2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave:  
have mercy now, we pray.**

**3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made:  
give us your peace, we pray.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy: **C: Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given. Amen**

**Blessing**

P: May the God who comes from heaven above be born in your hearts and lives this day and always. **C: Amen.**

**Sending Song**

Love Has Come

**ELW#292**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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~ *Calendar of Events* ~

<i>December 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day Service "Merry Christmas"</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Office Closed</i>	
<i>December 27</i>	<i>Piece Corps Quilters</i>	<i>8:00am-11:30am</i>
<i>December 31</i>	<i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>	<i>9:30am</i>
	<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>10:30am</i>
<i>January 1</i>	<i>Office Closed</i>	

**December 31 First Sunday of Christmas**

Services of music and stories—Our Christmas Stories

**Annual meeting for Good Shepherd Jan. 28, 2018**

Annual reports are due December 29, 2017

Annual reports are required for each committee and organization of the congregation.

**Copy of the Sermon is Available**

If you would like to have a copy of sermon, please talk to the ushers or Pr. Miho.

**Updates on the Stubbs Family**

See the bulletin board for an updated newsletter from the Stubbs family and you can also link to the Caring Bridge page for updates on Carol Stubbs at

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/love4carolstubbs>

## A Christmas Angel's Poem

Taylor Bastian

It is you Joseph that will father this child.

Purer than the threads I am enrobed in he will be.

His burdens on this world will be lighter than my weightless wings.

Yet, he will carry our and future generations on the day of his death.

His existence will save all earthly people from Hell's infatuating touch and will destroy the sins that separate you from our eternal Father,

But this child cannot parent himself.

God has chosen you and Mary to help guide and protect him on Earth just like he does for you in heaven.

Our Father knows of the earthly struggles you will face.

He is struggling with your struggles,

But he knows your child will save the world for infinite years to come.

Trust him now.

For your family's struggles will save you all.

