

*Welcome to St. Paul's  
The Lord Bless You as You Worship!*



***December 24, 2024  
Christmas Eve  
8:00 pm and 11:00 pm***

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
135 Hamilton Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527  
315-536-8165  
email: [office@stpaulspennyan.org](mailto:office@stpaulspennyan.org)  
website: [www.stpaulspennyan.org](http://www.stpaulspennyan.org)  
Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

***Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve***

## WORSHIP NOTES

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.*

**Prayer Requests** If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

**Face Masks** Just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours at home. Thank you!

**Holy Communion** All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with Pastor Lori.) Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is available; please indicate your need to the pastor.

**Pew Cushions** Are available on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

**Hearing Assistance** Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

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## We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude:

“Still, Still, Still”

Robert Lau

*The prelude is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds to worship God. You are invited to pray this prayer to help you transition from the cares and activities of daily life to worshipping the Living God:*

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

Call to Worship

P: Let the heavens be glad!

**All: Let the earth rejoice!**

P: Let the sea roar!

**All: Let the fields exult!**

P: Let the trees of the forest sing for Joy!

**All: For our God comes to us this night!**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: God who was and is and is to come,

**All: we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned and fallen short in the things we have done to ourselves, to one another and the world as a whole, and in the things we have failed to do for the good of all. Have mercy on us, O God. Wash away the guilt and shame and commit us to making changes to better love ourselves, and to love and serve you, our neighbors, and all that you have made.**

P: Siblings in Christ, our God created us whole and beautiful and loves us unconditionally, and therefore forgives us all our sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior, our sibling, and our friend. Receive this forgiveness with joy!

**All: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn:

*O Come, all ye Faithful*

#283

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## Greeting

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

**All:** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** Almighty God,

**All:** **as we hear the story of our Savior’s birth, we are filled with wonder and awe. Thank you for the gift of your Son, born in a manger. In our daily lives, help us remember the profound joy of this story. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## Lighting of Advent Wreath

R: The shepherds watched their flocks in the field by night.

All: **Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the shepherds were terrified at the glory shining all around.**

R: But the angel brought good news,

All: **A message of new hope, new peace, new love, new joy to be given.**

*(Light Christ candle)*

R: And behold, today a sign has been given; a Son has been given—

All: **A babe wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger. Hope, peace, love, and joy have taken on flesh, and he lives among us forever!**

## Hymn of Praise:

### *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#270

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics. The second system contains the remaining lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

## We Hear God's Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**All:** Open us, O God, to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind with the shepherds to Bethlehem.

## Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. His 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.

## Psalm 96

A: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

A: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**All: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

A: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**All: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

A: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

A: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

**All: Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!**

A: The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

**All: He will judge the peoples with equity.'**

A: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

**All: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.**

A: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.



## **Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

## **Gospel Acclimation – Verse 1 of Good Christian Friend, Rejoice #288**

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

## **The Gospel**

*Please turn to face the Bible as it is carried out into the congregation.*

P: The Gospel according to Luke.

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

## **Luke 2:1-20**

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.” 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!” 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. 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. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

*(Please be seated)*

**Sermon**

Rev. Lori Nickoloff (8:00 pm)  
 Rev. Columba Salamony (11:00 pm)

*Following the sermon, there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation. Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures, and music, but also moments of silence.*

*As the hymn begins, the assembly stands to sing.*

**Hymn of the Day:** *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* #295



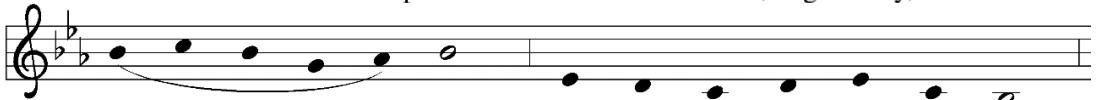
1 Of the Fa - ther’s love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav’n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

## Nicene Creed

**A:** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**All:** **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 Intercession

A: Trusting in your eternal love, we pray for all the world.

*A brief silence.*

A: On this holy night we praise the newborn who fulfills the promise to our ancestors. We come as we are, to a place as ordinary as can be, to witness the most extraordinary miracle of your salvation. Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for change and conviction in how we care for creation. Open our eyes to the interconnectedness of all living things and help us to live more sustainably. Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for ethical and compassionate leadership around the world. Help leaders to focus on the needs of the most vulnerable and guide them to champion policies that promote equity and opportunity for all. Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for healing for all in need. May we provide support and comfort for those in our care, and may you draw near to all who cry out to you. God, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for all who are facing injustice. Help us to see situations from the perspectives of those most affected, and to advocate for solutions addressing the root causes of injustice. Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We pray to honor the saints who have gone before us. Even as we grieve their loss, may we be grateful for the time we shared with them in this life. Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust all our prayers, spoken and unspoken to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sharing of Peace**

P: The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways.

**All: And also to you.**

*Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.*

*(Please be seated)*

### **Offering**

**Offertory Music**      *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*      sung by Barb Pinneo (8:00 pm)

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

**Offertory Hymn**      *What Child is This (Verses 1&3)*      #296

*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!*

*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!*

### **Offertory Prayer**

A: God, you have given us treasure upon treasure, even to the gift of your own Son.

**All: With joy we bring before you our gifts in return, and offer them to you for the continuation of the work you began in Jesus Christ, for the flourishing of all creation. Amen.**

## We Share God's Meal

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

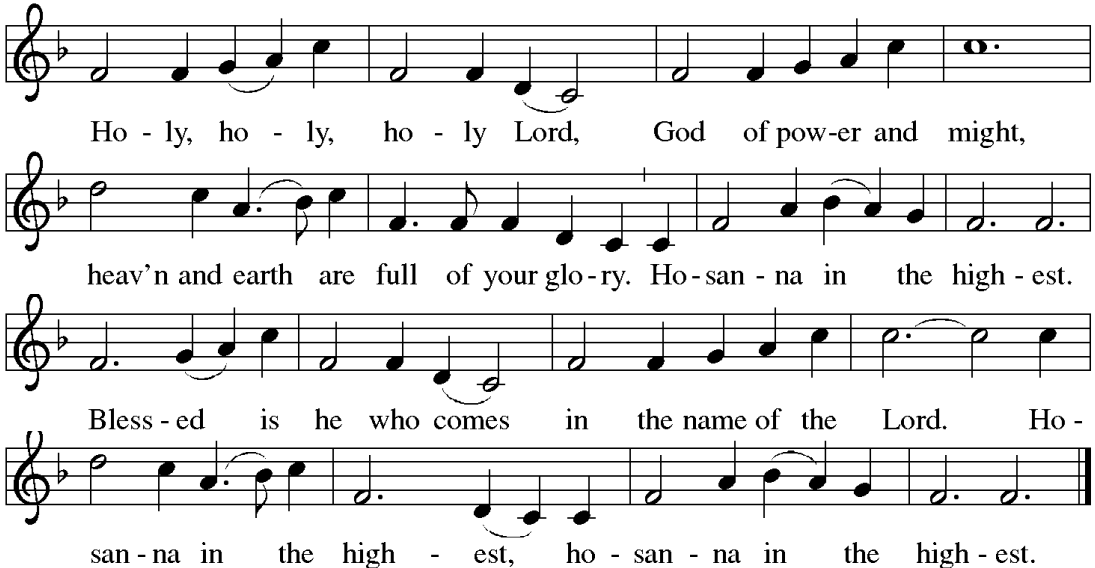
P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Almighty God, you shape your very life to create and restore and enjoy us forever... ..You give us such joy and peace in your company that our hearts join the angels in the Christmas sky and around your eternal throne, singing the hymn of your unending praise:



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.

P: God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms, you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands... ..Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

P: God who exalts the humble and humbles the exalted, as you drew the magi to the place of your epiphany, call us to yourself, and bring your creation to its consummation. Lift your whole church, living and departed, to the vision of your

glory, once made flesh in a humble family, now exalted and reigning with justice and mercy. In this banquet restore us in your image, surround us with your company, and prepare us for your freedom, after the pattern of your Son, through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

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

**All: 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.**

### Eucharistic Invitation

P: God with us, Emmanuel, Jesus who is called Christ, now welcomes you to the table of life, to the celebratory feast of all creation. Come with joy with your siblings in Christ and share in this precious and holy meal.

**All: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### Lamb of God



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.

## Hymns During Communion:

<i>Away in a Manger</i>	#277
<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	#279
<i>The First Noel</i>	#300

## Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

## Prayer After Communion:

A: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.

All: **By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## We Leave to Serve

### Candle Lighting Hymn

### *Silent Night*

#281

The musical score for 'Silent Night' is presented in two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody in the treble clef consists of a series of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three numbered lines of text. The first line is the original German text, and the following two lines are English translations. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Benediction

P: May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

**All: Amen**

P: May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace.

**All: Amen**

P: May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his eternal kingdom.

**All: Amen**

P: And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

— Rev. Thomas Weitzel, on [Liturgy by TLW](#).

*(Please stand to sing the hymn and turn to face the flame as it exits the church)*

**Sending Hymn:**

*Joy to the World*

#267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line of lyrics corresponding to the first line of music, and so on. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Sending

A: Go in peace, share the love of God!

## Postlude

### **Hymn Notes “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” ELW 295**

This hymn was written in the 5th century by Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413?) Born in what is now northern Spain Prudentius was a well educated lawyer and twice provincial governor. Around 392 he abandoned public life for asceticism. He became one of the most popular Medieval writers of hymns and sacred and secular poetry in which he drew comparisons and connections between Hellenic and Christian thought and philosophies. His influence remained strong into the 1300s. The text in Latin begins “Corde natus ex parentis,” “Of the parent sole begotten.” Only in translation did the gender inclusive become “father.” John Mason Neale translated it in 1851 and Henry Williams Baker added the final verse doxology for the 1861 “Hymns, ancient and modern.”

The poetry is direct and filled with the common images of prophecy through fulfillment in birth and resurrection. The Passion is not mentioned.

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM is from the 13th century and first appeared in Piae Cantiones (1582) by Theodoric Petri. It was written in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time with alternating half and quarter notes. This version still exists in the Episcopal “Hymnal 1982.” Winifred Douglas (1867-1944) returned it to its chant notation of equal note values, the version in which the music flows better.

Most of the phrases begin with a diatonic tetrachord (four ascending notes with the half step between 3-4.) However, the third phrase begins on the note directly above the end of

the second phrase and rises to the octave above the primary note, thus completing the full octave scale for the text “He is Alpha and Omega.”

These 4 note tetrachord phrase beginnings date back to Greek modes, which are the four note invocational pitches used when performing Greek oratory and epic poetry. Many congregations are apprehensive of this type of chant notation since only pitches are represented. The actual rhythm is all equal, but the notes are grouped in 2s and 3s, depending on number of syllables and if the phrase is ending. I will clearly show this as I play it through before singing. My best advice for singing this is to remember that chant style is flowing and the pauses on the long notes are brief. Keep it moving at speaking speed.