

Messiah Lutheran Church, Christmas Eve, 2019

A warm welcome to all who have gathered this afternoon for a very special Family Christmas Eve Celebration. We especially welcome guests and visiting family members. We delight in being together for this special worship service. May God grant that when the service has ended, we will all return home as the shepherds did to their fields, praising God for the things we have heard and seen and experienced!

Guests, please take a moment to fill out one of the visitor cards (you'll find them in the hymnal rack) and either hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate this evening. Should you wish to know more about Messiah, please visit our website, messiahfairview.org or call the church office, 440.331.2405. Also, if you would like to meet one of our pastoral team this evening, they will be available in the Narthex following the service.

A note about tonight's offering: Unless otherwise designated, all gifts received will support the work and mission of Christ at Messiah in the current church year. If you are a guest, giving is not an expectation. Your presence is a gift! If you wish to contribute financially, offering envelopes are available in the hymnal racks. Gifts can also be offered online or via text message. For more information see insert.

Our Nursery will be open but not staffed this evening. We wish for everyone of all ages to be in the Sanctuary together. If you should need a quiet area, there is a Parent's Room off to the front right-hand side of the Sanctuary. Ask an usher for assistance. In the Parent's Room, you will be able to both see and hear the service.



O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

A Christmas Celebration for Children and their Families

December 24, 2019
4 p.m.

Prelude “Angels We Have Heard on High,” Jerry Ray

Song O Come, All Ye Faithful,” #283, stanzas 1-2

Call to worship

P Greetings in the name of Jesus,

C The Savior of the World

P Joy to the world!

C Joy, joy, joy!

P The Hope of the world is born this night!

C Hope, Hope, Hope is born!

P Let every heart prepare Christ room.

C Let heaven and nature sing!

P Let every heart prepare Christ room.

C Let heaven, let heaven and nature sing!

Prayer for Christmas Eve

Christmas Homily

A Special Presentation of the Gospel “Too Many Shepherds”

Adapted from original script by Rev. Shari L. Ayers

Narrator *Welcome, brothers and sisters in Christ*

Introductory Solo “The First Noel,” stanza 1

Narration & Entrance of some Shepherds from the fields

Second Introductory Solo “The First Noel,” stanza 2

Narration & Entrance of even MORE Shepherds

Congregational Singing

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory,”

#275, stanza 2

Narration & the Shepherd’s Rap

Shepherds, shepherds, there’s too many
Shepherds gathered here to tell
Once again the Christmas story
Of the angel’s first Noel.

Shepherds, shepherds, only shepherds
There’s too many shepherds here.

Shepherds, shepherds, what’s with all these
Shepherds filled with joy and mirth
How can we proclaim the Good News
Of Messiah’s blessed birth?

Shepherds, Shepherds, only shepherds
We need more than shepherds here!

Narration continues & entrance of even MORE Shepherds

Congregational Singing

“Go Tell It on the Mountain,”

#290

Shepherd’s New Rap

Shepherds, shepherds, we need shepherds
Gathered here around the Word.
We must tell the Gospel story
That those first scared shepherds heard.

Shepherds, Shepherds, many shepherds
There are shepherds needed now.

Shepherds, shepherds, all are shepherds
Who have seen what God has done.
Called to praise and glorify our
Lord and Savior: God’s own Son

Shepherds, Shepherds, many shepherds
Won’t you be a shepherd, too?

Narration & the Gospel Good News, part 1

Congregational Singing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,”
#270 stanza 1

Special Entrance of a very, very special family

Congregational Singing “Angels We Have Heard on High,”
#289

Christmas Prayers

Offering “Silent Night,” Tom Fettke

Holy Communion

Consecration

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks Father, through Jesus Christ.... **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today your daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Songs During Communion “Away in a Manager,” #277
“O Little Town of Bethlehem,” #279

Prayer

Benediction

Go with the Grace of God from God's own heart, peace from the ✠ Child in the manger, and strength from the Holy Spirit. Great blessings for you and all people, tonight and forever. Amen.

Sending Song

“Joy to the World,” #267

Dismissal

Go in Peace! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Joy to the World,” Martha Kelsey

SERVING TODAY

Preaching: *Pr. Jerome Burce*

Presiding Minister: *Pr. Seth Bridger*

Acolytes: *Gavin Jennings, Cassidy Yesko*

Soloist: *Nigel Copeland*

Organist: *Connie Triplett*

Altar Guild: *Tiffany Advani, Marilyn Edwards, Maria Geier, Debbie Luekens, Diane Paton, Laura Schwartz-Gaydos*

Deacons: *Mark & Amy Hunger*

Ushers: *Padraig Donohoe, George Skliros*



**THE POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR DISPLAY
ARE PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS FOR –**

The Wise/Albers Families *by Bruce and Sylvia Albers*

Our Third Christmas at Messiah *by the Bridger Family*

Frank & Mildred Claycomb and Elinor Burce *by the Burce Family*

My Parents Marjorie & Roy Walker, Sr. *by Rita Gadus*

My Sister June Schultz *by Rita Gadus*

Felipa F. Romo (Mother) *by the Geier Family*

Ignacio Romo (Father) *by the Geier Family*

Our Parents *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*

To the Glory of God *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*

Our Parents, Harriet and Bob Kraemer *by Barbara, Jim, Beth and Patty*

Our Parents and Grandparents *by Joe, Ruth and Sarah King*

Eleanor & Reinhold Leske *by Terri Leske*

Jane, Bill & Jeff Luekens *by Debbie Luekens*

Tom Filippou *by Debbie Luekens*

Mickie McDonald-MacKeigan
by John & Dianne McDonald and Brenden MacKeigan

John & Billie McFadden *by the McFadden Family*

Fran & Jane Pieper *by the McFadden and Neumann Families*

George Metevelis *by Martie Metevelis*

Don Moeller *by Wanda, Carol, Donna, Tim, Eric and Ryan*
Pastor Erling Helland and Jane Malone Morgan *by Pastor Ron & Dorothy Morgan*
Carl, Ruth and Nancy Neumann *by the Neumann Family*
My parents Julia & Mike Negray *by Ken Negray*
Joseph & Dorothy Nuessle *by Joseph Nuessle and Karen Watts*
Richard & Arline Watts *by Joseph Nuessle and Karen Watts*
Larry Paton and Ruth & Andy Kostur *by Brad, Diane, Alby, Greg & Courtney Paton*
Loved Ones *by Frank & Ellen Petak*
Loved Ones *by Dorothy Raum*
Peter & Theresa Szeltner *by John & Heidi Szeltner*
Loved Ones *by Steve and Christa Turnbull*
The Rev. John F. Uhle *by the Uhle Family*
Rejoicing for Emerson's health one year post heart transplant *by the Waugh Family*
John & Irma Pugel *by the O'Malley and Waugh Families*
Robert, Patricia & Scott Waugh *by the Waugh Family*
Carl J. and Carl R. Weber *by the Weber Family*
Dorothy Yesko and Josephine Davila *by The Yesko Family*
Carl and Dorothy Petri *by John and Joni (Petri) Zehnder*
Susan Westcott *by her Friends*