

**COMMUNITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
96 Main St. Enfield NH  
03748  
(603) 632-5812  
<http://www.clcenfield.org>

Sunday, January 2, 2022  
2nd Sunday of Christmas  
Holy Communion

#### **WELCOME**

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

#### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our lives or in our world. We have loved ourselves too much and our neighbors too little. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open our hearts to receive the peace of Jesus this Christmas season.**  
**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was born among us that we might find new life in him. For his sake God forgives you all your sins. Trust his love, and be at peace.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

### **GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,

**you have come to your people and set them free.**

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,

**born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

**from the hands of all who hate us,**

to show mercy to our forebears,

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

free to worship you without fear,

**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,**

to give God's people knowledge of salvation

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **THE SHARING OF OUR NEW YEAR'S WATCHWORDS**

In 1722 refugees of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum), an early Protestant group from Bohemia and Moravia, began arriving at the Saxony, Germany estate of the Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700–1760). Count Zinzendorf, a Lutheran, welcomed them and gave them land on which to establish the settlement of Herrnhut. Each day the settlers came together for morning and evening devotions, consciously placing their lives in the context of God's word. The Daily Texts began as an oral tradition on May 3, 1728, when, during the evening devotions, the congregation was given a *Losung* (watchword) to accompany them through the whole next day.

The first printed edition of the Daily Texts (Losungen) for an entire year was published in 1731 in Herrnhut. The title page of that edition quoted Lamentations 3:22-23: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." It promised a daily message from God that would be new every morning.

In the Daily Text Book there are two verses selected for each day, an Old Testament text chosen out of a silver bowl for that particular date, and a second New Testament text searched out by the church elders to accompany and to help interpret the first text.

These two paired daily texts are used worldwide. The Daily Texts are published in 51 languages and dialects. The form varies considerably around the world, from a separate page each day containing the verses along with one or two hymn texts and prayers, to several days' texts printed on one page so that the book can be carried in a pocket. Some are beautifully printed, others are simply mimeographed and stapled together. It's the most widely read devotional guide in the world, next to the Bible, and forms a bond among Christians on all continents, of all confessions, race, language, and politics.

*Almighty God, as we receive your Word made flesh--Jesus Christ--and receive today a watchword from scripture for us to reflect upon during the coming year, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts also be acceptable to you. You have filled the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all*

*that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288)

### **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**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been

mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (*especially names, and those we name before you either aloud or in the silence of our hearts*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities (*especially*). As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service (*especially Wilhelm Loehe, whom we commemorate today*). Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace*

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

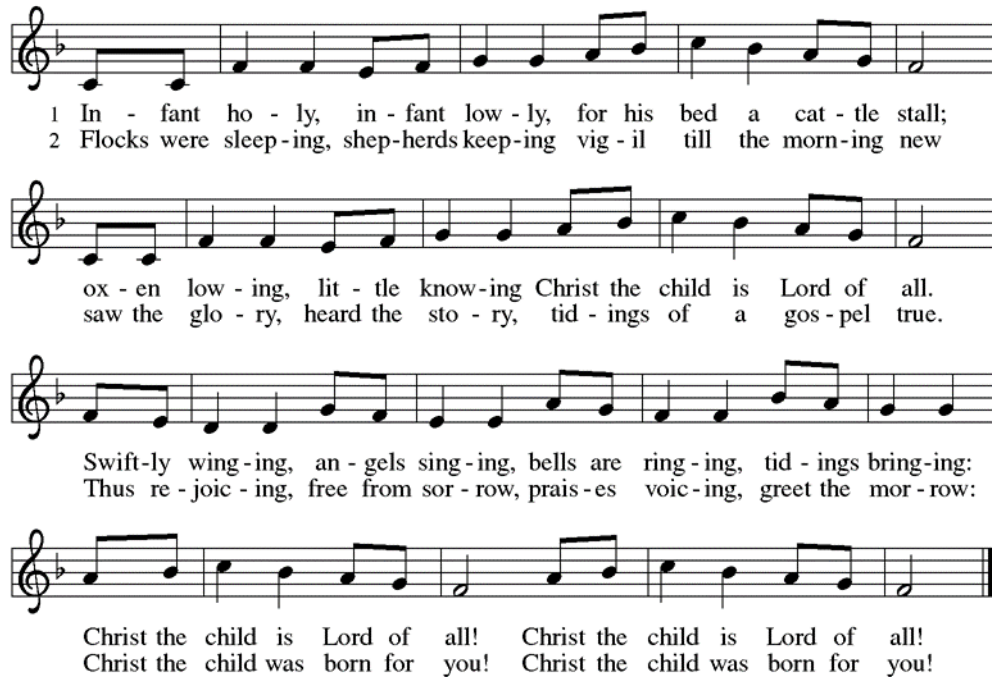
## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

We live by GOD's Grace, who gives us everything and asks that we give a portion back to him. It is for the church and its work in the community and world. There are many needs, so give to those the Holy Spirit inspires you to support.

**OFFERING SONG:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (ELW 276)

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new  
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.  
Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

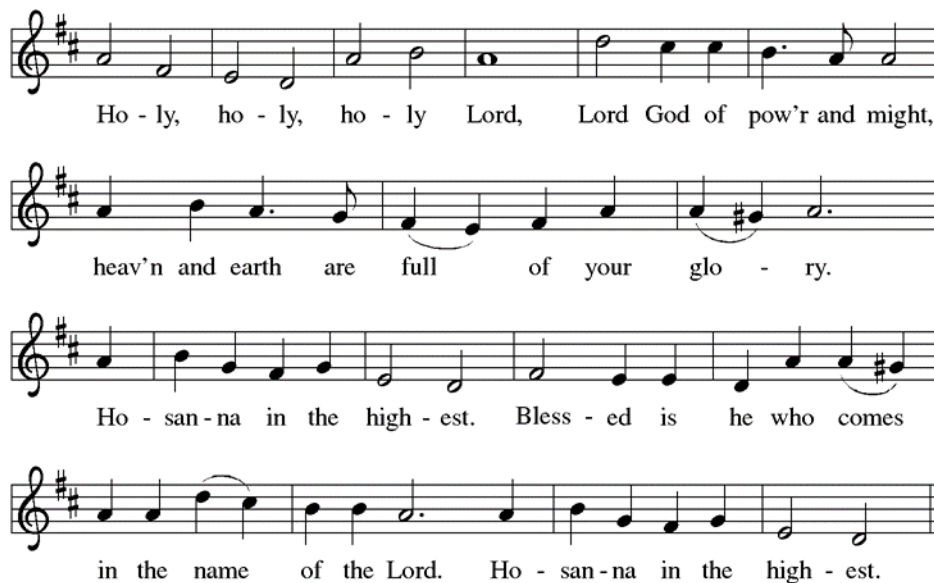
### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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

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.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,



Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**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.**

Our congregation participates in and partakes of the Lord's Supper during our worship service each week. All who have been baptized and profess a faith in Jesus Christ as risen Lord are welcome to commune with us, regardless of denomination, age or church background. Children who may be too young to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing from the pastor. Grape juice is available in the center of our serving trays for those who prefer it.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.*

### **COMMUNION**

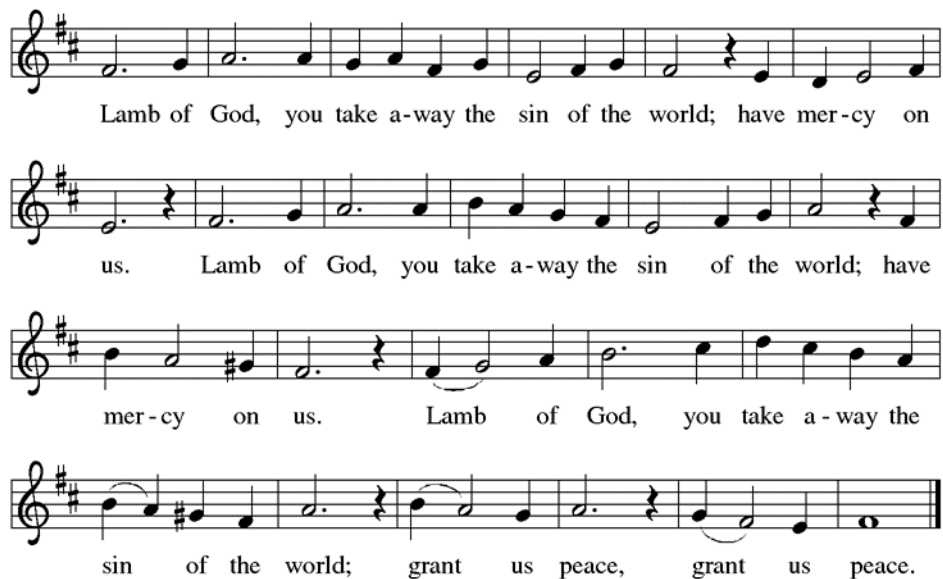
*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* (ELW 271)

*Away in a Manger (CRADLE SONG)* (ELW 278)

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**We thank you, gracious God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289) - next page

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.