

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
**Fishersville, VA**  
**January 14, 2024**

**A Sunday of**  
**Christmas**

**INTRODUCTION**

Christmas is not celebrated one night a year or from October to December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Word made flesh, the light that breaks into the darkness, Emmanuel, God with us, is always with us. Today, we hear and sing about the time that God came to live among us. It is this story of God's real presence that gives us the hope that all the world will someday be at peace.

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

**Choir**

**There's a Song in the Air! -Verses 1 & 2**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,  
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,**  
**and call us to be messengers of your peace.**  
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,**  
**our resources, and our security.**  
**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.  
Have mercy on us.  
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.  
**Amen.**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Hymn 34 (Verse 1)**

**Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel**

### **Isaiah 7:14**

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### **Solo—Bambi Straw**

**Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming - Verses 1 & 2**

### **Isaiah 9:6**

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



### **Hymn 50 (Verse 1)**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn 50 (Verse 2)**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**Luke 1:26-28**

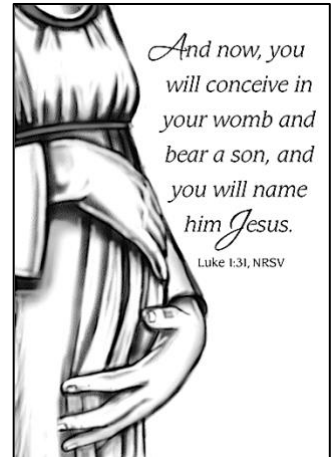
<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

**Choir**

**Sing of Mary Pure and Lowly - Verse 1**

**Luke 1:29-33**

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”



**Hymn 71 (Verse 1)**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**Luke 1:34-35**

<sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

**Hymn 54 (Verse 1)**

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

**Luke 1:39-45**

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

**Hymn 41 (Verses 1 & 2)**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**Solo—Flora Williams**

**Mary's Little Boy Child**

**Luke 1:46-49**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

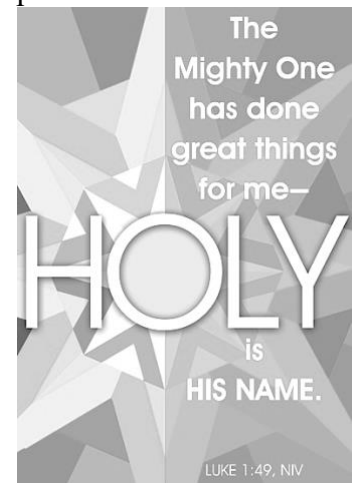
<sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.



**Hymn 60 (Verse 1)**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Hymn 65 (Verse 1)**

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

**4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



**Hymn 40 (Verse 1)**

**What Child is This**

**Solo—Cindy Wright**

**Away in the Manger -Verse 1**

**Women of the choir**

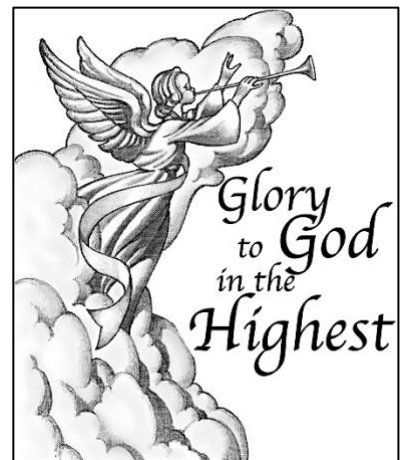
**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

**Luke 2:8-14**

**8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**14** “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



**Choir**

**While Shepherds Watch - Verse 1**

**Luke 2:15-20**

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Solo—Sam Diehl**  
**O Holy Night**  
**Hymn 70**  
**Go Tell It on the Mountain.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ’s holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary’s loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness especially Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Susan, Claire, Charles, Ellen, and Loretta. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

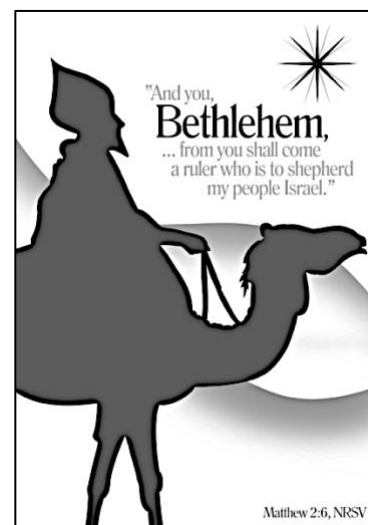
**Hymn 45 (Verse 1)**  
**Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

### **Matthew 2:1-6**

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

**Solos by Sam Diehl, Danny Snyder, and Ivan Diehl**  
**We Three Kings of Orient Are**



## **Matthew 2:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### **Choir**

#### **I Wonder as I Wander - Verse 1**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **Solo—Ryan Leach**

#### **Mary Did You Know**

## **OFFERING**

### **Hymn 56 (Verses 1 & 2)**

#### **The First Noel**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.  
Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

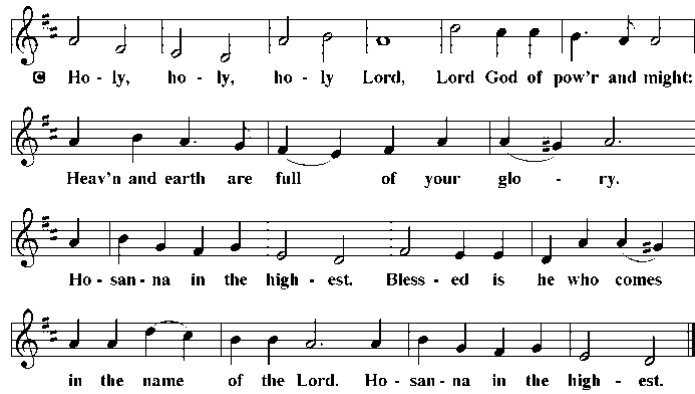
## **DIALOGUE**

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 him thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



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

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

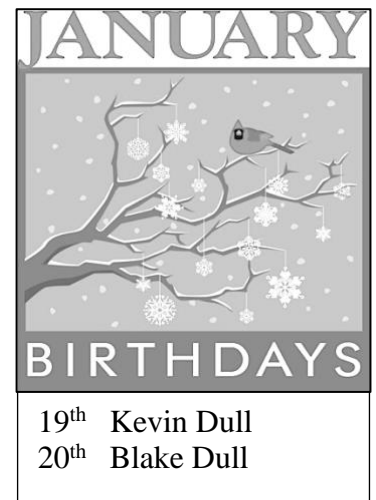
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

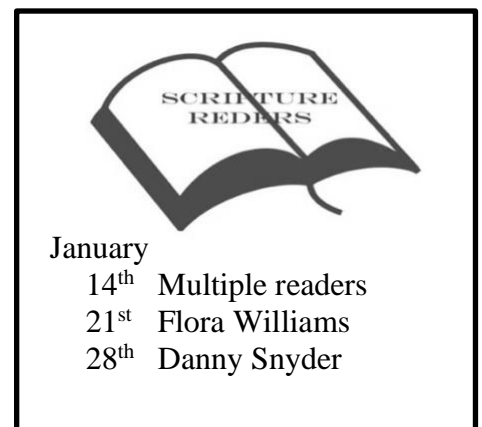
In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.



**JANUARY**  
**BIRTHDAYS**  
19<sup>th</sup> Kevin Dull  
20<sup>th</sup> Blake Dull



**SCRIPTURE READERS**  
January  
14<sup>th</sup> Multiple readers  
21<sup>st</sup> Flora Williams  
28<sup>th</sup> Danny Snyder

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**Solos by Sam Diehl and Debbie Snyder  
and Duet by Flora Williams and Cindy Wright  
I Heard the Bells of Christmas**

**Hymn 39 (Verse 1)  
Joy to the World**

### BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Choir

**There's A Song in the Air - Verse 3, 4, then 1  
again**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Choir

**Let There Be Peace On Earth**



Note changes of date  
and time for both  
February events

### Prayer Concerns

#### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser,  
Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Zeby (Ellen &  
Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett  
(Danny's aunt), Inez Johnson (Becky and  
Debbie's aunt), and Susan Zirges (friend of  
Sherie & Paul).

#### Prayer Request for

Charles, Ellen, Claire, Loretta Whiting  
(Sherie's mother) and the family of Larry  
Witmer (friend of Ruth Foreman).

### Community Conversations

- January flowers are given by Chris & Carolyn Fuss in memory of the Davis Family & Jim Williams.
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> Quilt Group at 1pm.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> Soup and sandwich luncheon after worship. The goodwill offering will go to support WARM. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> Reports for our Annual Report are due to Anne.
- February 6<sup>th</sup> Open Circle meeting at 1pm.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon at noon.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
  - January—Joyce Dull

Thrivent Insurance has always had a program to donate money to churches. Recently they have offered a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have an account with Thrivent you can go online and designate money to St. James. Call 800-847-4836 or [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)





We need your help the Backpack program now has 19 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese       | Kroger meals            |
| Chef Boyardee meals  | Fruit cups              |
| Boxes of cereal      | Poptarts                |
| Oatmeal              | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices         | Yahoo chocolate milk    |
| Apple sauce          | Raisins                 |
| “Hugs” Drink Barrels | All single servings     |

**Annual Reports**

- Pastor’s Report—Pastor Gordon
  - President’s Report—Gene Giltner
  - Property Committee—Paul Rohal & John Grove (co-chairs)
  - Social Ministry—Joyce Dull (chair)
  - Worship & Music & Altar Guild  
Flora Williams (chair)
  - Open Circle—Anne Putnam (President)
  - Cemetery Treasurers’ Report—John Wright
- Reports due by January 28th

Pastor Gordon Putnam  
 434-760-0263  
[Grputnam1949@gmail.com](mailto:Grputnam1949@gmail.com)  
 Pastor Carl Trost  
 Hannah Pingel, Pianist  
 Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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