

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Lessons and Carols
January 1, 2023 • 9:30 am



You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated and boosted. If you are wearing a mask, you may lower it to receive communion.

Gathering

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

Prelude

“Of the Father's Love Begotten” by M. Larkin

“Still, Still, Still” by Anne Crosby Gaudet

“Away in a Manger” by Anne Crosby Gaudet

Steve Schmidt, piano

Ann Iona Warner, harp

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

**** Entrance Hymn**

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purpose of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build.

Let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who have received their eternal reward because their hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one: These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**** Lord's Prayer**

As we pray the Lord's Prayer together, we invite you to choose which version and language in which to pray. Several versions are printed on the laminated card for you.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

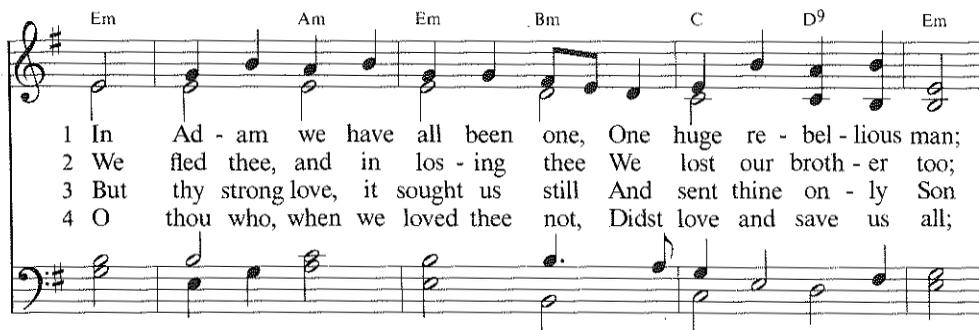
First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-19 (p. 3)

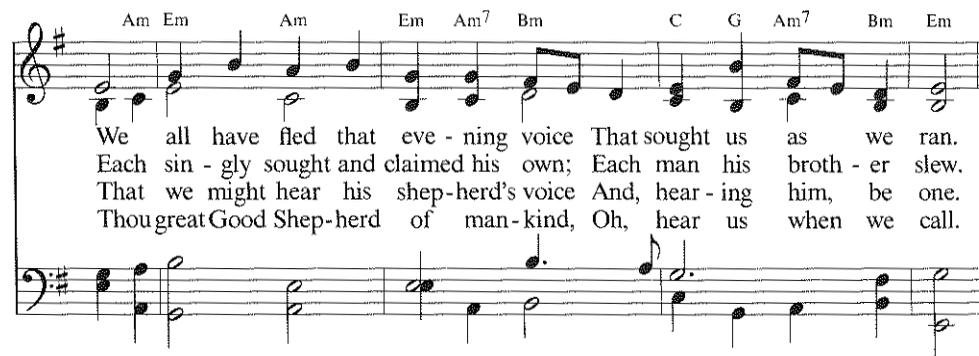
** Hymn

In Adam We Have All Been One (Verses 1, 3, 4, 6)

LBW 372



1 In Ad - am we have all been one, One huge re - bel - lious man;
2 We fled thee, and in los - ing thee We lost our broth - er too;
3 But thy strong love, it sought us still And sent thine on - ly Son
4 O thou who, when we loved thee not, Didst love and save us all;



We all have fled that eve - ning voice That sought us as we ran.
Each sin - gly sought and claimed his own; Each man his broth - er slew.
That we might hear his shep - herd's voice And, hear - ing him, be one.
Thou great Good Shep - herd of man - kind, Oh, hear us when we call.

5 Send us thy Spirit, teach us truth;
Thou Son, oh, set us free
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways,
And make us one in thee.

6 Then shall our song united rise
To thine eternal throne;
Where with the Father evermore
And Spirit, thou art one.

Second Lesson

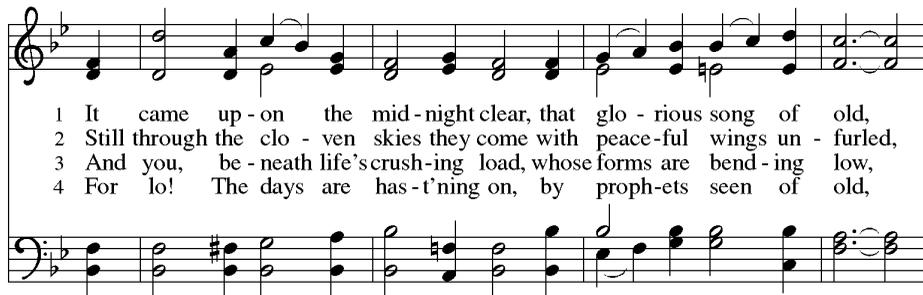
Genesis 22:15-18 (p. 17-18)

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

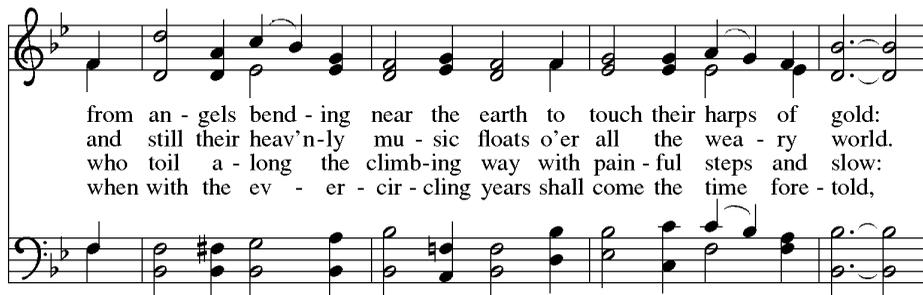
** Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Verses 1 and 4)

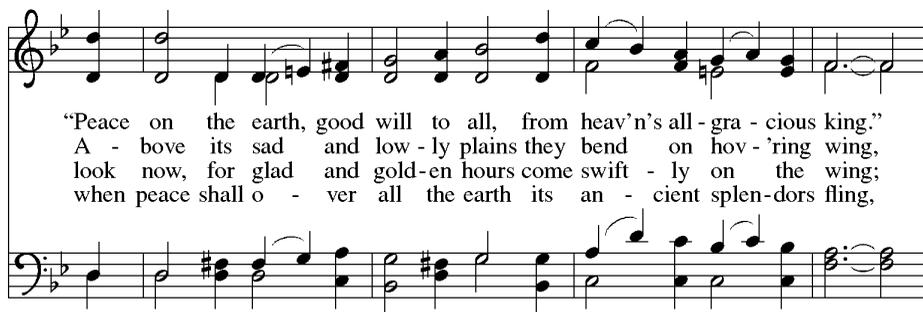
ELW 282



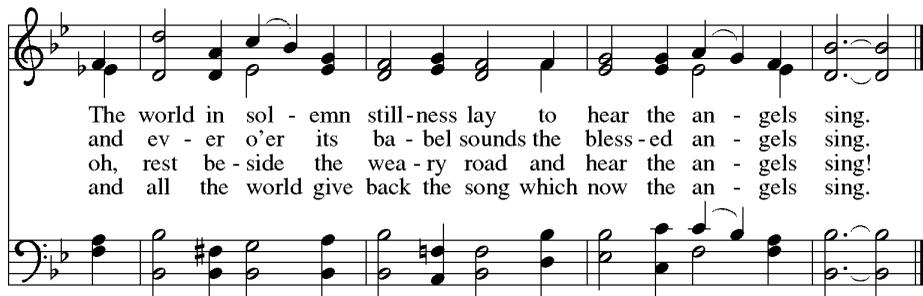
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (Verses 1, 2, 4)

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joyce, re - joyce, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Verses 1, 2, 4)

ELW 272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee:
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Hymn

I Wonder as I Wander

WOV 642

1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how
 2 When Mar-y birthed . . . Je-sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je-sus had . . . want-ed for an-y wee thing, a
 4 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how

Je-sus the Sav-ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo-ple like
 wise men and farm-ers and shep-herds and all, and high from the heav-ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an-gels in
 Je-sus the Sav-ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo-ple like

you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom-ise of the a-ges it then did re-call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure-ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Hymn

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Verses 1, 2, 4)

ELW 284



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
 2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
 3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
 4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
 rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
 was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
 ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
 as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
 chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
 kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.

Refrain



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 (p. 877-878)

** Hymn

The First Noel (Verses 1, 3, 5)

ELW 300

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold** are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276



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!

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for things that God has given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions. A financial donation to the church is never a requirement, but is freely given to support the work of the congregation in the community.

For your convenience, St. Stephen's offers the opportunity to give on-line through text message. Type "Funds" to 302-257-6155 to make any donations.

Musical Offering

"In the Bleak Midwinter" by Anne Crosby Gaudet

Ann Iona Warner, harp

"First Noel" by Anne Crosby Gaudet

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit.

O God, who makest us glad by the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, once God, world without end.

Amen.

Blessing

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Song of Sending

Cold December Flies Away

ELW 299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Blessing

Postlude

"Let All Together Praise Our God" by P. Manz

Steve Schmidt, organ

*Chancel flowers are given by Sharon & Dave Pottter
in celebration of their 20th anniversary*

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. Please text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to be added to our email list. May God go with you today and everyday.

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Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Musician:

Steve Schmidt

Lectors:

Bob Linderman, Michele Torchia, Ann Wagner

Ushers:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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