

Notice the Stable

Advent & Christmas 2024



Martin Luther wrote:

“Nobody notices or understands
what God performs in the stable.”

This season, let’s notice what God performs
in unexpected, out-of-the-way places.

Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2024, 7:30pm



New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

Welcome. We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this evening. Please see the back pages of this bulletin for ministry announcements and additional welcome information about New Joy Lutheran Church.

Little children are always welcome in worship – even and especially when they’re a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling, singing, and coming to the Lord’s Table. If little ones get too noisy during spoken parts of the service – the reading of Scripture, the sermon, or prayers – please try to quiet them or take them into the hallway for a moment to calm down. Thank you!

Our **nursery** is also available most services for **children aged 5 and under**.

God’s promises are at the heart of our worship. God promises justice for the lowly, forgiveness for the sinner, hope for the despairing, and joy for the sorrowful. These promises are “the Good News of Jesus Christ,” fulfilled by Jesus’s birth as a vulnerable child, his works of liberation and grace among us, and his victory over sin, death, and injustice by his resurrection from the grave. In the songs and prayers, Scripture and preaching, you’ll hear of God’s promise for you personally, for society, for this world that God so loves.

Our worship style is patterned after centuries of tradition reaching back to some of the earliest Christian communities. Our service is structured yet also informal, shaped by tradition yet also new. We observe seasons that lift up various themes from the life of Jesus and the mission of the church. In our prayers we pray not just for ourselves but for the church; all of creation; our neighbors and our society; the sick and suffering; and, for the blessed departed. We pray seeking that God’s promises would come to us and through us to a world in need.

Holy Communion is a meal of Christ’s radical welcome, real presence, and complete forgiveness. All are welcome to receive the gift of Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We use grape juice for communion, and gluten-free bread is available upon request. Not sure whether to receive communion, or how? Simply find the pastor in the communion line and ask.

Welcome. We are so glad you are with us today.

INTRODUCTION: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG – O COME YE FAITHFUL

V1, C, V2, C, V3, C, V4, C

Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Verse 2

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin,
a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above!
Glory to God...
in...the...highest: **Refrain**

Verse 4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee
be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

SONG – CHILD OF LIGHT

Verse

A spark ignites, a candle glows,
a heart delights in the pleasure it knows.
Light comes so close, creation knows,
flame reaches higher and warmer it grows.
Like the wreath, a circle of light,
love all around us flows.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
We see your light and lift our voice,
and Rejoice! Rejoice!
Come Child so bright Oh hear our joy, Rejoice!

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

Inspired by Titus 2:11

On this night, the grace of God has appeared.

Bringing grace to all!

In a manger, tucked away, the love of God has appeared.

Bringing love to all!

Revealed to shepherds and angels, the peace of God has appeared.

Bringing peace to all!

Born to Mary and Joseph, the joy of God has appeared.

Bringing joy to all.

Merry Christmas! Christ is born!

Glory to the newborn king!

WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SONG – HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

V1, R, V2, R, V3, R

Verse 1

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
off-spring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Please as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain**

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

HEBREW BIBLE

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

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

in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PSALMODY Psalm 96

℞ *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)*

- ¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. ℞**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. ℞**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- | ples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful
and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth. **℟**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – ALLELUIA

Voice 1

Al - le - lu_ ia_ Alle - lu_ ia_ Alle - lu_

Voice 2

Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia!

ff

ia_ Alle - lu_ ia! Show us Your Word, Your

Al-le-lu_ ia! Praise You! Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia! Praise You!

18

light in our sto-ry. We sing in praise, our hope, Your Glo-ry! Al - le - lu - - ia!

Al-le Al-le Al-le-lu i - a!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

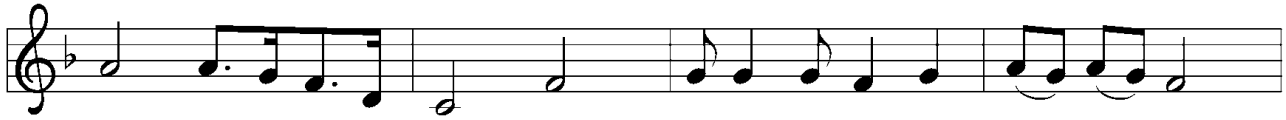
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

repeated; see above

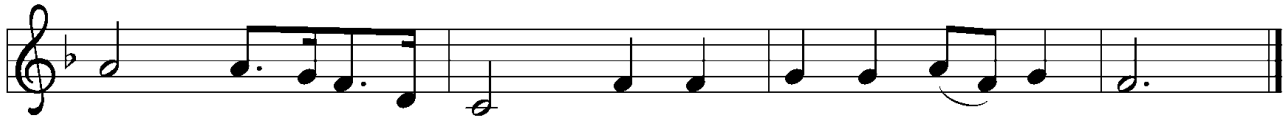


SERMON

SONG – GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain

MISSION STATEMENT

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture transforming faith, and live God's promise.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition concludes:

Lord, in your mercy

Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Please extend a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

SONG – IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR



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.

OFFERING PRAYER

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

5

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks, to the

8

Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise!

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly are You, Lord, God of hosts!_____

5

Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

9

Blessed is He who comes in the name, Comes in the name of the Lord!_____

13

Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, which includes Jesus' words instituting the Lord's Supper, concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our 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.**



THE HOLY COMMUNION MEAL IS SERVED

In communion, Jesus gives himself in the form of bread and cup to all who desire to receive. While we feast, we sing.

LAMB OF GOD



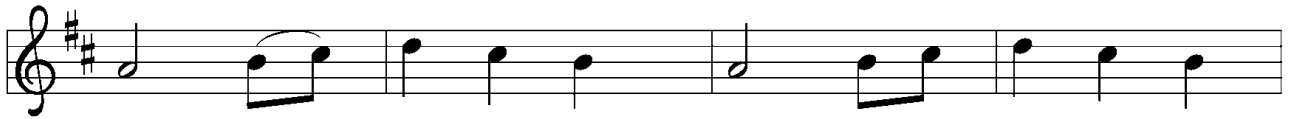
SONG – THE FIRST NOEL



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

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.

SONG – AWAY IN A MANGER



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Voice 1

Al - le - lu - ia - - - Al - le - lu - ia - - - Al - le - lu -

Voice 2

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

11

ia - - - Al - le - lu - ia! - - - You give us Your-self, Your

Al-le-lu-ia! Praise You! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise You!

18

flesh and for-give-ness; fed and ful-filled, we look for Your light. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al-le Al-le Al-le-lu i - a!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHTING

As we prepare to sing *Silent Night*, we light hand-held candles. Do not tip a lit candle. Instead, tip an unlit candle into the flame of a lit candle, held upwards, to spread the light across the congregation.

SILENT NIGHT (Stille Nacht)



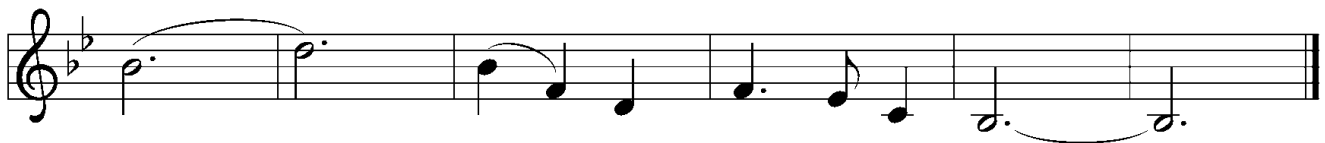
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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,



Hold - er 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.

BENEDICTION

SONG: - JOY TO THE WORLD

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells among us.

Thanks be to God.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We give thanks for all who give of themselves for service to God and to this community.

The band members are Glenn Hoffman, Jim Gregory, & Karen Archbold.
The Sound Board is run by Steve Castle.

	Today	Sunday December 29
Assisting Minister	Chris Studer	Becky Suchomel
Reader	Libby Dissauer	Lucy and Amanda Duckworth
Acolyte	Colin Studer	Open
Livestream Operator	Namaan Duckworth	Rich Kittlstved
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	Jessica Allen
Nursery Care	Open	Anya Verik
Ushers	Open, Open	Becky Suchomel, Cindy Tomishima
Greeters	Open, Open	Open, Open

We give thanks to the musicians, writers, and church ministries who create and publish much of the music, prayers, and words we use in worship.

Our liturgy music – the music that repeats weekly and forms the scaffolding of our service – was composed by our Music Minister, Glenn Hoffman. Thank you, Glenn, for composing such faithful music for us this Advent season!

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No songs were used today

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS! The Christmas season continues for two more Sundays. Come join us for more Christmas-themed Scripture, carols, and worship over the next two Sundays!

WE WORSHIP each Sunday at 9:30am. Early in the New Year we will resume our Youth Group and Confirmation Class, host a Lutheran-Jewish dialogue event, and kick off a few winter family fun night events. We will also start a New Members Class for any who are interested in learning more about New Joy and considering joining.

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.

Extend a Radical Welcome We are a spirited community that strives to welcome, value, accept, and nurture all people wherever they are in their relationship with God. Since our founding in 2002, New Joy has been committed to welcoming people of all races, incomes, and expressions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Share a Generous Grace We are a spirited community which boldly proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith We are a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise We are a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.

New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

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New Joy Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

www.iksynod.org | www.elca.org

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

