



# Lessons & Carols

## **COMMUNITY IN CHRIST**

*For just as the body is one and has many members...so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice*

*together with it* (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26). Because the worshiping members of Jerusalem have a significantly higher vaccination rate than our county, that, together with recommendations from the CDC and ecumenical church worship guidelines, has been prayerfully considered by our leaders for our worship practices. Therefore at this time in the Covid pandemic we are worshiping in this way:

### **WELCOME**

- **IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS**, please leave the first few spaces in the front parking lot for parking lot worshipers. Further information on page 2.
- **IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS**, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street and tune your radio to **90.1 FM**.
- **VISITORS**, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we believe that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now. We are glad that you are here with us, so that together, we all can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love for God and our neighbors.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas – January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**

**570-385-2657 \* [www.jerusalemmlutheran.com](http://www.jerusalemmlutheran.com)**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## POLICIES ON MASKS AND DISTANCING

- Everyone needs to wear a mask until the local pandemic subsides.
- We have lots of space in which to worship, so we can spread throughout the nave for each service, and we will continue to tape off alternating pews to maintain a safer distance.

## CURRENT WORSHIP PRACTICES

- We have resumed congregational speaking and singing in the building.
- Hymnals are available in the pew racks, and distributed to and collected from people worshipping in the parking lot.
- Large print worship binders are available inside. Those worshipping in the parking lot can request large print from an usher.
- Wine and grape juice are once again being offered from the chalice inside, with intinction being offered outside. Please space yourselves as you come forward.
- The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary by the door until we can safely pass the plates through many hands.

---

## A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HYMNS, SCRIPTURE AND COMMUNION

### PRELUDE

*What Child is this?*

English tune

*The ringing of the bell calls us to worship*

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*

# 269

### DIALOG FOR CHRISTMAS (From John 1)

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, you have filled all 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 and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**RESPONSE TO 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* # 272, vs. 1**

**SECOND READING**

**Micah 5:2–5a**

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
 to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth;
- <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**RESPONSE TO 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – *O Little Town of Bethlehem* # 279, vs. 1**

**THIRD READING****Luke 1:26–35, 38**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**RESPONSE TO 3<sup>RD</sup> READING – *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came***

# 265, vs. 1

**FOURTH READING****Luke 2:1–7**

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

**RESPONSE TO THE 4<sup>TH</sup> READING -- *Away in a Manger***

# 277, vs. 1

**FIFTH READING****Luke 2:8–16**

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**SIXTH READING****Luke 2:21–36**

<sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**RESPONSE TO THE SIXTH READING – *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*****# 313, vs. 1****SEVENTH READING****Matthew 2:1–11**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## **RESPONSE TO THE SEVENTH READING – *What Child is This***

**# 296, vs. 1**

### **EIGHTH READING**

**Matthew 2:13–18**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

## **RESPONSE TO THE 8<sup>TH</sup> READING – *Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light (Choir only)***

### **NINTH READING**

**John 1:1–14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet

the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**RESPONSE TO THE 9<sup>TH</sup> READING – *Of the Father's Love Begotten***

**# 295, vs. 1**

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood. Response after each petition:*

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.

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. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Lifegiving God, who brings newness, bearing unseen gifts, may we be open to your presence and receive You fully and joyfully here at Jerusalem and around the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sustaining Spirit, who lives and breathes in us and with us, bring comfort and peace to all who have been devastated by tornadoes. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all in need during the COVID pandemic. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their

burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound.  
Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Pastor:* 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.**

## THE PEACE

*We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

HYMN

*Of The Father's Love Begotten*

# 295, vs. 2-3

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The assembly stands. The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.*

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.**

*The presiding minister continues with the communion 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, though 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:

*the assembly responds:*

HYMN

*Of The Father's Love Begotten*

# 295, vs. 4

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER # 3

. . . 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**

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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*INSIDE WORSHIPERS: Ushers will dismiss you by pew, then please allow a six-foot distance from other households as you approach the altar by the center aisle (tape marks in the center aisle are a helpful guide). Please take an empty glass if you wish to receive wine, or a glass prefilled with grape juice. The*

*pastor will place the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms so that you may receive the body of Christ. Then proceed to one of the chalices where the wine will be poured, or where you will drink the prefilled glass. Those not receiving Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a no-touch blessing.*

*OUTSIDE WORSHIPERS: The Lord's Supper will be brought to those outside by a Communion Assistant, who will use an intinction set so that the consecrated wafer can be dipped in the grape juice, in order to receive the loving body and blood of Christ.*

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Now Is Born the Child Divine*

**French Carol**

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assembly stands. The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

We thank you, wondrous 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.**

## **SENDING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

**# 270**

## **DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**French carol**

## **PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Cecelia Kacmar, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Clarence Zweizig, Melvin Rodriguez & family, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards, Lester Aungst III, Christa Miller, Cathy Covach-Hale, Rev. Bruce MacLaughlin, Nancy Blank, Mary Miller, Rose Martin-Fuls, Earle Kull, Trent Johnson, Nancy Cooper, Dave Reager, Kevin Seibert, Mary Rauch, Tom Lokitus, Albert Tripp, Dorothy Moyer, Helen Fath, Diana Vasquez, Dorothy & Dan Ness, Robin Moran, Kendra Johnson

### **Those with Long-term health issues:**

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Janice Barr, Donna Dizenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary, Harold & Fay Sausser

### **Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

## **WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY**

	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Ellayna Boyer	Philip Kriner
<b>Lector</b>	Conner Roeder	Beverly Kriner
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Joy Heffner	Linda Covert
<b>Ushers</b>	John Macnutt Donald Nettles	Donald Boyer Deb Reed
<b>Sound Board</b>	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
<b>Counters</b>	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay	

## **WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lou Messina	Linda Covert
<b>Lector</b>	Laurie Bedford	Rob Baessler

<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Karen Ochenrider	Rebekah CdeBaca
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Shay	Tom Gohsler
	Conner Roeder	Amy Gohsler
<b>Sound Board</b>	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
<b>Counters</b>	Lou Messina and Janet Sattizahn	

**THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES** are to the Glory of God in honor of Rev. Linda Bonfiglio for her birthday by the Boyer family.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to take down the Christmas decorations after the 10:30 am worship service today!

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD** will be celebrated on Sunday, January 9th. It is an appropriate time for us to also remember our baptisms, so on that day we encourage you to *wear something white*, in remembrance of your baptism. White, like infant baptismal gowns, or adults albs, is the symbol for God's gracious forgiveness (see Revelation 7:13).

***WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY...***

Many people love to sit and watch sports events and be entertained. It is exciting at times and can bring feelings of elation. What can seem to surpass that is if YOU are the one playing with your team: holding, kicking or batting the ball or finishing a marathon, for instance! The end result is exciting when winning, but it really is the whole event that combines to make the experience for us!

Whether you think of it this way or not, you are part of something much larger as a community of faith; the Body of Christ. And while some people think of coming to worship as a spectator sport, it is not! You are a participant in one of the most engaging 'activities' and exciting relationships there is with Jesus the Christ, each other, and indeed the world! And it is not just during the 'event' but every moment of our lives!

With this in mind, I'd like to invite you to take your bulletins home with you and make time to pray the intercessory prayers we prayed together at least once a day!

We all have stories of the power of prayer, not just getting the answers we want, but of how the presence of God walked with us through challenging or easier times guiding us!

Worshiping as a congregation, even when separated from each other by health issues or COVID or daily life- together with Christ we are co-creators of our lives, our families, our congregation and our world! Prayer is powerful on so many levels!

We invite you to join in prayer daily and deepen your relationship with God, each other and the world to experience true joy and grace!