

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in Holy Communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

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.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP binders are available in the church lobby.

HOLY COMMUNION

4th Sunday in Advent – December 19th, 2021 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.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 worshiping 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

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GATHERING

PRELUDE

Wake Awake
Jerusalem Handbell Choir

Anna Laura Page

The bell rings calling us to worship.

ENTRANCE HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Red Hymnal # 265

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other. 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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH, WEEK 4

8:00am Lou Messina 10:30am Jim and Linda Covert Written for a leader and assembly.

LITANY

L: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L: We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives.

O Emmanuel.

Surprise us by your coming.

L: We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L: We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Light all four candles.

SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

257, st. 7

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

The assembly inside is seated.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly inside stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-46a

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.





You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia.

⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was

spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said,



The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(8:00) Beverly Kriner (10:30) Rebekah CdeBaca

SERMON Pastor David Rowe

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

Red Hymnal #723

The assembly stands. All proclaim the word of God in song.

(8:00) APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

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.

(10:30) HOLY BAPTISM

Liam Gregory Gross Korbin Michael Gross p. 227

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Bring comfort and healing to the Midwest ravaged by tornadoes. Make us servants of your compassion and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Welcoming God, we pray for Liam and Korbin who you have brought into your family, that they may grow in faith and service. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we pray for Ava Sweigert, Penelope Kramer, and Ronald Kramer, that your Bread of Life in the Lord's Supper may always assure them of your love for them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to all who are pregnant. Comfort women struggling with infertility, all people who await test results, people seeking treatment or hospice care, and all whom we now raise in prayer before you.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who alone does wonders,

who lifts up the lowly,

who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God. *Silence is kept for reflection*.

God for whom we wait.

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children

and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

⊕ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

PASSING 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.

ANTHEM

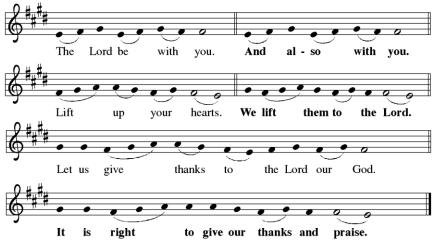
Who Will Make Him Welcome?

Lloyd Larson

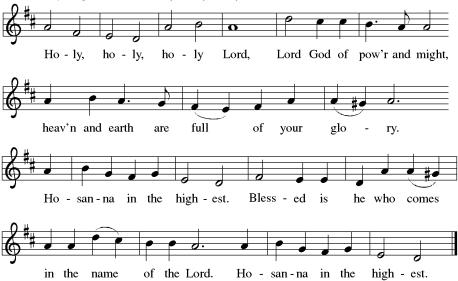
MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.



The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; and then the assembly responds with "Holy, Holy, Holy."



EUCHARISTIC 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.

COMMUNION

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 CHIOR ANTHEM Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming Ruth Schram

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

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 SONG

Joy to the World

Red Hymnal # 267

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission. Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may leave immediately after the dismissal, or those wishing to stay to listen to the full prelude may leave later.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Robert Innes

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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 Direnzo, 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

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	Rob Baessler
Lectors	Julie Coleman	Bob McCloy
Children's Sermon	Beverly Kriner	Rebekah CdeBaca
Communion Assistants	Jean Loose	Rebekah CdeBaca
Ushers	Joy Heffner	Luke Hale
	John Macnutt	Noah Hale
Video Recorder		Mary Rowe
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, & Marie Shay	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

	5:00pm	8:00pm
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	James Covert
Lectors	Philip Kriner	Laurie Bedford
Children's Sermon	Pastor David Rowe	

Faith Batz Donald Boyer

Video Recorder Joanne Wertz

Sound Board Rachel Kramer Gary Reager

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Mary Rowe	Lloyd Wertz
Lectors	Karen Ochenrider	Linda Covert
Children's Sermon	Audrey Christ	
Communion Assistants	Deb Reed	Rebekah CdeBac

Communion Assistants Deb Reed Rebekah CdeBaca Ushers John Macnutt Frank Mahoney

Video Recorder

Sound Board Paul Boyer Danika Kuhar

Counters Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, & Janet Sattizahn

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Gina & William Covach, Lee Bruno, and Gerry Hale by their family.

JERUSALEM'S SANCTUARY AND DAYCARE CHRISTMAS TREES ARE donated in honor of Martena Schnerring by Pioneer Evergreen Farms.

THROUGH HOLY BAPTISM GOD WELCOMES Liam Gregory Gross and Korbin Michael Gross as sons in the family of God. Both boys are the sons of Gregory and Adrienne Gross. Please support and welcome Liam and Korbin with your prayers and encouragement as they grow in faith.

WE REJOICE that three young people will receive their FIRST COMMUNION TODAY. Ave Sweigert, Penelope Kramer, and Ronald Kramer have desired, and now will receive the tangible gift of Christ's love along with the promise that Jesus has given himself to us.

IN RESPONSE TO THE TRAGIC AND DEADLY TORNADOES that have struck the midwest, we are gathering a SPECIAL OFFERING FOR LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE. You can give either by designating on your regular offering envelope, or by putting your gift in the SPECIAL offering envelopes in the back next to the offering plates. Lutheran Disaster Response provides immediate relief, and long-term care and volunteers in the wake of disasters.

PLEASE SIGN the greeting card out at the "Sign-Up Center" for Pastor Rowe.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS will be different due to the Office Administrator being on vacation from December 24th until after the New Year. For pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor Rowe on his cell phone at 570-933-5511. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to take down the Christmas decorations after the 10:30 am worship service on January 2^{ND} .

AS OF NOVEMBER 29TH, our capital campaign total is \$311,910.65. Thank you for your offerings! As of December 6th, we have paid \$168,291.46 on the principal of \$439,430.00 leaving a balance of \$271,138.54 plus interest.

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING for the mission and ministry of Jerusalem makes a huge difference each year. As you buy gifts for others, please keep Jerusalem on your gift-list so that we can end the year in a strong position for 2022 (gifts must be received by Dec.27th)! You can designate on your regular offering envelope, one that has been mailed to you, or there are extra Christmas offering envelopes available in the back next to the offering plates. Thank you!

THE FINAL DAY FOR YOUR 2021 OFFERINGS will be Monday, Dec. 27th by 9 AM. Offerings may be dropped off at the office at 9 AM that day or placed in the mail slot before the office opens at 9. If you plan to mail offerings, allow plenty of time to arrive **before** Christmas Eve as our mail delivery arrives after the office closes and there are no weekend deliveries. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP! Services will be held at 5:00 and 8:00 PM with special prelude music starting a half hour before the service. Please invite unchurched family and friends to join you for scripture and prayer, candlelight and communion, as together we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

CHURCH HALL RENTALS currently unavailable due to the uptick in Coronavirus cases.

CHOIR REHEARSAL for Wednesday, December 29th is cancelled.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND will be a service of lessons and carols featuring many scripture readings and hymns, as well as Holy Communion.

EXPOSURE TO COVID AND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE – if you are exposed to someone with Covid (within 6 feet, for over 10 minutes), please stay away from church activities until you either have a negative Covid test taken 3-5 days after exposure, or you have gone for 10 days without symptoms. Although you have been vaccinated and are both much less likely to contract Covid and have a much lower risk of a severe or dangerous illness, you still can get it and spread it (we have had four fully vaccinated members of the choir get Covid). Thank you for showing loving one another and caring for yourself as a child of God.

WEATHER CANCELLATION OF SERVICES! If there is no electricity during the winter, services will automatically be cancelled. *With snow and ice, please use your best judgment about your travel, because conditions do vary by neighborhood.* If services are cancelled they will be announced by 6:30 am on:

- The church answering machine message. Call the church office at 570-385-2657.
- **Facebook and the church web page** will announce Sunday closings if the administrator can get internet access from home.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

WEDNESDAY 6:15pm Bell Rehearsal

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Property Committee Meeting

FRIDAY 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, Pastor

610 987 9798(H) 570-933-5511 (C) pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com

Audrey Christ, Music Director

musicdirector@jerusalemlutheran.com

Tanya Cartwright, Director of Faith & Families Ministries

Rachel Kramer, Parish Administrator
Jill McCloy, Treasurer
Karen Ochenrider, Financial Secretary
Gina Cappel, Child Care Director
Mike Sausser, Sexton
Deborah Reed, President of Church Council

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linknomad@hotmail.com
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Dear Siblings in Christ,

As the days until my retirement after December 31 dwindle to a few, I want to thank you for the privilege of being your pastor the past nine years. God has been at work in Jerusalem, and I give thanks for the members, leaders, and colleagues who have partnered with me for the mission and ministry of the church, as well as for the personal times of friendship and support, comfort and joy that you have brought to Mary and me.

Please know that after we leave, we will keep you in our prayers, and look forward to your future as a congregation, and as individuals. However, in order not to intrude on the next pastoral colleague, I will not do any pastoral acts, and in conversations we will not weigh-in on Jerusalem's ministry in the future (this is not only a personal decision, but what is expected of all pastors after leaving). Yet we will continue to celebrate fellowship, friendships, and God's future.

Thank you again for your love, care, and partnership with us.

Peace,

Pastor Rowe