

*December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day  
10:00 am Carols & Holy Communion*



*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church*

11900 Darnestown Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2210

(301) 869-3666 (Voice) / (301) 869-8702 (Fax)

[www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org) / [office@poplutheran.org](mailto:office@poplutheran.org)

The Rev. Steven A. Buechler, Senior Pastor

Danielle Drobny, Pianist & Music Coordinator

Martha Rogers, Administrative Secretary

+ + + THE GATHERING + + +

**Prelude:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (In the Setting of Edward MacDowell's "To a Wild Rose" from *Woodland Sketches*, Op. 51) - Jon Canary; electric guitar

**Greetings and Announcements**

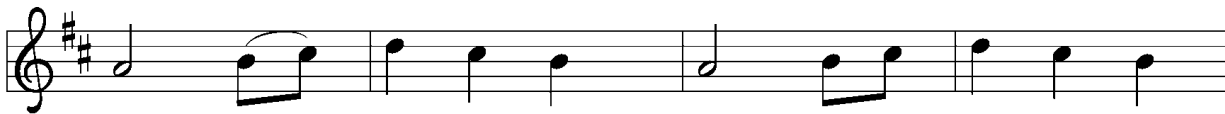
**Opening Carol:** "*The First Noel*" (verses 1-3)



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.

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

C) **And also with you.**

P) Let us pray ... Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C) **Amen.**

+ + + **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD** + + +

**First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you?" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?" And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the

work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

*R) The Word of the Lord.*

**C) Thanks be to God.**

*P) The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.*

**C) Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

*P) The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Hymn of the Day: "Once in Royal David's City"



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.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

## Nicene Creed

**C) We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

- P) Rejoicing in the Word made flesh, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition concludes:*

- P) God of grace and truth,

- C) **Hear our prayer.**

- P) Trusting in your mercy, O saving God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, through the one born among us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- C) **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

- P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C) **And also with you.**

## The Offering

*We encourage everyone to support our ministry together here at Prince of Peace! If possible, [please give electronically](#) or through online banking. If you are worshipping live with us, you may also place your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give electronically. Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!*



## The Offertory

*Keep Christmas With You* - David Axelrod and Samuel Pottle; arr. Cathy Stamegna  
(Rebecca Poyatt; soprano)

## Offertory Prayer

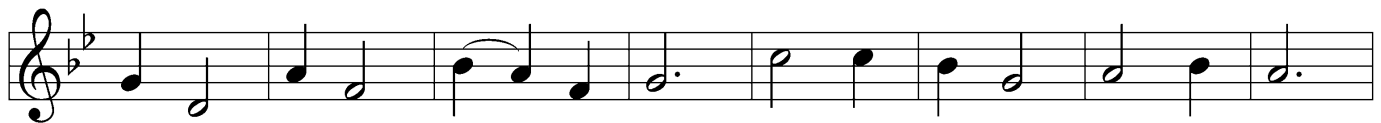
- P) Let us pray... Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

- C) **Amen.**

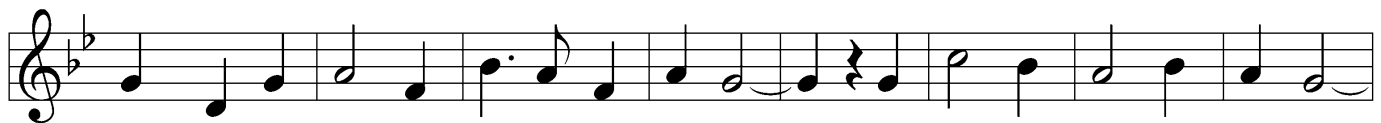
## The Great Thanksgiving

- P) The Lord be with you.
- C) **And also with you.**
- P) Lift up your hearts.
- C) **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might:



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## The Eucharistic Prayer

P) We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,  
inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things,  
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,  
sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,  
we lift this bread and cup before you,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever.

**C) Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C) **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.**

## Lamb of God

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a square box symbol. The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) on the notes 'a', 'way', 'the', 'sin', and 'world' in the first and third lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## **Communion**

Communion will be distributed by individual glass (red wine; white grape juice) if you are worshipping in person. Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you are worshipping at home, please commune yourself or one another with the words:  
*The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

## **Music During Communion**

*I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day* - arr. Victor Labenske

- P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C) **Amen.**

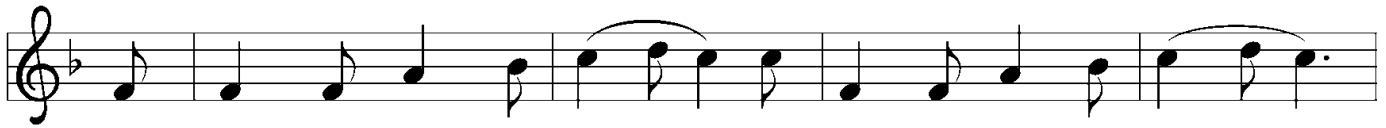
## **Post-Communion Prayer**

- P) Let us pray... God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this supper we have feasted on your grace. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

## **The Benediction**

- P) May Christ, the bright and morning star, fill you with light and life this Christmas and always, and Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C) **Amen.**

**Closing Carol: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

**Dismissal**

- P) Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C) **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Please also join us on:**

***Sunday, December 29***

Worship @ 10:00 am

(In-person & [\*\*live stream on Facebook\*\*](#))

Portions of this bulletin are reprinted from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22939. Some song lyrics are reprinted under CCLI License # 1427026. Some hymn texts and tunes are reprinted under One License # A-709186. Some hymn text and tunes are reprinted under permission of New Dawn license agreement. Scriptural readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.