

Christmas Eve



Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022 ~ 5pm
at historic

Upper Tincum Evangelical Lutheran Church
188 Upper Tincum Church Road
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
(610) 294-9391

<http://facebook.com/uppertincumlch>

The Rev. Jim Heckman, Guest Pastor

Corey Olver, Guest Musician

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**C God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen**

P Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN LBW #45 “O, Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE GREETING

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.

THE CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P The light shines in the darkness.

C and the darkness has not overcome it.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have beheld Christ’s glory.

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

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

P Glory to God in the highest!

C HYMN OF PRAISE LBW# 71: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray,

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; 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 FIRST READING: 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!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: 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.

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

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN LBW #56: "The First Noel"

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

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.

P The Holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And 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 he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE – Hymn #34 (vs. 5)

“Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

THE CHRISTMAS HYMN- LBW #60 – “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

A Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is

suffering, and healing where there is disease (*regions in crisis may be named*). God of grace,,

C hear our prayer.

A You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain (*especially*). Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

P/ The peace of the Christ Child be with you always.

C/ And also with you.

*(Please greet each other with a **non-contact** sign of Christ's peace.)*

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

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 our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus ...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray in confidence the words our Lord has taught us:

**C 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Glory to God in the highest!

Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION

(Please come forward to altar by center aisle, return by side aisle.)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Response: Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN LBW# 67: "Away in a Manger"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table

with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,

send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,

born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-14

(Ushers will light candles as the gospel is read)

P: The Gospel of the Lord:

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power

to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴And 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.

THE CHRISTMAS HYMN LBW #65 “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

THE BLESSING

P 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, ✝ the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C Thanks be to God.

(Candles are extinguished at this time.)

HYMN LBW# 39: “Joy to the World”

THE POSTLUDE

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