



Fourth Sunday of Advent

**December 20, 2020**

**St. Martin's Lutheran Church + Archbold, Ohio**

**Rev. Paul Reichert**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

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Regular text is spoken by the Pastor or Worship Leader

**Bold text is spoken by the Congregation**

### We Gather for Worship

#### PRELUDE

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

arr. by R. Hobby

#### BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come.

**Make all things new.**

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

**Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any lingering bitterness that scratches our soul:

**Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

**Give us the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

In this season of hope and expectation, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for personal reflection*

God of advent,

**restore our hearts with your loving presence. In this season of decreasing daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We cling to the worldly things around us and we put ourselves above all. We often fail to serve you when we do not serve others. Free us from the power of sin and lead us to live as your holy people, in the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Hear the Good News: God's Son, the light of the world, was sent to free us from sin, to show God's infinite love and forgiveness for all. Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new.

**Amen**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.

God of Advent, gather us, forgive us and keep us awake as we light this circle of light. You continue to do great things for us, may we be your light in the world, serving those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

***"He Came Down"***

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

## We Hear the Word

### **FIRST READING – 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALMODY – Mary's Song from Luke 1:46-55**

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior.

**God cares for me, his humble servant.**

From now on, all people will say God has blessed me.

**God the almighty has done great things for me, and his name is holy.**

He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him.

**The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud.**

He drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power.

**God gives the hungry good things to eat, and sends the rich away with nothing.**

God helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people.

**The Lord made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his family forever!**

## **SECOND READING – Romans 16:25–27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING – Luke 1:26-38**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with 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.

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

**MESSAGE**

***"Rejoice, Jesus Has Come!"***

# We Respond to the Word

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY

## **“Once in Royal David’s City”**

*Please sing unison on Verse 4*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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.

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *Apostles' Creed*

**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 into hell.  
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**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**      *(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you.")*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

***"Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song)***

*Amy Grant & Chris Eaton, arr. by R. Emerson*

*Andrea Avers, JoAnn Benecke, Gwen Grisier, JoAnn Liechty, Melanie Nagel,  
Robin Trudel, Deb Schnitkey, Cristie Sevey, MacKenna Whitacre*

*I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a baby inside.  
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come and chosen me now to carry Your Son.*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer, I am frightened by the load I bear.  
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now, be with me now.*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness for You are holy,  
Breath of Heaven.*

*Do You wonder as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan. Help me be strong, help me.*

## We Share in the Meal

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, King of glory. You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to be a light among us.

In weakness, he took on our flesh in the form of a child to live and grow as one of us.

In weakness and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory, and promised his return to us in power to bring us into your everlasting kingdom.

For all this, we thank you, O God. We live in that hope and await his coming again, raising our voices in prayer.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*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.*

Be with us at our table, O God, in our eating and in our drinking, that the Spirit of hope is kindled in our hearts and in our lives, uniting us in him who came and will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

## We Go to Serve

### **\*BLESSING**

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

**Amen**

## \*PRAYER

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## \*BENEDICTION

In all our Advent preparations, let us remain watchful with our eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and forever.

**Amen**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### ***“Angels from the Realms of Glory”***

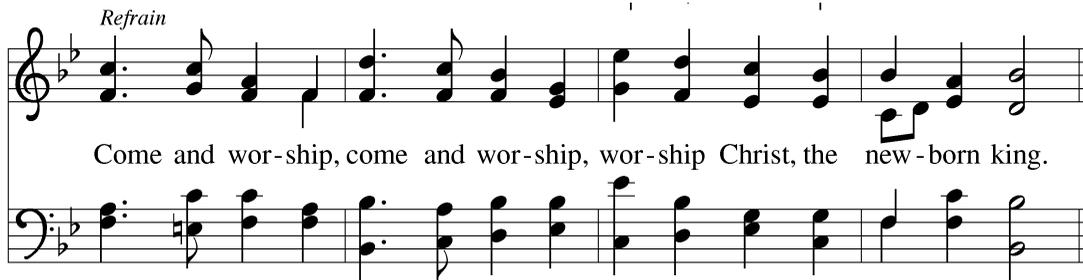
*Please sing unison on Verse 4*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics. The second system contains the remaining lyrics. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style suitable for unison singing.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated and you will be dismissed from your pew,  
starting with the back pews and moving toward the front.  
Please proceed directly outside and do not linger in the Narthex.*

**POSTLUDE**

**Postlude on “Ukrainian Bell Carol”** – arr. A. Fedak

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*Holy Child Within the Manger* Text and Music: Marty Haugen ©1987 GIA Publications

***We Welcome All to St. Martin’s Lutheran Church this Sunday as you join us in person and online to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ.***

**St. Martin’s Worship Servants . . .**

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ministers of Worship | -Everyone Present both near and far |
| Organist/Pianist     | -Steve Basselman                    |
| Pianist              | -Rick Breier                        |
| Lector               | -Gwen Grisier                       |
| Usher Team           | -Mark Weaver                        |
| Sound System         | -Tracy Ziegler                      |
| Offering Counters    | -Jo Ann Liechty, Jeff Benecke       |

# St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502

Phone Number: 419-445-4656 Fax: 419-445-2952

Web Site: [www.the-welcome-place.org](http://www.the-welcome-place.org)

Office Hours:

Pastor Paul Reichert

Mon & Tues, by appt.

Wed & Thurs, 9-3

Deacon Steve Basselman

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri. afternoon

Brenda Shibler

Tues. – Fri. 8:00-12:30

e-mail: [stmartin@the-welcome-place.org](mailto:stmartin@the-welcome-place.org) [pastorpaul@the-welcome-place.org](mailto:pastorpaul@the-welcome-place.org)

[steveb@the-welcome-place.org](mailto:steveb@the-welcome-place.org)

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday

7:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

-9:00 Sunday & 7:00 Wednesday live broadcast on Facebook and YouTube

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## Building The Welcome Place

**Who Are We? We are The Welcome Place**

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Romans 15:7

**What Is Our Mission As A Church And As Members? WWW**

We are...**Welcoming** friends and strangers with God's love.

**Working** to build deeper relationships with Jesus.

**Witnessing** to share God's love with everyone

**What Is Our Vision Of Who God Wants Us To Be? ORG**

People who are serving...**One Real God**,

living **One real faith**,

making **One real difference**.

**How Do We Remind Ourselves?**

[www.the-welcome-place.org](http://www.the-welcome-place.org)

Welcome to worship today and join us in building The Welcome Place Jesus calls us to be.

## **This Week at St. Martin's**

### **Today – December 20 – Advent IV**

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast  
Adult Sunday School, via Zoom, 10:30 am  
Virtual Sunday School  
Chancel Choir Recording Session, 7:00 pm

### **Monday – December 21**

No Monday Night Bible Study

### **Tuesday – December 22**

Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 6:45, St. Martin's Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday – December 23**

Bulletin Deadline, 9:00 am  
Welcome Meal, 5:15 pm, drive through pick-up  
Worship, 7:00 pm, live broadcast  
Adult Circle, 7:30, via zoom  
No Catechism

### **Thursday – December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve Family Service, online only, see page 16  
Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service, online only, see page 16  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 11:00 pm, in-person & live streamed

### **Friday – December 25 – Christmas Day**

Christmas Day Service, 10:00 am, Holy Communion, in-person & live streamed  
Deacon Steve preaching

### **Next Sunday – December 27**

Worship, 9:00 am, live broadcast, Deacon Steve preaching

Thank you to all who shared your Poinsettias with us this Christmas . . .

Clare Badenhop in memory of Elden Badenhop

Pat Basselman in honor of Pastor Paul, Deacon Steve and all others who gave a special effort to help St. Martin's through this pandemic



Steve & Jen Basselman in appreciation to all those who served in the music and worship ministries the last 9 months

Jeff & Jo Ann Benecke in memory of Dexter, Janis & Melissa Benecke; Joseph & Juanita Goubeaux and in honor of Pastor Paul

Dick & Melanie Nagel in memory of Karl & Mildred Nagel and Fred & Virginia Witte

Steve & Bonnie Meyer in memory of Wayne & Mabel Wyse and Bob & Buzzy Meyer

Tim & Debbie Smith in memory of Fred & Ginnie Witte and Harold & Marilyn Smith and in honor of the Ken & Michelle Collins Family, the Paul & Toni Thiel Family and the Tyson & Katie Smith Family

Sheryl McCarthy & Scott Spohler in memory of Sandie Spohler, Esther & Paul Greene, and Anna & Art Spohler and in honor of Don Spohler, Kate & Ellie McCarthy and Anna & Sarah Spohler

Jim & Jane Stevens in honor of their grandchildren

Tim & Chris Ziegler in memory of Alexa Pinter, Junior & Harriette Eicher and Jim & Willie Ziegler and in honor of their children and grandchildren

**Last Week at St. Martin's . . .**

Receipts Week of 12-13-2020 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	\$3,329.00	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	\$5,402.00
Benevolence Received	\$115.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	\$538.71
Other Designated Income	\$269.00	As of 11-30-2020	
Total Income	\$3,713.00	YTD Operating Received	\$251,169.58
		YTD Operating Expenses	(\$245,872.21)
Attendance – 50		Net Income/(Deficit)	\$5,297.37

## St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:  
All Believers as we look for the coming Messiah, may we be ready to see the Son of Man coming  
in a cloud with power and great glory  
All in Need both body & soul that we might know the joy we have in the presence of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and King  
Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Synod Staff members and all the office staff, that they may be  
supported in their ministry to the Church  
The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, St. Martin's Companion Congregation, may they continue to carry  
out God's ministry and mission in Tanzania  
Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer Lutheran, Toledo may they continue to carry out  
God's ministry and mission in the Toledo Area  
Family & Friends of Henry Huner who went to his eternal home, December 16<sup>th</sup>, may we know  
the comforting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ  
All First Responders, Hospital Staff, Caregivers who have been in harm's way since the outbreak  
of the coronavirus, may we know the ever-present grace of God  
All who have lost family members and friends to the corona virus, may we know the comforting  
presence of our Lord Jesus Christ  
For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God

### Members of St. Martin's

John Breier  
Jerry Geiger  
Sharon Heckel  
Dick Nagel  
Al Siewert  
Joe Wyse

All members, family &  
friends who serve in our  
military, Steve & Sara  
(Delaney) Adams, Patrick  
Cirenza (June Hayes),  
Bradley Nilsson (Pat  
Richards), Christopher  
Goertz, Brendon Johns,  
Kasyn Schaffner,  
Christopher Shirley,  
Spencer Short

### Family & Friends of St. Martin's

Margaret Benecke, Dan & Jeff Benecke's aunt  
Paul Bockelman, Deb Schmidt's father  
Phillip Calvin, Tanya Howell's brother  
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son  
Steven DeNault, June Hayes' friend  
Patricia Grover, friend of Melanie Nagel, ACT friends, cancer  
Kirk Hummel, son-in-law of Carl & Becky Collins, cancer  
Sue Hurst, Archbold area friend  
Greg Jenkins, Pastor Paul's brother-in-law  
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon, Leukemia  
Diana Kosier, sister of Connie Lauber, cancer treatments  
Mary McLennen, friend of Pastor Paul's sister with Covid-19  
Lois Mininger, June Hayes' cousin  
Joan Mortenson, Pastor Paul's sister-in-law  
Ana Perry, Andi Erbskorn's niece  
Doug & April Saville, friends of Gene & Jan Delaney  
Janice Siegel, Dustin Bailey's mother, cancer  
Jennifer Smith, Bill Poston's daughter  
Lu Wolf, Judy (Paul) Wyse's mother

Our Shut-ins Rex Detwiler, Dorothy Huner, Irene Liechty, Ada Thrasher, Louise Wyse

For those who need God's protection and the assurance that he is near

All St. Martin's Members as they prepare for Ministry

Our College students both close to home and far away

①① Prayer requests for the people of St. Martin's ①①  
(Note, we include a person's name with permission.)

# *Christmas Worship*

We are keenly aware that things are different this year, and so our Christmas Worship services will also be different. The elements and formats that we've come to expect at St. Martin's will still be happening, but they will be offered in different ways.

## **Online Only Worship Opportunities**

**Christmas Eve Family Service** – This will be a pre-recorded service available on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages only. Designed with kids in mind, it will follow the typical pattern of our past 4pm Christmas Eve services. Although not in-person, please include this worship service in your family gatherings this year.

**Christmas Eve Festival Worship Service** – This will be a pre-recorded service available on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages only. It will follow the format and content of our typical 7pm worship service format with all its celebration. Although this worship service will not be held in-person, the Chancel Choir and a string quartet will add their musical accompaniment.

## **In-Person Worship Opportunities**

**11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – This will be a reflective service and will close with candlelighting. This service will also be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.

**10:00 am Christmas Day** – This will be a service of carol singing with the celebration of Communion. This service will also be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.

*All worship services, whether they are in-person or online only, will include the celebration of Communion. If you would like communion supplies, please contact the church office. You may pick them up, or we can deliver them to you.*

*Please note that our in-person worship plans may change depending on the circumstances we may be experiencing in the coming days.*