

First English Lutheran Church  
241 N. Main Street, Butler, Pennsylvania 16001  
724-283-2378  
[www.firstenglishbutler.org](http://www.firstenglishbutler.org)

---

*First English Lutheran Church is a welcoming,  
worshiping community rooted in Butler and making  
Christ known in word and deed.*

---

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2021**  
**4:30 p.m.**

*Welcome to all in the name of Christ! Your presence blesses this congregation.  
If you would like to let us know about you, would you please either sign the  
guest books at the back of the sanctuary or fill out a card found in the pew card  
holders and place it in the offering plate? We look forward to getting to know  
you!*

**PRELUDE**      The Carols of Christmas

**WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**GATHERING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”      sts. 1-3      Red Book #283

**DIALOGUE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Sing to God a brand new song!

**For God has done wonderful things!**

God has not forgotten to love us all!

**Even the ends of the earth have heard!**

Make a joyful noise!

**Break forth in song!**

With strings and horns,

**sing praise to the Holy One!**

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

**With all the land and everything in it!**

The floods clap their hands.

**The hills sing for joy.**

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

**Justice for everyone, everything fair.**

Sing to God a brand new song!

**For God has done wonderful things!**

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.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**FIRST READING**      Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

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>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”      sts. 1 & 4      Red Book # 282

## SECOND READING    Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”      sts. 1 & 3      Red Book #270

## THIRD READING      Luke 2:1-7

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”      sts. 1 & 2      Red Book #279

**FOURTH READING** Luke 2: 8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN AND BELL RINGING**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Red Book #289

**MESSAGE**

*The congregation may stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Red Book #290

**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 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Having heard the message of peace brought by the angels, let us bring before God our prayers for the needs of the world.

Loving God, the child born for us this night is the Prince of Peace, and we pray that his gentle rule may come to all people. That this night we may have a deeper understanding of your grace:

**Let your peace come.**

To those whom we know and love, but also to strangers and enemies:

**Let your peace come.**

To the leaders of the nations, and to all who have power to affect the lives of others in significant ways:

**Let your peace come.**

In hospitals and care facilities, and to all people reeling from the pandemic:

**Let your peace come.**

Around those who have suffered disaster in recent weeks:

**Let your peace come.**

Wherever there is terror, violence, or fear,

**Let your peace come.**

To all who are grieving:

**Let your peace come.**

That we may remember with gratitude those who have died and now rest with you:

**Let your peace come.**

Into the manger of your holy love, O God, we lay our prayers, trusting in Jesus, your Son, our Savior.

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may share a sign of peace with one another, saying 'Peace be with you.'*

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - Charles Callahan

*The congregation may stand.*

## OFFERING SONG

"What Child Is This?"

st. 1

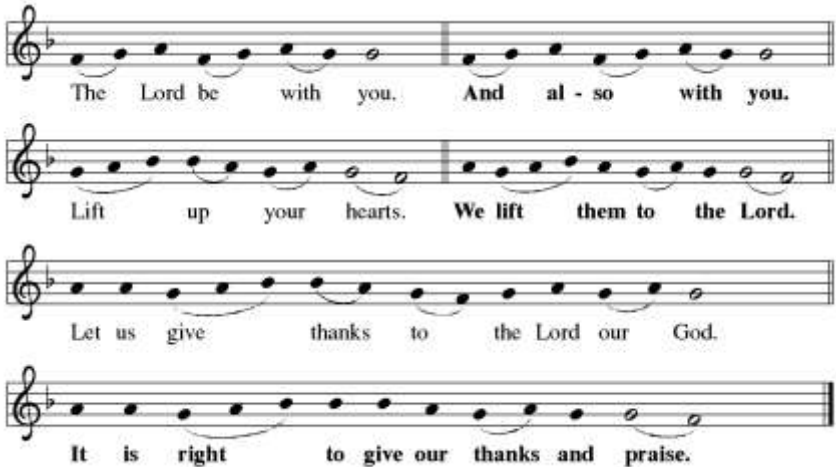
Red Book #296

**OFFERING PRAYER** *led by the assisting minister*

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 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.

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.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

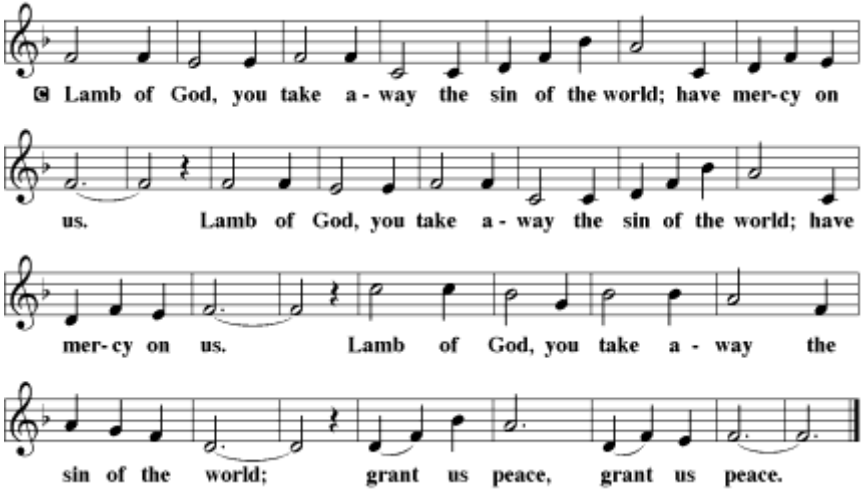
**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's manger and at Christ's table, come and see what God makes known to us.

### 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 congregation may sit.*

### SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT *at the center aisle*

*All baptized Christians — whatever your church background or however long it has been since you have been in church — are invited to receive Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that the body and blood of Christ are present with the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who cannot consume wheat; please let the pastor know. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may still come forward and kneel for a blessing from the pastor.*

### HYMN DURING COMMUNION

“Away In a Manger”

Red Book #277

### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

**Amen.**



**READING AFTER COMMUNION**     John 1:1-4; 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>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.

**HYMN**                    "Silent Night, Holy Night"                    Red Book #281

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O Lord our God, in the quiet of a late night you came in Christ to dwell with us. By making us one with him in bread and wine, inspire us to help those who have no place to live and all who need your love. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

May the Lord God, give you the joy of the angels, the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

"Joy to the World"                                    sts. 1 & 4                                    Red Book #267

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Let Our Gladness Have No End"                    - Kristina Langlois

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Claudia van Driel; Holly Schubert	<b>Readers</b>
Josh Kamerer; Melody Kamerer	<b>AV and PowerPoint Assisting Ministers</b>
Alex Kamerer	<b>Acolyte</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Karen and Bob Domanski	<b>Ushers</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALTAR FLOWERS & POINSETTIAS** are given to the glory of God by: Dorothy Croupe, in loving memory of her husband, Clyde Croupe; Brandi and Brandon Stein; Sandy and Norm Lefebvre; Pastor Kimberly and Edwin van Driel; Joan and Ted Giese; Larry Hamil; Myrna Hamil; Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Tracy Gullickson; Signe Mitchell; and Jessie and Josh Kamerer.

**CHRISTMAS TREE** contributions made by: Karen and Bob Domanski; Grace and Ed Shields; Linda and Ron Huey; Helen and Larry Christy; Signe Mitchell; Carol and Frank Miller; Jan and Victor Nieto; Marilyn Shoup; Sandy and Norm Lefebvre; Brenda Ihlenfeld; Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Myrna Hamil; Larry Hamil; Pat and Joe Zupancic; Susan Farrell; Hazel Warheit; Danna Drescher; Robin Critchlow; Laura and Brent Warmbrod; Thelma Jean Cross

**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED** Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas holiday.

**Prayer request cards** can be found in the pews and placed in the offering plate. Names will be added to the prayer list and your concerns will be shared with First English's prayer team. "Pray without ceasing!"