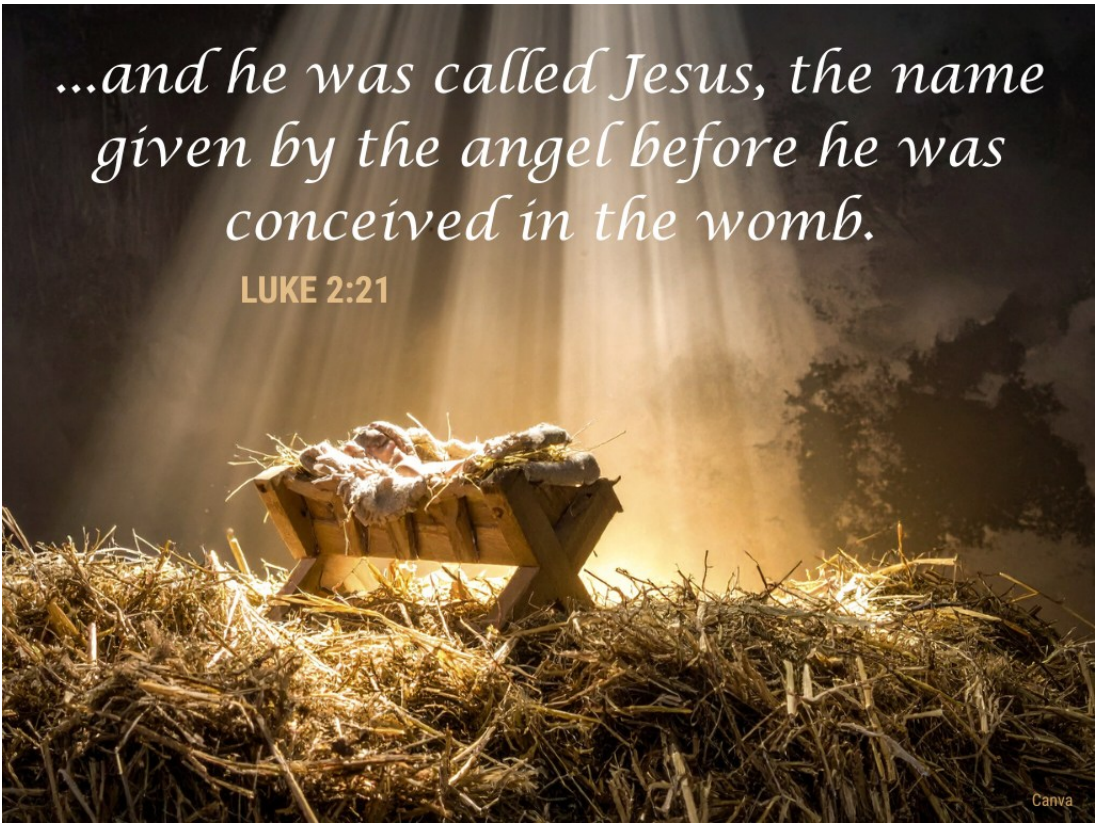


*...and he was called Jesus, the name  
given by the angel before he was  
conceived in the womb.*

LUKE 2:21



DECEMBER 28, 2025



# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own.*

## PRELUDE

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME

### OPENING SONG

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)**



- 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.

*Refrain*



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

### ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace

**C: Amen.**

A: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence For Reflection*

A: Reconciling God,

**C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

A: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**C: Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 together,

**C: Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# THE WORD

## This Little Light of Mine

### Verse 1

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### Verse 2

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## A READING FROM

## NUMBERS 6:22-27

*God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God's name and God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.*

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them:

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

"So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

## A RESPONSIVE READING

## PSALM 8

*How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)*

L: O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

**C: you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

L: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**C: what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

L: Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

**C: You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

L: all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

**C: O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

## A READING FROM

## GALATIANS 4:4-7

*Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## THE GOSPEL READING

## LUKE 2:15-21

*(Congregation standing)*

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Luke, beginning in the second chapter.

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

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

When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

## PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION ON THE GOOD NEWS





1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

# 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 PEOPLE

A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*Each petition shall conclude with:*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The Prayers conclude:*

A: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

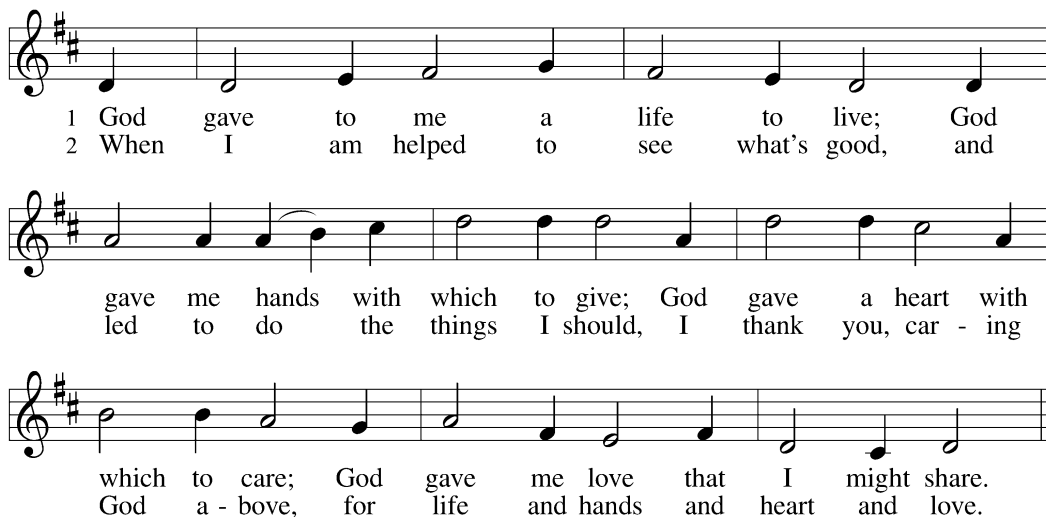
## THE MEAL

### THE OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY

### God Gave to Me a Life to Live



1 God gave to me a life to live; God  
2 When I am helped to see what's good, and

gave me hands with which to give; God gave a heart with  
led to do the things I should, I thank you, car - ing

which to care; God gave me love that I might share.  
God a - bove, for life and hands and heart and love.

### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Glory of God,

**C: great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.**

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. 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 our thanks and praise!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles.*

**Communion is by intinction.** *We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.*

*Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.*

*Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.*

### LAMB OF GOD

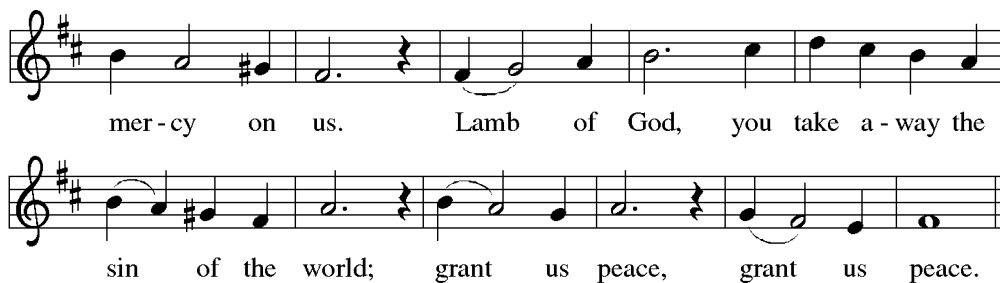


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

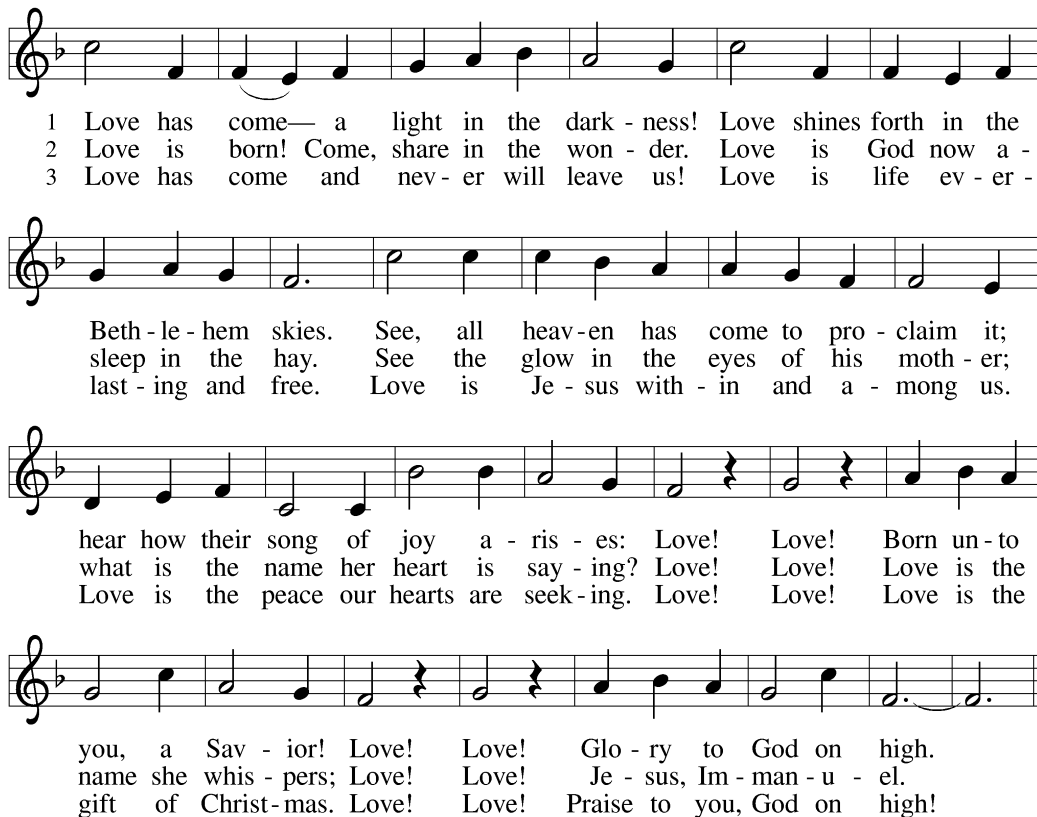




mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

## Love Has Come (ELW 292)



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -  
Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.  
hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the  
you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

# THE SENDING

## THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son  $\text{✙}$ , and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## Go Tell it on the Mountain (ELW 290)

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

*Refrain*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

**C: I'm gonna let it shine!**

A: What's in a name? Maybe there's a story behind your name, maybe there isn't, but there is a story behind Jesus' name and the name we bear as Christians. As Christians we are called to be like Christ and in Jesus we have a savior who embodied God's love for all of creation. There are many in God's world who are yet to hear this good news. As Christians may we live out God's love. We do this until...

**C: Everyone knows that God loves them!**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



*If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.*

*\*\* Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to [communications@epiphanysuwanee.org](mailto:communications@epiphanysuwanee.org).*



# EPIPHANY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

**Ministers:** The People of God

**Pastor:** Chris Hermansen

**Minister of Youth:** Kris Perkola

**Director of Worship and Music:** Steve Belfield, Interim

**Worship Production:** Steve Belfield

**Worship Accompanist:** Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

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**Angels from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)**

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Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4  
Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879  
Music & Text: Public Domain

**Light the Advent Candle**

Arranged with new words by Ruth Elaine Schram  
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**Alleluia**

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**Prepare The Royal Highway**

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**Come, Bring Them to the Table**

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**Lamb of God**

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
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**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

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**Hark, the Glad Sound**

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- ◆ Text EPIPHANYGA to 73256
- ◆ Use your bank's online bill pay feature to set up recurring giving
- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

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[www.epiphanysuwanee.org](http://www.epiphanysuwanee.org)