

MAY YOU SHINE  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST IN THE  
NEW YEAR!



New Year's Eve  
Communion Service

December 31, 2020

**THEME: SHOUT FOR JOY FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

**OPENING HYMN**            67 – “What Child is This?” (verses 1 & 3)

**1. What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems  
sweet While shepherds watch are  
keeping? This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard & angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**3. So bring him incense, gold, and  
myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own  
him. The King of kings Salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

*Please stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** We gather to worship in the name of the Father:

**C:** **Whose love reached down from heaven and gave us His Son and adopts us as His children through faith in Jesus Christ.**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Son:

**C:** **Who gave His life on a cross to bring us forgiveness and eternal life.**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Holy Spirit:

**C:** **Who gave us the gift of faith and makes us members of God's family. Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Whenever we come into the presence of God we bring with us the guilt of our many sins. We recognize God's perfect holiness. We acknowledge His righteous demands that we be holy as He is Holy. And we admit that our human nature is stained through and through by sin. The problems we see in our world today and in hurting families, we find in our own hearts. Like Isaiah of old we are moved to confess our sin before God.

**C: I confess that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. My heart wrestles with pride, selfishness, and rebellion. I often experience sinful thoughts and desires. I often speak and act in ways that hurt and offend you and others. I have not always been a faithful steward of my faith by passing it on to others. I know that nothing I do or say can earn forgiveness. But I also know you are a loving and gracious God. You sent your Son to personally bear my sin on the cross. I come to you and lay the burden of my sin at the cross. My heartfelt plea and certain confidence is that the blood of Jesus cleanses me of my sin and sets me free.**

## ABSOLUTION

P: The Lord has assured us, "As surely as I live, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from evil ways and live." It is my joy and privilege to announce to you that the Lord has taken all your sins and laid them on Jesus. He was condemned in your place. Because of Christ's death, you are forgiven. Because of His resurrection to life, God declares you "not guilty." You are set free from sin to live for God and bring glory to His name.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD

### READING – Philippians 3:4-14

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**PSALM OF THE DAY                  Psalm 96**

*Spoken responsively.*

P: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

**C: proclaim his salvation day after day.**

P: Declare his glory among the nations,

**C: his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

P: Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;

**C: tremble before him, all the earth.**

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

**C: let the sea resound, and all that is in it;**

P: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

**C: Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;**

P: for he comes to judge the world in righteousness

**C: and the peoples in this truth.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **GOSPEL – Luke 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**        71 – “The Old Year Now Has Passed Away” (verses 3-5)

**3. Take not your saving Word away,  
Which lights & cheers our souls each day.  
Abide with us and keep us free  
From error and hypocrisy.**

**4. Oh, help us to forsake all sin,  
A new and holier life begin!  
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless  
The new year with true happiness,**

**5. Wherein as Christians we may live  
Or die in peace that you can give,  
To rise again when you will come  
And enter your eternal home.**

**SERMON:** Philippians 3:4-14

Theme: Forward in Jesus

*Please stand.*

## **OFFERING**

**Offering plates are near the exits in which you may place your thank-offering.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord of glory, you have bought us at a price—the lifeblood of your Son. We are yours. You have called us out of the darkness of unbelief into the wonderful light of faith by the gospel.

**C: We thank you for shining your light in our hearts and bringing us to faith in Jesus. Preserve us from everything that would lead us to sin and would hurt our witness to an unbelieving world. Strengthen us through the power of your Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith.**

P: Remove from our hearts all false pride, selfishness, and rebellion. Cleanse us by the blood of your Son. Strengthen our weak faith that we trust you and the power of your Word.

**C: Open our eyes to the needs of others and the endless opportunities we have to make an eternal difference in their lives by passing our faith on to them. When we are weak and fearful, make us bold in our witness.**

P: We recognize the claim you have on our lives. We understand the mission you have given us—to spread the gospel in our community and throughout the world. We are stewards of the greatest treasure on earth—the Gospel of Jesus—and of the eternal life it gives.

**C: Use us, Lord, as your instruments to make your salvation known throughout the world. Make us faithful stewards of our faith as we pass it on to others through our lives.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our silent, private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: May we make the passing on of our faith to others in the world around us one of the most important priorities of our life. In Christ, the Savior of the world, we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

**C: AMEN.**

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - - - men.

*Please be seated.*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*Please stand.*

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Lord God, we thank you for this year of grace drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word and Sacrament keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we live for you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

P: May God's love in Christ inspire us to be faithful Christians, passing our faith on in our families, with each other in our church, and to others in the world through our lives.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

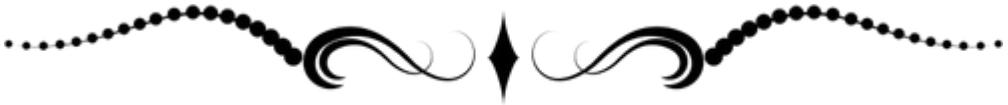
**C: Amen!**

*Please be seated.*

**CLOSING HYMN**      65 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 4)

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears Of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin And enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel! Amen.



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**GREETERS**      today are:

Joyce Beach & Loretta Jansen

Next Sunday:

Tom and Becky Smith – Early Service  
Richard and Ruth Johnson – Late Service

**THANK YOU, PASTOR KRUEGER,** for sharing God’s Word with us this final evening of 2020.

**CALL MEETING!!** There will be a special call meeting on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm to call an associate pastor and a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher/principal and kindergarten teacher. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

**LADIES AID:** Our next meeting will be Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the church sanctuary. Our devotion on prayer will continue. Masks and social distancing will be observed.

**PRAYERS** are requested for John and Mary Gauss; they have both been diagnosed with COVID-19. John is at Blanchard Valley Hospital; Mary is in the nursing home. Please pray for them and all of our hospitalized or homebound members.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the basement. Please retrieve them and double check the address. If the address is incorrect, please contact Clark Inniger at 419-306-0127 or email [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org) or [cdinniger@roadrunner.com](mailto:cdinniger@roadrunner.com). *These are not for use until 2021.*

**THE ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING** will be held on January 27th at 7:30pm. Voters – now is your opportunity to have your voices heard! All voters are encouraged to attend. Voters consist of male communicant members who have reached the age of 18. The Lord has called men to be the leaders for the congregational team. More than likely your grandfather and father have served on the Lord's team over the past years. Now is the time for the next generation to show their love for Him by becoming part of the team. God wants you to serve Him. Your service as a voter is wanted and needed by your Lord and your church.

**A NEW YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School lesson packets for three-year-olds, containing lessons 14-18, are available for pick up in the narthex. Packets are labeled with each child's name and are on the left side of the table. Sunday School for Pre-school through 8th grade continues by lessons-on-video at [nph.net/ss-at-home](http://nph.net/ss-at-home). The Bible lesson for today/this week in #4, "Samson's Sin and God's Mercy." Packets of lessons that go with the videos, can be picked up for Pre-school through 8th grade from a table in the narthex. It's not too late to do Sunday School with your child in 2021. May God bless your child/children as we together continue to share His love.

**CHRISTMAS SHUT-IN DONATIONS** – today is the last day to fill the box. However, if you would still care to donate to brighten the day of our shut-ins, please contact Janet at the school by emailing [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org) or calling 419.326.4685.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** will be taken down on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Please help out if you can! We thank the Decorating Committee for all of their hard work in making our church beautiful for the Christmas season.

# In Loving Memory

*We remember those Trinity members whom God in His  
grace called to their heavenly home in 2020.*

*Robert Schroeder  
Lowell Rossman  
Sandra Boehm  
Dewayne Rossman  
Neil Hindall  
Rosene Rettig*

*Elizabeth Bower  
Jonna Lee Hartman  
Marjorie Hartman  
Joyce Beagle  
Merritt Nessler*