

January 1, 2017

Poetry, Singing, and Celebrating the New Year!



H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs "There's a Star in the East" & "Feliz Navidad"

There's a Star in the East



- 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
- 2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: RISE UP, SHEPHERD, African American spiritual

Feliz Navidad

By Jose Feliciano

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart;

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart.

Welcome, Worship Orientation 101, Connection Cards

Not celebrate? by Ann Weems

Not celebrate?

Your burden is too great to bear?

Your loneliness is intensified during this Christmas season?

Your tears have no end?

Not celebrate?

You should lead the celebration!

You should run through the streets

to ring the bells and sing the loudest!

You should fling the tinsel on the tree,

and open your house to your neighbors, and call them in to dance!

For it is you above all others who know the joy of Advent.

It is unto you that a Savior is born this day,

One who comes to lift your burden from your shoulders,

One who comes to wipe the tears from your eyes.

You are not alone,

for He is born this day to you.

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Blessed be God the Word, who came to his own and his own people did not accept him. It is in this way God glorifies the stranger.

O God, show us your image in all who we meet, especially those we call stranger or other. Show us that when we welcome them, we welcome you. Amen

Meet Someone New

We practice being Christians by extending our hand in friendship to people we may not know very well or at all. If we can't practice it here in worship, where else can we do it? Go ahead, make the first move. "Hi, my name is _____. You're new to me." OR "Can I introduce myself to you?" are good ways to start.

Reprise of "Feliz Navidad" to gather everyone back together

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.
Merciful God,

**you sent a star to guide the men from the East
to the place where the baby lay.
You helped them understand the significance of what they saw
and allowed them to decide wisely
on the best road to take home.
We are sorry for those times
when we turn a blind eye to the guidance you give us
as we seek to follow our own path of faith.
We are sorry for being slow to be moved
by the miracles of your goodness
that are made known to us day by day.
We are sorry for sometimes taking the wrong paths,
for being led by others when their advice or ideas are wrong,
for those times we have been diverted,
choosing instead a lesser code to live by.
Lord help us.
Have mercy on us.
Lead us by a brighter star.
In your Son's name we pray. Amen.**

God, whose faithfulness never fails us, loves and forgives us.
God forgives all our sins – what a wonderful gift! --
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

**Joy to the world! Our Lord Jesus has come!
We welcome you, little king. Dispel the darkness, reign in our hearts –
and reign in our world. Amen.**

Carol – "Joy to the World"

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

The Word

NARRATOR: Our story and God's story continues today, on this first day of a new year, in the book of Luke the 2nd chapter, verses 21-38.

ALL: **Glory to you Oh Lord!**

NARRATOR: After eight days had passed, 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. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

ALL: **"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."**

NARRATOR: And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,

ALL: **"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."**

NARRATOR: There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

NARRATOR: Stay tuned for our story and God's story.
Thanks be to God.

A reflection on Simeon and Anna

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.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Poem

After annunciation by Madeleine L'Engle

This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.

Carol – "Lo, How A Rose"

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Poem

Noel by JRR Tolkien

Grim was the world and grey last night:
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead.
The wind in the trees was like to the sea,
And over the mountains' teeth
It whistled bitter-cold and free,
As a sword leapt from its sheath.
The lord of snows upreared his head;
His mantle long and pale
Upon the bitter blast was spread
And hung o'er hill and dale.
The world was blind, the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child.
The ancient dome of heaven sheer
Was pricked with distant light;
A star came shining white and clear
Alone above the night.
In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
One voice on a sudden sang:
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
Together at midnight rang.
Mary sang in this world below:
They heard her song arise
O'er mist and over mountain snow
To the walls of Paradise,
And the tongue of many bells was stirred
in Heaven's towers to ring
When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
That was mother of Heaven's King.
Glad is the world and fair this night
With stars about its head,
And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
And fires are burning red.
The bells of Paradise now ring
With bells of Christendom,
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
That God on earth is come.

Carol – "In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Poem

Who Wouldn't Go? (Up on the Housetop)

by Matthew D. Meyer

Like a thief in the night, o Lord, descend,
down through the chimney with lots of toys
with a click and a trump and a ho, ho, ho!

Then, o Lord, what Christmas joys--
all of creation like a stocking filled
(oh, just see what a glorious fill!)
with new heav'n and earth,
with gold and pearl and precious stone.

Thy kingdom come, o Lord,
wrapped in ribbon, swaddling cloths--
all for the little ones: Christmas joys.
Virgin by Sam Gutierrez
It seems everyone wants at least 3-5 years experience.
Except God, that is.
He looks for the one willing to try something new.

Carol – "It Came upon A Midnight Clear"

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Poem

Yesterday's Pain

by Ann Weems

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life,
there is a deafening alleluia
rising from the souls of those who weep,
and of those who weep with those who weep.
If you watch, you will see
the hand of God
putting the stars back in their skies
one by one
Yesterday's Pain
Some of us walk in Advent
tethered to our unresolved yesterdays
the pain still stabbing
the hurt still throbbing.
It's not that we don't know better;
it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves.
On the way of Bethlehem, will you give us a hand?

Carol – "What Child Is This"

What Child Is This

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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

The Feast

Prayers of the People

Offering

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. Let us give back to God in a spirit of generosity. There will be enough. Please put your offering of gratitude to God in the plate as it passes by. Prayerfully consider giving a consistent financial gift to River of Hope so our community cannot just survive but thrive.

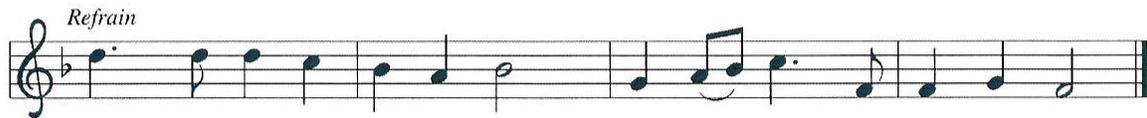
Offering Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Setting the Table

As the kids help set the table, they make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:

Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothes and fed. Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

And also 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 God thanks and praise.

Words to Bless the Feast

On the night in which he was betrayed...

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence. Come holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to join hands with those around you in prayer. If you are not the hand-holding type, then simply fold your hands in front of you or hang onto this bulletin as you pray.

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.

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 the Meal

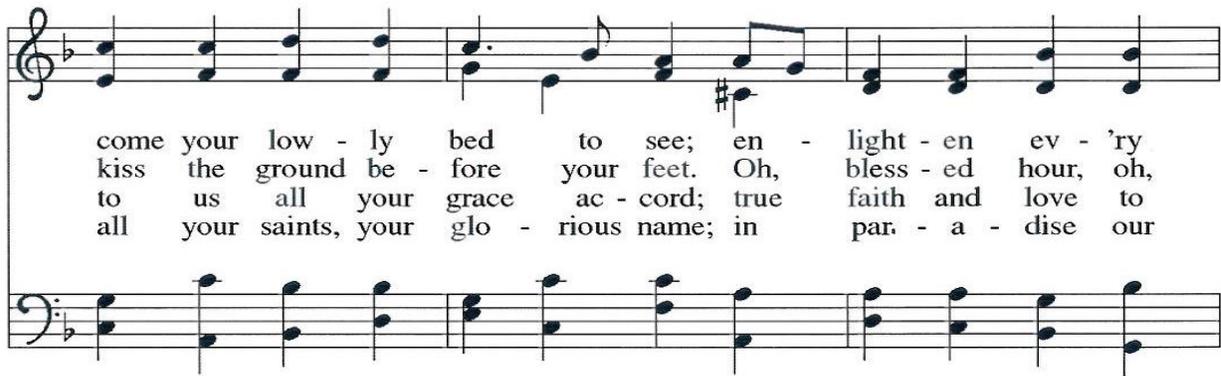
You are welcome to this meal. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

Communion Carols "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" & "Love Has Come"

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
 sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

Love Has Come



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!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of grace received at this table. Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of the world in need. Draw us near to you through your body and blood, through your presence in this world here and now. Amen.

The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Milestones! "Auld Lang Syne"

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaint-ance be for-got, and nev-er brought to mind? Should auld acquaint-ance
be for-got and days of Auld Lang Syne? For Auld — Lang — Syne, my dear, for
Auld — Lang — Syne, We'll tak' a cup o' kind-ness yet, for — Auld — Lang — Syne.

Chords: F, C, F, F7, Bb, F, C7, A/C#, Dm, Gm7, C7, F, C7, F, C7, F, F, Bb, F, C7, A/C#, Dm, Gm7, C7, F

Toast and Blessing for the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017

Let us bid 2016 farewell. With gratitude, we step into this new year, shaped by the events of this past year, both good and hard. Let us ask God to help us let go of the things that need to be let go of. Let us ask God to teach us and prepare our hearts, our minds, our lives for today, the beginning of 2017.

Children of God, knowing that nothing you do is separate from God, what are your prayers, your hopes and dreams for the coming year, the year of our Lord 2017?

*Individual toasts are made. After each toast is spoken aloud, the congregation responds, **Here's to hope in the new year!***

Carol - "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

p.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

p.

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.
Music: African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953–2002
Arr. from *The New Century Hymnal* (#136). © 1992 Pilgrim Press.

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Go in peace – serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Music to Send You Out

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