

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ist Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025, 10:30 AM
Austin Campus Traditional Worship (Livestreamed)

“Let Fear Fuel a Fire for Justice”

Gather

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In worship, we hear God’s story and we ask

C: What did God do long ago?

P: In worship, we hear God’s story so we ask

C: What is God doing here and now?

P: In worship, we hear God’s story then we ask

C: What can I do to respond to it all?

P: Listen, God is speaking

C: Listen, it may be time to act

P: Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Emmanuel, God with us

C: Scripture tells us that you were a refugee,

but we love to forget that information.

We love to forget every act of gun violence.

We love to forget how many people go hungry,

or how many students do not have access to good education.

We love to forget the injustices in our world that feel too big for us to face.

But you are a God who refuses to forget.

So today we pray:

Make it impossible for us to overlook the stories of those in need.

Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice under the rug.

Open our eyes along with our hearts, so that the anger we feel around injustice might fuel a fire for action.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.

P: Church family, even when we fail to do justice

Even when we fail to love kindness

Even when we allow fear to override action, freezing us in place

God still loves us

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel

C: On our best days and on our worst days

We belong to God

We are invited into community

We are held in God's grace

We are forgiven

And we are sent to serve

Thanks be to God for a love like that

Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

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

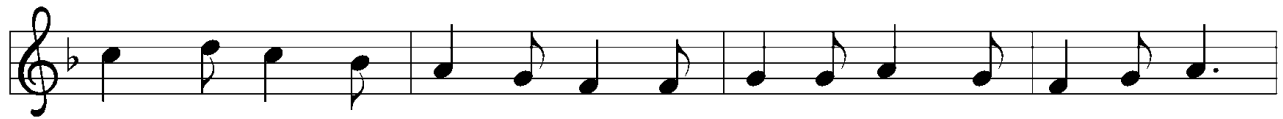
C: And also with you.



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

GOSPEL DIALOGUE: MATTHEW 2:1-23

SERMON



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 2 Proph-e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown
 Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A: Insisting on hope this Christmas, let us confess our faith.

C: We have seen the valley

We have seen a sky without stars

We have seen the longest night

And still we believe

We believe in a with-us God

We believe in the hope of tomorrow

We believe that good news is louder than fear

We believe this good news is for all people

**So even when our knees shake
Even when our voice trembles
Even when fear is all around us
We will hold on to that good news**

**We will reach for each other
We will look for God in our midst
We will sing songs of joy
We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born**

**We have seen the longest night
And we have seen unimaginable love
So still we believe, Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(after each petition...)*

A: God of hope,

C: hear our prayer.

Meal

OFFERING



- 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

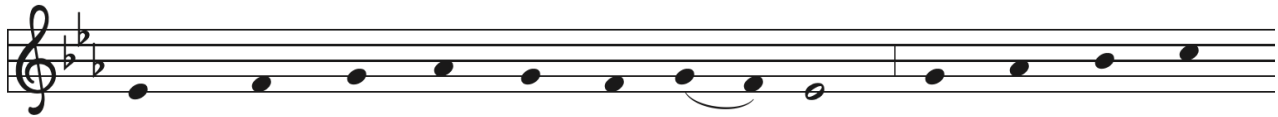
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.

Christ welcomes you to the meal of grace! All who desire to receive Christ's nourishment and grace may join us at the Lord's Table. Please come to the table by the center aisle and return to your seat by the front or side aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the bread in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION HYMN: *IN A DEEP, UNBOUNDED DARKNESS* (v. 1,3)



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it
 firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.
 match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,
 A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,
 Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,
 Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,
 Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,



in your mer - cy, you em - braced us
 sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and
 Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we
 lead us home - ward, to the love - feast



as your own,
 breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 glimpse your face,
 of the Lamb,

Text: Anonymous, China; tr. Francis P. Jones, 1890–1975; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.
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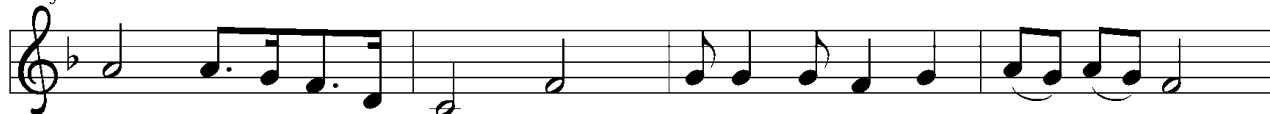
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

CLOSING HYMN: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

#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;

Refrain



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.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

BENEDICTION

P: In a fearful world, may we look for God's spirit.

May we reach for each other's hands.

May we choose courage whenever we can.

And in all things, may we remember that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls, ✠ the one who sends,

and the one who journeys with— go in peace and do not be afraid.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Pianist:	John Benjamin
Assisting Minister:	Jane Lane
A/V:	Melonie June Warren
Stream Team:	Scott Haligowski
Usher:	Brittany Albert