



**Nicole Young, vicar  
Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry  
Lindsey Waltermeyer, Grace band leader**

**We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!**

**All worship can be viewed online at  
[newhanoverlutheran.org](http://newhanoverlutheran.org)  
[facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)  
and on YouTube.**

**May your worship experience strengthen you  
with God's love and grace.**

### **Welcome Statement**

You are always welcome at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a growing community of believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in God's love and guided by Christ's example. We strive to reach out with compassion, offering a place where you can grow in faith, experience God's grace and feel safe and celebrated. At New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, we want you to gather with us at our table. Rooted in our Lutheran faith and belief that we are all children of God and made in God's image, we welcome all people with dignity and love.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

By this belief, we are committed to intentionally following Jesus' example of unconditional hospitality, love and justice. Here, you are not only included, you are respected. We affirm and value people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, cultures, ages, abilities, body sizes, relationship statuses and economic or immigration statuses. We are committed to the ongoing work toward racial equity and inclusion in all we do. You are invited to fully participate in our worship, sacraments, leadership positions, gatherings, and ministries. In our identities, we are united by the common faith we hold, and recognize we each offer unique gifts and perspectives. We believe that this transforms lives and deepens the faith of our community.

Christ's door is open to all, so is ours.

## Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

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. It is a good way to begin again, another year.

*Please rise as you are able.*

### Prayer of the Day

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 filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathering Hymn    *Angels We Have Heard on High*    ELW #289

*Please be seated.*

Lesson                                          Numbers 6:22-27                          Barbara Noecker  
*The Aaronic Blessing*

<sup>22</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them:

<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup> “So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Carol                                          *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*                          ELW #272

Lesson

Psalm 8

Miller, Collins and Tanner Quigley

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> **Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,**

**to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

<sup>4</sup> **what are humans that you are mindful of them,**

**mortals that you care for them?**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than God

and crowned them with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;**

**you have put all things under their feet,**

<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,**

**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Carol

*Away in a Manger*

ELW #277

Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

Susan Swartz

*We are no longer slaves, but children*

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

<sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Carol

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW #282

Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

Sam Young

*God takes on human form*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Please rise as you are able.*

Carol

*The First Noel*

ELW #300

Lesson

Luke 2:21-38

Todd Rothermel

*Jesus receives his name*

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death

before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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.

*Please be seated.*

**Carol**                      *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

God rest you merry, gentlemen. Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Saviour was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel, This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary Did nothing take in scorn  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father A blessed Angel came;  
And unto certain Shepherds Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

And when they came to Bethlehem Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found Him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay;  
His Mother Mary kneeling down, Unto the Lord did pray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

*Please rise as you are able.*

Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Scott Geiser

*The magi follow the star*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and

when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol                      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*                      ELW #288

### Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with your neighbors.

*The people give a sign of peace to each other.*

*Please be seated.*

### Offertory

*The offering will be taken at this time.*

**You can donate to NHEL C’s ministry electronically.**

### Tithe.ly QR Code



### Simply Giving QR Code



*Please rise as you are able.*

### Offertory Response *Doxology for Christmas*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise  
God all creatures here be low. Praise

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the doxology, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.



God a - bove, — ye heaven- ly host. Praise Fa- ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*“Doxology for Advent” Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. Text and music are in public domain.*

*The offering is brought forward for a blessing.*

## Blessings

God bless you and keep you,  
Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Rondeau*

Jean Joseph Mouret

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# Announcements

## Today

**The flowers** are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Amanda Buchert, grandmother to Janet Psota.

**The Word in Season** devotional is presented to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Don and Jo Anne Wirt.

**The sponsor signups for 2026** have been added to the signupgenius on the church’s website. Click on the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-61280725-2026> or QR Code to sign up today. Or, contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall at 610-326-1335.



**Serving Today:** Scott Geiser, head usher; Georgann Geiser, usher; Collins Quigley, acolyte

**Next Sunday:** Jim Gross, head usher; Rick Solazzo, usher; Nancy Gross, lector; Donna Kehs, children's sermon; Hannah Waltermeyer, acolyte; Debbie Solazzo and Donna Kehs, communion assistants

**Altar Guild** members serving this month: Jean Moser, Jane Johnson, Jo Anne Wirt and Yvonne Peto

**The Nursery room** is located between the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall. Parents are welcome to use the room during worship as needed. The room provides for a comfortable play area in a joyful environment; toys and books are included. The room has access to a changing room and a private nursing room next door.

**Doors leading to fellowship hall and the education wing** remain locked during the worship service for the safety of all.

## **This Week**

**Worship Service** – Today, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

**Food Drop Off** – Today, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

**Food Delivery Pickup** – Today, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

**Praise Band Rehearsal** – Today, 11:20 AM, sanctuary

**Confirmation** – Today, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, rooms 33-34

**Prayer Ministry** – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary

**Cub Scout Pack #367** – Monday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, rooms 1, 14, 27-34, 36-37

**Scouts BSA Troop 367** – Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:15 PM, room 1

**Food Drop Off** – Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, kitchen

**Food Delivery Pickup** – Wednesday, 1:00 PM, kitchen door

**Addiction 12 Step** – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, rooms 33-34

**Chancel Choir** – Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, room 15

**Property** – Wednesday, 7:00 PM, room 27

**God on Tap** – Thursday, 6:00 PM, Main Street Pub, Bally

**Handbell Choir** – Thursday, 6:15 – 7:30 PM, room 15

**Addiction 12 Step** – Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, rooms 33-34

**Cub Scout Parents Planning** – Thursday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, room 27

**Men’s Breakfast** – Saturday, 8:00 AM, Brookside Family Restaurant, Pottstown

**Worship Service** – Next Sunday, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

**Food Drop Off** – Next Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

**Food Delivery Pickup** – Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

**J.A.M.** – Next Sunday, 10:15 AM, room 21

**KFC Rehearsal** – Next Sunday, 11:00 – 11:20 AM, sanctuary

**J.A.M. Choir Rehearsal** – Next Sunday, 11:00 – 11:15 AM, room 15

**Praise Band Rehearsal** – Next Sunday, 11:20 AM, sanctuary

**God on Tap** is this Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at Main Street Pub, Bally. Come to enjoy a dinner and discussion on “NOW WHAT? After Pastor Scott’s retirement, what can WE/I do to be sure we continue and prosper the ministries we currently enjoy at NHELCC?” Roll up your sleeves and join coordinator Randy Dotterer on January 8<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. RSVP by noon on the 8<sup>th</sup> to Randy via email ([rdptw6489@gmail.com](mailto:rdptw6489@gmail.com)) or text (610-306-0621).

**The Men’s Breakfast is this Saturday at 8:00 AM** at Brookside Family Restaurant. Come out for good food and friendly conversation. No registration is required. Any questions, contact Ron Fegley at 484-300-3025.

## Upcoming Events

**The Council will hold a “Coffee with the Council”** open informational session on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 9 AM worship service in the Fellowship Hall. NHELCC has a lot of activities and projects moving forward in 2026 and the Council would like to share information, listen to feedback, and answer questions. Plan to grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation.

**New Hanover Memorabilia** items collected over the years are available in the Welcome Center. You are invited to take home a piece of New Hanover’s history; your donations will help our

ministries to continue. Souvenirs from the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary are also on the table.

**History Booklets** printed for the 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are available in the Welcome Center. If you didn't get one, pick up a copy today. Please, one booklet per family.

**Committee and board 2025 annual reports** are due in the church office by Monday, January 5, 2026.

**The NHELC Book Club** is reading *Summer Sisters* by Judy Blume. Join the club for dinner and book discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about this event, contact Sharon Tracey at [LBD36@aol.com](mailto:LBD36@aol.com).

## Help Needed

**Pottstown Cluster NHELC** is collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items to be distributed to local families through the Pottstown Cluster. Collection boxes are located in the welcome center, fellowship hall, and multi-purpose room for the donations. For a list of items most needed, see the January issue of New Hanover Highlights. Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

**Mission Service folks need your help!** Friends, our church has been helping to feed the hungry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church every month. We discovered their clothes closet needs help. We ask for used, clean, in good condition, warm clothes. Also, hats, gloves, mittens and hoodies are needed too! The ladies at the closet are in need of NEW socks and undergarments. Our junior/senior high Sunday School class decorated a box that is sitting in the welcome center for your donations.

## Want to be a member?

Please fill out "Your Voice from the Pew" card, located in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate. Check off "Interest in Church Membership."

## Resources

**Are you missing a Moments in Time insert?** Extra copies are available. Contact Barb Eisenhart, Lee Wesner or Susan Gutshall. Wrappers for the collection are available in the Welcome Center.

**Want to keep up** with all the latest news from NHELHC? Subscribe to the bi-weekly Constant Contact communication emails. You will receive a weekly announcement on Monday and a worship reminder on Saturday. If you are not already receiving these emails, you can use this QR code and sign up today using a very simple, secure site.



**Do you enjoy the praise band songs?** Would you like to get to know them better? This [playlist](#) includes over fifty songs that our praise band has done, and more will be added in the future. You will need to download Spotify (it's free!) to listen to the songs.



**Peer Support Information** The Ferns Peer Run Respite is a local mental health non-profit resource in Montgomery County. The Ferns provides a supportive and calm environment for individuals in need and not able to interact in other available mental health resources. The Ferns is totally peer-supported and allows individuals at the respite the time they may need to recover or seek additional treatment. If you know an individual who may need this service, contact Nikki Young.

**The Peer Support Ministry** webpage on the church's website ([newhanoverlutheran.org](http://newhanoverlutheran.org)) offers resources for mental health and wellness. Visit the webpage for information.

**Mental Health and Wellness** Millions of people across the nation are affected by mental health conditions. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has local centers in both Reading and Lansdale. They offer in-person and online support groups. NHELHC has links with helpful information available on our website ([newhanoverlutheran.org](http://newhanoverlutheran.org)) or contact NAMI Helpline or PA Addiction Helpline directly.

**NAMI Help Line** 1-800-950-6242 is available Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM ET.

Text “Helpline” to 62640 or if in crisis call or text 988.

**PA Addiction Helpline** 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

**Online live chat** offered at 1-717-216-0905 or text

## You Can Help

**Volunteers are needed** to help during the church service: Ushers, Lectors, Children’s Sermons, Acolytes and Communion Assistants. Contact Faye Weidner at [omiweidner@gmail.com](mailto:omiweidner@gmail.com) or 484-929-5958 if you can help.

## Food Ministry

**Nearly a quarter million meals have been delivered!** NHELC’s Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry is changing lives. And, you can be a part of the team. 1.) You can donate food. Drop off your donation on Wednesdays between 1 – 2 PM and Sundays between 9 – 10 AM. **Items most needed include: hamburger, chicken (thighs and breast meat), pasta (ziti, elbows, bowties), cheese (mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan), potatoes, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) and eggs.** 2.) Donate money through Thrivent Gift Cards. Place monetary donations on the offering plate or mail to the church. 3.) Deliver meals. Sign up at <https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/>.

## Reconciling in Christ Serving All and Loving Unconditionally

In case you want any information, enter this link in your web browser:

<https://newhanoverlutheran.org/reconciling-in-christ/> or connect using this QR Code.



## Additional Information

**Facility Use for Meetings or Events Requests** All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. The request will include the date and time, purpose, amount of people attending, necessary space and equipment of the meeting or event. Given the information the meeting or event will be posted on the church

calendar by the church office manager (only). Providing an announcement for the bulletin, newsletter or social media posting does not constitute a request or guarantee a space.

There is a Facility Use policy, and fees do apply in some cases. In no case will fees be waived. Deposits are required to hold the space, date and time. If the meeting or event is not posted on the church calendar or you do not place a deposit if necessary, you do not have permission to use the space. Contact Susan Gutshall, church office manager at (610) 326-1335, or email her at [susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org) for requests or information.

## Prayer Requests

**Military:** Shawn Dietz, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Kyle Woods, Danny Foust

**Grieving:** Family and friends of Josephine Heck and Donna Evans

Peace for violence in our area and nationally

Keeley Staples	Logan Conley	Katy Mahon-Miller
Luann Hanley	Carol Estes	William Trotter
Kathy Kane	Maxwell Girard	Pat Fryer
Jean Renninger	Pr. Kork Moyer	Julia Hauck
Tony Mancini	Raul Castro	Amy LeVan
Jeffrey Kunsch	Wilma Lahr	Melissa
Mary Lou	Doug Weaver	Robert Ganovsky
Dorothy Bingaman	Emily Ocelus	Eric & Wendy Hess
Sue Care	Deb Matthews	Marceline
Anne Eshleman	Daniel Johnson	Chris Fatzinger
Pena family	Kim Frain	Jen Perez
Frank D.	Pam Helfrich	Barb & Tom Faust
Andy Van Dyke	Janet	Pam Abbott
Holli Muffler	Louise Karns	Pr. Jennifer Phelps
Verdie Smith	Helen Foulke	Carla Hausmann
Joan Price	Ralph Borneman	Lucille Powell
Joan Scheffey	Chuck Beck	Rich Freed
Joe	Joe	Casey Flack
Penny Frymoyer	David Helfrich, Sr.	Tara Hauck
Hazel LeVan	David Gottshall	Paul Knauer

Suzanne Dodge                      Dave Pollock                      Julia Ghazi  
Ray Feick                              Jennifer, Brendt, Declan & Conor Budnick  
Patty Houseal                      Steve Morriss                      Vicki Mutter  
Carol Feick                              Alice Nester                      Linda Adams  
John Sander, Candis Peto, Yvonne Peto  
Dennis and Sandy Rothermel

**The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2941 Lutheran Road  
Gilbertsville, PA 19525  
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 AM – 2 PM  
**Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment**

**Contact Information**

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**Director of Music Ministry, Patricia Nyce**

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**Food Ministry Director, Chris Fatzinger**

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**Educational Director, Jena Marinelli**

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**Grace Band Director, Lindsey Waltermyer**

[goldielw@gmail.com](mailto:goldielw@gmail.com)

**Handbell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart**

[eisenbarb@aol.com](mailto:eisenbarb@aol.com)

**Peer Support Recovery Ministry Team,**

[peersupport@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:peersupport@newhanoverlutheran.org)

**Sexton, Jen Boyer**

[jcboyer0408@gmail.com](mailto:jcboyer0408@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper, Dorothy Brower**

[bookkeeper@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:bookkeeper@newhanoverlutheran.org)

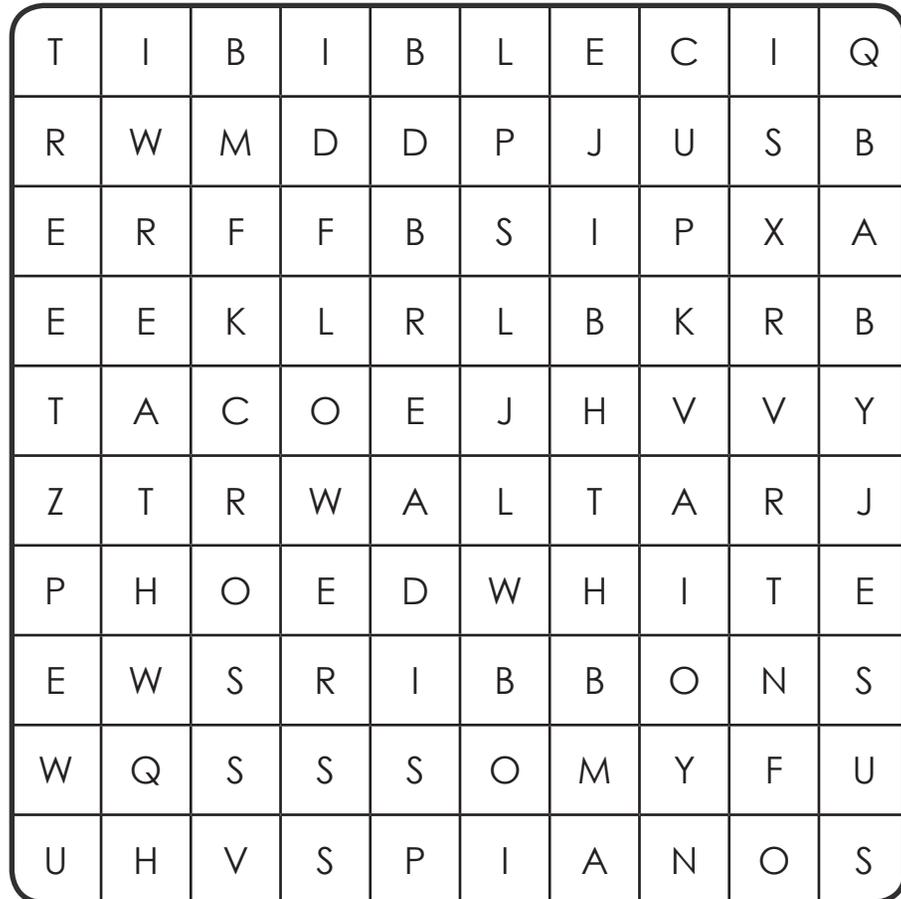
**Cemetery, Norm Hunsberger**

[nhunsberger29@gmail.com](mailto:nhunsberger29@gmail.com)



Here are some things you might find in your worship space. Find them in the word search. Then look around and star the ones you find in your worship space.

ALTAR	BABY JESUS	BIBLE
BREAD	CROSS	CUP
FLOWERS	PEW	PIANO
RIBBON	TREE	WHITE
WREATH		

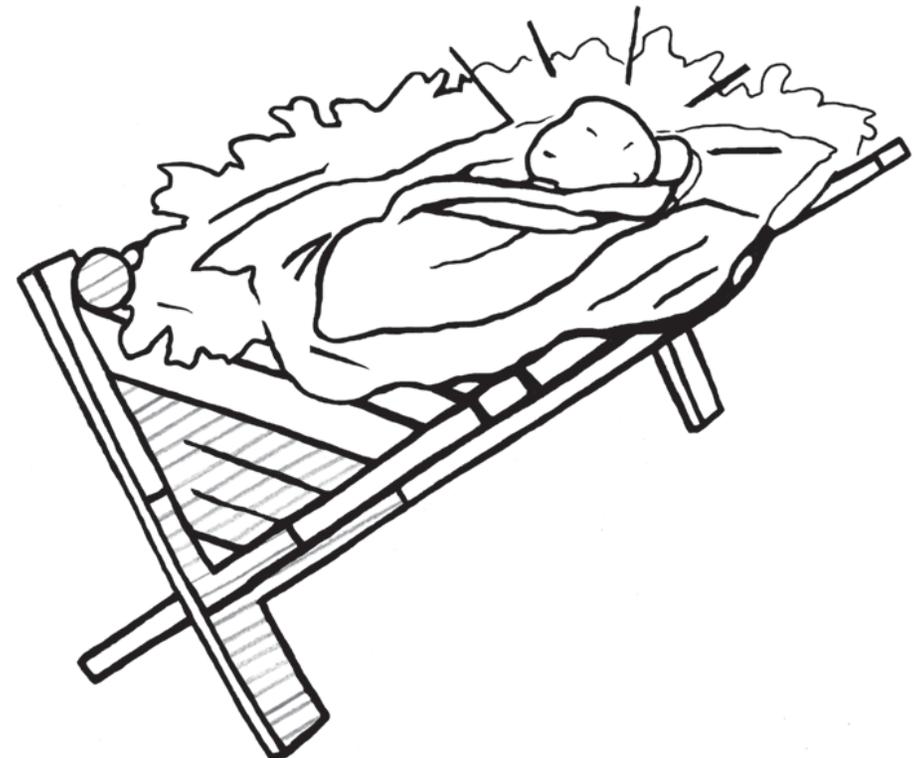


# PRE-READER

Christmas 2

- During **Christmas**, we celebrate the birth of **Jesus**.
- Jesus is sometimes called **the Word** in the Bible.
- Jesus shared God's message of **love**.

**Baby Jesus was loved! Find the letters L O V E hidden in the manger. Hint: Look for shading.**





God's kingdom is here!

**John the Baptist** was Jesus' cousin.  
When John **baptized** people, he told them about Jesus.  
Jesus came to share God's **word** of love.

Jesus came to earth to share God's word of love with everyone. You can share God's word, too! **Draw hearts around the pictures below that show kids sharing God's word of love.**



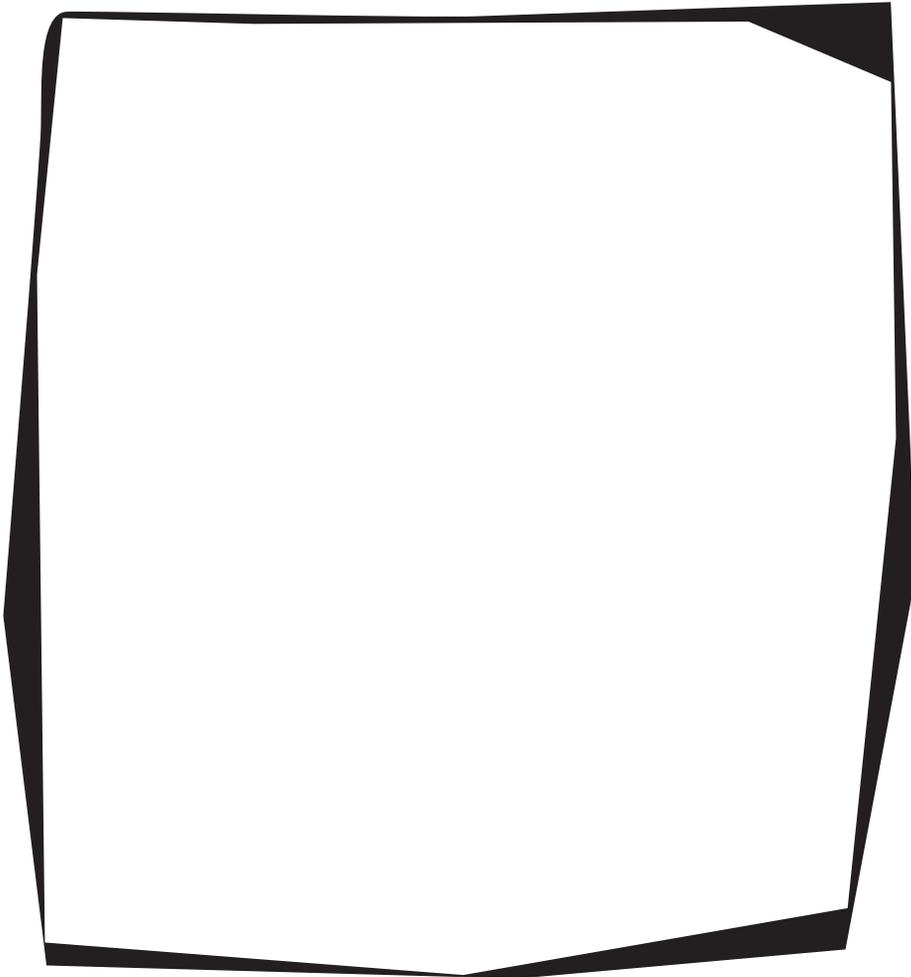
## Get the Message

Jesus is often called **the Word**. Jesus came to share God's words—or God's **message**—with us. When you hear a **sermon**, it can also be called the word. We believe that the sermon is also sharing God's message.

During the sermon or the readings, keep track of how many times you hear the word **love**. God's message is a message of love.



What do you think love looks like? Use the space below to draw love.



# READER

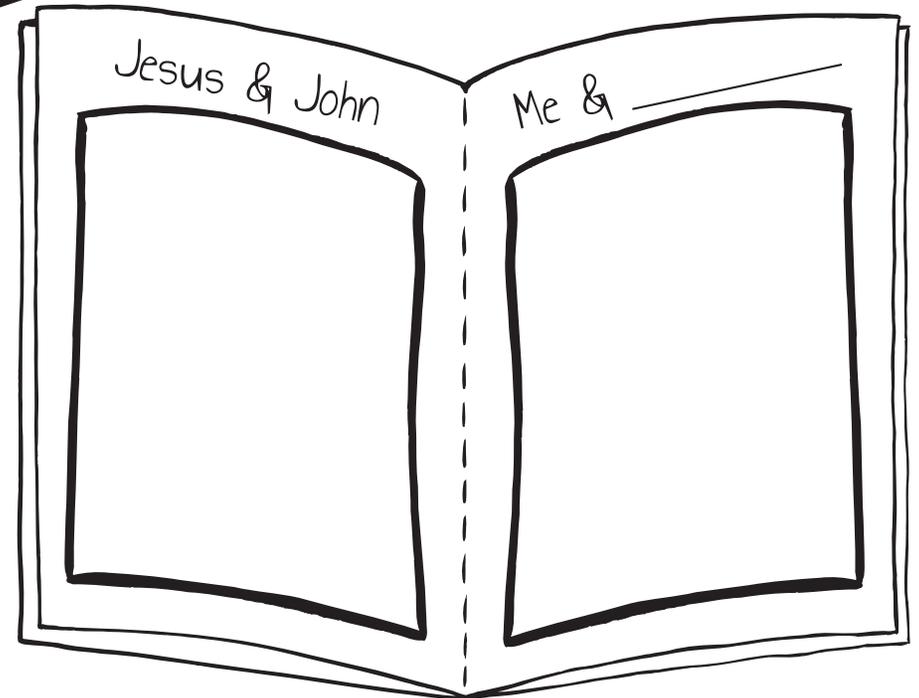
Christmas 2

- Jesus is called the **Word of God**.
- He came to earth to share God's message of **love**.
- Jesus was sent by God to be our **savior**, to lead us back to God.



## Cousin Connection

We are still in the season of **Christmas**, but in this week's story, **John the Baptist** talks about Jesus when he is an adult. John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins. They were almost the same age. What do you think they did together when they were growing up? What do you do with your siblings or cousins? **Use the space below to draw a picture of Jesus and John together as kids. In the other space, draw a picture of you with a cousin, sibling, or friend.**



Fill in the blanks below to discover this week's memory verse. Use John 1:14 if you need help.

## Memory Verse

And the \_\_\_\_\_ became \_\_\_\_\_ and lived \_\_\_\_\_ us, and we have \_\_\_\_\_ his glory, the glory as of a father's only \_\_\_\_\_, full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

John 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Missing words:

Word

flesh

among

seen

son

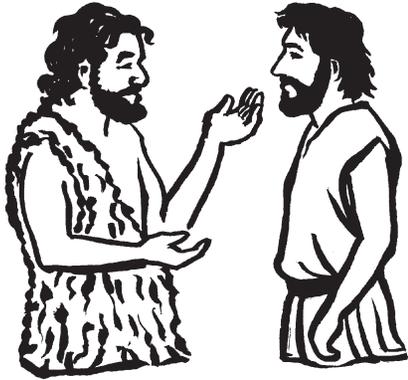
grace

truth

14

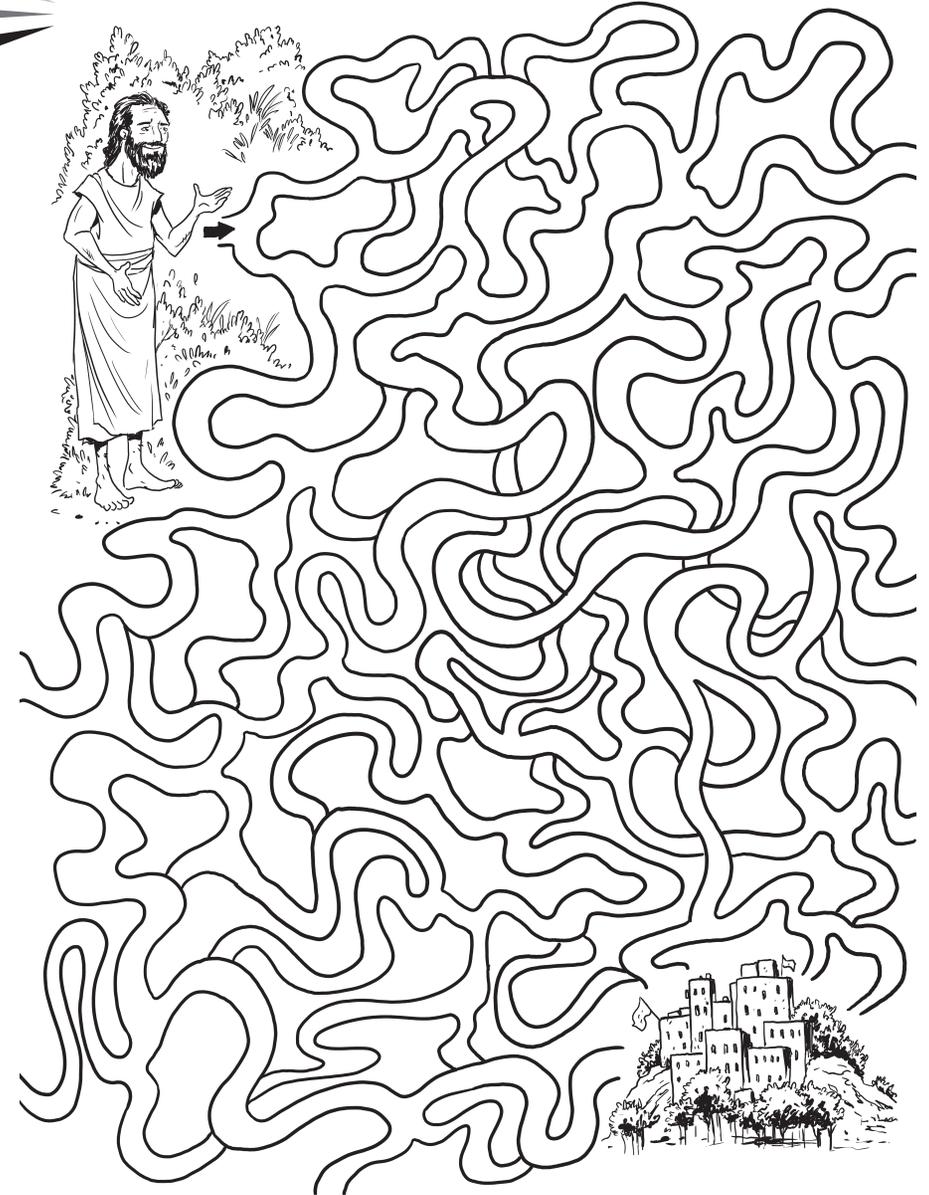
## Look it Up!

John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins. Look in Luke 1:57-80 to find out more about the birth of John the Baptist.



## Finding the Way

John the Baptist told everyone about Jesus' coming and that he was the messenger of God's love. Help John find his way out of the wilderness to the city where he can tell people about Jesus.



MEMORY VERSE answer: 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. John 1:14

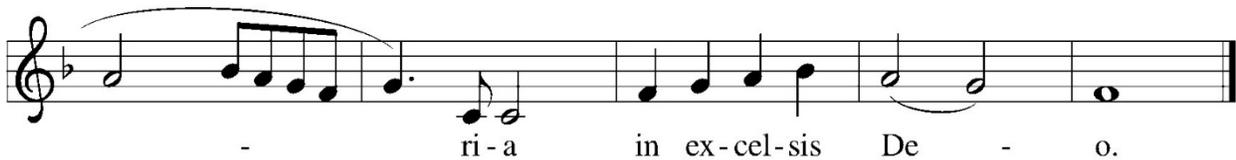
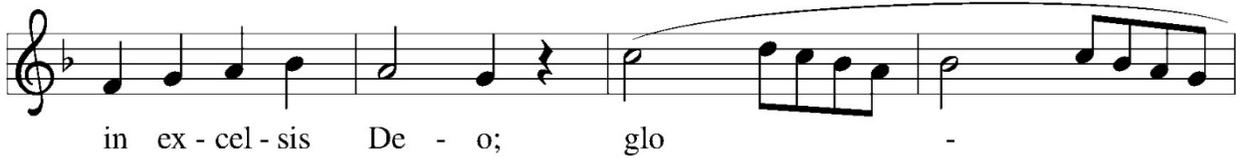
## Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



*“Angels We Have Heard on High” Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864. Music: GLORIA, French carol. Text and music are in public domain.*

## 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.

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Text: German carol, 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Text and music are in public domain.*

## Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

*“Away in a Manger” Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905. Text and music are in public domain.*

## 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.

*“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876. Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900. Text and music are in public domain.*

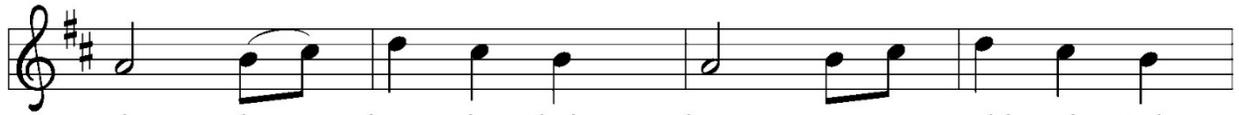
# The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . . and

## Refrain



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

*"The First Noel" Text: English traditional. Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional. Text and music in public domain.*

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Text and music are in public domain.*