

Music: Brock & Merry Jo, Chris and Betty

Preacher: Pastor Bart

Call to Worship Hymn: The Holly And The Ivy

The Holly and the Ivy when they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The Holly bears the crown

The Holly bears a blossom as white as Lily flow'r
Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior

Chorus

The rising of the sun and the running of the deer

The playing of the merry organ sweet singing in the choir

The Holly bears a berry as red as any blood
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good

Chorus

WELCOME

Lighting the Advent Candle during Hymn

GREETING

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

ADVENT CAROL: The Wexford Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary lowly we should pray To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angels did appear Which put the shepherds in great fear
"Arise and go!" the angel said "To Bethlehem. Be not afraid
For there you'll find this happy morn A princely babe sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind The shepherds went, this babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold They did our saviour Christ behold
Within a manger he was laid And by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of life Who came on earth to end all strife

Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary lowly we should pray To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn There was a blessed Messiah born.

12th Century Irish Carol | Public Domain

Opening Prayer: The Nativity of Our Lord

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. **3** And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." **4** At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. **5** "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." **6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Reader: To us is born a Saviour.

Congregation: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Meditation

HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful LBW 45

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, Oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels:

Chorus

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Chorus

Text: attr. John F. Wade, c 1711-1786
Tune: attr. John F. Wade, c 1711-1786

Second Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 NIV

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Reader: To us is born a Saviour.

Congregation: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Meditation

HYMN: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

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

Chorus

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

Chorus

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Third Reading: Titus 2:11-14 NIV

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Reader: To us is born a Saviour.

Congregation: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Meditation

Confession:

Gracious and Loving Lord. At times in our lives we have been indifferent to you. We have forgotten that you are our loving Father and your will is what is best for us. Instead, we chosen our own ways rather than yours and we have suffered consequences as a result. We have chosen to be skeptical rather than believing. Help us to be people who are no longer turned in upon ourselves, but focussed outward on the needs of others and of the world. Help us truly examine ourselves and change our priorities. Forgive us God, help us take you as savior and Lord always. Amen.

Absolution: Pastor Bart**Hymn: Special Music – All is Well by Miia-Margaret & Darielle Eriksson****Children's Message: Pastor Bart****Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:1-15 NIV**

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. ¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Reader: To us is born a Saviour.

Congregation: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Meditation

Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly LBW 44

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all. Christ the child is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil 'til the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you. Christ the child was born for you.

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:1-20 NIV

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Reader: To us is born a Saviour

Congregation: Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN: Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night.
To see this baby wrapped in light
A hosts of angels lead them all to you
It was just as the angels said: “You’ll find Him in a manger bed,
Emmanuel and Savior Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A star shone bright up in East
To Bethlehem, the wise men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out, “Hallelujah!”
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day and die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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Meditation

Offering Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LBW 60

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail, the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Text: Charley Wesley, 1707-1788, alt
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1890-1847

Offertory Prayer:

P. Let us pray

P. Merciful Father,

C. we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS for the People of God

The Pastor ends each petition with, "Gracious God" and the congregations responds with "hear our prayer."

Overhead lights are turned off

Pastor lights candle first before reading.

Ushers light their candles from the pastor and then spread the light through the congregation.

The Light Spreads in the Darkness: John 1:1-14 NIV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: To us is born a Saviour.

Congregation: Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN: O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long may the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Chorus

Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name;

Chorus

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The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

Blessing

May the good news that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day.
Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Candles are extinguished and overhead lights are turned on

HYMN: Joy to the World LBW 39

Solo of Verse 1, Congregation join in the repeat.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace and share the good news.

Postlude: Silent Night

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

NOTE: The Church office is closed December 25, 2024 to January 2, 2025.

Pastor Rick: Mon, 10:30 AM– 1:30 PM
Tim Bauer: Mon & Tues, 1:00–3:30 PM
Pastor Bart: Wed, 1:00–4:00 PM
Staff Meeting: Wed, 10:30 AM –11:30 AM

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE:

Dec 29 Sun 10:00 AM First Sunday after Christmas - Worship
Jan. 5 Sun 10:00 AM Second Sunday after Christmas - Worship

MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

Jan. 12 Sun 10:00 AM Baptism of our Lord - Worship
Jan. 15 Wed 1:30 PM Good Vibes Memory Choir
Jan. 16 Thur 5:00 PM Council Meeting
Jan. 19 Sun 10:00 AM Worship
Jan. 22 Wed 1:30 PM Good Vibes Memory Choir
Jan. 25 Sat 9:00- 3 PM Parenting Workshop (Grandparents welcome)
Jan. 26 Sun 10:00 AM Worship
Jan. 28 Tues 7:00 PM The Cabin: Men's Discussion and Study
Jan. 29 Wed 1:30 PM Good Vibes Memory Choir

GOOD VIBES MEMORY CHOIR

We start a new choir term on **Wednesday, January 22 at 1:30 PM.**

We will also have "Bring-a friend-to-rehearsal" on Wednesday, January 22. It's an opportunity to try it out. Do you know someone experiencing memory loss? Please invite them and come with them. Get them connected to a wonderful community. Whether you or your loved one has memory loss or not, singing in a choir improves brain health. There is NO CHARGE for this choir. This is an opportunity to reach out to people with (or without) dementia and let them know that our church community cares about them and their family members. For more information, please go to:

www.goodvibesmemorychoir.com OR email Erica at goodvibesmemorychoir@gmail.com

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP 101 – Simple Habits to Help Your Family Grow in Jesus

Please put this exciting one-day event on your calendar. **SAVE THE DATE.** Saturday, Jan. 25, 9-3. We are happy to have Christy Thomas, a young mom and children's ministry leader share her experience and wisdom. Come and learn strategies to help you confidently nurture faith in your kids and teens through small habits that add up over time. Let Angela Kumlin know if you will be requiring childcare for the event. Angela.kumlin@gmail.com or 403-363-4923
Open to grandparents too. No cost! Invite your friends along.

The Cabin- Men's Discussion and Bible Study

Join Pastor Rick and other men as they begin to discuss "We Who Wrestle with God," by Jordan Peterson. Pick up the book on Amazon and come prepared to discuss chapter. It all takes place on Tuesday, January 28 at 7 PM at Pastor Ricks home, 26 Bow Meadows Drive.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Saturday, February 8 at 8 AM

Join as we continue our bible study on Discipleship. On this Saturday we reflect upon the concept of Allusion coming out of John 21:9. We ask, "Why a fire of burning coals?" "Why do I know that?" Discover how exciting it is to read God's word and the message of the Grand Story still needing to be told today.

In Concert- Steve Bell

We welcome back Steven Bell to St. Peter's on February 20th at 7:30 PM. Don't be disappointed. Get your tickets at stevebell.com/events