

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: [YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



December 29, 2024
A Worship in Lessons and Carols
1st Sunday of Christmas

Prince of Peace is a church of the elca.org which means that we are Lutherans and that we are all about the loving, inclusive grace of God.

Welcome to our Lessons and Carols Worship service! This worship will be a chance to sing and meditate as we continue the 12 days of Christmas.

Hymns can be found in the red hymnals in the pews. If holding hymnal is difficult, there are a number of large-print copies of all the music for today.

Scan this code to connect to our hearing assistance app.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray this will be a time of connecting to God and one another so that we might leave this worship service ready to love and serve our neighbors.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Prelude *Il est né le Divin Enfant* French carol, arr. Noel Goemanne

Welcome & Announcements

***Gathering Song** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* ELW 282
(all hymns for today can be found in the red hymnals in the pews)

*Dialogue

Glory to God in the highest!

And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!

And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!

And love to everyone.

Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light against the darkness.

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: **Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.**

Use this sidenote space to take your own notes this week!

Kid's Message

Reading 1

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

***Song** *Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies* ELW 280

Reading 2

Micah 5:2-5a

***Song** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ELW 279

Reading 3

Luke 1:26-38

***Song** *Cold December Flies Away* ELW 299

Reading 4 *An Open Door*

(On A Theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Look how long
the weary world waited,
locked in its lonely cell,
guilty as a prisoner.

As you can imagine,
it sang and whistled in the dark.
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.

It wept from the weight of ennui,
draped like shackles on its wrists.
It raged and wailed against the walls
of its own plight.

But there was nothing
the world could do
to find its own freedom.
The door was shut tight.

It could only be opened
from the outside.

Who could believe the latch
would be turned by a pink flower —
the tiny hand
of a newborn baby?

copyright © by Pamela Cranston, 2011

Song *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

ELW 297

Reading 5 *December* by Gary Johnson

A little girl is singing for the faithful to come ye
Joyful and triumphant, a song she loves,
And also the partridge in a pear tree
And the golden rings and the turtle doves.
In the dark streets, red lights and green and blue
Where the faithful live, some joyful, some troubled,
Enduring the cold and also the flu,
Taking the garbage out and keeping the sidewalk shoveled.
Not much triumph going on here—and yet
There is much we do not understand.
And my hopes and fears are met
In this small singer holding onto my hand.
Onward we go, faithfully, into the dark
And are there angels hovering overhead? Hark.

***Song** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* ELW 275

Reading 6

Matthew 2:1-11

***Song** *In the Bleak Midwinter* ELW 294

Reading 7

John 1:1-14

***Song** *Love Has Come* ELW 292

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of the People**

*We join together in praying as a church body, and, as a body,
praying also for its individual members. Prayers are organized by
themes and each prayer ends with...*

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

***Passing of the Peace**

We give one another a word of peace, as a prayer and a blessing. It is a unique greeting that grounds us here.

Offering

Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation. You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church. If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code...



***Blessing**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* ELW 288

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live into the love of Christ.

Thanks be to God. We will!

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude music

Postlude *God Rest Ye Merry Gentles*

18th cent. English carol, arr. Noel Goemanne

With thanks to our many worship leaders:

Richard Ajer, *Worship Leader*
David L. & Ethan W., *Sound & Video Techs*

Prince of Peace Staff

Rev. Sara Pearson, Lead Pastor
Drew Ajer, Director of Youth and Service
Anne Hess, Office Manager
Katie Hoffman, Office Associate
Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music
Michael Touchi, Pianist/Organist
Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate

Licenses:

Christian Copyright Solutions License #12833
Song Use and Streaming
CCLI License # 1772348

Adapted from Christianaid.org

+++

Scan this code to connect to our hearing assistance app.

