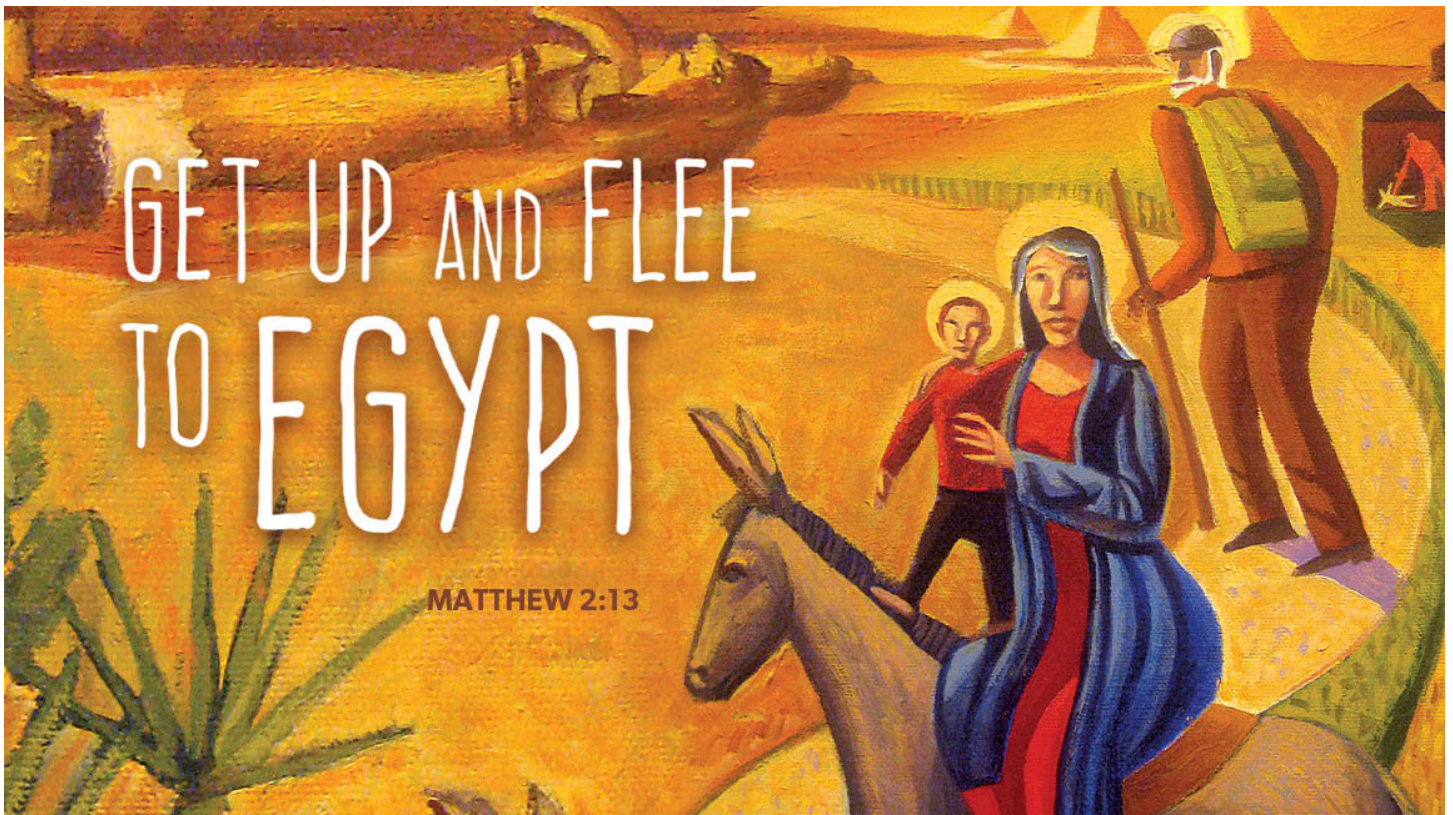




NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 9:30 AM

First Sunday of Christmas

Holy Communion

January 1, 2023

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

All: Amen.

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of life,

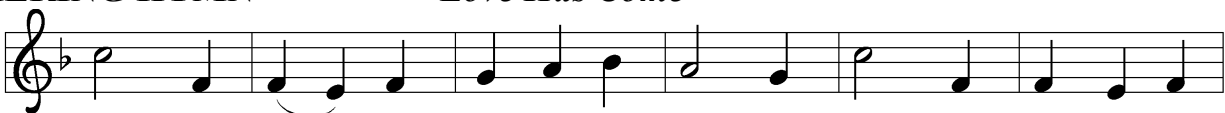
All: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

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

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

A: ⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that the LORD has shown them out of mercy, out of abundant steadfast love. ⁸For the LORD said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and the LORD became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but the presence of the LORD that saved them; out of love and pity the LORD redeemed them; lifting them up and carrying them all the days of old.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 *Please read responsively*

A: ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**All: ²Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

A: ³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**All: ⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

A: ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

**All: ⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

A: ⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**All: ⁸fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

A: ⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**All: ¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

A: ¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**All: ¹²young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

A: ¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**All: ¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

A: ¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again, “I will put my trust in God.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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,

Refrain
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ¹³Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called

Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

HYMN OF THE DAY

Heart of Worship

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless your heart

Pre-Chorus:

I'll bring you more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what you have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about you,
It's all about you, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about you,
It's all about you, Jesus

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much you deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is yours
Every single breath ***Pre-Chorus, Chorus twice***

Words and Music: Matt Redman
© 1999 Thankyou Music

NICENE CREED

P: Joining with angels and shepherds, let us confess our faith together using the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: **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 INTERCESSION

A: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

A: Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty. Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain Pastor Clayton and all who minister in your name. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The ministry of New Life Lutheran Church is made possible through the tithes, gifts, and offerings of the people. We encourage you to give as an act of worship today. You can offer a gift by texting to 281.864.3278, adding a dollar amount to the message box, and send. A link will appear for a one time set up. Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again. You can also give through our website by scanning the QR code on the pew.

OFFERTORY – Johnny Salvesen

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: **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.**

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to receive Jesus in bread and wine. This is Jesus' table, and he welcomes all. Pre-filled communion packets are available in the Narthex if you would prefer to receive communion that way. Everyone else is invited to come down the center aisle maintaining two continuous lines. You will receive a piece of bread with the words, "The body of Christ given for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." Remain on the side of the section of pews you are sitting in. You will receive an individual cup of either wine (red) or grape juice (clear) with the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." There is a basket available for your empty cup. You will then return to your pew from the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King*

Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

I was lost in utter darkness
'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when
Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song
Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me
And I'll never be alone

Chorus:

Come Thou Fount come Thou King
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
Hear Your bride to You we sing
Come Thou Fount of our blessing
Come Thou Fount come Thou King
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
Hear Your bride to You we sing
Come Thou Fount of our blessing

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above ***Chorus***

John Wyeth, Robert Robinson, Thomas Miller
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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

BLESSING

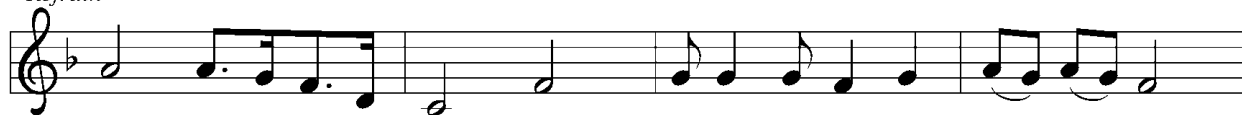
P: God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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

DISMISSAL

A: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the First Sunday of Christmas: January 1

Combined Worship: 9:30 AM

Senior Luncheon: Wednesday, January 4 at 12:00 PM.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 11:30 AM.

New Member Class: Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 11:30 AM.

A Note from Pastor Clayton

As we welcome our first New Year together, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your many displays of generosity. Thank you for the honor of being your pastor. It is a sacred responsibility to be the spiritual shepherd of the New Life church community. I am humbled to be called by God and by you in this season of hope and joy. The birth of Jesus reminds us of how God can do powerful things through small, surprising ways. God's peace and blessings be with each of you and your families in these holidays. Thank you for your trust.

Today's Worship Leaders (9:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Communion Assistant

Usher

Technology

Nancy Bryars

Cathy Scott

John F. Gestl, Korie Williams

*Altar flowers are given by Linda Stavinoha
in honor of Korie Williams' birthday on December 29.*