

## THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

8:00 - “*In Dulci Jubilo*” arr. F. W. Zachau  
10:30 - The Bell Choir plays “*I Wonder as I Wander*” traditional American Folk; arr. David Krane

**HYMN 333** - we sing, standing

### ADVENT WREATH ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, on this Third Sunday in Advent, we are invited to rejoice in the Lord, for He is near. In anticipation of the joy of Christmas, we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, recalling that joy is one of the surest signs of God’s presence among us.

Lord Jesus, our hearts are full of joy, for You are near. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You come with the Good News of salvation for Your holy people. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the power of Your love brings us healing and forgiveness. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **GREETING, followed by PRAYER**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Stir Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign**

**with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

### **FIRST LESSON** *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 126** - we read in unison

### **SECOND LESSON** *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

page 156 - **ALLELUIA** - we sing, standing

### **GOSPEL** *(bulletin back page)*

*Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!*  
*After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!*

**HYMN 345** - we sing, seated

### **SERMON**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

### **OFFERTORY**

8:00 - The Bell Choir plays “*I Wonder as I Wander*” traditional American Folk; arr. David Krane

*text*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus, the Savior did come for to die,  
For poor, ornery people like you and I  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.  
When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cows’ stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds  
and all,*

*But high from God’s heaven a star’s light  
did fall,  
And the Promise of ages it did then recall.*

10:30 - “*In Dulci Jubilo*” arr. F. W. Zachau

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **This Week Here**

Wed - 1:30PM - Bible Study - bring mask  
- 7:15PM - Bell Choir - bring mask  
- 8:00PM - Parish Choir - bring mask

### **Last Sunday Here**

**Worshipping:** 47      **Offering:** \$11,485

**Visit our Website** to experience a video taken recently by a drone flying over our beautiful church property - it includes our columbarium and memorial garden: <https://cheshirelutheran.org/clc-drone-video-october-2020/>. Information on our columbarium can also be found through the following link: <https://cheshirelutheran.org/memorial-garden-columbarium/>.

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

**HYMN 346** - we sing, standing

**POSTLUDE-** “*Advent Joy*” by Steven Scott

**Offering Envelopes** are on the hallway table. If you have not already done so, please pick yours up this morning. Please assist CLC in planning and meeting our financial obligations by returning your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Thank you!

**2021 Pledges** - Please assist CLC in planning and meeting our financial obligations by returning your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Thank you!

**Christmas Eve Communion Services** this year will be held at 4:00, 7:00 and Candlelight service at 10:00. Sign up for these services will begin on Tuesday, December 22 and will be open until all three services are filled.

## A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

***The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness*** - When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “*as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him*” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “*make straight the way of the Lord,*” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “*who comes after*” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “*to bring good news to the poor*” and “*to bind up the brokenhearted*” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “*the garments of salvation*” and adorns her with His own righteousness “*as a bride adorns herself with her jewels*” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “*rejoice always*” in the Lord, “*pray without ceasing*” and “*give thanks in all circumstances*” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “*the God of peace,*” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “*sanctify you completely,*” so that “*your whole spirit and soul and body*” will “*be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).