

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE - *“Prelude on Puer Natus in Bethlehem” by Walther; arr. Paxton*

HYMN 389 st 1, 2, 5, 7- *we all sing, standing*

INVOCATION

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

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness on them light has shined. **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. **In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.**

GREETING, followed by PRAYER

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

Let us pray. **O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 111 - *we all read in unison*

SECOND LESSON (bulletin back page)

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

page 173 - **ALLELUIA VERSE** -*all standing*

GOSPEL (bulletin back page)

Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!

After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 519 - *we sing, seated*

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

hymnal, back cover - all standing

OFFERTORY HYMN 384 vs 1, 2, 3, 5

we all sing, seated

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

all may kneel

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN 937 - *we all sing, standing*

POSTLUDE - *“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” tune Lasst uns alle; setting Held*



NEWS AND NOTES

Last Sunday Here

Worshipping: 56 **Offering:** \$4,136

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!

2021 Volunteers Needed to deliver items to the **food pantry** and **Hope Pregnancy Center**. If you are able and would like to deliver items once or twice a year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

2021 Flower Chart - if you would like to provide altar flowers on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board.

Have You Visited CLC's Website Lately?

Go to www.cheshirelutheran.org where you can view the church calendar, read the Heavenly Herald, check out what Little Cherubs are doing, get church weather closures and so much more!

Weather and Worship - to find out when worship services have been canceled due to weather conditions, check TV channels WTNH channel 8/myTV9, WFSB channel

3, or our website, cheshirelutheran.org. A mass e-mail will also be sent. If you would like to be included on our mass e-mail please let the church office know.

Hope for Life, d.b.a. Hope Pregnancy Center, located at 110 Main Street, Cheshire - our ongoing ministry of collecting “gently used” or new baby clothes, blankets, toys, disposable diapers, etc. for babies 0-12 months benefit new mothers who have no means to support a newborn child. No stuffed animals please. Items purchased new or from the Good Will store, etc. can be placed in the basinet located in the hallway.

Greeting Card Fund Raiser (a project of the Thursday Ladies Group) - a variety of greeting cards with Christian messages are for sale at \$1 each. These high quality cards are displayed in a rack on the counter outside the office. We will continuously update the selection which includes Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, Seasonal and miscellaneous choices. After making your selection, please leave your money or check in the box attached to the display. Proceeds go towards various projects. Contact persons: Paula Ongley and Carolyn Bammann.

A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord - *“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,”* born of the woman, *“to redeem those who were under the law”* (Gal. 4:4-5). Therefore, *“according to the Law of Moses,”* Mary and Joseph *“brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *“waiting for the consolation of Israel”* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *“At that very hour,”* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *“began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem”* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *“righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations”* (Is. 61:11). We also *“greatly rejoice in the LORD,”* because this child has clothed us *“with the garments of salvation,”* covered us *“with the robe of righteousness”* and called us *“by a new name”* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).