



Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 5pm
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
West Des Moines, Iowa

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Welcome

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymnal 89

1. *It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*
2. *Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.*

- Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing!*
4. *For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.*

Liturgical Greeting

Priest Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gather 361, v.1

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

For God has revealed his grace for the salvation of all people. That grace instructs us to give up ungodly living and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this world, as we wait for the blessed Day we hope for, when the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ will appear. He gave himself for us, to rescue us from all wickedness and to make us a pure people who belong to him alone and are eager to do good.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

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| <p>1 Sing a new song to the Lord!
Sing to the Lord, all the world!</p> <p>2 Sing to the Lord, and praise him!
Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.</p> <p>3 Proclaim his glory to the nations,
his mighty deeds to all peoples.</p> <p>4 The Lord is great and is to be highly praised;
he is to be honored more than all the gods.</p> <p>5 The gods of all other nations are only idols,
but the Lord created the heavens.</p> <p>6 Glory and majesty surround him;
power and beauty fill his Temple.</p> <p>7 Praise the Lord, all people on earth;
praise his glory and might.</p> | <p>8 Praise the Lord's glorious name;
bring an offering and come into his Temple.</p> <p>9 Bow down before the Holy One when he appears;
tremble before him, all the earth!</p> <p>10 Say to all the nations, "The Lord is king!
The earth is set firmly in place and cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with justice."</p> <p>11 Be glad, earth and sky!
Roar, sea, and every creature in you;</p> <p>12 be glad, fields, and everything in you!
The trees in the woods will shout for joy</p> <p>13 when the Lord comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world with justice and fairness.</p> |
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Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**Gather 356**

v. 1-2 before the Gospel; v. 3 following

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| <p>1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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!"</p> <p>Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> | <p>2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see:
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.</p> <p>Refrain</p> <p>3. Hail the heav'n 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 us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.</p> |
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Refrain

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them back 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.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Children’s Message

Sermon

“The Light That Shines in the Darkness”
The Rev. Kyle Carswell

Please stand as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

For the church around the world, as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

For the nations of the earth, that as kings were drawn by a star to worship the infant Jesus, all peoples may stream to your light. Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

For those who live surrounded by conflict and violence, that the angels’ proclamation of peace on earth among all people might be realized among us today. Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

For the weak and the vulnerable, the sick and the suffering, the homeless, the cold, the hungry; for all who, like Mary and Joseph, find no room to spend the night. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all those who travel this Christmas season, that you would watch over them as you watched over the Holy Family as they traveled to Bethlehem, and to foreign lands. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all the departed, and for those who grieve, that they may experience the loving presence of Emmanuel, "God with us." Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Deacon

O God, we bring before you this night our prayers for those who are close and whom we love; we also bring before you this night our prayers for those far from us whom we don't know and don't love. As we celebrate the birth of your son, help us to be ever more like him, to learn to love as he loves, and to do our work to bring about your kingdom. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory

Organ Voluntary

Please stand as you are able.

Doxology

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Gather 367, v. 1

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
O give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

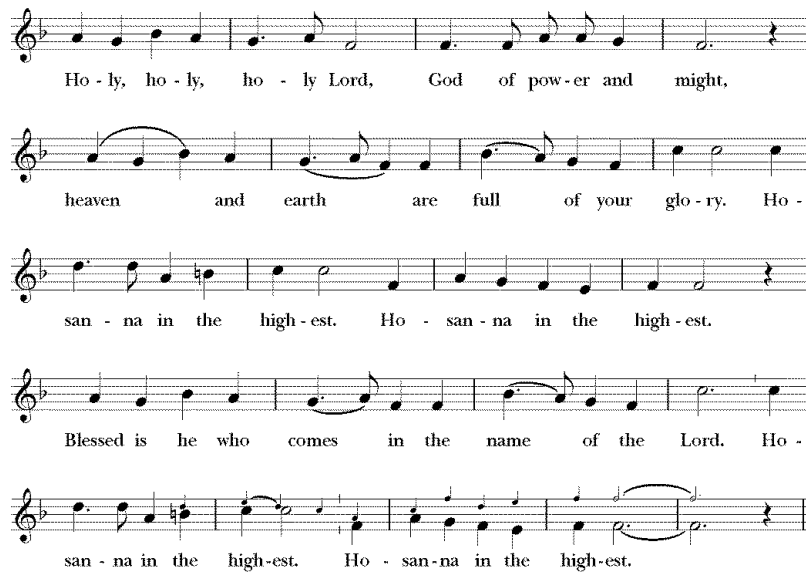
Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Hymnal S125



The Celebrant continues

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one Body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion

You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to receive communion.

*To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The wine is received by intinction, by dipping the wafer into the chalice. Please let the clergy know if you require a **gluten-free wafer**; to indicate that you would prefer a **blessing only**, cross your arms across your chest.*

If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.

Carol at Communion

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 112

1. *In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.*
2. *Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain:
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*
3. *Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged in the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*
4. *What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him give my heart.*

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The candles will be lit along the aisles. Please pass on the light to your neighbor.

1. *Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*
2. *Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!*
3. *Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

Blessing

Closing Carol

Joy to the World

Gather 353

1. *Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her 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.*
2. *Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let us, our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*
3. *No more let sin 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.*
4. *He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia! Alleluia! As we mark this occasion of Jesus' coming again into our hearts, let us take his message out into the world in peace and love.

People **We will with God's help. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

Presider/Preacher

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

Deacon

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

Music Director

Don Agee

Cantor

Tammy Guy

Acolytes

OPEN, OPEN, OPEN

Lector/Litanist

Susan Leonard

Chalice Bearer

Amy Rech, OPEN

Oblation Bearers

Susan Leonard

Ushers

Dick Leonard, OPEN

Altar Guild

Amy Rech, OPEN

Livestream Coordinator

Neil Guy

Vestry Representative

Mel Rambo

Merry Christmas!

Whether you are a longtime parishioner at St. Timothy's, a newcomer, or a friend or family member visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are celebrating the miracle of Christ's birth with us tonight.

Our worship tonight is full of joyous carols, familiar readings, and candles glowing in the night. All of it calls us to remember the incredible gift God has given us in the birth of Jesus, our Prince of Peace. And all is made that much more special by your presence.

I wish you a Merry Christmas from St. Timothy's, and may God bless you and keep you in the New Year.

Peace,



The Rev. Kyle Carswell, Rector

COMING UP

CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Calls and emails will be monitored for pastoral care needs.
All others will be returned when the office re-opens on December 29.



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 10 AM

We will not hold a Christmas Day service at St. Timothy's this year. Instead, we encourage those interested in attending a service on the 25th to attend worship at St. Paul's, Des Moines (815 High Street).

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 | 5 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 10:15 AM

On the weekend after Christmas, we will conduct our service using the Book of Common Prayer rather than a bulletin. We will also invite those present on Sunday to choose their favorite Christmas carol from our hymnal to sing together during the service.

THE COMING WEEK

Monday, December 29
Noon Casserole Baking
6:30 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 30
6:30 pm EfM

Wednesday, December 31
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSE AT NOON

Thursday, January 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICES CLOSED

Friday, January 2
10 am BBB

Saturday, January 3
9 am Centering Prayer
5 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 4
1st SUNDAY BREAKFAST
8:45 am Childcare Available
9 am Breakfast
9:15 am Epiphany Activities
10:15 am Holy Eucharist
10:15 am Children Living the Word
11:30 am Coffee Hour
11:30 am De-Greening of the Church



EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 | 9 AM

Kick off 2025 by celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany! At 9 am we will gather for our First Sunday Breakfast and in place of our regular Children's Formation, there will be Epiphany-related activities for kids! Count on crafts, chalking the door, and the 1st Sunday Breakfast!

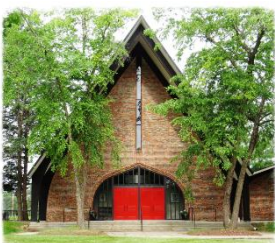
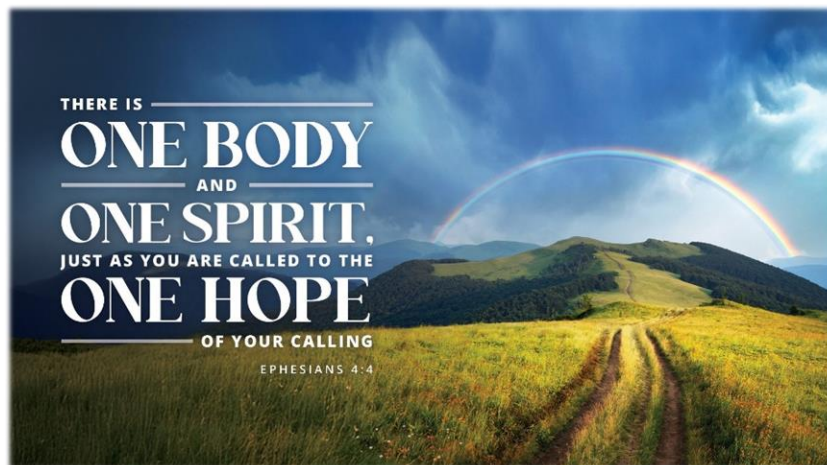
SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 | 7 PM

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1240 66th ST, WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IA

Please join us for this ecumenical worship service marking the international Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will include participation by the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines, and the Southeast Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American, as well as clergy and parishioners of St. Timothy's. Bishop Betsey Monnot will offer the sermon for the service. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship alongside our Christian siblings of other denominations and celebrate our unity in Christ! A reception will follow the service.



ST. TIMOTHY'S DAY & ANNUAL GATHERING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

St. Timothy's Day is our yearly chance to celebrate our patron saint and gather as a parish to look back on the previous year and ahead to what's to come.

Following our service, there will be a potluck meal in the Parish Hall, reports from ministry leaders, and the election of our newest vestry members. We hope to see you there!



Thank You



To all who donated to support our Christmas flowers and greens!

Colleen & Darin Krantz in memory of Dverg Krantz and Madonna Foster

Priscilla Dickinson in memory of Feisal Sayeed, Peter Dickinson, and Tom Dickinson and in thanksgiving for Hana, Kalen, and Ella Sayeed and Steve Kersten

Mary & Dan O'Brien in thanksgiving for the Smith Family

Sandra & Mark Marshall in thanksgiving for our children and grandsons +1

Steve Halbrook in memory of Diane Ronning Halbrook

Bill Wolff in memory of Lu Wolff

Mel Rambo in memory of Jacquelyn Rambo

Marty & Lyndy Wells in thanksgiving for our kids, grandkids, and loved ones

Lea & Bob Hollwager

Bev Donnelly in memory of John Donnelly

Jeanie & Bill Smith in memory of Betty & Jack Douglas, Jeannie & Bill Smith, Janet Douglas Amos, Wes Burlingame, Susie Macy, Mary D. Macy and in thanksgiving for our children, Tyson, McB, Marcy and TD and their wonderful spouses, Alison, John, Marty and Juliana; for our grandchildren, Luke, Gwen, Lillie, Lucy, Eleanor, Redgie, Maggie, Millie and Ilaria; and for this loving community of friends at St. Timothy's.

Jana & Dan Montgomery in thanksgiving for Ned, Lucy, and Lena and in memory of Ralph & Lucy Lee, Earl & Dorothy Montgomery, Patricia Montgomery, Kay Montgomery, and Janice Allison

Amy & Joe Rounceville in honor of Sydney & Andrew Knaack (daughter & son-in-law) in anticipation of the birth of our grandson soon

Mark & Kathy Larson

Laurie & Dennis Mitchell in memory of Gary and Sharon Homan

Suzy & Matt Coen in thanksgiving for Ian, Austin, Quinn, Sophia, Lilia, Elsie, Emilie, Aurora, and Willow

Marsha & Gary Smith in memory of our parents: Edna & Gus Smith and Ferne & Chester Morgan and in honor of our children and grandchildren: Laura, Brian, Jackson, and Megan