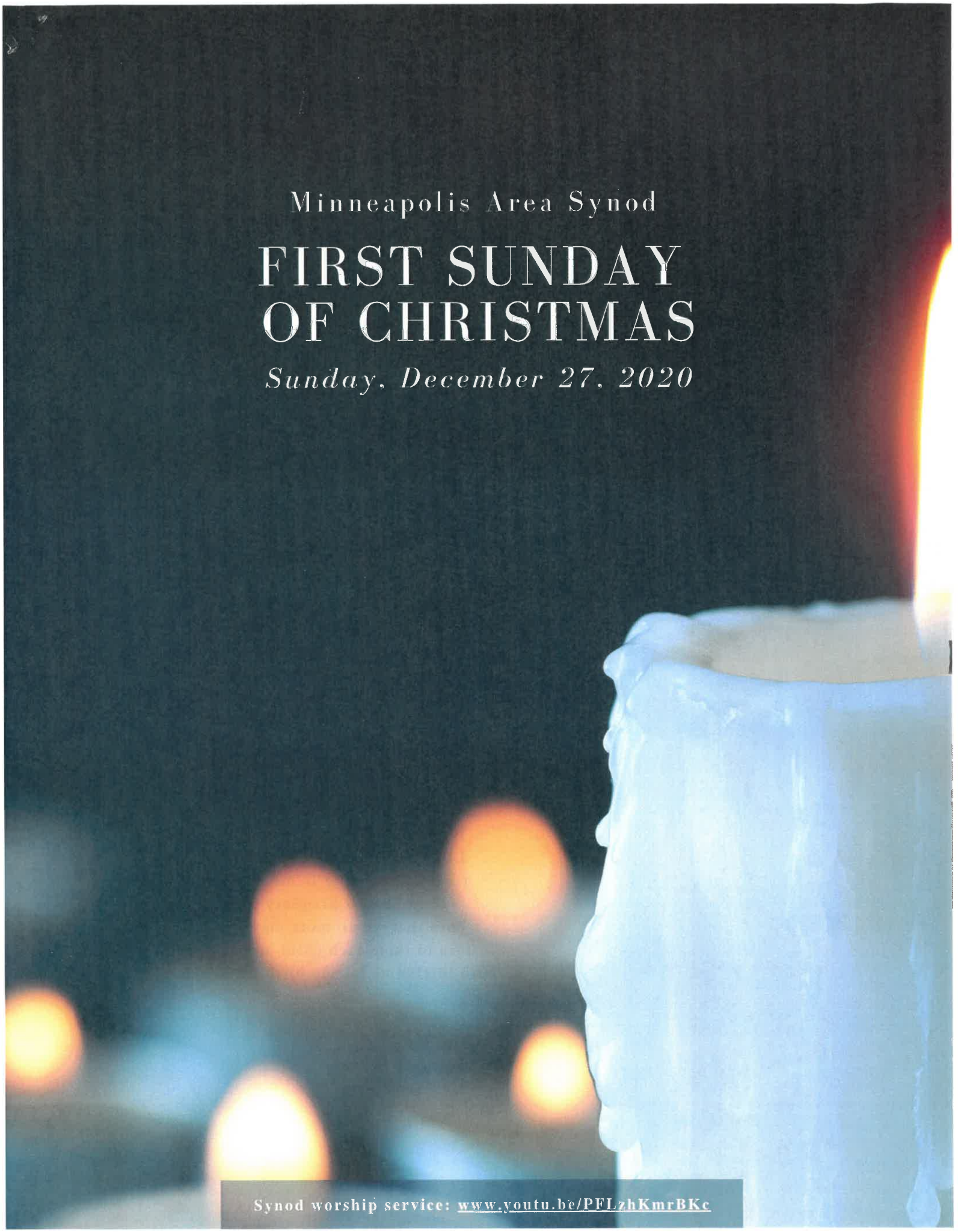
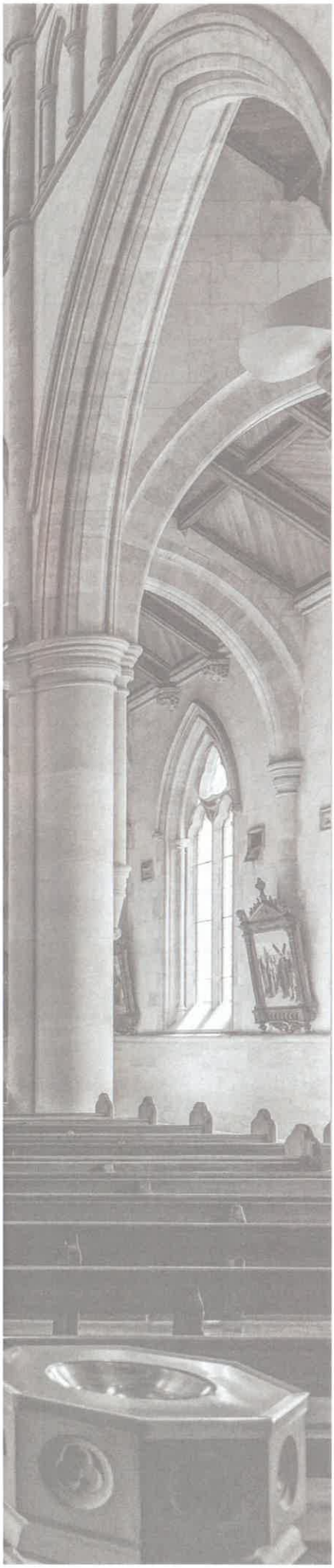

Minneapolis Area Synod
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 27, 2020
Synod worship service: www.youtu.be/PFLzhKmrBKc



GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements Rev. John Hulden

Song *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ELW 270

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 angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! ***Refrain***

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son 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 each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. ***Refrain***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Confession & Forgiveness Brenda Blackhawk

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.
Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our lack of faith and trust.
Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.
Forgive our neglect of the poor.
The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.
Forgive our selfishness and complacency.
With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
In ☩ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!
Amen.

Song *Away in the Manger* ELW 277

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Christmas Dialog

Madeline Troyer

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
By day and night he shines for all to see.
Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.
God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.
Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Prayer of the Day

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

Song *Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW 289

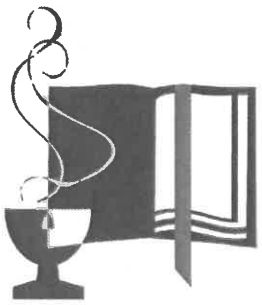
1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? ***Refrain***

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. ***Refrain***

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864



WORD

Reading Rev. Kelly Chatman

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult
in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a
bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns
herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the
Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before
all the nations. 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for
Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out
like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 2 The nations
shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you
shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will
give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reading Karen Ohm

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of
a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that
we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls
out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's
child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Children's Sermon Rev. Craig Pederson

Song *Cold December Flies Away* ELW 299

1 Cold December flies away
at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks
while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen pow'r
of the tree which bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree
blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose
here in love's own garden,
full and strong in glory.

2 In the hopeless time of sin
shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death.
Eyes were closed in sleeping.
But, when all seemed lost in night,
came the sun whose golden light
brings unending joy,
brings the endless joy
of our hope, highest hope,
of our hope's bright dawning,
Son belov'd of heaven.

3 Now the bud has come to bloom,
and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flow'r
dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth
from the moment of its birth;
and its beauty lives.
In the flow'r it lives,
in the flow'r, and it spreads
in its heav'nly brightness
sweet perfume delightful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
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Gospel Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Luke 2:22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law
of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the
Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn
male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),24 and they offered
a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a
pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man
in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous
and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the
Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the
Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the
Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the
temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for
him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his
arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Master, now you are dismissing
your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have
seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of
all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to
your people Israel." 33 And the child's father and mother were
amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed
them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the
falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will
be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed
—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." 36 There was also a
prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She
was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years
after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and
prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to
praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking
for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When they had finished
everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to
Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and
became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was
upon him.

Sermon Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Rundman Family Band:
Jonathan: guitar
Dawn: accordion, xylophone
Svea: violin
Paavo: violin

Anthem *"For Such a Time as This"*

All Creation Sings 1003

Could it be that we are called
For such a time as this
Repeat x 2

Could it be that you are called
For such a time as this
Repeat x 2

Could it be that I am called
For such a time as this
Repeat x 2

Could it be that we are called
For such a time as this
Repeat x 2

For such a time as this
Repeat x 3

Prayers Emilie Bouvier

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with hope.
Your Word, Jesus, is salvation.
In the Christ light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.
In the Christ light, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.
In the Christ light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.
In the Christ light, illumine our world,
Bind the wounds of injustice, fill the hungry with good things, and turn the world around.
It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world your love.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Blessing Bob Hulteen

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the enthusiasm of the shepherds,
and the everlasting love of Jesus
who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.
Almighty God, ✝ Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
bless you and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Song *Go Tell It on the Mountain* ELW 290

Refrain
Go, tell it on the mountain
over the hills and ev'erywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

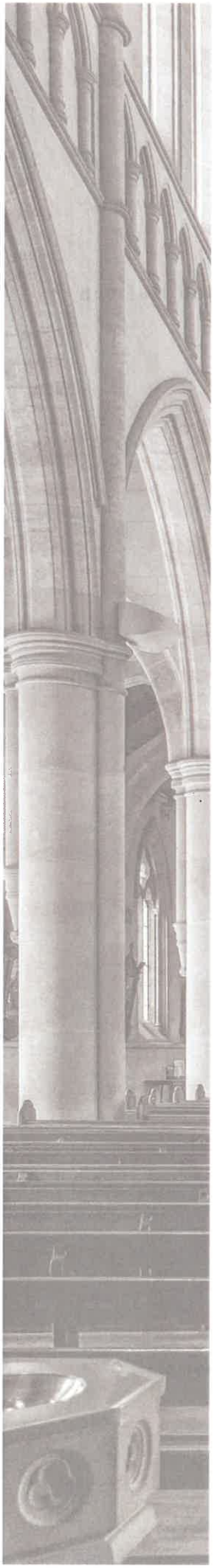
1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light ***Refrain***

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth ***Refrain***

3 Down in a lowly manger
our humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn ***Refrain x 2***

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Postlude



Special Thanks

Thank you to Christ Lutheran Church in Blaine
for hosting the recording of this worship service.

Special thanks to Pastor Kent Lee for his hospitality
and to Jason Paulson and Chance Amundsen
for their expert technical assistance.

Thank you to the Rundman family
- Jonathan, Dawn, Paavo, Svea -
for their excellent musical leadership.

Synod Staff Worship Leaders:

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor John Hulden - Assistant to the Bishop

Liturgists

Brenda Blackhawk - Congregational Organizer for Racial Justice

Madeline Troyer - Associate Organizer for Environmental Justice

Emilie Bouvier - Director of Organizing

Pastor Craig Pederson - Assistant to the Bishop

Bob Hulteen - Director of Communications and Public Voice

Lectors

Pastor Kelly Chatman - Advisor to the Bishop

Karen Ohm - Director of Roster and Call Process

Preacher

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA