



*Please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM*

Parking lot worship for

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

If you plan to sit outside please put your mask on before leaving your car. You may also want to wear a mask if you remain sitting in your car with the windows open. The CDC recommends individuals age two and older wear masks. ***Remember, if you plan to sit outside you will need to sit next to your car so you are able to hear the radio broadcast.***

- The church will be open for restroom use only.
- The rules for social distancing remain in effect. Stay a minimum of 6 feet from each other and wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
- Scrip will be available for purchase before and after worship. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The pretty paper is thrown away. The big even was the other day.

**C: Why is the time right after Christmas so blasé?**

P: When the special days are done it seems like there's no more fun.

**C: Yet, some are glad and relieved when the hype is finally gone.**

P: But, don't mistake God for high profile events. Yes, he was on top of Mt. Sinai when the ten commandments were given. However, God was also with Jesus in the valley on the cross.

**C: God is with now regardless of how we feel.**

P: St. Paul told us nothing can separate us from the love of God.

**C: Not even if we feel blasé?**

P: Perhaps it's at these times with Our Lord is with us even more.

## OPENING PRAYER

**Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is really real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people. Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SONG # 19

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

### Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night',  
even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts,  
O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God,

and that the bloodthirsty would depart  
from me—  
those who speak of you maliciously,  
and lift themselves up against you for evil!  
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up  
against you?

I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.  
Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

### **Luke 17:20-21**

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.'

### SERMON

SONG #284

"We Plow the Fields"

### PASTORAL PRAYER...LORD'S PRAYER

In the darkness before creation, you made all that lives and breathes.  
In the darkness of Mary's womb, you formed Jesus, bringer of light.  
In the darkness of our world your spirit sustains us.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

Under the cover of darkness, Magi followed the star to the Christ-child.  
We come from the East and we come from the West,  
following you on our different roads, following the same star to the same place.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

In the stillness of the dark, we pray for all who need God's presence in a special way—people who cannot find work,  
who cannot pay their bills, who have no place to live,  
people who are discouraged and hopeless, people who have become cynical and bitter.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

We live in this world in our bodies, we rejoice in life and breath,  
yet when sickness or pain cripples us, we lose our bearings, we feel lost and bewildered. We need your presence to keep us safe.

Be with those who are sick, especially...

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

Thank you for moments of inspiration, for moments of clear vision

where we see who we are and who we are meant to be,  
where we see where we are, and where you want us to go.  
Give us courage to take the journey that you call us to,  
and give us strength on the road.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

Your presence sustains us, help us to go from worship this morning,  
having seen your face, having done homage to your goodness,

**We are confident in the work you are doing  
in us and through us, for your kingdom come,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (FROM EPHESIANS 3)

... POSTLUDE

**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Eugene Schmidt, Sr. (father of Tammy Westphalen)  
Knapp Family

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Warren Fidlin  
Macullen Schnell (friend of Tasha Rabe)  
Polly Jeanty  
Dan Wempner  
Ross Westphalen  
Nenahlo Family  
JQ - Student of Randy  
Theo Marcus

When sending Christmas cards this  
year, please consider our members in  
assisted living facilities:

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer  
c/o Field Of Dreams Asst. Living  
505 Belitz Dr.  
Kiel, WI 53042

Carol Meiselwitz  
c/o The Waterford at Plymouth  
2586 Valley Rd.  
Plymouth, WI 53073

Bonnie Neuhaus (mother of Dawn  
Muehlbauer)  
Karen Schlegel  
Jane Markelz

Dale Horneck  
Olivia Marie  
Jessica Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer, Carol Meiselwitz,

**Other concerns:**

Division in the U.S.	Racial Justice and equality in our country
Health Care workers	Those whose businesses are struggling
Those who are out of work	People who live in places where violence prevails.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We need your help! We are looking for any one who is able to shovel snow from sidewalks around the church. There is also a snowblower available for your use. Contact Louie Bowe if you can help.
- This holiday season, the Sunday School is collecting items for the Treffert Center in Fond du Lac. The Treffert Center offers services to children with autism, behavioral and communication disorders, in addition to preschool and after-school programs. Materials in need are:
  - Packs of Construction Paper · Play-dough · Play-dough tools · Kinetic Sand · Children's Paint Brushes · Water color paints · Shaving Cream · Bubbles · Larger plastic beads to string · Yoga Balls · Markers · Arts and Crafts Supplies (pom poms, trinkets, glitter, beads, etc.) · Blue Painters Tape
  - A box is located near the church entrance. Monetary donations are also accepted. Collections will be taken through the month of January.
- Christmas lights not working? Don't throw them away - Bethlehem recycles them! Place them beneath the mail boxes and the proceed help support the Building Maintenance Fund.
- The Loads of Love Laundry ministry had its biggest turnout on December 7. We served four family units who were referred by the NH schools and St. Vinnie's of Kiel. We had just under \$80 in expenditures. We could use your help! In addition to cash donations, we are in need of more Tide Pods and dryer sheets. If writing a check, please make it out to "Bethlehem Missions" and note LAUNDRY in the memo. If you'd like to be involved, let Randy know.