



Lessons and Carols

First Sunday of Christmas – December 26, 2021

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are glad to have you join us in the worship of Our Lord.

Please sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

Mask wearing is optional if fully immunized.

Today's Alter Representatives

Sermon: Thomas Hutton

Greeters/Ushers: Phil Newlander

Lector: Mike Gillis

Music: Molly Finkbiner

Faith Lutheran Church

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PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALOGUE (*please stand as you are able*)

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.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

GATHERING SONG: "Angels We Have Heard on High" LBW 71

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

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

First Carol: *Christ be our Light* (v. 1,2,5)

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

signs of your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1-2)" LBW 41

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Third Carol: "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly" WOV 634

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,
virgin mother, wise and mild.
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary
love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,

though he went forth from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
till on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father;
glory be to God the Son;
glory be to God the Spirit;
glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary,
from all saints the song ascends,
and the church the strain reechoes
unto earth's remotest ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891-1985

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:1-7

- ¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- ³ All went to their own towns to be registered.
- ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Fourth Carol: "I Wonder as I Wander (v. 1-2)" WOV 642

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
The promise of the ages it then did recall.

Title: I Wonder as I Wander. Source: Traditional Appalachian carol. © Public Domain

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-16

- ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
- ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- ¹⁴ "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!*"
- ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."
- ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Fifth Carol: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory (v. 1,2,4)" LBW 50

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,

yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:21-35

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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^[f] 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."

Sixth Carol: "What Child is This (v. 1-2)" LBW 40

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

SEVENTH READING: Matthew 2:1–11

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "*In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:*

⁶ *'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'*"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Seventh Carol: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" LBW 30

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

EIGHTH READING: Matthew 2:13-18

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Eighth Carol: "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord (v. 1, 3)" LBW 52

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

NINTH READING: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(Please stand as you are able)

Ninth Carol: "Of the Father's Love Begotten (v. 1-2)" LBW 42

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

PRAYER LIST

Tracey E., Drew D., Margery B, Barbara M, Kevin D, Sherry K, Walt D, Adam C. and Family, Judy H., Megan, Jim, Roberta R., Mike, Judi O'D, Diana, Wolcott, Dawn, Jeanine, Allen B., Tom and Valerie M., Ed, the congregation of St. John of Scotrun.

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Please be seated)

OFFERING HYMN: "I Wonder as I Wander" WOV 642

Played instrumentally by Molly Finkbiner

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

(Stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY SONG: **Oh, What Shall I Render** *(sung to tune of Away In a Manger)*

Oh, what shall I render in thanks to my Lord
for all the good gifts by which I am restored?
No treasure I tender could ever repay
God's mercy and faithfulness, new ev'ry day.

My hands take the cup of salvation you give;
I'll praise you, O God, for as long as I live.
My thanks will rise up as I call on your name,
with all of your people your goodness proclaim.

Text: Martin A. Seltz, based on Ps. 116. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Go Tell it on the Mountain" LBW 70

Refrain

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

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

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

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

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

DISMISSAL

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings

AA Meeting – Tuesday and Friday at 12 noon and Thursday at 10 am.

Choir: Postponed till further notice.

Boomwhackers, Bells and Chimes: Will resume on Wednesday, January 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive: On **December 29th from 11 am – 3 pm** there will be a blood drive. This particular blood drive includes slots for Power Red and regular blood donation. Power Red are donors who have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood. To register and know more about the specific requirements go to redcrossblood.org.

Bible Study: We will be off December 26th and January 2, 2022 and resume on January 9th starting with John 16. Tom H. (570) 972-6331.

The Amazing Magi: A Father's Day special Saturday, June 18 at 3 pm.

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: New 2022 Bulletin located in the foyer table entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$20 towards silk flowers or you may bring your own fresh flowers.

Stewardship Snip-it

Colossians 3:12, 14 –As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. *We all know that stewardship is about how we live so that we love God thoroughly and our neighbor as ourselves. This remarkable passage gives us a vivid image to help us get there. Wake each day and clothe ourselves in Christian character and love.*

Michael Reist

The Amazing Magi

"The Amazing Magi really is Absolutely Amazing!"

WFMZ Channel 69 News

"Amazing, Inspiring and Incredibly Funny"

The Reading Eagle

"PA's Premier Family Magician and Entertainer"

Expert TV

"The Crowd loved him. All were having a great time."

The Morning Call



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**The Amazing Magi Appearing
Saturday, June 18th 3:00 PM
Faith Lutheran Church
550 PA-940, Pocono Lake, PA**

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Hymns:

Angels We Have Heard on High, traditional French carol.

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Christ, Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell. #80229

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Go, Tell It on the Mountain, John W. Work, Jr., Spiritual. #111469

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Offering Music:

I Wonder as I Wander, Solo Piano courtesy of David Nevue.

www.DavidNevue.com

Postlude:

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, arranged for Solo Piano by Josie Merlino.

Live-streamed with permission of Josie Merlino.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148

Surrender to what is. Let go of what was. Have faith in what will be.
—Sonia Ricotti

This coming Friday night, people around the world will party. It's New Year's Eve and if this isn't a chance to party, then you're clearly not a party animal.

I'm not either. Chances are I will be in bed by 9 p.m.! How about you?

But the younger set will probably want to welcome the new year in by staying up well past midnight. So now the question is: Where are the best places to go on New Year's Eve?

One travel site suggests London. "Watch London's best new year's fireworks as the sky lights up with a million different colors as Big Ben, Tower Bridge and the London Eye are illuminated in the backdrop."

Or one might go to Berlin and head for the Brandenburg Gate where there's live music until 3 a.m. Copacabana Beach in Rio is another option. Budapest, Sydney, Paris — celebrations everywhere. And of course, New York City and Times Square.

This is relevant how? Because Psalm 148 is today's reading for the last Sunday of the year and it reads like a New Year's Eve party invitation! Feel free to read psalms 149 and 150.

In these psalms, David, the psalmist, raves about the band, and all the instruments, but here in Psalm 148 he also calls on all creation to come to the party. The psalmist doesn't really offer any reason as to *why* we should celebrate. Clearly, he believes this is obvious. It's the Lord we're praising here. No explanations are necessary.

Perhaps having a "God party" is not a bad idea. Perhaps on Friday, you and some friends can gather to celebrate God!

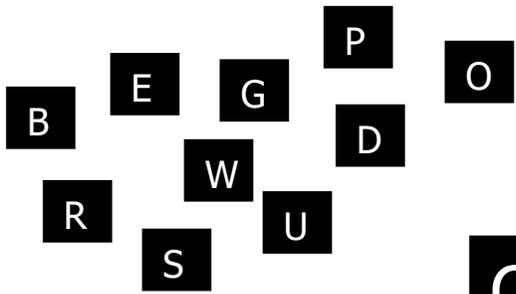
There's a name for this, you know. It's called worship!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord God, I thank you for the blessings of 2021. They have made me grateful. And I also thank you for the challenges of 2021. They have made me stronger. Amen.

MAKE A WORD

Directions: Using four of the letters in the “pile,” to the left, fill in the boxes below to make a seven-letter word that connects the grid.



Good resolutions are ones that are measurable and realistic. What changes do you want to make starting this week?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Song of Solomon 3-4
- Monday:** Song of Solomon 5-6
- Tuesday:** Song of Solomon 7-8
- Wednesday:** Revelation 19

- Thursday:** Revelation 20
- Friday:** Revelation 21
- Saturday:** Revelation 22

Congratulations on reading the Bible from cover to cover in one year

Answer:
 (spelled
 backwards)
 ELUNARG



*Have a Blessed
New Year
2022*

