



**“Promises Fulfilled: Promises of a New Year”
1st Sunday After Christmas
December 27, 2020**

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/podcasts/>. DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE The assembly speaks the bold verses

Preparing for Worship

We gather to usher in the New Year and thank God for the blessings in our lives. Today, as always, we are offered an opportunity to start over, to let go of our disappointments, and go forth with faith in the hope and promise that exists through Jesus.

As we pause to reflect in this junction between old and new, past and future, let us acknowledge our source of hope.

Rather than rushing, hurrying into the New Year making our own plans and resolutions, let us stop and wait for the Lord.

Let's look back in gratitude. Where have you seen God's compassion this year? God's great love and faithfulness you or others have received?

Pause, taking this moment to thank God for the good gifts, God has provided.

May 2021 be filled with joy and peace for you and those that you love.

Hymn *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* - David Doty

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the child was born for you!
 Christ the child was born for you!

LITANY FOR THE NEW YEAR (*adapted from Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, 14*)

For everything there is a season:
And a time for every matter under heaven:
A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.
A time to break down, and a time to build up.
A time to weep and a time to laugh.
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to be silent and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate.
A time for war and a time for peace.
God has made everything suitable for its time.
God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.
God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.
Whatever God does endures forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Glory of Israel,

the coming of your son, Jesus, broke open the heavens and prepared a way for all of your children to come home to you. Give us eyes to see your miraculous spirit moving in this church and in this world. Teach us to be proclaimers of your love to the nations, for the sake of the one whose name is redemption for the peoples, Jesus Christ our salvation. **Amen.**

Scripture *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection *Pastor Andrea Fluegel*

Music *First Noel - David Doty*

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Confession & Forgiveness

As we face the dawn of a new year, let us seek God's grace for our sins during the past year, confident that God is abounding in steadfast love.

Silence for individual confession and reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone during the last year. Uphold us by your Spirit in the days to come so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God looks upon us with mercy and by water and the Word joins us to the saving death of Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, God raises us with Christ to new life. I, therefore, declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Music *If In Your Heart* – Ana Hernandez
**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing.

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth.

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care.

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. We especially pray for people, places and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds this Christmas season...

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

Lord of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
we gather here awaiting the New Year,
in a mixture of hope, anticipation, fear, excitement, and expectation.
We do not know what the year holds for us.
There are things we are afraid of:
worries about health and family, job security and finances, viruses and vaccines.
There is much to look forward to –
weddings or anniversaries or baptisms,
holidays to enjoy,
friends to laugh with.

Lord God,
the coming year is full of uncertainty and hope.
Whatever the year holds for us, though,
we trust You, and we place every day of this year in your care
knowing that, as in the past, You are with us,
caring for us with constant love.

And so Lord, we place ourselves into your keeping
and dedicate our lives to your service
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

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.**

New Year Prayer

God as we prepare to say goodbye
to one year and to welcome in another,
help us to see echoes
of the miracle you perform daily
in making all things new.
We pray that you will be with all who mourn,
those for whom this is a time of sadness or regret.
We pray for those
for whom this is a time of uncertainty or fear.

We pray for those for whom this is simply another day:
when they are still hungry,
still homeless, still suffering the violence of the world.
Lord in every opportunity you give us,
may we be mindful of others,
and not just mindful but moved to make a difference.
Give us resolve
to step out in faith with you
to be the change we want to see,
to be co-creators with you
in the healing of the nations.
May this coming year hold out hope
and the promise of your kingdom come,
your will be done, O Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and far away;
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*

Sending Prayer

Lord God,
you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths
untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing
where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Worship Experiences

There is a **Northern Great Lakes Synod Christmas Worship Service** on the Synod YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/fP9Y0EDhymys>. If you would like a DVD of this worship experience, please contact the Prince of Peace church office. This worship service will also be broadcasted on Marquette Channel 6 television station. Prince of Peace has worked in conjunction with Channel 6 and the Synod office to produce this worship experience for the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin. Also available is an audio-only, **Christmas radio play**. You can listen to this radio play by calling 1-978-599-7887. *Just stay on the line to listen to the content.*

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

Staff Availability

Prince of Peace staff will have limited availability from December 21 - January 2 in order to prepare for Christmas Worship, end-of-the year, and to take some sabbath time to renew and refresh. Please email, Facebook message, text, or leave a voicemail and they will get back to you. If it is a pastoral care emergency, please **call** Pastor Andrea Fluegel on her cell phone at 715-891-5975.

End-of-the-Year Gifts

If you would like to make a contribution to the ministry of Prince of Peace and would like it credited to your giving record for 2020, you **must mail (and postmark)** checks on or by **December 31, 2020** in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2020. If you are mailing from the Eagle River Post Office and want it postmarked promptly, please **take it to the counter inside the Post Office** and ask for "local postmark."

Volunteer for the Weekend Backpack Program

Please sign up to help with the Weekend Backpack Program. Volunteers are needed weekly to continue this ministry. Contact the church office or visit the website to sign up. We are feeding 133 children each week through this program plus are feeding an additional 100 children through in-school pantries!

Worship DVDs

DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are now available at POP! They can be mailed or scheduled for pick up by contacting the church office via telephone (715-479-9263).

Return to Phase 1

The Prince of Peace Council has decided to return back to Phase 1 due to the rising number of positive COVID-19 cases and deaths in Vilas and Oneida Counties as well as the number of students being quarantined due to close contact with a positive case in the Northland Pines School District. This means that we are suspending the limited communion worship for the meantime and reducing the number of volunteers for the Backpack Program and for other essential functions of the church. The Church Council continues to reassess what is happening in our local community on a frequent basis. The Oneida and Vilas Health Departments are strongly encouraging people to limit contact with people outside their immediate household, wear face masks/coverings, wash hands, and keep at least 6 feet (or more) distance from others if you need to go outside of your household unit.

CURRENT PHASE: 1

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

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