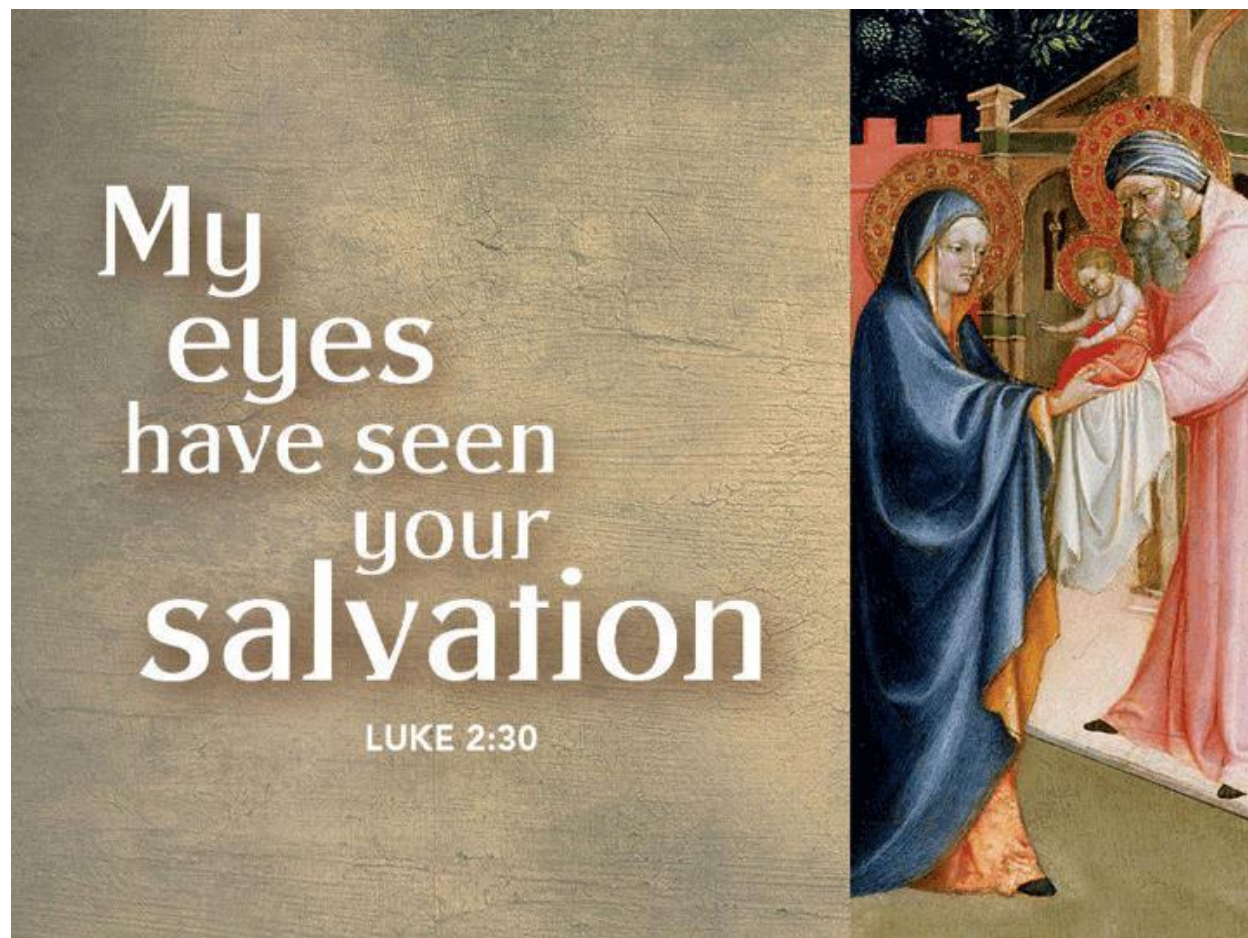


First Sunday of Christmas
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 27, 2020



All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA

722 Rockbridge Road SW

Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor

John Womack, Director of Music and Organist

www.allsaintsilburn.org

Introduction to the day

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

---GATHERING---

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ZOOM NARTHEX TIME

9:50-10:05 am

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisette Branscomb
Congregational President

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Stanzas 1 and 5
The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

GREETING**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

---WORD---

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3**Kelly Kraus**

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

²The 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.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R
⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. R
¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

Kelly Kraus

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

A reading from Galatians.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule | in your hearts,* and let the word of Christ dwell | in you richly. *Alleluia.* (Col. 3:15, 16)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] 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”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and

day. ³⁸At 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.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 277

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kelly Kraus

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

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save.

Holy God, we pray especially for:

- Lisa and Scott Granholm; Jan Watford; Sandra Robinson; Julie Boyer; Sharon Marion.
- Maddy Faass; The family of Genet Johnson; Charlene Meyer; Kathryn Stoner.
- Tom Miller; Joyce Holdrich; Jeff Smith; Buster Lanham; Keith Kessler and family.
- Cindy Murphy; Robert and Betty; Jessica Kraus; Sister Roberta; Sandy Staven.
- Cherie Mason; Margaret; June Hix; Trudy Hanson; Sharon O'Connor; Gail Guffey.
- Hilton and Patti Austin; Marjorie O'Brien; Jerry Barnes; Jim and Mary Scobee.
- Charlie Kuni; Ted Haag; Leisa Wiggley; Officer Max Brewer; Rosie Marks; Marta.
- Steve Robinson; Margaret Robinson; Rick Robinson; Sondra Fowler.
- Chris Holdrich, Stephanie, and all healthcare workers.
- Bob and all those underemployed and unemployed.
- Richard Kraus.
- Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- All Saints' Call Committee.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For (*John, apostle and evangelist, and*) all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

---MEAL---

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/AllSaintsLutheranChurch1/general>

OFFERING of Bread and Wine

Preparing your bread and wine

All

OFFERING PRAYER

Kelly Kraus

Let us pray.

Good and loving God,

We rejoice in the birth of Jesus,

who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.

As you have blessed us with your gifts,

let them be a blessing for others.

With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,

we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

+DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

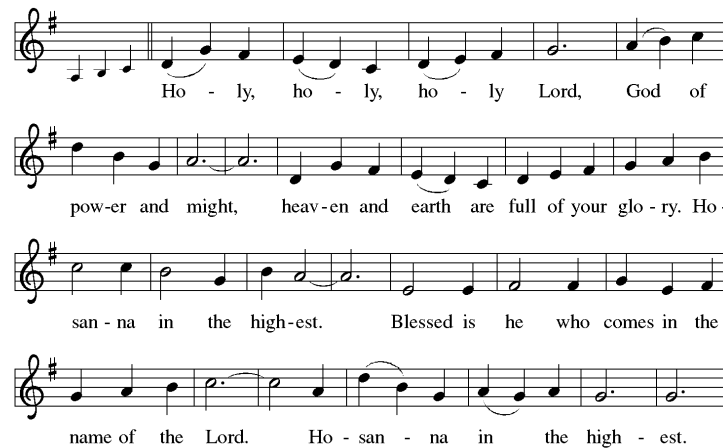
+PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

John Womack



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.
By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

+LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

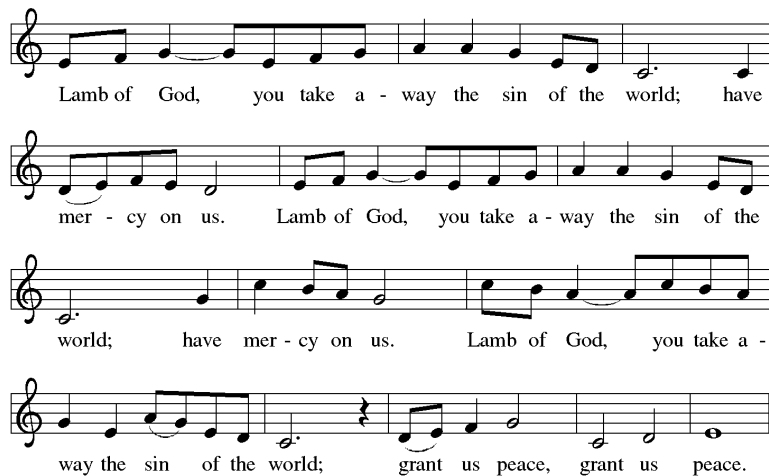
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond: Amen

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)

John Womack



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto everlasting life.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Kelly Kraus

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,
You give us food for your journey.
As you led the magi by a star,
as you brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us.
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

---SENDING---

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. **Amen.**
May the Word the Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. **Amen.**
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**
And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and
remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

ELW 275

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE

DISMISSAL

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ Lisa (co-worker of Laura Trittin) and Scott Granholm, who lost everything in a house fire in Loganville the weekend before Christmas
- ❖ Jan Watford, hospitalization for breathing issues
- ❖ Sandra Robinson, recovering from hospitalization for MS issues
- ❖ Julie Boyer, for strength and reassurance, breast cancer surgery scheduled for January 4
- ❖ Sharon Marion, for safe travel and health while visiting family out of state; follow-up for heart issues
- ❖ Maddy Faass, for healing and pain relief from a broken foot
- ❖ The family of Genet Johnson (Blandon's wife), who have been caught up in violence in Ethiopia and have not been heard from for several weeks
- ❖ Charlene Meyer (mother of Sharon Marion) and Kathryn Stoner (mother of Mary Kay Kates) for comfort and peace living in a facility where there are COVID cases
- ❖ Tom Miller (father-in-law of Abby Yale Miller), for healing in recovery from a brain infection; physical therapy and rehab for 14 weeks
- ❖ Joyce Holdrich, monitoring high heart rate (Afib) condition
- ❖ Jeff Smith (cousin of Joann Rosselle), diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- ❖ Buster Lanham (brother-in-law of Angela Kates), chemo and radiation for inoperable Stage 2 pharyngeal cancer
- ❖ Keith Kessler & family (former St. James members), Keith was recently diagnosed with an incurable rare disease. Also for Sharon and Dave Anyan who have been friends with the Kessler family for 40 years
- ❖ Cindy Murphy, recovering from back surgery on December 14; MRIs in early January to determine treatment for kidney issue
- ❖ Robert (nephew of Betty Bradford), recovery after surgery and other major health concerns; also for his 85 year-old mother Betty (sister-in-law of Betty Bradford), who is his caregiver
- ❖ Jessica Kraus (niece of Bruce Kraus), diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma, prayers for strength as she begins chemotherapy
- ❖ Sister Roberta, for renewed strength and energy; she is grateful for everyone's prayers
- ❖ Sandy Staven, for relief from hip pain, hip replacement surgery scheduled for January 12
- ❖ Cherie Mason, relief from side effects of chemotherapy; thanksgiving for having completed half of her chemo treatments
- ❖ Margaret (friend of Laura Trittin's mother Carol), stage 4 kidney disease; searching for a living donor
- ❖ June Hix, relief from difficulty walking, sinus issues and severe allergies
- ❖ Trudy Hanson, chemotherapy for breast cancer; radiation to follow
- ❖ Sharon O'Connor, health issues
- ❖ Gail Guffey, mother-in-law of Sandy (Cherie Mason's daughter), in hospice after suffering a massive stroke, now responsive and being considered for rehab
- ❖ Hilton and Patti Austin, for strength, comfort, and courage as Hilton moves into hospice care
- ❖ Marjorie O'Brien, health issues
- ❖ Jerry Barnes, for COPD and health issues
- ❖ Jim Scobee, recovering from heart valve replacement on October 21, prayers for patience and regained strength and energy; Mary Scobee, pain relief from arthritis

- ❖ Charlie Kuni, carotid artery issues; awaiting a surgery date
- ❖ Ted Haag (friend of Joyce & John Holdrich for 60 yrs), dealing with lung cancer, as he moves into hospice care
- ❖ Leisa Wiggley (friend of All Saints' quilters), for healing from pancreatic cancer
- ❖ APD Officer Max Brewer, now home, for healing and successful rehab and therapy
- ❖ Rosie Marks (Cherie Mason's sister-in-law), for her recovery from colon cancer surgery
- ❖ Marta (long-time friend of Rica Kelly), for healing from health issues
- ❖ Steve Robinson (brother of Rick Robinson) in rehab for diabetes
- ❖ Margaret Robinson (mother-in-law of Sandra Robinson), recovering from broken hip/falls
- ❖ Rick Robinson (Sandra Robinson's husband), for healing
- ❖ Sondra Fowler (cousin of Sandra Robinson), for healing after the death of her husband; thanksgiving that prayers are working and she is doing better
- ❖ Chris Holdrich (John & Joyce Holdrich's grandson) and Stephanie (friend of Joann Rosselle), for guidance and protection in their work as healthcare workers
- ❖ Bob (brother of Cherie Mason) and all those underemployed/unemployed
- ❖ Richard Kraus (father of Bruce Kraus), and others for reassurance and safety living in facilities where COVID-19 may be present
- ❖ Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators, for guidance, wisdom, and cooperation in making wise decisions for all
- ❖ All Saints' Call Committee, as they move ahead in the Call Process

Poinsettia Dedications

Joann & Brad Rosselle

*In Memory of Joseph & Harriett Tortora, Joann's parents
In Memory of Cynthia Weaston & George Rosselle, Sr.,
Brad's parents*

Al and Mary Kay Kates

*In Memory of Marie Zagaglia
In Memory of Shirley Fareed*

Mark and Angie Sanderlin

In Memory of Johnny Harris, Mark's uncle

Sharon Marion

In Honor of Charlene Meyer (Sharon's mother)

Betty Bradford

In Honor of Joyce Holdrich

Tom and Sheila Wagner

*In Memory of Carl and Article Hanson
In Memory of Eugene and Carolyn Wagner*

Jack and Lisette Branscomb

*In Honor of Levi Kish's first Christmas, grandson of Jack
and Lisette
In Honor of Glenn and Lauren Branscomb and Katie
and Dan Kish, Jack and Lisette's children
In Honor of John and Dot Branscomb and in memory of
Lois and Milton Dasher, parents of Jack and Lisette*

Martha Wooden

In Memory of Phil Wooden, Martha's husband

Bruce and Kelly Kraus

*In Memory of George and Joyce Green, Kelly's parents
and In Memory of Eleanor Kraus, Bruce's mother*

John Womack

In Memory of his parents and grandparents

Mac and Miriam McCann

For the Glory of God

John and Joyce Holdrich

*In Memory of Sandy and Sam Overland, long-time close
friends*