

The Morning Worship

Liturgists
9:00am - *Pastor Kalland*
10:00am - *Pastor MacLean*

The Prelude *Violin Partita No.3 in E Major* J. S. Bach
Claire Loudon, violin

The Processional Hymn - - - - - 275:1, 2, 4
(Please stand as you are able as the pastors enter the Chancel)

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.

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*

The Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*
Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Congregation: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in

thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.** *(Please sing)*
Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*

The Hymn of Praise- - - - - 288:1, 2

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: And also with you. *(Please sing)*

Pastor and Congregation:
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. *(Please sing)*
(Please be seated)

The Epistle - - - - - **Galatians 4:4-7** *(page 947)*

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 sons and daughters.

The Gradual Hymn - - - - - 278:3

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.

(Before the reading, please stand as you are able and sing)

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel - - - - - **Luke 2:22-40** *(page 833)*

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.

(After the reading, please sing)

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Profession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Hymn - - - - - 289:1, 3

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.

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

The Welcome

The Offertory *What Child Is This?* - - - - - Dennis Janzer
Claire Loudon, violin

(Please stand as you are able and sing)

The Offertory Prayer

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Pulpit Hymn- - - - - 279:2, 3

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!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

The Sermon **Anna Helgen, Pastoral Associate**
“The Word Made Known”

The Baptismal Service *(held during the 10am service)*

(Please stand as you are able and sing)

The Closing Hymn - - - - - 267:1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
et ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

The Lord's Prayer - - - - - Page 112

The Benediction and Threefold Amen

(The congregation is asked to pause for a moment of silent prayer)

The Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High - - - Michael Bedford*

*Please be so kind as to leave your bulletin at the end of the pew
or place in the recycle bin as you leave. Thank you.*

Director of Worship & Music, *Beverly Claflin*
Principal Organist, *Richard Owen*

Welcome Guests

We are delighted you are worshiping with us today. We warmly welcome you and are grateful for your presence and prayers. If you have any questions about the ministries of Mount Olivet Church, please come to the Information Desk in the Narthex. Large print bulletins and hearing devices available at the Information Desk located in the Narthex.

Baptisms

Isabella M. Welk, daughter of Jessica and Shawn, will be received into the fellowship of Christ and His Church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism today.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar in the main sanctuary are in honor of Pastor Kurt Kalland for his work in the community.

If you would like to donate Sunday morning altar flowers in loving memory or in honor of someone you know, please contact Mary Lindberg, 612-767-2200/maryl@mtolivet.org. Orders are appreciated two weeks in advance of your desired date. The cost is \$50.00.

Next Sunday

Sunday morning worship services will be at 9, 10, 11am and 12noon. Pastor Lose will be preaching on *“Freed for Life.”* Holy Communion will be observed at 8:30am and following the 12noon service. At 9, 10, and 11am, Sunday Church School and The Way resume, and nursery will be available for children ages six-weeks through two-years.

The First Sunday of Christmas December 31, 2017

PASTORS

David J. Lose, Senior Pastor
Kurt P. Kalland Stephen J. Cornils
Monica M. Hammersten William B. MacLean
Anna K. Helgen, Pastoral Associate