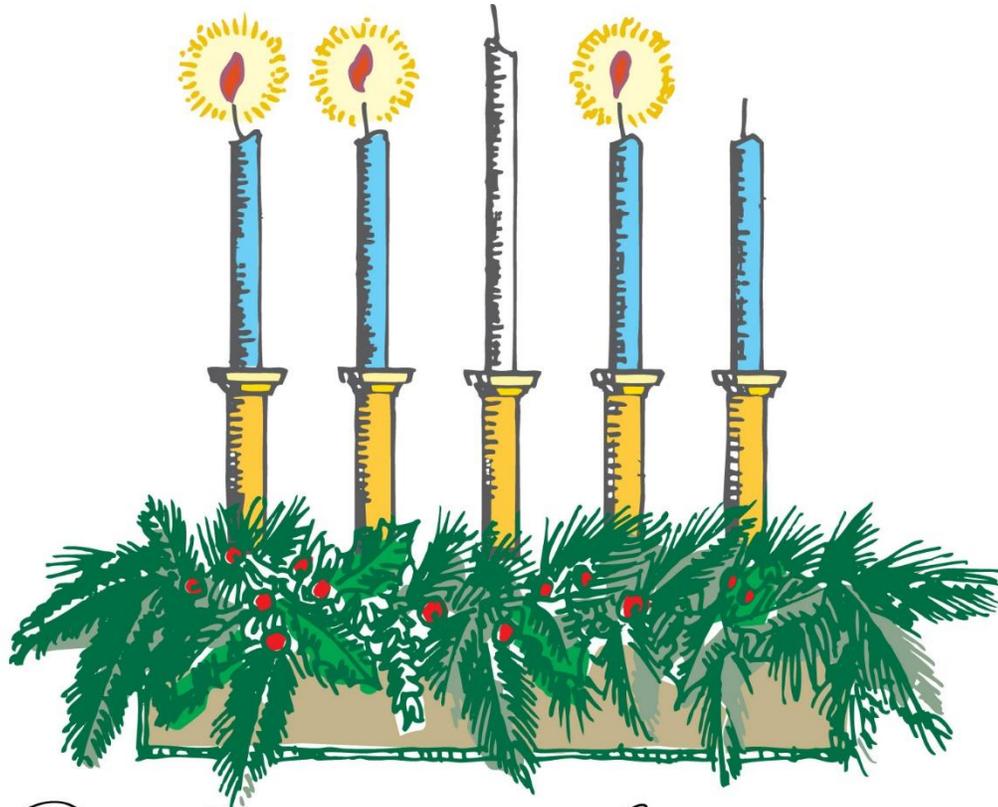


# Season of Advent

December 13, 2020 9:30 am

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## *Third Sunday* OF ADVENT

### **HAVEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1035 Haven Road Hagerstown, MD 21742 (301) 733-5056

Worship with Communion: Sunday 9:30 am

Worship Online: [www.Havenlc.org](http://www.Havenlc.org) (premieres Sunday 9:30 am)

Ministers: All God's People at Haven Pastor: Linda M. Alessandri

*A warm welcome to each of you as we gather for worship today, and a special welcome to our guests. As we offer God our praise, may you be richly blessed by God's gracious Word, Meal, and Community.*

## GATHERING

### GATHERING HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (vs. 3) #242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



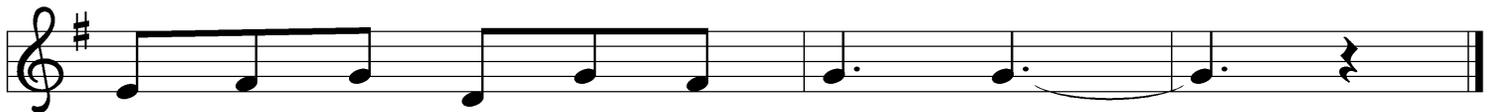
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A: Greetings, favored ones! The Lord is with you.

C: **Let it be with me according to your word, Lord.** *(Based on Luke 2: 28, 38)*  
*(after the announcements)*

A: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming.**

## PRELUDE

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

setting, *Flor Peeters*

## CALL TO ADVENT - DECK THE HALLS WITH HOPE

P: Let us deck the halls with hope to honor the coming of our Lord.  
Holy One, we gather this day awaiting the promise you offer to us.

C: **Turn our eyes to witness you at work among us.**

P: Remind us in places and spaces of darkness that you are light.

C: **Slow our pace and help us to ready our hearts**

P: as we continue to wait in hope for your coming glory in our world.

C: **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

(vs. 1, 4 cont. p. 4) #264



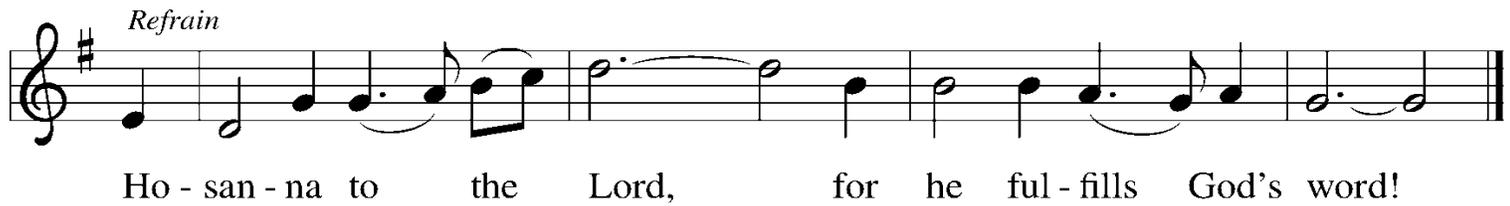
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



## THE GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Holy One, we gather this day awaiting the promise you offer to us. Turn our eyes to witness you at work among us. Remind us in places and spaces of darkness that you are light. Slow our pace and help us to ready our hearts as we continue to wait in hope for your coming glory in our world.

**C:** **Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

#### *The Advent Wreath*

*The **candles** signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The **evergreens** remind us that he is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a **circle** because the love of God and life in Christ has no end. Each week we light an additional candle. On Christmas Eve, we light all the candles, including the center one, the **Christ Candle**. As we do, we will rejoice that Christ has come to us. He is Emmanuel... "God with us."*

“Light One Candle To Watch for Messiah”

(vs. 3) #240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7 *(Read responsively by whole verse.)*

- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> **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.**
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> **For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> **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.**

*(after the reading)*

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “God’s Abiding Word Now Hear”

(cont. p. 6)

*Tune: “Angels from the Realm of Glory”*

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 God's abiding Word now hear.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 See the Son of Man appear.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Our redemption drawing near!

GOSPEL John 1: 1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(after the reading)*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Pastor Linda Alessandri

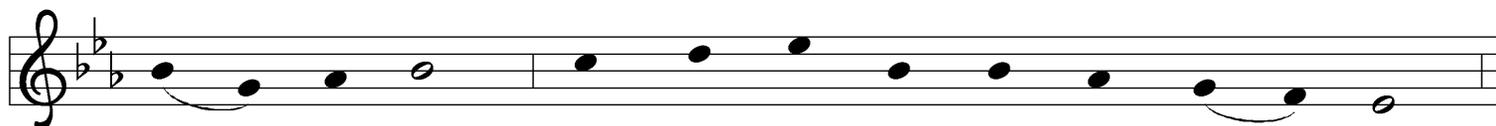
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Of the Fathers Love Begotten”

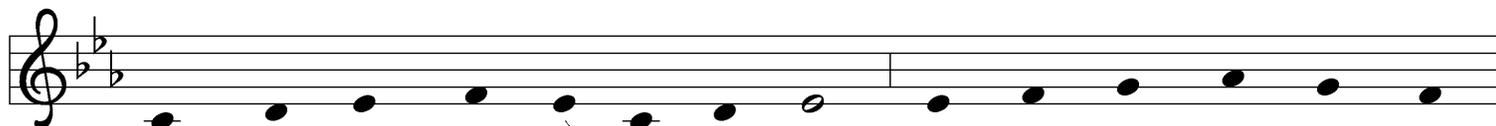
(vs. 1, 3, 5 cont. p. 7) #295



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

## THE PRAYERS

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world.  
 Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of  
 proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church  
 musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public  
 worship and service. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation.  
 Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the  
 human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to  
 care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give  
 them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their  
 actions. We pray especially for protection those sent in harm's way for the sake of  
 peace, especially **Gavin Anderson, Ben Asbury, Richard Collins, Cole Conrad,**  
**Matthew Donald, William Dorsky, Nick Graham, Jacob Kercheval, Michael**  
**McKenzie III, Nathan Snell, and Hunter Wiles.** Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of light which will not be overcome, bring your grace, comfort and healing to those  
 who are ill, recovering or suffering in any way, especially,

**Carol Shull**  
\***Virginia White**  
\***Sandy Brandon**  
\***Raven Lucas**  
\***Edward Staley**  
\***Helen**  
VanderHamm  
**Bob Dean**  
\***Nasrin Sotoudeh**  
\***Courtney Belmont**  
\***Caitlyn Battoe**  
\***Debora Daniels**  
**Sharon Hartsock**  
\***Teresa Hoover**  
\***Lindsey Hoover**  
\***Johnny Wright**  
\***Cheryl Nathan**

\***David Whitecraft**  
\***Rob Johnson**  
\***Duane Yeakle**  
\***Sarah Duckwall**  
**Ann Lochbaum**  
\***William Burkley**  
\***Monica McDonald**  
\***Mary & Family**  
\***John Libo**  
\***Ethan Sussman**  
**Pat Pile**  
\***Seth Bettoe**  
\***Christina and family**  
**Irene Giffin**  
**Nancy Newkirk**  
\***Jennifer McCleaf**  
**Meghan Byers**

\***Joyce Bossinger**  
\***Dave Burkholder**  
\***Latimer Family**  
\***Barbara & Nevin**  
Smith  
\***Tally Uchima**  
**Dick & June Hess**  
**John Britton Jr.**  
\***Bradley Palmer**  
\***Lulie Family**  
**Harold Rice**  
**Eric Meredith & family**  
**Danny Kiblinger**  
\***Robert and Thelma**  
Miller

those who mourn the loss of Francis Gift, Joseph Ungvarsky, Bob Dean and for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts at this time. (*Pause*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

*(Honor social distancing, wave or a slight bow with your hand on your heart toward others as a way to extend God's peace.)*

#### THE OFFERING

P: It's Offering Time! **C: Praise God!**

*(Thank you for your faithful generosity. May God bless what we give and use it to bring wholeness, healing and hope to God's world. Amen.)*

#### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Generous God, you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.

**C: Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

#### PRAYER WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

A: My Jesus, on the day of my baptism you poured your love into my heart  
through the Holy Spirit who united me eternally to you and your creation.

**C: I am a member of your body and one with this community of your church.  
Though I cannot at this moment receive you in holy communion,  
You ARE with me, assuring me of your presence and filling me with your love,  
so that united with you and my siblings in Christ,  
we may bring your peace and grace to a world in need. Amen.**

#### THE LORDS PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.

**SENDING**

THE BLESSING

P: God, whose presence grants you stillness,  
 Christ, whose peace helps you wait  
 Holy Spirit, whose fire illumines your way  
 † bless and keep you always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

(vs. 1, 4) #239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is with you! Share the good news.

**C:** **We will! Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*“Variations on ‘Puer Nobis Nascitur’”*

Hal Hopson

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## SERVING IN TODAY’S WORSHIP:

Presiding Minister                      Pastor Linda M. Alessandri

Assisting Minister                      David Kaplan

Music Director/Organist              Stephen Pastena

Music Leader                              Grant Wills

## **We also Remember in Prayer:**

Our homebound members: *Sari Kilheffer, Phyllis Meyers, Inez Winebrenner and Dorothy Zinkand.*

Military personnel serving in harm’s way: *Gavin Anderson, Ben Asbury, Richard Collins, Cole Conrad, Matthew Donald, William Dorsky, Nick Graham, Jacob Kercheval, Michael McKenzie III, Nathan Snell, Hunter Wiles.*

*Prayers for all those who mourn the loss of **Francis Gift, Joseph Ungvarsky and Bob Dean.***

Hospital Admissions: *Due to the recent COVID surge, Meritus has discontinued in-person pastoral visitation at this time. However, “At the request of a patient/family for a visit from a clergy of any religious affiliation, the clergy can offer prayer via phone, zoom or outside the patient’s room. Meritus can provide this service. Please contact Spiritual Care, 301-790-8479.” PLEASE call Haven’s church office or Pastor Alessandri if you or a loved one have a planned or emergency admission so she can provide support as permitted. We also want to add that person to our prayer list so our congregation can hold you or your loved one in prayer.*

*The readings for next week: Sunday, December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent  
“Deck the Halls with Love” Psalm 103:1-17a, Matthew 1:18-25*

## Christmas Eve Worship Service\*\*\*

7:00 pm In-Person and Online Live

We will broadcast the service through Facebook Live on the Haven Lutheran Church Facebook page.

You can also access Haven's Facebook page at our website ([havenlc.org](http://havenlc.org)) by clicking on the "f" icon in the upper right corner.

## First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

9:30 am Online Worship Only

\*Service of Christmas Carols and Lessons will be provided by the DE- MD Synod.

You will be able to access the service through a link posted on our Haven Lutheran Church website [www.havenlc.org](http://www.havenlc.org). This link will also be sent to those enrolled in Haven's Family and Friends e-mail list and subscribers to our website.

*(\*The DE-MD Synod put together this special service to provide local worship leaders and musicians a break and rest.)*

## **\*\*\*CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP BAGS FOR THOSE WATCHING OUR LIVESTREAMED CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT HOME\*\*\***

We will have **Christmas Eve Worship bags** ready for you by NEXT SUNDAY. In each bag there will be a bulletin, votive light and Holy Communion that will be blessed during the in-person worship service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. We ask those who would like receive one of these Christmas Eve Worship bags to **please** call or email the church **THIS week**.

Please let us know how many people will be watching at your location so we can prepare your bags. We will ask those who attend next Sunday's in-person service to help us deliver them OR you could pick one up at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Car-oling Event. Here and at home, we will celebrate Christmas together.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMING UP THIS WEEK** For the most accurate information about church events and worship at Haven, please check the Haven website at [www.havenlc.org](http://www.havenlc.org) or the Haven Facebook page for updates.

## **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

**December 20** Fourth Week of Advent – “Deck the Halls with Love”  
Reading: Psalm 103: 1-17a, Matthew 1: 18-25

**IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY, 10:00 AM** We will look at the reading(s) for next Sunday. Why not try it during Advent? Please use the entrance near the Big Brothers Big Sister’s office. Follow the signs. We will observe guidelines on social distancing and face masks.

**HAVEN’S BOOK CLUB** – Our December read is A REDBIRD CHRISTMAS by Fannie Flagg. We will meet in the Gathering Room on **Thursday, Dec. 17 at 2:00 pm.**

**GOD SQUAD EXPLORERS GOT MAIL** Our elementary school God Squad Explorers will meet the shepherds who were tending their flocks outside of Bethlehem and add them to their nativity scene. I wonder why shepherds were the first to know about Jesus being born? Please keep our children and parents in your prayers as they venture into God's Word.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** You may think there is little to report in this COVID year, still we need to share what DID happen. There was still ministry happening at Haven! God IS with us. Team reports should be either electronically sent to the office at [havenoffice@havenlc.org](mailto:havenoffice@havenlc.org) or brought to the office on a flash drive. If you do not have a flash drive please contact the office to borrow one. If you do not have access to computer software, then contact the church office for other arrangements in advance of the deadline. Reports are due from *all* congregational teams and leaders. **Annual Reports will be due to the Church Office by January 10, 2021.**

**THANK YOU HAVEN! JESUS LOVES YOU BAGS READIED FOR DISTRIBUTION** Thanks to the generous donations from Haven members, we combined a God Explorer bible lesson with an act of kindness in the community. We read the story of Elijah and the Widow in the Sparks Bible, and watched an amazing video of the story we found on YouTube. Then Roark, Quill, Jim and I set to work on creating the Jesus Loves You bags to give to individuals in need. As you can see the grandsons are hard at work making up bags filled with socks, hats, gloves and goodies from your donations. Then we made a manger scene, and what really touched my heart were the messages they wrote. I included one to give you an idea. Thank you so much for your donations.



## Lord, Your Servant Is Listening **DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**MORE FOOD NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS** We discovered several more families who are in need of food baskets to help their families through the Christmas school holiday. We have "virtual tags" with needed food items that you can get by calling one of our Food Basket helpers ---- Pam O'Connor, Pat Pile or Kelly Bracken. *(If you need a phone number please contact the church office.)* All food needs to be at Haven no later than December 20. Food can be left on the parsonage back porch. Monetary donations also appreciated. Come on, Haven! We are good at fighting hunger!

**POTOMAC TOWER NEW YEARS EVE LUNCHEON ALL SET!** Thanks to the generosity of Haven folks last month and those planning the lunch, we have enough food and New Year's Eve treats for the forty anticipated residents. It will be a nourishing and fun lunch. Many thanks to all who have planned, contributed, packed and delivered our "Fifth-Thursday-of-the-month" lunches to our Potomac Tower neighbors.

## **AS WE "DECK THE HALLS" DURING THE ADVENT SEASON, WE KEEP OUR EYES ON CHRIST**

To continue to bring or mail in your offering to Haven is an act of holy defiance. It says, "I will not let COVID rob me of my belief in the goodness and faithfulness of God." Our offerings to God's church gives praise to *Emmanuel*, "God-with-us" Thank you for your faithful giving to God's church at Haven so that we can stay ready to be the HANDS for GOD'S WORK. To God be the glory!



**A SAFE COVID-DEFYING,**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS GATHERING**  
**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 4:30 pm**



**Come as you are in your car to Haven's parking lot**

We'll use our FM transmitter so you can participate in singing carols, sharing prayers and lifting up our Christmas spirits from the safety of your car. We'll distribute songbooks and a battery-powered votive light you can turn on when we finish with "Silent Night." Here's a safe way to be together as a congregation and be gifts to one another.

Dress is casual (pajamas acceptable). Bring extra battery-powered votive lights if you have them to add to your car's festive spirit. But, most of all, bring your love and all your best wishes for everyone to have a blessed Christmas and a much better new year!

***Haven Mission Statement:***

*"To honor God, to reach out with love to our members and the community and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."*