



*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...*

**The Nativity of Our Lord 2024**

***Welcome to worship for Christmas Eve at Christ Church!***

*On this night made bright with love's true light, we give thanks and celebrate that the Word made flesh comes to dwell with us. We gather to celebrate his presence with us in the Scriptures and in his holy supper, and take His presence into a world that longs for peace and goodwill.*

*If you are a regular part of our church family, we pray tonight renews your faith and wonder. If you are visiting us tonight, we pray our celebration will be a source of blessing and peace, and we invite you to come again. If you come searching, hoping, yearning, we pray you will be filled with Christmas peace and joy.*



**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our baptism.*

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

We gather in this holy light rejoicing that Jesus, the Word made flesh, comes to reconcile us to God our heavenly Father. With trusting hearts, let us turn our hearts to God and confess our sins. **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Holy God, Father almighty;

**We confess that we have been captive to sin, and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against You by what we have done,  
and the good we failed to do.**

**We have not used the gifts you have given  
for the good of our neighbor.**

**Strengthen us to turn away from sin  
and renew in us Your gifts of faith, peace and hope  
for our good, and the good of all Your children. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, 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.**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #283, ELW: O Come All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

**GREETING**

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** #289, ELW: “*Angels We Have Heard On High*”

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
*Refrain***

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

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Eternal God, Father of all: Your gift of light has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness to live in the light of your love and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**



**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 9:2-7

<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. The Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

*Silence for reflection*

**PSALM 96** is read responsively by verse.

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen!**

**SECOND READING:** Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

<sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL SONG:** ELW #290, vs 1 “*Go Tell it On the Mountain*”

**Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.**

**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 shown a holy light!**

**Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go! Tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

*THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20 is read*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth!”

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

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**REPRISE: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (ELW #290, VS 3)**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.**

**And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Refrain: Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go! Tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**THE SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #270, Hark the Herald Angels Sing**



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



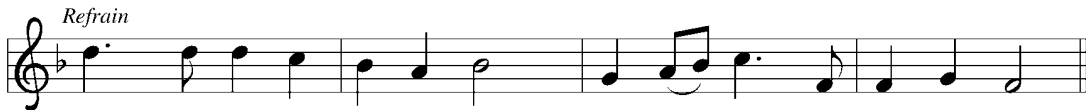
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

As we celebrate the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us bring our prayers, our hopes and the needs of our hearts before the Creator of heaven and earth.

*Silence is kept by all.*

Living God, holy and eternal: we praise you for the light of Christ that shines through the ages. Renew us that the light of Christ shines in the words and actions of Christians throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, we long for peace for all your children. Bless the leaders and governments of every land and guide them with Your justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are separated from their loved ones by duty or distance on this holy night. Keep us close in love, and in these challenging days remind us that we are united by your Spirit, made one in faith and hope. May those separated by old wounds, anger or stubborn pride find healing in the Prince of Peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring wholeness to those who struggle with illness in body, mind or spirit. Enlighten weary hearts with the Light of your presence. Hear us as we lift those in need before you, especially those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. People of God, for what else shall we pray? *Please offer your own prayers aloud or in silence. Our petitions conclude...* For all our prayers, and for the needs known only to you, we ask: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, let us remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead who now rest in God's eternal mercy. Be with the dying and strengthen those who wait with them. Eternal God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, gracious God, and fill us with hope as we behold your presence among us in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE NICENE CREED

We have heard the Good News! Now, in joy, we confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**



**God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE & THE OFFERING**

*We share the peace of Christ. Please feel free to step out of your pew as we greet one another saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

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

*We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In house the offering is gathered and presented at the altar. Offerings can also be made online by going to the website, using the QR code with your smartphone or mailed. Thank you! Your offerings and gifts have made a difference for our congregation and community, enabling us to continue our mission and ministry!*



**THE OFFERTORY: #296, “What Child is This”**

**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!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: Dix, William C. Tune: Greensleeves, traditional

**THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. *(silence for a time)* God of wonder,  
we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy.  
**Receive them and our lives as a response from our grateful hearts,  
that through us all people may know the riches of your love in Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Silence for prayer and reflection as the table is prepared.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.**

We give you thanks O God, for the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh.  
and we pray that the light of His birth opens our eyes to see a new vision of glory and peace.  
Rejoicing, we join our voices with angels and shepherds, with saints and heavenly choirs  
and all creation and proclaim:

**Holy are you, Lord! Holy are you, God of power and might!  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of our God! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, Almighty God, Eternal Father! In Christ, your Word became flesh and was born of Mary, and the Only-Begotten dwelt among us in beauty and grace.

For 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.

With grateful hearts we remember the gift of Your Son: his birth into the world, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again. We await that day when all creation will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

By your Spirit renew and refresh us with this heavenly food,  
that we may be light for the world, revealing the glory of your Son  
who taught us to pray:

**THE 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.**

## THE AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD):



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## THE COMMUNION

*We share in the Lord's Body and Blood.*

In this holy sacrament God makes a home with us.

Come to the Table, for all is now ready! **We shall come with joy! Alleluia! Amen.**

*You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation.*

*The congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.*

*Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.*

*When all have communed, there is silence for prayer and reflection.*

*Following communion please stand at Pastor's invitation.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. -A brief silence- God our redeemer,

**you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**

**As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.**

**Make us shine with the good news of your glory,**

**born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SHARING THE LIGHT

*The candle's flame, which symbolizes the Light of Christ come into the world, is taken to the acolytes and ushers, who in turn share the Light with the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. Please pass on the light by holding the unlit candle to the upright lit candle! Please extinguish your candle at the end of the service, and return it to the box in the narthex.*

### **CANDLE-LIGHTING CAROL: #281, ELW "Silent Night"**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

### **Blessing and Benediction**

#### **BENEDICTION**

The Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
shine in your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus;  
and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit  
bring you peace, hope and joy, today and all days. **Amen!**

THE SENDING HYMN: #267 ELW, "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his rich - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## THE DISMISSAL

In the Light of God's love, go in peace, and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE



### *Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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Mrs. Kim Campbell, Council President

Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

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#### WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The order of Worship is adapted from the traditional western rite.

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion. The offertory, Eucharistic and post-communion prayers were adapted from the traditional texts by The Rev. Marie Caron for the use of Christ ELC. The Gospel Verse and Offertory song copyright © 1978 Augsburg Fortress, used by permission of A-F license #5429-L. The Lamb of God is the traditional text, musical setting copyright ©2006 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, administered by Augsburg-Fortress. Used by permission, OneLicense #A-71138.

**TONIGHT'S GREETERS:** The Cron Family

**WE WELCOME** Rich Spotts as our organist this evening and thank him for his musical leadership.

### *Poinsettias*

In memory of Betty Mohr and Gail Zearfoss given by Steven and Cindy Brutsche and DJ Lysinger.

In memory of all our loved ones who are no longer with us and in honor of those who are given by the Campbell Family.

In honor and memory of Mary Hurley given by Pastor Caron.



In memory of her brother, David Caron, and in honor of all who work to make Christmas Services joyful given by Pastor Caron and Mike Clement.

In memory of Charles Grasse given by Norma Grasse.

In honor of our daughters and granddaughters given by Holly and Bill Hanisak.

In memory of George, Mildred and Bruce Hopf and Mary and Michael Kondyra and in honor of our children and grandchildren given by Richard and Genya Hopf.

In memory of George and all of our loved ones and in honor of our children, grandchildren and great-granddaughters given by Connie Kallenbach.

In memory of our parents given by Chuck and Bev Maddux.

In memory of Chester and Elsie Swope and Charles and Mary Bailey and in honor of our children and grandchildren given by Carl and Bev Swope.

In honor of our family and loved ones given by David, Stacey, Gabriella and Zachary Swope.

In memory of our Grandma Ramona given by Anna, Emeline and Noah Trauger.

In honor of our MomMom and PopPop, Gerry and Craig Trauger, given by Carrie, Anna, Emeline, Christopher and Noah Trauger.

In memory of our parents, Elva and Floyd Weisel and Blanche and Paul Trauger, and in memory of Ramona Phelps, and in honor of our grandchildren, Carrie, Christopher, Anna, Emeline and Noah Trauger and our children, Kristian, Jessica, Cory and Karen given by Gerry and Craig Trauger.

### ***Scholarship Fund***

In honor of the James Family given by Debra Moench.

### ***Boiler Fund***

In honor of our grandchildren, Kaylie, Hanna, Luke and Wren Ziegler, given by James and Cindy Carper.

In memory of our parents given by Holly and Bill Hanisak.

In honor of the James Family given by Debra Moench.