



*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
We carry light and love to the world.*

*Sunday, June 13, 2021
3rd Sunday after Pentecost*



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, June 13, 2021
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

The Liturgy is from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Information for the hearing impaired: Are you having difficulty hearing what is being said during our worship service? If so, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

Today's worship service will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9 and is available to VIEW anytime late afternoon today on the home page of our website www.nlcww.org.

Attendance for last Sunday: 112



INTRODUCTION

Observation of *Juneteenth*

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration. These were dangerous times. Even in the face of resistance and threat, the formerly enslaved Africans found ways to give voice to the wide range of thoughts and emotions at the announcement of the end of legalized slavery in the United States of America. The enslavement of Africans was an economic choice supported by the pseudo-scientific belief that Africans were less than human.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

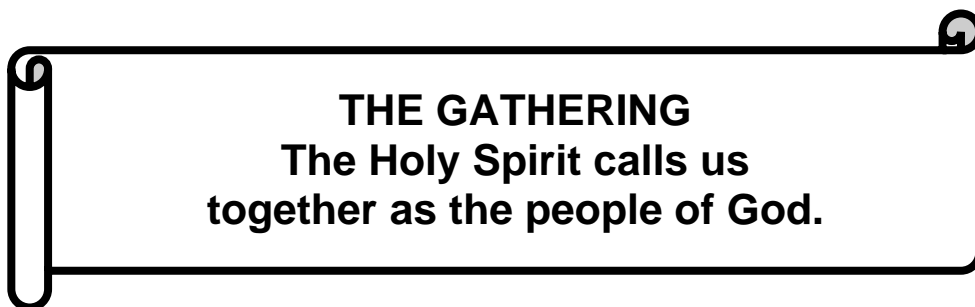
CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship

PRELUDE

You Are My Hiding Place

Michael Ledner/
Mark Hayes



Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.

A LITANY ADAPTATION OF “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

Celebration rises, up from the deep places, finding voice in the light and air no longer denied.

Lift every voice and sing, sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Celebration rises, not blind to the suffering, not blind to the sorrow. Celebration comes at a cost.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed.

Celebration rises, remembering the way we have come, the paths taken that have brought us here now to this place and time of celebration. Celebration rises, up and up, full of remembering. Remembering the ones led to freedom by Harriet; Remembering lives and freedom stolen including those martyred by a self-proclaimed white supremacist during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. on June 15, 2015: Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons, the Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson, and the honorable state senator and pastor of the church, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Celebration rises, recognizing what has been done and left undone, knowing there is still and yet much to do, so much further to go.

Celebration rises, naming the victories, recognizing the challenges yet ahead. Celebration rises on voices offering unfinished praise.

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee;**

Celebration rises, resisting illusions, to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks our chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy.

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears Thou who hast
brought us thus far on our way; Thou who has by thy might led us
into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

Celebration rises, with the power of healing wings and promise to endure. Celebration rises, celebrating that by God's grace, I am because You are, You are because I am; Celebrating that the fullness of my humanity does not diminish yours and the fullness of your humanity does not diminish mine.

**Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our
God, true to our native land. True to who we are, True to who we
have been and who we are becoming, thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONG *We Are Marching in the Light of God* 866

Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - , kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
We are march - ing _____ oo _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen—, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.



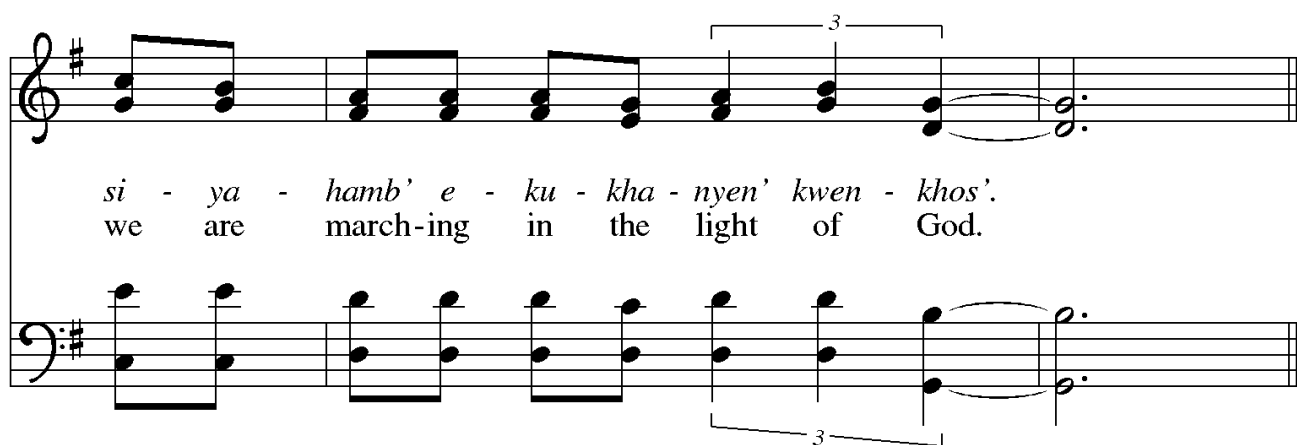
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____
 We are march - ing _____

oo _____
oo _____



Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, You created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE WORD

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Praise You in This Storm

Mark Hall/

Bernie Herms

Soloist: Kim Mehan-Conklin

A REMEMBRANCE

We take hold of our past, our history in such a way that it becomes nourishment and guidance for journeying into our future.

“Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Now I've been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds

of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave.” ~~ Harriet Tubman

“Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. It is the right which they first of all strike down. They know its power. Thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, founded in injustice and wrong, are sure to tremble, if men are allowed to reason... Equally clear is the right to hear. To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker.” ~~ Frederick Douglass

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

17:22-24

Reader: Jim Runyan

²² Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰ He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Please be seated.

MEDITATION ON THE WORD

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

A moment of silence for reflection.

God, our Provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in You. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to You. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the Manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the Worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the Bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spirit Song

Oh, let the Sun of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love.
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you,
And His Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Oh, come and sing the song with gladness,
As your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
Oh, give Him all your tears and sadness,
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Remain standing or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

O God, You made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unites us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve You in harmony around your heavenly throne. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Out of the darkness we cry to You, O God. Enable us to find in Christ the faith to trust your care even in the midst of pain. Assure us that we do not walk alone through the valley of the shadow, but that your light is leading us into life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

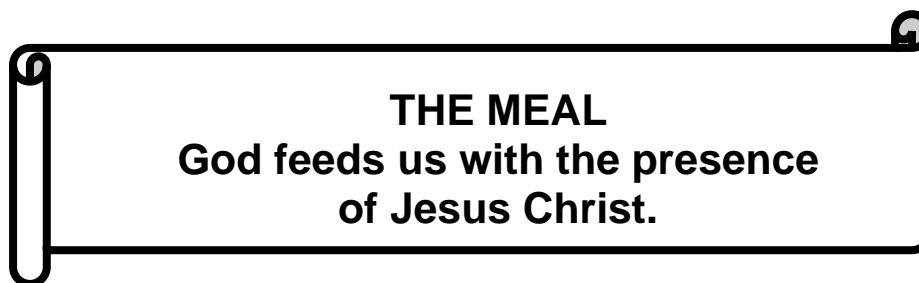
O God, call us into a deeper relationship to be your church for the sake of the world. Help us to see with new eyes the injustices within church and society. Call us to have a loving heart that respects and uplifts the humanity and dignity of every person; open our ears to listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color. Open our mouths to speak up about injustices. Join us with others to work for racial equity and inclusion for all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.



OFFERING

Please remain seated. You may drop your offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate safely on-line at <https://www.nlcwww.org> or on our Facebook page.

Please hold the communion set in your hands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, **You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown**

among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

SETTING OF THE TABLE

Please stand as you are able.

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

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.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

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

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Lamb of God

S208



- 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 body and blood of Christ given for you.

Please be seated.

Consume the elements now.

Observe a moment of silence.

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As You have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.



A CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

“Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Lift Every Voice and Sing

841

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato

George F. Handel



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Job 38:1-11	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41

PRAYERS: *The list will be cleared every other week. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than two weeks, please call the office and request a long-term prayer. In case of emergency, contact the office at **352-597-1456** and leave a detailed message. Messages are checked daily.*



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Peg Ahlquist, Mary Bannister, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Elliott Burger, Joyce Cain, Anne and David Carpenter, Jerry Conklin, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Susan Deeg, Judy Dietz, Jocelyn Foudali, Jacob Abraham Foudali, Cindy Garrett, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, William and Charlotte Hamm, Gary and Mary Heinecke, John Heinecke, Marge Henry, Kay Hill, Rev. Joan Holden, Lilo Horeis, Bob Johnson and family, Michael Koch, Rev. Dennis and Linda Koch, Alfred Korndoerfer, Carl and Asta Lundh, Elaine Malone, Maria Mesko, Rich Miller, Marianne Mock, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Mike Ruffner, Barbara Strohl, Keli Tedesco, Carsyn Volpe, Ginger Wielk, Janet Wilkens, Laurretta Z.



PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Carlos Bayron Jr., Daniel Davis, Kyle Davis, 2nd Lt, USMC Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Brett Johnson, Cpt. Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, William Robishaw, OS2 Jordan A. Torres, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Chad Waldorf.



ALTAR FLOWERS: *If you would like to honor someone special or commemorate a special event, please call the church office (352-597-1456) to order altar flowers. Donation is \$25.00. Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.*

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister
**Assisting Minister &
Scripture Reader**
Cantor
Music Director
Altar Guild
AV Director
Audio
Cameras
Graphics
Gardener(s)
Head counter this week

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Jim Runyan

Kim Mehan-Conklin
Donna Olsen
Gayle Howland & Sharon Schroeder
Art Alt
Guy Peeters
Buddy Kristoferson
Diane Alt & Ed Lewis

Jean Drach

MISSION STATEMENT

**With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.**

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, the Bible says, “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Phone (352) 597-1456

Email: Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com / Website: nlcww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Jack Page

Deacon Clyde Rosten

ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Jane Henkel/Cherylann Schneider

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.