



**St. Luke Lutheran Church • 4:00PM • December 24, 2020  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

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**Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**Verse 1: Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the king of angels: [refrain]**

**Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him, oh, come let us adore Him. Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Verse 2: The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [refrain]**

**Verse 3: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: [refrain]**

**Christmas Dialog & Greeting:**

**L:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C:** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**L:** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C:** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

**L:** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C:** **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**L:** May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

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



**Opening Prayer:**

Let us pray. (*A brief silence.*) Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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.

**Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**Verse 1:** O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**Verse 2 :** 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!

**Verse 3:** O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>For 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.

**Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**Verse 1:** Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

**Refrain:** Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Verse 2:** Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? [*Refrain*]

**Verse 3:** Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [*Refrain*]

**Verse 4:** See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. [*Refrain*]

**Reading: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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.

**Hymn: "Away in a Manger"**

**Verse 1:** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**Verse 2:** The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

**Reading: Luke 2:8-20**

<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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <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.

**Hymn: "Little Baby Jesus"**

**Verse 1: Little baby Jesus, lying in a manger, Do you know what peace you bring to all the world this night? Do you know what peace you bring to all the world this night?**

**Verse 2: Little baby Jesus, given by our Father, Do you know what love you bring to all the world this night? Do you know what love you bring to all the world this night?**

**Verse 3: Little baby Jesus, born to us a Saviour, Do you know what joy you bring to all the world this night? Do you know what joy you bring to all the world this night?**

**Verse 4: Little baby Jesus, precious baby Jesus, You bring peace and love and joy to all the world this night! You bring peace and love and joy to all the world this night!**

**Children's Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*The Pastor lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the Pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

**The Prayers: (call and response)**

P: Glory to God in the highest,

**C: and peace to God's people on earth.**

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

P: Blessed are you, wonderful Counselor. You enlightened the heart with steadfast love.

**C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

P: Blessed are you, Emmanuel, You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary, You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of God, You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

**Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**Verse 1: 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.**

**Verse 2: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight: Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Verse 3: 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.**

**Lord 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.**

**Blessing:**

*The Pastor blesses the congregation.*

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*The candles are extinguished.*

**Departure Hymn: "Joy to the World"**

**Verse 1: Joy to the world the Lord has come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Verse 2: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**Verse 3: No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**Verse 4: He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove.  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

**Sending: "Go in peace, shine your light!"**

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**The poinsettias on the altar today are in memory of:  
In memory of Bettie Meyer from Gerald Meyer and Christine Skog  
In memory of LeeAnn Carlson from LeeAnn's family  
In memory of Chad Luhman from Eenie and Larry Miller**

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