



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Musicians: Kyla Betts, Wendy Olson, Tracy Becker

Lector: Cindy Flory (3:30 p.m.) Moses Harris (5:00 p.m.)

**Shepherds, Sheep & Angels: Parker Sellnow, Anders Gausman, Madelyn Barsness,
Nelson Kuhls, Noelle Hanson, James Hanson (3:30 p.m.)**

**Shepherds, Sheep & Angels: Claire Spilde, Sophie Geister-Jones, Siri Vienneau,
Soren Vienneau (5:00 p.m.)**

Ushers: Andy Quam, Beckett Spilde (3:30 p.m) Matt & Luke Geister-Jones (5:00 p.m.)

Parking Lot Attendants: Mark Wilberg, Jeff Morgan, Matt Hanson (3:30 p.m.)

Roger Slack, Mike Vienneau, Luke Vienneau (5:00 p.m.)

We have a Car Battery Charger in the building and will give your car a jump after worship if needed.

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

Call to Worship: “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” – Handbell Quartet

Greeting

P: Tonight God’s Love comes to dwell among us. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

Opening Carol: “Love Has Come” #292 ELW

Vs. 1: Love has come—a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

**Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Vs. 3: Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Christmas Litany

P: The angels said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you exciting news of great joy.

C: Tonight is born in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

P: This will be your sign. You will find the baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

All: Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace to all people with whom God is pleased.

P: Tonight we hear the good news once again.

C: God's love for us is so strong and so deep, God comes among God's people.

P: Let us go quickly to Bethlehem and see for ourselves just how incredible God's love is.

C: We will find the baby with his mother and father in a stable.

P: Let us join the angels in their praise of God.

All: Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace to all people with whom God is pleased.

Carol of Praise: "Joy to the World" #267 ELW

**Vs. 1: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let 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.**

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

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

C: **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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Solo: "O Holy Night"

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Solo: "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?"

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Duet: "Behold the Marvel"

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us

about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Solo: “**The Huron Carol**”

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Solo: “**The Wexford Carol**”

Christmas Message

Carol: “**Go Tell It on the Mountain**” #290 ELW

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Vs. 1: While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

Vs. 3: Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

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 was 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

Prayers of the Church

P: Joining our voices with the songs of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Following each petition the congregation will sing a verse of "I Am So Glad" #271 ELW

P: The shepherds sings, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

**Vs. 1: I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth.**

P: The angels sings, "Peace on earth!" come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

**Vs. 2: The little child in Bethlehem,
He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
To help a world in need.**

P: Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain and anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Hear us O God.

**Vs. 5: And so I love each Christmas Eve,
And I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.**

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The love of the Christ Child be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

Words of Institution

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

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Music during Communion: “A Christmas Heart” Wendy Olson

Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our loving Lord Jesus bless you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

C: Loving God, you have fed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ. May we, like the shepherds, return to our homes and work proclaiming all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night!” #281 ELW

Please turn on your candles in your cars.

**Vs. 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, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Vs. 3: Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Postlude: “Joy to the World” Handel/Hopson