

December 24, 2018
Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm

WELCOME

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Birthday of a King"
Sharmyn Thompson, soprano

Neidlinger

***GATHERING CAROL**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vv. 1-3
Phil Heeler, trumpet

ELW 283

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

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***

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: ***Refrain***

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ *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!

CAROL (5:00 pm)

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” vv. 1, 2

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name *Refrain*

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:30 pm)

“Night of Miracles, Night of Grace”

Cindy Berry

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

☐ *The first reading for this Christmas Eve is from the book of Isaiah, the ninth chapter.*

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

📖 *Word of God, word of life.*

🙏 **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” vv. 1, 3

ELW 279

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

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

📖 *The second reading is from the book of Titus, the second chapter.*

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

📖 *Word of God, word of life.*

🙌 **Thanks be to God!**

***CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

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

***GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1–20

📖 *The holy gospel according to _____.*

🙌 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

P *The gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vv. 1, 3

ELW 270

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

CAROL

"Away in a Manger" vv. 1, 3
Jennifer Bufkin, flute (5:00 pm)

ELW 277

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

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

CHRISTMAS SERMON

“What Can a Baby Do?!?”

Rev. Roger Lenander

CAROL (5:00)

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:30 PM)

“O Holy Night”

arr. Joseph Martin

Chancel Choir
Dave Newman, soloist

***CHRISTMAS CREED**

- ☒ We believe in God,
the one who comes before us and goes behind us,
creating life and opportunities to love and care for the world.**
- We believe in Jesus Christ
who walks with us into real life each day.
He is God, yet human like us
and experienced all life's joys
and pains and challenges like we do.
But his love is so great
that not sin nor suffering
nor even death could stop it.**
- Today the love of Jesus lives
and continues to bring new life to the world.**
- We believe in the Holy Spirit
who comes like the wind and blows in and through us
to bring God's power and light to all the world.
The Spirit breathes life into us,
the body of Christ we call the church,
and enables us to follow the way of Christ.**
- We believe in God,
who goes before and behind, with, in and through us,
bringing hope and life and newness to the world. Amen!**

***RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

- ☐** *It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.*
- ☒** **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**
- ☐** *In his light, draw all to the manger*
- ☒** **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**
- ☐** *In his light, draw all to the manger*
- ☒** **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**
- ☐** *In his light, draw all to the manger*
- ☒** **to sing for joy with the angels.**
- ☐** *In the brightness of his life*
- ☒** **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**
- ☐** *It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.*
- ☒** **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen!**

OFFERING

"What Child Is This"

ELW 296

**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!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
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!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Holy God,*

C your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen!**

***PREFACE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And with you, His servant.**

P *O, come; let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.*

C **With hearts uplifted**
thanks to God we render;
with joy we come before you.
In gratefulness implore you.
With thankful hearts adore You evermore!

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P *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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will*

*also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P *The angel told the shepherds:*

"You will find the baby all wrapped up and lying in a manger."

*In a manger, a feed box for animals, full of oats and hay,
a place for cows and oxen to eat and be filled!*

Christmas is full of surprises:

*The Lord of this vast universe became small for us,
and lay as a frail infant in a manger at Bethlehem.*

*And how marvelously we have been fed and nourished by that infant Jesus,
fed and filled with the love that God has for us in Jesus Christ.*

*All his days and nights were moments of sharing with us the deep mystery
of the love God has for every creature great and small.*

*And then in the last night of his life our Lord Jesus took bread and wine,
the common food of every day, and blessed them.*

*He broke the bread and said that through it he will come to us
and feed our hearts:*

"Take and eat: this is my Body which is given for you."

*And he took the cup and gave it to them and to us,
promising that this cup binds us to him and to one another forever:*

*"Take and drink: this cup is the new covenant in my blood
shed for you and for all."*

*The Son of God on the first Christmas was content to lie in a poor manger.
And He still comes, even here tonight, in bread and wine, to fill our lives.*

***LORD'S 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!

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

ELW 275

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW 282

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

"From Heaven Above" vv. 1-6

ELW 268

"From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:"

"To you this night is born a child

of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth."

"This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free."

"The blessing that the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share."

"These are the signs that you will see
to let you know that it is he:
in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
the child who all the earth upholds."

Now let us all with joyful cheer
go with the shepherds and draw near
to see this wondrous gift of God,
the blessed child to us bestowed.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P *Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!*

*BLESSING

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

G Amen!

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *God of wonder,*

G in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen!

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

"Silent Night"

ELW 281

A verse will be sung in German by Sharmyn Thompson (5:00 pm)

A verse will be sung in German by David Bezona (7:30 pm)

All three verses to be sung in English by congregation.

Christian Bohnenstengel, piano (7:30 pm)

Nicholas Pierce, guitar (7:30 pm)

GERMAN

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

ENGLISH

**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.**

*BENEDICTION

P *As we again prepare to enter the darkness of this night, may the light of Christ bless you and keep your way bright. May God's face shine upon you from heaven above. And God's Spirit fill you with his peace and love.*

A **Amen!**

*SENDING CAROL

"Joy to the World"
Jennifer Bufkin, flute
Jim Bunge, violin
Phil Heeler, trumpet

ELW 267

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

***DISMISSAL**

P *Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.*

G Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

Gordon Young