



Welcome to our
CHRISTMAS
Eve service

7:00 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve Worship

PRELUDE

“French Bell Carol”

arr. Jerry Westenkuhler

Organ

WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING CAROL “O Come All Ye Faithful”

**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:

**Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

**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, all glory in the highest: *[Refrain]***

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *[Refrain]***

OPENING LITURGY

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C: And we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope.

P: For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.

P: For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of endless joy.

P: For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of boundless love.

P: Tonight, we light all the candles of the Advent Wreath as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The candles of hope, peace, joy, and love all remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, boundless love, endless joy, and everlasting peace. The Christ candle reminds us that God's perfect gift was sent to us that we might have everlasting life. Let us pray...

C: Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.

CAROL "Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let the 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.**

**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.**

- P: Joined in worship on this sacred night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.
- C: Almighty Father, we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P: With joy I announce God's Good News to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**
- P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- C: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**
- P: You have multiplied the nation;
- C: You have increased its joy;**
- P: They rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,
- C: As they are glad when they divide the spoil.**
- P: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,
- C: You have broken as on the day of Midian.**
- P: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood
- C: Will be burned as fuel for the fire.**
- P: For to us a child is born,
- C: To us a son is given;**
- P: And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- C: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

- P: Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
C: **To establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

RESPONSE “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, Lord Jesus, dwell within us.
How we need Your presence hear.
Come to guide us. Come to save us.
Come, O come, we welcome You here.
Alleluia! God is with us.
Alleluia! Emmanuel!
Angels praising, shepherds bowing,
God is with us, sin noel!**

**The first Noel the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“Il Est Né (He is Born)”

arr. Jason Krug

Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells

ALLELUIA VERSE

- R: Alleluia! To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders.
C: **And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Alleluia!**

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL, part 1

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

R: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the City of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CAROL “Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)”

**Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL, part 2

R: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them; “Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

CAROL “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:

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*]

STATEMENT of FAITH *from the Gospel of John*

R: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.

C: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

R: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

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

R: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

C: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

R: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God,

C: Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

R: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

C: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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.

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!

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.

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!

SERMON "TO US A CHILD IS BORN"

OFFERING CONNECT

OFFERTORY

“A Midwinter Noel”

arr. Jay Rouse

Voices of Peace

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; by whose birth in the flesh as the Savior from sin You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**O holy, holy, Lord, our God! For us and our salvation,
From heav’n above the Son is born Within His own creation.
Hosanna, blest is He Who comes, is born for you, for me.
Eternal King, He comes, To us salvation bringing.**

WORDS of INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

**O Lamb of God, Your mercy show, Your grace on us bestowing.
You take away iniquity, Your blessings overflowing.
You left Your throne on high And heard a Virgin's lullaby.
O Lamb of God, hear us As we for peace are pleading.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Canon de Noel”

“Away in a Manger”

arr. Martin

arr. Martin

Piano

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

THE LIGHTING of the CANDLES

CLOSING CAROL “Silent Night, Holy 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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend the light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Organ

arr. Handel/Gawthrop



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