



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2020



Welcome

The Invocation: (We Rise)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: AMEN

Pastor: Arise and shine, for your light has come! And the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you! And all nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising!

People: O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Pastor: Unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Pastor: 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, who is Christ the Lord.

People: O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

We Sing: "O, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB # 379 Verses 1 and 3

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:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!



We Pray (Spoken Together):

Holy Father, we have gathered with joy this Christmas Eve to hear again the story of Your birth. Like Mary and Joseph and the Wise Men, we are astonished that You would send the Holy Child to us. May the Holy Spirit thrill our hearts to a joyful faith as we respond to this, our story of eternal salvation. In the name of the Dear Babe, we pray. Amen.

The Reading of the Christmas Story in Word and Song

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

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.

We Sing: “O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB #361 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 thy dark street shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-12

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at 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 town 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.”

We Sing: “Away in a Manger”

LSB # 364 Verse 1

Away in a Manger, no crib for a 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.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:13-14

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 men on whom his favor rests.”



We Sing:

“A Celebration of Angels”

LSB # 366, 380 and 368

It came upon the midnight clear, the 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.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s 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. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them 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.

We Sing:

“What Child is This”

LSB #370

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 Kings 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!

Pastor’s Message: Pastor Brian Doel

Offering

Special Music

1:30 – Aunnee Trampe

3:00 – Marsha DesLauriers

4:30 - Lori Carbno

6:00 – Haugen Family



We Confess Our Sins to God:

Pastor: With humble hearts we come before You O Lord, confessing our sin to You, and seeking the forgiveness and peace which the angels announced that first Christmas night.

People: Dear Heavenly Father, our lives are filled with joy this night at the news of Your birth, for we know that it was for us and for our sins that You came. Therefore, we humble our hearts and confess before You our sinfulness and our need for You.

A Time For Silent Reflection

We Sing: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB #361 Verse 4

**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;
O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Immanuel!**

The Announcement of Forgiveness:

Pastor: In the city of Bethlehem, long ago, God’s promised Savior was born, God’s love story was now unfolding. Jesus, God’s own Son, has won forgiveness for you. With great joy, in the stead and by the command of our Lord, I forgive your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Be at peace. Christ is born!

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.**

The Litany of Lights:

Pastor: Because of sin, the world dwelt in darkness. But into this darkness God sent a Light of Hope. This light is Christ our Lord!

People: Jesus said, "I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in me may not remain in darkness."
(John 12:46)

Pastor: In Jesus was life; and the life was the light of mankind. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not destroy the light! (John 1: 4-5)

People: Jesus said to them: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Pastor: Tonight, we rejoice for the light of the world has come.

We sing: "Silent Night"

LSB # 363

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 host 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.

The Benediction: (We rise)

Pastor: May Jesus Christ, the newborn King, whose birth we celebrate tonight, guard and protect you in true faith, fill you with true joy, and give you His hope this Christmas, and always.

People: Amen

Closing Song: "Joy to the World"

LSB #387

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 men 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 sins and sorrows 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, and wonders of his love.



A Prayer for Christmas

Dear Lord,

For all who need a Christmas miracle, bless them with Your touch. For all who are feeling weak, give them Your strength. For all who are lonely, surround them with Your angels and Your joy. For all who feel sad and depressed and feel they can't go on, give them Your hope. For all who feel anxious, fill their hearts with Your peace. For all who feel they don't have love in their life - from family or friends - wrap Your arms around them and let them know they are loved. May we all feel the love, joy, hope and peace the Christmas spirit offers and may we feel these all year long! In Jesus' name, I pray.

-Charity M. Richey-Bentley

Love - Joy - Hope - Peace

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*Merry
Christmas*