



Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church – ELCA

262-634-6704

www.spaceshipchurch.org www.facebook.com/spaceshipchurch

Pastors: David L. Echelbarger, Christine Thomas-Echelbarger, Krista Zimmerman

Organist, Michael Becker, Senior Choir Director, Eduardo Garcia-Novelli

Prelude Contemplation on “O Little Town of Bethlehem” A.D. Miller

Choral Call to Worship “Behold, He Came” David Ashley White

GATHERING

Christmas Proclamation

Gathering Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Hymn No. 283

1) Oh, 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!

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....*

3) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain....*

4) 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....*

Greeting

(Minister) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (People) **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn No. 289 vv. 1,3

1) 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.

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

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **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.**

WORD**First Lesson****Isaiah 9:2-7**

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.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Word

“Comfort Ye”

G.F. Handel
Nick Huff, Tenor

Psalm 96 (Responsively, Lector and People)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;

 sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
 more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
 power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,

(Continued on next page)

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹**Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.**

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations:

“The LORD is king! The one who made the world
so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”

¹¹**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

¹³**You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.**

Gospel Acclamation

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Hymn No. 290

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

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

(Spoken after the announcement) **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

(Continued on next page)

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

(After each petition) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The congregation greets one another in the name of the Lord.)

MEAL

Offering

"Variations on Good King Wenceslas" Charles Evans
Ric Weiss, Greg Schroeder, Curt Hubmann, Paul Taylor

Offering Prayer

(Together) **God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving *(Sung)*

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, creator of all ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again ...

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

(Together) **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

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior. All are welcome.

Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. *Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

Distribution Music

"Noel Festival"

Matthew Martin, Percussion

Senior Choir

Lloyd Larson

"Away in the Manger"

Hymn No. 277

Vs. 1, soloist, Vs. 2& 3 All

**2) The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**3) 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.**

"Joy to the World"

arr. Joel Rainey
Sue Cawley, Piano

Blessing

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Distribution of Candle Light – The pastors light their candles from the altar candle; the ushers light their candles from the pastors' candles. The ushers then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. (The unlighted candle should be tipped when lighting it from a neighbor's candle. Lighted candles should not be tipped to avoid wax dripping on the carpet.)

Hymns

“Silent Night”

Hymn No. 281

**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.**

**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! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

(All raise your candle on verse 3)

**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, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

(Candles are extinguished and held upright until wax has cooled.)

SENDING

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“The First Noel”

Ashley Grote



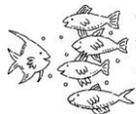
On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

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All Saints’ Christmas Memorial Tree

The Christmas tree in the narthex is an All Saints’ memorial tree decorated with the ribbons from this year’s All Saints’ Sunday. Thank you to Cindy Lester for making the bows and decorating the tree.

Reception of New Members



**NEW
Member
Class**

The next new member class will be held Thursday, February 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (If you would prefer to come that day to a class held from 10 a.m.-12 noon please contact the church office at 634-6704.)

Reception of new members will be the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, February 25 & 26. (Exact service times will be discussed and selected during our class sessions.) For more information, or if you have questions or are interested in joining MPLC, please contact the church office at 634-6704 or see one of the pastors.

Communion Registration and Contributions of Record Reminder

Per our constitution, once a year, voting members of Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church are reminded that they need to fill out a communion registration card, found in the pew rack, and make a contribution of record. (After filling out the communion card, you may drop it in the offering plate.) As 2016 is drawing to a close, if you haven't done so already, now may be a good time to do this.

December Is the Month When Many Catch Up!

If you happen to be behind on your current and benevolence, or mortgage debt reduction pledges for 2016, the month of December would be a great time to catch up. Offerings **received (not just dated) at the church office by December 31** may be declared on 2016 tax returns.

MPLC Christmas Office Hours

The Church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2016 & January 2, 2017.

There will be NO Sunday Church School, Little Lambs, or Adult Education on December 25 or January 1. Classes will resume on January 8 at their regular times.