

## Christmas Eve Worship

4:30 pm



PRELUDE: “Carol Fantasy for Organ and Brass” Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Behold, He Came” Harold Glen Brown, David Ashley White

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

GATHERING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (ELW 283, vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 **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!**
  
- 4 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**  
**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**  
**Glory to God in the highest: Refrain**

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (ELW 270, vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 **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!"**  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**
  
- 3 **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.**  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 9:2-7**

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98 (paraphrase): "Joy to the World" (ELW 267, vs. 1 & 4)

**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.**

**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.**

SECOND READING: **Titus 2:11-14** (NIV)

A reading from Titus:

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "On Christmas Night" (ELW 274, vs 1)

**On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth.**

HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 2:1-7**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

HYMN RESPONSE: "Away in a Manger" (ELW 277, vs. 1 & 2)

**1 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.**

**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.**

HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around

them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Krista Zimmerman

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (ELW 279, vs. 1, 3-4)

- 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 streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
  
- 3 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.**
  
- 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;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends, "Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"*

PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING: To give online, go to <https://onrealm.org/mplc/Give>

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SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM: "Mary, Did You Know?" arr. Jack Schrader

OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

## 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 AND DISTRIBUTION

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## CANDLELIGHT SONG: "Silent Night" (ELW 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!**
- 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.)*

## BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Preacher: Pastor Krista Zimmerman  
Leaders: Pastor Beth Ann Stone, Vicar Chip Lutz  
Musician: Michael Becker  
Senior Choir Director: Sue Cawley  
Brass: Nancy Quist, Greg Schroeder, Paul Taylor, Victor Garcia

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"Behold, He Came" Text: Harold Glen Brown. Music: David Ashley White. © 1992 Selah Publishing Co. Streamed with permission under One License #A-711523. All rights reserved. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Text and music: attr. John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley. "Joy to the World" Text: Isaac Watts. Music: English melody.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Text: Charles Wesley. Music: Felix Mendelssohn.

"On Christmas Night" Text: Luke Wadding. Music: English traditional.

"Away in a Manger" Text: North American. Music: James R. Murray.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Text: Phillips Brooks. Music: Lewis H. Redner.

"Silent Night" Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young. Music: Franz Gruber.

Choir: "Mary, Did You Know?" Text/music Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, arr. Jack Schrader © 1991 and this arr. © 1998 by Word Music, Hope Publishing Co. Streamed with permission under One License #A-711523. All rights reserved.

Bells: "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Fred Gramann © 2020 Agape, Hope Publishing Co. Streamed with permission under One License #A-711523. All rights reserved.



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