

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

### **8:00 pm**

All baptized Christians—including visitors of all denominations—are invited to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to remain in your seat instead of coming forward to the altar to receive, please select a prefilled communion cup from the baskets at the top of the ramps.



PRELUDE

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: “Love Has Come” (ELW 292, vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (ELW 272, vs. 1-2)

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.**
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.**

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: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (ELW 276)

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**
  
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

#### 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>  
*Thank you for supporting God's mission at MPLC.*

OFFERTORY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" Christina Georgina Rossetti

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.  
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.*

#### 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  
Guitar: Paul Pruessing

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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Text and music: attr. John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley.

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All rights reserved. Music: F. Seguin.

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

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

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Polish carol, tr. Edith M. G. Reed.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti. Music: Gustav Holst.

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



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