

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021  
7:00pm & 10:00pm

## Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

## PRELUDE

*Pastorale* from the *Christmas Concerto*, Op. 6 no. 7

Arcangelo Corelli  
arr. C. van Graan

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

**C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: We begin our worship this holy night in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - ~ *Please stand, sit, or kneel for Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: He was named Jesus, for he saves God's people from their sins. He was named Emmanuel, for through him God is with us. He is the Word of God incarnate. Gathered in his name, let us confess our sin against God and neighbor.

*- Silence for reflection*



**St. Matthew's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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P: Gracious God,

C: in Christ Jesus you came among us as a light shining into the darkness of the world. We confess our failure to be led by your light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord.

P: I bring to you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord; in him all your sins are forgiven. Amen

**O Come, All Ye Faithful, Verses 1 & 3** ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

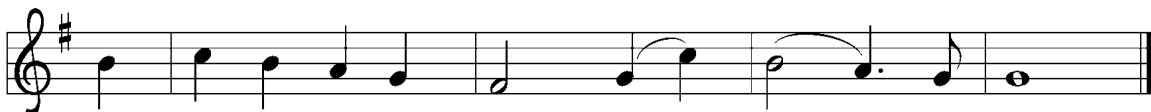


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## INVOCATION

P: The Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us full of truth and grace.

**C: O come let us adore him.**

P: May the light, the peace and the hope of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**7pm:** Sienna Lambert, Chloe Ouellette

**10pm:** Pat Hartline

We praise you, O God, for the light you bring, from even before you were born. As we light the candles of this wreath and the center Christ candle, keep us mindful that they all point back to you, and your love, light, peace and joy. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may find the Christ that is in us all. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

### *He Came Down* ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional  
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray... 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.**

## THE PEACE

P: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. And his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and of the increase of his rule and peace there will be no end. May his peace be with you this night and always.

**C: And also with you.** ~ *Please share a sign of God's peace with those around you.*

~*Please be seated*

**ANTHEM 7 & 10 pm - Senior Choir**

*Christ is Born!*

Miller

## FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

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.

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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

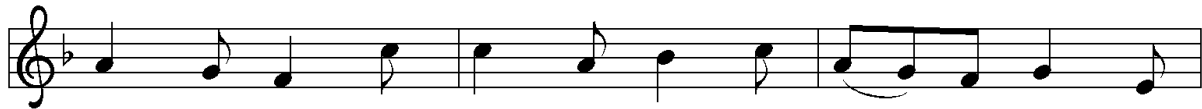
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish 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.*

**On Christmas Night ELW 274**



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the news the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - deem - er  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
 in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then  
 sing this night. All out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
 our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and  
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est



mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.  
 free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new - born king.  
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will. A - men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

*The holy Gospel according to Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter... **Glory to you, O Lord.***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with

Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Word of God, words of life; Praise to you, O Christ*

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Pastor Kirsten Laderach, *Interim*

***Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 290***

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

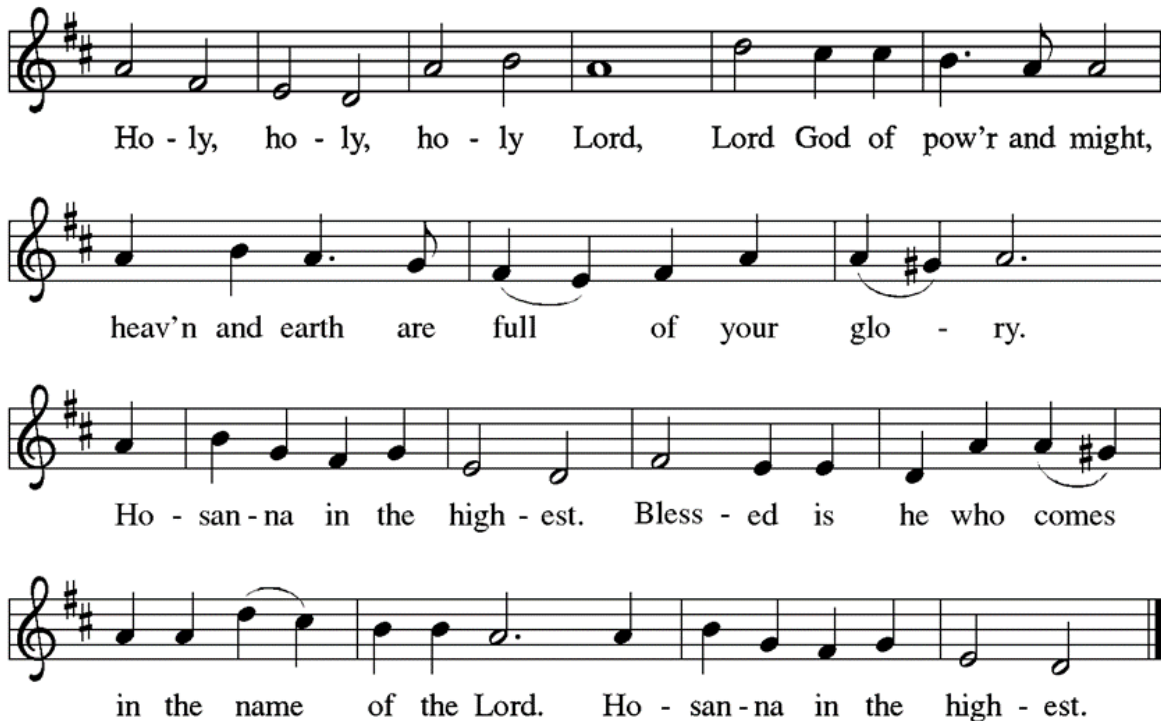
*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: So, come to this table, You who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION** ~*Please be seated*~ All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. In lieu of coming forward to the chancel to receive communion, please remain seated and receive communion from your pew. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: *The body of Christ given for you. And the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen and unite us now and forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray... Gracious God,

**C: we thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### P: A Gospel reading from John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Arise and shine, you people of God, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth and a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come unto your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. The light of Christ is shining in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.



*Silent Night, Holy Night!* ELW281



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

**PRAYER**

P: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: The child is born! **Alleluia!**  
 P: Emmanuel! **Our God has come among us!**

P: Go on your way and leave this place rejoicing, spreading the Good News wherever you go, sharing God's love and promise with all whom you meet. And may the love of our Creator, the joy of the Spirit, and the peace of the Christ-child be with you this Christmas and evermore. **Amen!**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Christ the Lord is born! Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth.**

**POSTLUDE\***

*In Dulci Jubilo*

James Woodman

*\*During the postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the musical offering.*

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# Merry Christmas!

We warmly welcome our visitors and guests. We invite you to join us again throughout the year. We gather each Sunday for worship at 10:00 am. Come, experience the joy and peace of Jesus Christ year round.

The Staff of St. Matthew's and the congregational council extend to members, families, and friends their best wishes for a blessed and joyous Christmas season and a Christ-filled New Year.





