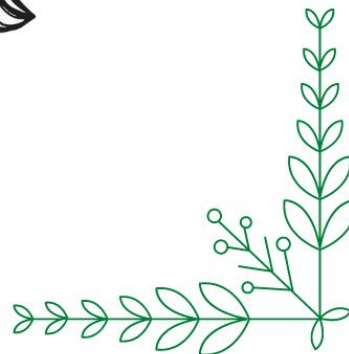
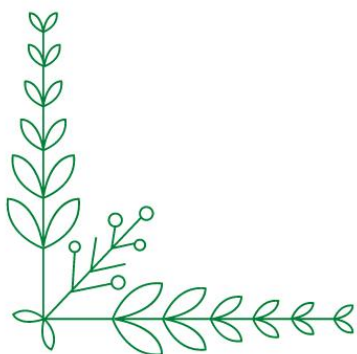


Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



December 24, 2022
8:00PM



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

Christmas Carols for Chamber Ensemble

arr. Randy Calistri

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.**



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-494-3090
www.stmatthewsva.org

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.

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!

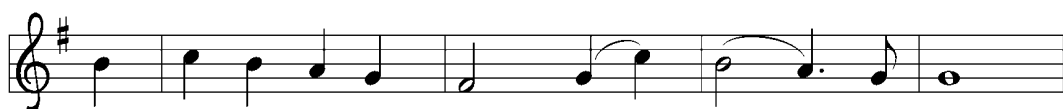


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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 AND CHRIST CANDLE

Chuck and Pat Moler

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.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

Shepherd Play Your Pipes Tonight
Senior Choir

Shepherd

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 second 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

Rev. Kirsten Laderach

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

THE PRAYERS

A: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

A: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

A: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

A: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

A: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

A: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen

OFFERING We give thanks to God by offering the gifts we have been given for the sake of the world. We invite you to place your donations in the plate as it is passed. Donations can also be made online at stmattewsva.org/give. Your offerings go toward the mission of the church and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community locally, nationally, and internationally.

OFFERING SONG

*~Please stand**What Feast of Love**ELW 487 (tune Greensleeves)*

What feast of love is offered here; what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of abundance,

C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels,

and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world

the abundance of your grace upon grace,

poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is right and proper that we should at all times

and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,

O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh

you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory;

that, beholding the God made visible,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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. Communion will be distributed by stations; when invited by an usher, please come forward using the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or 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.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

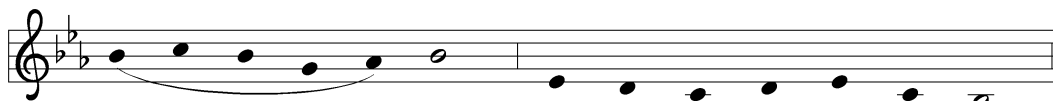
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man
 sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who
 seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to
 mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

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...God our redeemer,

**C: you have fed us at this table
 with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**

**As you have gathered us in joy,
 send us forth as messengers of your peace.**

**Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
 born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF 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!

ELW 281



	<i>Stil - le Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li-ge Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les schläft,</i>
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,



<i>ein - sam wacht</i>	<i>nur das trau - te,</i>	<i>hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.</i>
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,



<i>Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar,</i>	<i>schlaf in himm - li - scher</i>
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



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

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 Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

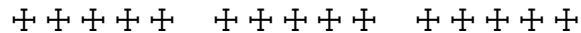
POSTLUDE*

Improvisation on Joy to the World

Robert Powell

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





Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kirsten Laderach

Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren

Organist: Melvin Goodwyn

Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson

Musicians: Susan Katsarelis, Violin

Parker Tremaine, Oboe

Tom Wheeler, Horn

Lector: Tom Meier

Ushers: Rex, Amy, and Alex Stone, Dave Carr

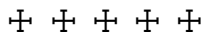
Tech Volunteers: Lacey Minihan, Chris Moessner, Joyce Forbes, Steve Payne

kladerach@stmatthewsva.org

klundgren@stmatthewsva.org

organist@stmatthewsva.org

stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org



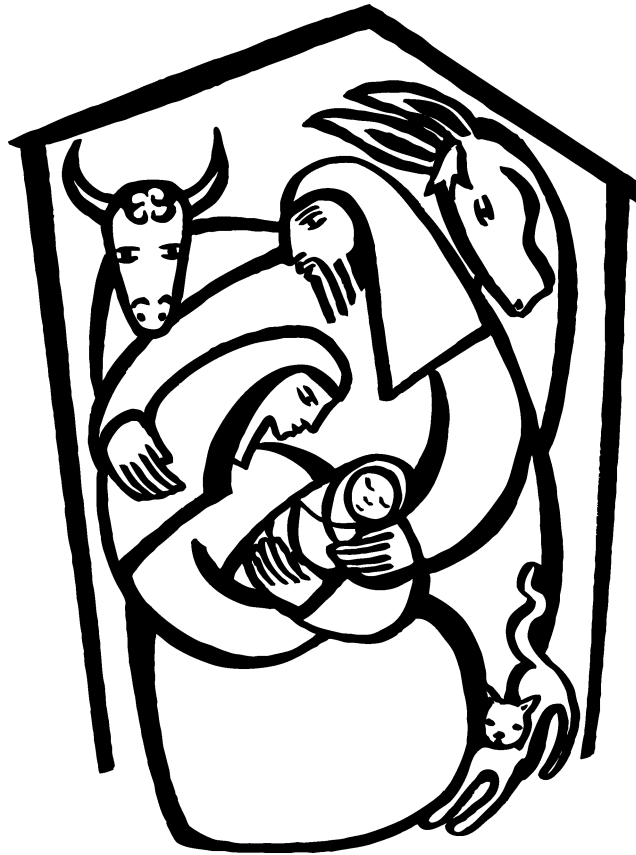
The Eternal Candle for the month of December is sponsored by The Bortner Families,
In celebration of the advent and birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

For announcements and upcoming events, please go to our website at www.stmatthewsva.org

Sunday, December 25th, 10:00am, A Service of Lessons and Carols – The Story of the Birth of Jesus Christ

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th, Wednesday, December 28-30, and Monday, January 2nd

All contributions must be postmarked by December 31st and received by close of business on Wednesday, January 4th, to be credited toward your 2022 giving statement. The offerings received on Sunday, January 8, 2023, will be credited to your 2023 Giving.



Texts and music of liturgy: Copyright Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB130973; Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-723531. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright License 20449972 Size B and CCLI Active Streaming License 20449989 Size B. All rights reserved.
Liturgy adapted from writings by Thom Shumer and liturgies from "Sundays and Seasons".