

Christmas Eve

Dec 24, 2021 –Worship Service

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

Please make sure you have the following items on hand and ready for communion:

- *Bread on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like.*
- *Wine or grape juice (or some other beverage) and small glasses to drink from.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Sanctuary Choir

“Songs of Angels”

Anna Matthes

“Song of Mary”

Jubilate and Choir

“On Christmas Night”

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

P: Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in God’s image;
long after the great flood,
when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God’s people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand year from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel’s prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by
his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

- 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!**

- 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 (Choir)**
- 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

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

C: **And also with you!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joy to the World

ELW 267

(Verses 1, 4)

Handbell Introduction

Jubilate Handbell Choir

- 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.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter:

C: 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**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!"**

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]**

**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. [Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: As the heavens and earth are filled with the grace and peace of the Word made flesh, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Time of Silence

L: We thank you, Gracious God, for sending your Son to live with us and to love us. We pray for the church gathered this night - that as our attention is drawn to the holy family; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we remember that we too are God's children and part of the holy family. Speak your living Word to us, so that we may rise from the manger and go into our community as messengers bringing good news, announcing peace, and proclaiming your love for all people in our words and actions. Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we sing joy to the world, help us to remember that you love the world you created, and all that is in it. The beauty of nature mirrors your beauty and love. Inspire us to honor and care for all you have made and share its bounty! Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Healing Comforter, hold gently in your arms all those who cry out for wholeness and healing in their lives. Comfort and refresh with your light and life, all those who live in darkness brought upon by loneliness, grief, and sickness. Send us to bring your glad tidings to those in need so they will once again know comfort and joy. Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless all who gather with family and friends this day. May the love of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus be the same love we share with one another. Grant us all your spirit of community and peace. Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we come to your table of grace today, may we know your special love for each one of us – may we know, that wrapped in this wonderful gift of this meal, you nourish us, you forgive us, you unite us, and you send us to be your people in our world. Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hear our prayer, gracious God, and bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

“Rejoice and Be Merry”

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

What Child Is This

ELW 296 (Verses 1,3)

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3 **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

MEAL

Checklist for communion:

** There is bread on hand on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like.*

**There is wine or grape juice ready (or some other beverage if wine or grape juice is not available).*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

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.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: 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.

RECEIVING THE MEAL

For those who are doing the consecrating at home, AT THIS TIME you can now do the words of institution. As you do the words of institution, you can hold up the appropriate element – the bread and the goblet or cup - if you wish.

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

FINAL BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

GERMAN

JoAlice Boatright, soloist

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

- 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.**

POSTLUDE

Organ and Trumpet

“Jubilate Deo”

Thank you to Paul Lathrop for providing the audio and video support for this worship service.

Thank you to all musicians who shared their music with us this day, especially Ruth Bills, Dan Kuch, Anna Matthes, Jo Alice Boatright, the Sanctuary Choir and Jubilate Bell Choir.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2
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Joy to the World

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

What Child is This

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
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Silent Night, Holy Night

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
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