



December 24, 2021

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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	<i>Shepherds</i>	W. Held
Welcome		Pastor Wayne Dubnansky
Gathering Hymn:	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i> vs. 1 & 3	ELW 283

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:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultations, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

Prayer of the Day

A. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

A. Let us pray

C. **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**

Hymn

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve (vs. 1 and 3)

ELW 271

(Children come forward as the assembly sings)

Blessing of the Nativity Scene

Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**

Anthem

Away in a Manger (vs. 1)

Everyone

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.

The Old Testament 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 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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Back of Bulletin

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

What Child Is This? (vs. 1 & 2)

ELW 296

P. The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

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.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

The First Noel (vs. 1 & 5)

ELW 300

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

The 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 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.



We Believe

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.

The Prayers

- A.** Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

- C. receive our prayer.**

- P.** Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

- C. Amen**

The Peace

- P.** The Peace of Christ be with you always.

- C. And also with you.**

The Offering

Special Music

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

Offertory

What Child is This? (vs. 3)

ELW 296

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!

Offertory Prayer

- A.** Gracious God,

- C. your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The 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 to Communion

P. In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

C. Alleluia!

Communion Hymns

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

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!

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!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and Peace to men on earth.

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 his his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

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!"



Christ, by highest heav'n ;
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!
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"



Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

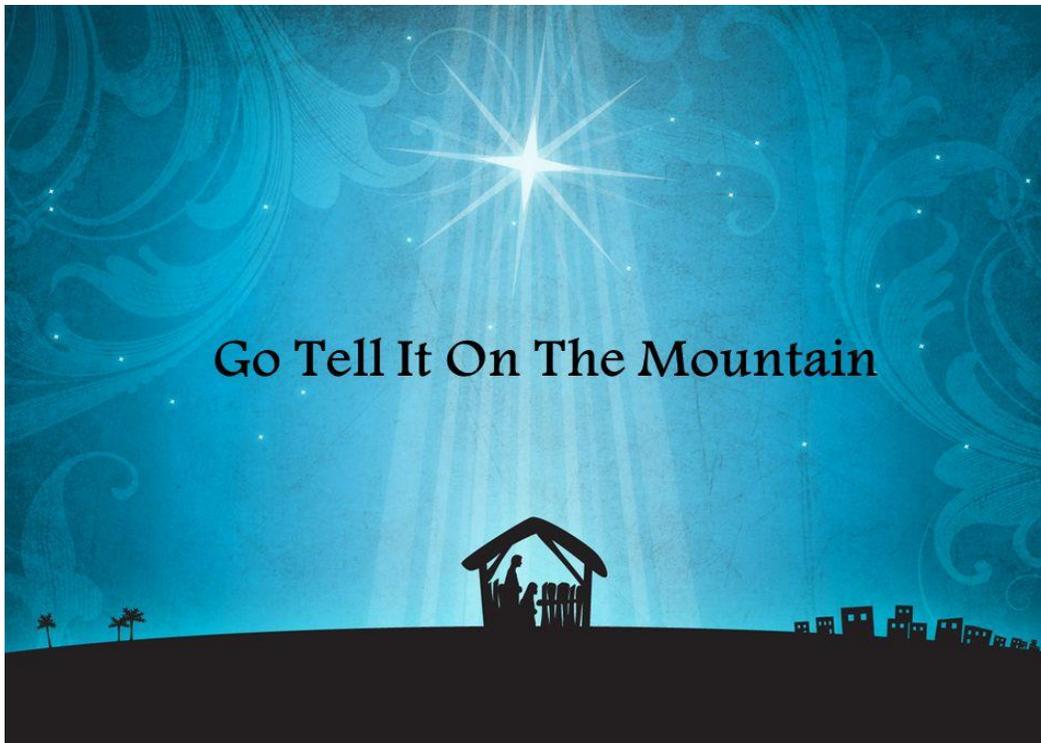
Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain



Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace.

C. Amen.

A. 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.

Service of Candle Lighting

[Lights are turned off during musical introduction]

As candles are lit we join in singing:

Hymn:

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

vs. 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

vs. 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

vs. 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.



The Blessing

P. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C. Amen

[Lights are turned back on]

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.

Joy TO THE
WORLD
THE *Lord*
HAS COME.

Dismissal

- A. Glory to God in the highest!
- C. **Peace to God's people on earth!**
- A. Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
- C. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

JOY

W. Held



Poinsettias Donated by

- Tom & Alecia Harrison - in honor of our church family
- Helen Holderman – in honor of departed family members
- Linda Hash – in loving memory of Dave Hash
- Clyde & Rena Bogle – in honor of their children
- Sylvia Lambert – in honor of her children and grandchildren