

Christmas Eve

Welcome! Christ the Savior is Born!

December 24, 2025 7:00pm
Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa
Pastor Stephanie Wood † Pastor Kirsten Lee



Prelude

Christmas Angels..... arr. by Jack Schwader
Susan Senn *piano*, Dean Rock *trumpet*

Call To Worship*

(Please turn to face the cross at the back of the sanctuary.)

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—
to carry Christ into this world.

An ordinary carpenter was invited—
to be a father to a child unlike any other.

The shepherds were invited—
outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

The Magi were invited—
foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—
then we can trust that we too are invited.

This story is for us.
This love is for us.

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home. **Amen.**

Processional Carol*

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 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*
- 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*

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

Candle Lighting*

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!
He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.
With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.
**With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have
seen and heard. Emmanuel, God with us, has come.**

Prayer of the Day*

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.**

Heart & Voice Choir Anthem

Song of the Shepherds Lloyd Larson

*Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Born today is Christ the Lord!*

*"Glory to God!" Hear the shepherds singing.
"Glory to God!" The angels' song still ringing!
"Glory to God!" all the heaven and earth reply!
Glory to God! The King is born tonight!*

*Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Born today is Christ the Lord!*

*"Glory to God!" Hear the shepherds singing.
"Glory to God!" The angels' song still ringing!
"Glory to God and peace to all the earth.
Glory to God! Proclaim the Savior's birth!"*

*Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Born today is Christ the Lord!*

*Run, shepherds, run!
Run, shepherds run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Jesus is born this night! Run, shepherds, run!*

Scripture Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

What Child is This? ELW 296

- 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!
- 2
- Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Gospel Reading*

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Luke 2:1-7

(Please turn toward the center aisle for the reading of the Gospel.)

The Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Gospel Reading* | Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same 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, and 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, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Carol*

Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Message

Carol*

O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

- 1 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
- 3 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 hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Prayers of the People*

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. Glory to God in the highest

And peace to God's people on earth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reveal yourself to us so that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace* *(Please be seated after sharing the peace.)*

Christ has come to us as the Babe of Bethlehem to give us hope, peace, joy, and love.

Therefore, let us share the peace of the Lord with one another. The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Call to Offering *(The offering plates will be passed along the pews.)*

At this time that has become synonymous with gift giving, let us reflect on the gifts of love, hope, joy, and peace. Let us respond to the generosity of the Giver of all things beautiful. Let us give generously to share God's beauty in our community.

Offering Music

Sweet Little Jesus BoyRobert MacGimsey
Laura Toland *vocals*

Offering Prayer*

Let us pray. God of glory, **great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving*

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 God thanks and praise.**

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.

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.

Communion

Everyone is welcome to the table. As you are able, please come forward to receive communion at the front of the church. If you prefer juice for communion, it will be clear, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

Oh, Holy Night John Dwight/ Adolphe Adam
Bill McCullough vocals

Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

The Litany of Candle Lighting*

(Please turn toward the center aisle for the lighting of candles.)

Arise, come and shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
We have received in faith that which you, O Lord, have promised.

Emmanuel: God with us, God in us, revealed to us.
Our souls rejoice in the salvation of the Lord.

The Lord will be our everlasting light and glory.
Praise and glory be to you, now and forevermore.

Our candles will illuminate the story. The Light of the world has come.
And this light is a light for all; radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God, within us and among us, now and always.

(The light from the Christ Candle shall be spread among the congregation. Please tip the unlit candles to light.)

Carol

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.

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

Benediction*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among others,
 To make music in the heart.

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love...to spread the beauty of Christmas. **Amen.**

Sending*

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God!**

You may extinguish your candle at the end of the sending. You are welcome to leave now or stay and listen to the postlude. You are invited to join us next Sunday at 9:30am for our "Hymns by Request" service.

Postlude

*Trumpet Tune on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"..... arr. by David Lasky
Susan Senn organ, Dean Rock trumpet*

Serving in Worship

Assisting Minister Ruth McAndrews
Communion Assistants Gloria Lange, Ruth McAndrews, Jane Krumwiede, Russ Finkler
Communion Bread.....Gloria Lange
Ushers Connie Lannan & Craig Brown
Greeters Jane Krumwiede, Vicki Liebbe
Heart & Voice Choir Director Sally Meier
Organist Susan Senn
Piano..... Kathi Parrish
Tech Assistant & Praise Band Leader Vey Rodriguez

Join us Next Sunday!

December 28 9:30am Christmas Hymn Sing (Hymns by Request)



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