

## GET READY FOR WORSHIP

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

During the period of online worship, our worship style is simplified, with no musical liturgy, but with hymns and/or songs. The texts of hymns and songs will be printed in this online bulletin where they appear in the order of worship. You are encouraged to sing along at home with the accompaniment from the musician at church.

When we worship from the parking lot, the radio frequency that you can hear the worship service is 94.3FM.

This is a time to bust forth fully in song without worrying about being heard by the congregation, which should encourage some of the more shy singers among you, and to give full prayerful voice to fear or sorrow, supplications for mercy, and of course, to trust, hope and praise.

### HOW WE SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION

Members are encouraged to have gathered both bread and wine or grape juice in the space where family members will gather for worship, so that everyone may participate in the full liturgy of the Eucharist. Even if you are alone in your home, please partake of the body and blood of Christ in the forms of bread and wine. We are together in the Body of Christ, by God's loving Spirit, even when we are not present with another in our own flesh.

The Nativity of our Lord  
Christmas Eve 2020

**Prelude:** *Silent Night*

**Diane Rauser, Rex Ratzlaff**

**Reading – Where?**

**Joseph and Lizzy Montgomery**

**Song – *O Come All Ye Faithful***

**Intro - Greg and Rachel Barton**

Oh, come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the king of angels:  
Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him,  
oh, come, let us adore him,  
oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

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

## **Psalm 36:5-9**

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**Renata Eustice-Cleveland**

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

**3**

**Karl Anderson**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**Song – *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear***

**Intro – Allison Muehr**

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious king  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

**Reading – Who?**

**Julianne Stevens**

**Song – *What Child Is This?***

**Intro – Amanda Bellis**

What child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping,  
Whom angels greet  
With anthems sweet  
While shepherd's watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king

Whom shepherd's watch  
And angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary.

**Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Bill Burma**

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.

**Song** – *Of The Father's Love Begotten*

This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now He shines, the long-expected;

Let creation praise its Lord,  
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
All dominions, bow before Him,  
And extol our Lord and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.

**Reading – What?**

**John Strand**

**(Amelia Paulsen, Luke Miller, Erika Van Gorder, Carter Follmuth, Breta and Olivia Philson, Henry and Sadie Patten, Trip and Zane Williams, Eliana Heins)**

**Song – *Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

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

**Reading** Luke 1:26-38

**Vicky Payseur**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Psalm 96**

**Bellis Family**

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**C: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

**C: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols; but the LORD made the heavens.

**C: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Worship the LORD in holy array; tremble before him, all the earth!

**C: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yea, the world is established, it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**C: let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

**C: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.**

**Song – *Joy to the World***

**Intro - Rachel and Greg Barton**

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.

**Reading:** Luke 2:1-7

**Nancy Carlson**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Song – *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

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.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

**Reading:** Luke 2:8-20

**George Stevens**

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

**Song – *Angels We Have Heard on High***

**Intro - Cecilia Muehr**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

**Reading** Luke 2:15-20

**Grace Heimerdinger-Baake**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Song** – *Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy*

**Adult Choir**

**Homily**

**Pastor Heidi Williams**

**Song** – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

### **Prayers of the People**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church,  
the world, and all who are in need.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in  
your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

Good and loving God,  
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,  
**who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.**  
**As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.**  
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,  
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **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 him thanks and praise.**

*It is indeed right and salutary... (here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:) We praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy Lord most holy,  
God of pow'r and God of might  
Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.  
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!  
Blessed be the coming savior.  
Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

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.

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**

## 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

We invite all to share in Holy Communion. *If you are communing from home, offer each other the bread with these words "The Body of Christ given for you" and the wine with "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

## Music during the Communion: *Away in a Manger*

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 cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## **Benediction**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen**

**Indoor Postlude: *Silent Night***

**Sam Califf**

**Come to the manger by joining us in the church parking lot for the close of worship.**

*When we are gathered we remind ourselves, by lighting candles, that it is into our dark world that the light of Christ has come, and that his light, through us, continues.*

God's love was revealed to us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**For it is the same God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*The lesson (John 1:1-4) is read as the church is darkened.*

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.

*We invite you to hold up a source of light, flashlight, or cell phone as we sing.*

**Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night***

**ELW 281**

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

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

**Dismissal**

Go in Hope  
Go in Peace  
Go in Joy  
Go in Love  
Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**