

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2020



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

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December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

GATHERING

PRELUDE

A Christmas Prelude
Jessica Merrey, flutist

Charles Callahan

(© 1989 Morning Star Music Publishers)

WELCOME AND APOSTOLIC GREETING

GATHING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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:</p> | <p>Refrain
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: Refrain</p> |
| <p>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</p> | |

(Text and music: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880)
(Accompaniment: arr. David Willcocks © 1961 Oxford Press)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288 (v. 1)*

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and
soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the
manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!



(Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1861. Music: German carol, 14th century; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856)

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 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.

PSALM *(Chanted)*

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD | a new song;

sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples
with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING**Titus 2:11-14**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* *ELW 275 (vv. 1, 2, 4)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
 wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 once you sang creation's story,
 now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> | <p>2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
 watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing,
 yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> |
| <p>4 All creation, join in praising
 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 evermore your voices raising
 to the eternal Three in One.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> | |

(Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, sts. 1-2; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1812-1879.)

GOSPEL IN PROCESSION**Luke 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

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*

(Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

After each petition

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES*Silent Night***ELW 281**

arr. Corinne Brock Duet: Corinne B. and Emily B.

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|---|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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!</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | |

*Offertory on "Stille Nacht"**arr. David Paxton*

(© 1996 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

SENDING**BLESSING**

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaim 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.

SENDING HYMN*Joy to the World***ELW 267**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> |
| <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
 nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.</p> | <p>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.</p> |

(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th century)

(Accompaniment setting: Douglas J. Benton, © 2013 Hope Publishing Company)

DISMISSAL

Merry Christmas! Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles

Soloist: Corinne B.

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Announcements

A few friendly reminders:

- We will continue to live stream our worship services at 10 am on our YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/3nzgAWy> but services will be available any time after the live streaming.
- We are suspending in-person worship through the MLK Jr. holiday.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given by Bob and Wilma White in memory of loved ones and in honor of the people of St. John's.

Additional flowers are given in honor of the birth of Marilyn and Mark Ehm's daughter, Emerson Grace on December 5, 2020 by grandmother, Dana Ehm Lott and great-grandmother, Betty Ehm.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2021. The dates available are: 17th, 24th and 31st, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, March 7th, 14th and 21st, April 4th, 11th and 18th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.



Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor John

- January 27, 2021 – The Year of St. Mark: An Overview

Contact the church office at office@stjohnsparkville.org to sign up and we will send you the Zoom link.

St. John's will not be offering our Lessons & Carols service this year on Sunday, December 27th but we encourage you to participate in the DE/MD Synod's online Lessons and Carols service. Go to <https://demdsynod.org> and click on the digital worship button.





The 2021 offering envelopes have not arrived yet. As soon as we receive them, we will arrange to have them picked up or delivered to you. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Doing any shopping Online? Support St. John's when you shop. Go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6012034 and Amazon donates to Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Parkville Inc



We are excited to announce that the clothing shed is back open. All donations must be bagged. Acceptable donations are: All clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys. Thanks for your cooperation!

Do you need a 2021 calendar? We have several wall and pocket calendars that were donated for those who need one. If you would like a calendar, stop in the office to pick one up.



In observance of the holidays, the office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. In the event of an emergency, please call the emergency number at 443-844-9314.

A few notes from your Financial Secretary:

I hope everyone has been staying well during these challenging times! As we continue worshipping online through the end of 2020, I just wanted to send along these friendly reminders to you:

Please make sure that any final 2020 contributions you wish to make to St. John's are received by the church office no later than Thursday, December 24th. Our final count and deposit for the year will be done the morning of Monday, December 28th. All contributions received in 2020 will be included on your 2020 Contribution Report. Reports will be generated and mailed to you in mid-January.

Our Simply Giving program continues to be available to you in making contributions to St. John's. If you are interested in signing up, you may do so at any time. Please feel free to send me an email at haackefamily@comcast.net or give me a call at 410-661-8970 and I will send a form to you for you to complete. If you have any questions about filling out the form or the program, please let me know. I'm happy to help.

On behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church, thank you for your continued support and generosity. Stay safe and be well!

Debra Haacke





Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Richard Bauer, Bill Carroll, Lee Krieger, Suzanne Lindsay, Janine Stevens, Joan Kraft, Patty Schwab, Tom & Marion McDonough, Ardi Scarborough, Gerry Steg, Betty Hedgepeth, Kathi Peck, Bett Murphy, Vickie Jasinski, and Cynthia Kraemer

For family & friends: Dale Miller, Pam Harmon, Delphine Peck, Jessi Powers, Margaret Iovino, Bill Johnson, Karen Alban, Karen Ehrenberg, Randy Powell, Linda Fliegel, Cheryl Aydelotte, Mary Jo Rother, Doug Adams, Bill Eubert, Doris Klug, Olivia Route, John Miller, Norma Weber, Marie Pilachowski, Charles & Pat Frank, Mike Fischer, Joann Kloby, Nancy Snyder, John & Patty Bowman, Kathy Amos, Farron Steel, Darlene Koch, Roxann Kelly, Terri Busby, Ms. Linton, Pam Harmen, Linda Asplin, Anna Meyers, and Barb Collins

For the military and their families: Jacob Verble, Lance Corporal Justin Ferro, Sgt. Stephen Peck, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, Chaplain A. J. Striffler and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Shirley Watkins, Alma Arnold, Paul Huber, Wayne Zopp, Mary Hohne and Thomas Madden

For St. John's Caring Friends: Trudy Anderson, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Gladys Downs, Margaret Eubert, Betty Glassband, Betty Hedgespeth, Leroy Hohne, Philip Kramer, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Patrick O'Connell, Ann Powell, Arthur Pulket, Mary Ann Reek, Patricia Sollanek, Cass Tracey, Emma Volz, Doris Warfield, and Clara Westphal