

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – DECEMBER 23 AND 24

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Prelude

Christmas Songs

Hark the Herald Angels Sing by Mark Thompson

Silent Night by Dean Ramberg

Welcome

Christmas Wreath Lighting

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v.1) 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!**

L: 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.

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. (Isaiah 9)

Now it's time to light the candles
The light has overcome the darkness
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
have come to us this night.

**C: The light shines in the darkness:
Bringing to us our Savior, Christ the Lord!**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v.2) ELW #283

**The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!**

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We worship in the name of the Father, and the Son +, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: The light has come into the world and no darkness can overcome it. Let us confess our need for God's mercy.

(A time for personal confession and reflection.)

P: God of Peace,

C: we confess that we are not at peace— with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in the world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace for you this night: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1-3) 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.**

P: The Light has come into the world! Christ is Born; Alleluia, alleluia! 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

P: Let us pray.

All : 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 this 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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE, PREACHING AND SONG

Kyrie

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ELW #276

**1 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!**

**2 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!**

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn of Praise Away in the Manger by Dean Ramberg

Second Reading Luke 2:1-7

Gospel Acclamation 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*

Children's Sermon

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

Christmas Message

Hymn of Day **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!**

Christmas Prayer

P: Glory to God in the Highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

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

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

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

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

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

C: Reveal yourself to us in the word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

PEACE

P: The angels sing Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Offering

Special Music O Holy Night by Daniel Schreiner

Offering Prayer

P: Good and loving God,

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Great and saving God,

C: you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, help us to proclaim all that we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

P: Tonight we celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the world. Our candles bear witness to that light, and brighten this time of celebration. By the light of God's creating Word, we are given the brighter light of faith and trust in Him.

C: In Him was life, and the life was light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Closing Hymn

Peace, Peace / Silent Night! Holy Night! ELW #281

**Peace, Peace, Peace
O Lord and good will to all
This is a time for joy
This is a time for love
Now let us all sing together
Of Peace, Peace, Peace on Earth**

**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.**

BLESSING

P: God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

P: Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God's people on earth! Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World by Danielle Lemieux on horn

Music By Dani Lemieux, Mark Thompson, Dean Ramberg, & Daniel Schreiner

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