

Christmas Eve ~ Dec. 24, 2022 – 2:00 pm - communion

AS WE GATHER

“All is calm, all is bright.” Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: these are anything but calm and bright. Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity’s ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. “Glory to God in the highest,” sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, “and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God’s self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

Welcome & Announcements

#376 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY

- 1 Once in royal David’s city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

- 3 For He is our childhood’s pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.**

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P In the stillness of this night,

C A gift is given.

P Wrapped in swaddling cloth, coming to us as a little baby,

C God's greatest gift is given.

P In the miracle and mystery of God's Son born in human flesh,

C God has given us his salvation.

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 2:10–12, 14

P To shepherds filled with fear, the angel said,

C “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.”

P To those shepherds and to us this holy night, the angel declares,

C “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

P To all who seek signs of God's peace in this broken world, the angel proclaims,

C “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

- P** To our world, so filled with uncertainty, confusion, and fear, the multitude of angels sings,
C **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** As we gather to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray in repentant faith and seek God’s mercy for our sins.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

- P** In our Christmas joy, let us confess our sins.
C **Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We plead with You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.**
- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the light shines on them. The grace of God has appeared through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, bringing salvation to all people. I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
C **Amen.**

#379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

- 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**

- ref** **O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

2 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

INTROIT

Psalm 24:1, 3–5

P I will tell of the decree:

C The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

P The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof,

C the world and those who dwell therein.

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

C And who shall stand in his holy place?

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

C who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

P He will receive blessing from the LORD

C and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS GLORIA (tune LSB 366)

Soprano



1. With glo - ry bright-and heavn - ly peace, come quick - ly Lord, - we pray. — With
 2. O glo - rious Son of right - eous - ness, bring heal - ing on - Your wing. — By
 3. Most glo rious Spir - it ho - ly Lord, — bring us to — Your Son, — To

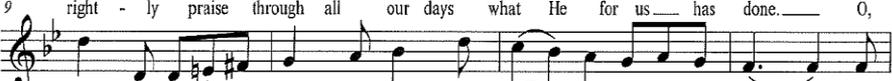
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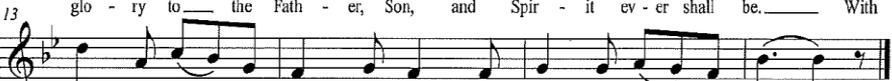
judge - ment true — the earth re - new; the gates of life - to - day. — God
 Your dear grace, re - veal Your face. Oh free our hearts to sing. — Sing,
 9
 right - ly praise through all our days what He for us — has done. — O,

S



Fa - ther glo - ry guilds Your name; we wor - ship and — a - dore; — We
 "Glo - ry be — to You, O Lord! To You, — O Christ be praise! — God's
 13
 glo - ry to — the Fath - er, Son, and Spir - it ev - er shall be. — With

S



bless and praise, our thanks we raise; Your mer - cy we — im - plore. —
 Lamb of love — from heav'n a - bove re - deem - er of — our race!" —
 joy - ful hearts we sing Your praise — Through et - er - ni - ty. —

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM ~ “Be Born In Me (Mary)” by Becca Zobel

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Luke 2:11

P Alleluia!

C Alleluia!

P For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

C who is Christ the Lord.

P Alleluia!

C Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came

together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

JESUS TIME FOR THE KIDS

SONG ~ “Welcome to Our World” by Pastor Jason Zobel

SERMON ~ “God’s Gift For You”; Luke 2:10-11

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures

and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P . . . Hear our prayers, O Lord,

C for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ~ #364 AWAY IN A MANGER

1 CHILDREN ONLY

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 Congregation sings

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Congregation sings

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is our duty and delight to thank You, O merciful God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at just the right time, You sent Your only Son to be born into this world as a vulnerable infant, drawing us to You not with pomp and power but with awe and wonder that the God of all creation would enter it as a baby to save those created in His image. And so, in joy and thanksgiving, we join the angels and all the company of heaven to sing Your praise:

CHRISTMAS SANCTUS (tune LSB 384)

Soprano



1. Ho-ly, ho-ly ho-ly God most high, bless-ed Lord of heav-en and earth.
2. Glo-ry streams through earth and heav-en, for our Sav-ior has been born.

From the Fath-er, through the Spir-it, from a maid You had Your birth.
In this gift You've giv'n a Sav-ior givn' to us this Christ-mas morn.

All cre-a-tion sings high praise and bless-ing, Son of God
Now may ev'-ry-one a-dore You, Son of God

and Son of man. Ho-san-a in the high-est!
and Son of man. Ho-san-a in the high-est!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

CHRISTMAS AGNUS DEI (tune LW 46)

Soprano

1. Jes - us Christ You now dwell, here with us - Em - man - u - el
 2. Mar - y's child, Your on - ly Son, with the Fa - ther made us one

5

S

Sins You take for our sake; Grant us mer - cy, Christ our Lord.
 Take our sin; o'er death You've won; Grant us mer - cy, Christ our Lord.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ~

#361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

- 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;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

#363 SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

sts. 1–3

- 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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

#366 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1 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, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

#383 A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

- 1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain
ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"
- 2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. Refrain
- 3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain
- 5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

HYMN ~ “The First Noel”

- 1. The First Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as 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.**
- 2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**
- 3. And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**
- 4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took it rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**
- 5. Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently 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.**
- 6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

CHRISTMAS NUNC DIMITTUS (tune LSB 358)

Soprano



Musical notation for Soprano part, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes.

1. Lord, let Your ser - vant got in peace; Your faith - ful Word has been ful - filled. This
2. With my own eyes I see the lamp of glo - ry giv'n to Is - ra - el, The

S



Musical notation for Soprano part, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody continues from the previous line, starting with a measure rest marked '5'.

Word made flesh, I now em - brace; the sure sal - va - tion You have willed.
light — for — na - tions lost. The peace that makes Your peop - le well.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

#380 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the_angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

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

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

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

† †

A Special Thank you to Isaiah Breed, Bethany, Kayla, and Joseph Klemm for the saxophone quartet that played special music and accompany hymns.

THE BULLETIN & RADIO BROADCAST: The bulletin and radio broadcast for Christmas Eve is sponsored by Holly Lang in celebration of Jen Lang's birthday (Dec. 25) and Jesus Birthday.