

Christmas Eve Mostly Adult Christmas Program
Immanuel Lutheran Church/Bethesda Lutheran Church
“People of God...Serving God by Serving others”
December 24, 2020

Order of Worship

Welcome

Together as a community of God’s people, the church, we bring the light of each to become the light of all.

Together we share the light of Christ, lifting the darkness of doubt, despair, or fear that shrouds our world.

We pass the light of the candle and see the radiance and beauty of one another, as seen through the eyes of a timeless love.

Prelude –(Paul Ehlers)

Gathering Hymn #281 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

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. *(Bev Steele)*

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! *(Arnie & Patty Carver)*

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. *(Yvette Fleming)*

Narrator: Waiting, watching, hoping against hope, the faithful have looked and longed for a Savior. Wrapped up in our own lives, in our own struggles, consumed with our own desires and our own sins, still our hope was in God. At long last, all generations cry out, “For unto us a child is born.” *(Karen Novacheck)*

Abraham: My name is Abraham. I followed God’s call. I went from my own country and my kindred to the land that God showed me. God promised to make a nation from my descendants. God said that all families of the earth would be blessed through me. Now we see the fulfillment of that promise with the gift of this child...today we are blessed indeed! For unto us a child is born.

(Mark Ludeking)

Isaiah 9:2-6 A Child Has Been Born For US! (Paula Lundberg)

Hagar: I am Hagar. I was Sarah’s slave girl. I bore Abraham a son, whom I called Ishmael. When I was at the end of all hope because of my suffering, I fled into the wilderness. It was there that I met “the God who hears”; the God who hears even the crying of the cast out. God has heard the cries of all people; the insiders and the outsiders. This baby is a gift to us: a gift for all peoples. For unto us a child is born! *(Jane Edwards)*

Hymn #283 vs. 1 and 3 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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: *(Joyce Anderson)*

Refrain:

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *(Dee Hendrickson)*

Refrain:

Jacob: I am Jacob, grandson of Abraham. Even though I was a liar and a cheater, there was still room for me in God's plan. I had a dream one night where God stood right next to me. In the morning I called that place Bethel, the House of God. Today a child is born with the same message...God is right here with us! We give thanks for Immanuel--God with us. For unto us a child is born!

(Mike Herrick)

Poem- "The Kingdom of God is At Hand" (written by Marty Burkel)

Moses: I am Moses. When God spoke to me from a burning bush in the wilderness, I had lots of excuses. I didn't want to help God liberate our people from slavery. But God didn't give up on me or Israel. With God's power, our people were delivered from the hands of the mighty Pharaoh. We worship a God who delivers! And then through God's mercy, we were given the law at Sinai to guide us. We worship a God who guides us! And today we have been given a Savior who will deliver us from evil, a Savior who will be our guide and our light. For unto us a child is born!

(Mike Cyr)

Story- "A Guiding Light" (Al Reedy)

Ruth: I am Ruth. I am a foreigner from Moab, who married one of the sons of Israel. When my husband died, I followed my mother-in-law back to her country Israel. I was her faithful friend, and her God, the God of Israel, was faithful in restoring our happiness. I gleaned wheat in the fields near this town of Bethlehem. A man named Boaz married me, even though I was a widow and a foreigner. I gave birth to a child that brought great joy to my family. This baby Jesus is one of my descendants, he has come to bring great joy to the world! For unto us a child is born! *(Jane Moeller)*

Hymn #267 ELW vs. 1 and 2 "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every 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. *(Ralph & Eve Erickson)*

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. *(Al Reedy & Richard Mueller)*

Samuel: My name is Samuel. When I was just a small boy I heard God calling me. I said, "Yes Lord, your servant hears you." And so I served God all my days, calling the people of Israel to faithfulness. It was a hard job, because the people did not always want to hear what I had to say. But God never deserted me. Now I see that God has sent his own son to call us to faithfulness. For unto us a child is born! *(John Hall)*

Story- "A Difficult Job but I Have to Help" (Henry Weber-Purves)

David: My name is David. I was the Lord's anointed, a man after God's own heart. I ruled Israel as a king for many years. I was a sinner, like everyone else, and I disappointed God in many ways. But God was faithful to me. This night in Bethlehem, in my own city, a new King has been born, one of my own descendants. This Ruler will bring peace to the world. He will be called the Prince of Peace. For unto us a child is born! (Paul Lundberg)

Titus 2:11-14 A God-Filled Life. (Sheryl Burkel)

Isaiah: My name is Isaiah, and I was a prophet of the Most High. The people of Israel had turned from God. God allowed them to be conquered by the Babylonians. The holy city Jerusalem was in ruins, our temple was destroyed. Our people were taken in chains into captivity. How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. He will establish the throne of David and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this! (Isaiah 9:6-7) (Randy Bestul)

"A Christmas Rose" sung by Cheri Tesarek (Sandy Paavola's daughter)

Joseph: Joseph is my name, and my betrothed Mary has given birth to a son. This child has come to save our people from their sin. We have great hopes for this small baby, our firstborn. And we have named him Jesus, as the angel instructed me. For unto us a child is born! (Richard Florence)

Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus (Gordy Anderson)

Story - "Making Room For Love" (Teresa Weber)

Mary: My name is Mary and I am a servant of the Lord. God's mercy is on those who fear God, from generation to generation. God has helped his servant Israel, according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever. Jesus is a blessing for the world, that has come through my life. For unto us a child is born! (Bev Volpone Cyr)

"Mary Did You Know" (sung by Mike Powers)

Luke 2:8-20 An Event For Everyone (Ed & Jenna Morshead-Metelica)

People: Today we add our voices to the chorus of thanksgiving. We join our voices to the song that rises through time, around the world on every parallel, "Glory to God in the highest". The harmony of our song of praise reaches heaven, as we give thanks for God's son, Jesus Christ our Lord! For unto us a child is born! (Diane Fizell & Lynette Benzschawel)

Message

Hymn #277 ELW verses 1 and 3 "Away in a Manger"

Away in the 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. *(Jane Hauser)*

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. *(Linda Schneider)*

Prayers of Intercession

In joy and thanksgiving at Christ's birth. Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Tom & Deanne Mason)*

We pray for all people. For all welcome messengers of good news. Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Lola Stonehill)*

For the nations and their rulers. For the corporations and their executives. For anyone with power over the lives of others. Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Gary Johnson)*

For those who defend the helpless. For those who strive for justice. For those who work to find a way to peace. For all the world, and all who live in it. Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Leanne Homa)*

For anyone suffering, sick, alone, afraid, or in any kind of trouble. We pray especially for...(name aloud or in your heart those you want to remember). Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Sharon Bestul)*

For our own community, for friends, neighbors, and family, near and far. We pray especially for...(name aloud or in your heart those you want to remember). Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Sandy Bodner)*

For those who have died. We pray especially for Don Anderson, Peg Dollinger, Harold Hyde, Marilyn Larsen, Lyle Huusko, Betty Ostrom, & Georgia Rettmer. Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people.

We offer thanksgiving for Mary's firstborn Son--good news of great joy. Let us sing to the Lord a new song. On earth peace, good will among people. *(Diane Hall)*

Your Kingdom, O God, is forever and ever. Before the eyes of all the nations you sent your Son, the exact imprint of love itself, to be our salvation. With the shepherds in the fields, let us go now to Bethlehem, there to find Christ in our hearts, and in the world. Amen. *(Yvonne Cox)*

Hymn #289 verses 1 and 3 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. *(Fred Faye)*

Refrain:

Gloria in excels-is Deo; gloria in excels-is Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain *(Paul Ehlers)*

Communion

In the wonder and the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

Words of Consecration

The 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.

Blessing and Sending of the Light

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing
Is the God who entrusted his son,
to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know,
how strong is the wonder of Love.

A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.

A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

#290 ELW verses 1 and 3 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every where;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! *(Sarah Lund)*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain *(Melinda Letnes)*

*Keep the glow of this Holy Light burning in your hearts and in your lives!
Merry Christmas!*



Thank you to:

All the people who graciously sang, spoke, or gave their
Christmas greeting.

Worship Leader: Mary Meierotto S.A.M.

Accompanists: Lana Jorstad & Owen Polifka

Bethesda Decorators: Paul & Paula Lundberg,
Jim and Jane Moeller, Dianne Judd,
Joyce Anderson, & Diane Fizell

Immanuel Decorators: Ralph & Eve Erickson,
John & Diane Hall

Video Editing: Ed Metelica & Oliver

Christmas Program Planners: Paul & Paula Lundberg,
Jim and Jane Moeller, Dianne Judd,
Joyce Anderson, Diane Fizell, Ed Metalica,
Yvonne Cox, Teresa Weber, & Al Reedy