

Welcome to Worship at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

The Nativity of Our Lord— Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

—GATHERING—

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

“Silent Night” –setting, Gary Lanier

Mitchell Frey, trombone

”He Is Born” – setting, James D. Kimball

Bell Quartet: Heather & Mark Boyer, Susie Glass, Catherine Strate

“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day” –John Rutter

LCR Singers

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW # 288

LCR Singers

“Hark! The Herald” –setting, Gary Lanier

Mitchell Frey, trombone

“Angels We have Heard on High” –setting, Sandra Eithun

Bell Quartet: Heather & Mark Boyer, Hannah Hughes, Stacy Hughes

“I Wonder as I Wander” –John Jacob Niles

Rachel Thornton, soloist

“Do You Hear What I Hear” –arr. Simeone

LCR Singers, Ron Russell, drum; Mitchell Frey, brass

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” – setting, James D. Kimball

Bell Quartet: Heather & Mark Boyer, Susie Glass, Catherine Strate

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW # 279

LCR Singers, Jesse Pilz, violin

“Mary, Did You Know?” –setting, Jack Schrader-3:30

*LCR Singers, Tom Crawford & Matteus Lizdas, guitar, Virginia Petersen, bass,
Ron Russell, drums*

"Silent Night" – Dan Forrest

LCR Singers, Jesse Pilz, violin; Heather Vincente, viola; Dwayne Wasson, cello

"Sing Noel, Sing Hallelujah!" –M. W. Smith/ D. Hamilton

LCR Singers, Mitchell Frey, brass, Ron Russell, drum

"Joy to the World"

ELW # 267

LCR Singers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,**

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen

*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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*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!
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!"*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

We light the Christmas Candle, thankful for the presence of God in the darkness of our lives and rejoicing in the gift of light. Creator God, you made the stars in the heavens. Thank you for the light that shines on us in Jesus, the bright Morning Star.

Glory to God in the highest! God the Son is born! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*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.

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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 the 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.**

—WORD—

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah’s king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God’s passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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.

- ³ 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.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL RESPONSE: "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming" —Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To shew God's love aright
She bore to us a Saviour,
When half-spent was the night.*

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

ELW # 276

***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!***

***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!***

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Christmas Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ 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.

MEDITATION "The Shepherd's Story"

Pastor Dave Helfrich

HYMN OF THE DAY "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

ELW # 290

***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

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

***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

***The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.***

***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

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

***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

NICENE CREED

ELW, page 104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest (*especially*). Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting, especially those affected by COVID-19.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed (*especially*). Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

In light of God's gift to us, if you would like to give a gift to support the ministries of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, you can text your donation amount to 678-616-9474.

OFFERING "On This Still and Silent Night"

—Jonathan Cook / James Koerts

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*In manger bed He lies, the glorious King of light,
And all is calm as angels sing on this still and silent night.*

*The Shepherds humbly kneel; how precious is the sight,
And Mary cradles Heaven's heir on this still and silent night.*

*Hear Mary softly singing, beneath the stars so bright,
Her songs of love and praise on this still and silent night,
Holy night!*

*Salvation's joy has come, God's glory, our delight.
And now new hope to us is giv'n on this still and silent night*

HYMN RESPONSE "What Child is This"

ELW # 296

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!***

***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!***

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!***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

CANDLELIGHTING

Please join us by having each person with you light a candle during this reading and the singing of "Silent Night." The first person holds the lighted candle upright and other candles turned horizontally to get the flame. After the Blessing and before the final hymn, please extinguish your candle, keeping the candle upright until the wax cools and will not drip.

***READING John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. ¹²But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***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. Heav’nly 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.***

—SENDING—

BLESSING

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.

In the name of the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING SONG “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

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:

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!

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,

Oh, 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;

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

***Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!***

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

***Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Mitchell Frey, trombone

–setting by Gary Lanier



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