

# The Nativity of Our Lord

A Candle Light Service



*And Mary gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths  
and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

**December 24, 2023**

**7:00 p.m.**

# Worshiping the New Born King

## Pastor's Words of Welcome

### The Greeting

- P** Trusting in the Word of Life given to us on that first Christmas we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen
- P** The Light shines in the darkness,
- C** And the darkness has not overcome it!
- P** The Word became flesh and lived among us,
- C** And we have beheld Christ's glory!
- P** Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given!
- C** In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

### Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Since we have gathered to hear God's Word, to call upon Him in prayer and praise, and to hear the Amazing Gospel Message of Jesus Birth, together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.
- C** God of grace and truth, in Jesus You came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the Light, nor trusted the good news of great joy. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** The Christmas angel said: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

# Opening Carol

# O Come All Ye Faithful

379 sts. 1-3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God— In— the— high - est:

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

## First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**A Carol***Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

386 sts. 1, 3



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man-ger lies;  
 Death was reign-ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty



Not so bright-ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!

**Second Lesson**

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

**A Carol***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

361 sts. 1, 3



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem,      How still we see thee lie!  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly      The won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep      The si - lent stars go by;  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts      The bless - ings of His heav'n.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

### Third Lesson

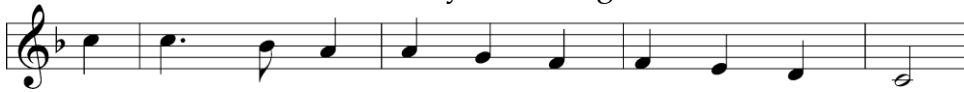
Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### A Carol

### Away in a Manger

364 sts. 1-3



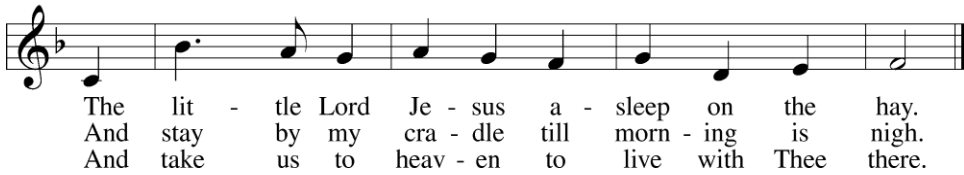
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky \_\_\_\_\_ looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

## Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20 (KJV)

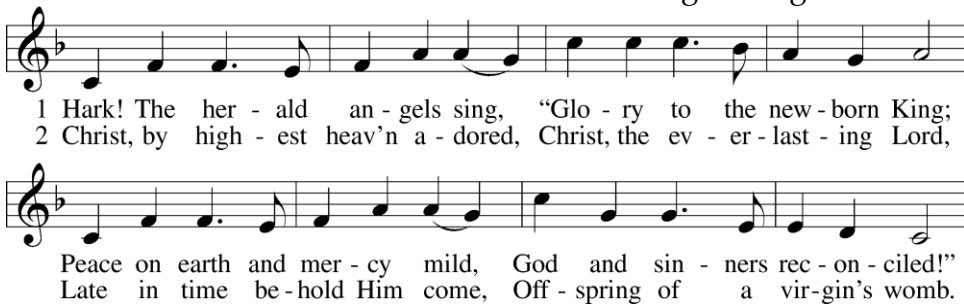
And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## A Carol

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

380 sts. 1-2



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

## Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

### Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2:13-15

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

### A Carol

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357 sts. 1-2



1 O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, And ran-som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis-dom from on high, Who or-d'rest



cap-tive Is-ra-el, That mourns in lone-ly  
 all things might-i-ly; To us the path of



ex-ile here Un-til the Son of God ap-pear.  
 knowl-edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.



*Refrain*

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Christmas Message

God Is Still With Us

*Rev. Randy Wahl*

## The Offering to the Newborn King

### Responsive Prayer

- P** Let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!
  
- P** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** Hosanna in the highest!
  
- P** Show us your mercy Lord, give peace to all the world.
- C** For only in You can we live in safety.
  
- P** Let not the needy O Lord, ever be forgotten.
- C** Nor the hope of the poor taken away.
  
- P** Shower O heavens from above,
- C** And let the skies rain down Your righteousness.
  
- P** Come O Lord at evening, with the light of Your love.
- C** And in the morning, with Your glory to guide our feet in the way of peace.
  
- P** *(Other Intercessions may be added)* Into Your Hands Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen. Praise be the Lord!

## **The Lord's Prayer**    It Came Upon A Midnight Clear    *(Sung to the tune LSB 366)*

Our Father, Lord on heav'ns high throne, most holy be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth – in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom, unto You in grateful love we bow;  
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung by angel hosts, amen.  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.

## **The Christmas Prayer & Blessing**

**P** Gracious Lord and source of eternal light, we thank You for having fed us at Your table once again. Strengthen us through this gracious gift that we may walk in Your light all the day of our life. In the holy and precious name of Jesus we pray.

**C** Amen.

**P** May the almighty God, the One who is, and who was, and who will be, the Word made flesh, the holy and life-giving Spirit, bless you and keep you both now and forever more.

**C** Amen.

**P** Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

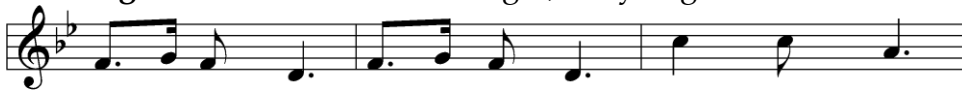
**C** Thanks be to God!

*(Please keep lighted candles upright to avoid dripping wax on yourself or the floor. Please carefully extinguish your candle while you wait to be ushered out)*

# The Closing Carol

# Silent Night, Holy Night

363 sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*To God Alone be all the Glory!*

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*“To Shine Forth the Light of God’s Love into Our World”*