



²And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger;
because there was no room for them
in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping
watch over their flock by night.

²And, lo,
the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord
shone round about them:
and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:7-11

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December 24, 2023

Emmanuel: God is With Us

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Welcome to worship on this most holy of nights, the night of our Savior's birth. May this time of worship fill you with peace and hope, and may you know the love that God has for you.

*We gather together to sing, to hear the Word, to receive the sacrament,
and to meet the Christ Child.*

It is a joy to come together on this holy night.

May God bless you.

Prelude

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ *(Please Stand As You Are Comfortable)*

Opening Carol

Joy To The World (Descant)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing . . .
2. No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns invest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found . . .
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love . . .

(Please Be Seated)

Welcome

Lighting the Advent and Christmas Candles

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.

(Light the 4 Advent candles)

(All sing)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Refrain

3. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

(Light the Christmas candle)

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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!
2. 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!
3. 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!

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all life, we are gathered in your presence to embrace the joy and hope of this holy night. Help us to comprehend the great love with which you open yourself to our world, so that we in turn may open ourselves in love toward one another. Let the peace of Christ guide us, and let Christ's promise in all its richness live in our hearts. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, born to us this night.

Amen.

First Lesson **Isaiah 9:2-7**

Childrens Message

Second Lesson **Titus 2:11-14**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Descant)

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!"
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!
Please as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
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 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!"
(Please remain seated for the reading of the gospel)

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-7

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above the 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

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-14

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 on earth!

Gospel Reading Luke 2:15-20

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

3. 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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Christmas Message **“The Cradle, A Christmas Story”** *by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson*

The First Noel

1. The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where 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. This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!

The Prayers

Sharing the Peace *(Please share the peace as you and your neighbor are comfortable)*

Offering

(As the offering is received and the Lord's Table is prepared)

Choir ***“On This Still, Silent Night”***

Holy Communion

(Please Stand As You Are Comfortable)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Give your hearts to the Lord.
All we are belongs to the Lord our God.

Let us thank God who is born to us this night.
We praise and honor you, Child of Bethlehem.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**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**

Invitation

Distribution

(Please Be Seated)

***Everyone** is welcome to the Lord's Table at Shepherd of the Lakes.
If you wish to commune this evening, please come forward as the usher directs
The wine is served in either the Chalice or individual serving cups.
Both offer wine and an alternative of grape juice.
Both will be available to you as you approach the Altar.*

Communion Hymns

Away In a Manger

1. Away in a 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,
2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky.
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. 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.

What Child Is This

- 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!

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (Descant)

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, good will 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 blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo; Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo; Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo; Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.

Communion Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and these gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep you in his grace.

Amen

Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this supper we have feasted on your grace. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benediction

Carol of Light

Ushers will light the candles of those persons nearest the center aisle; take your light from the person next to you as it moves down the row. When all candles are lit, the congregation joins together in singing.

Silent Night, Holy Night

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

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!
Shepherd 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.

Extinguish candles following hymn.

Sending

Go in the Love, Life, and Light of the newborn Christ to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

You are invited to worship

at Shepherd of the Lakes

every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Come to hear the Word and receive God's Love.

All are welcome here!