

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

The Savior Is Born!

December 24, 2014

4:00 & 6:00

AS WE GATHER

On Christmas, the grace of God appeared bringing salvation for all people in the person of Jesus. The angelic proclamation to the shepherds of Bethlehem was "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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." (*Luke 2:10-11*). This Jesus is the Child on whose shoulders the government rests. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. For this gift of grace called Jesus, let all people rejoice and sing, "Glory to God, now and forever!"

4:00 PRE-SERVICE BELLS

"Angel Tidings"

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Douglas Wagner

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

(Rise)

PROCESSIONAL #379 "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:

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

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He come;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest: **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;

Jesus, To Thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:14*

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

People: to us a son is given;

Pastor: And His name shall be called

People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: Prince of Peace.

Pastor: "Glory to God in the highest,

People: and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

People: We confess to you that we are sinful by nature and by choice. We have broken the peace of your good creation and transgressed the boundaries you have established for your creatures. We can only be brought back to you by the life, death, and resurrection of your incarnate Son, the God-man, Jesus. For His sake, we ask for your mercy and forgiveness and for the filling of the Holy Spirit that we may follow Jesus all our days.

Pastor: In the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem, the almighty Creator God has become human to bring humanity into a relationship of love with Himself, and for the sake of Jesus forgives you all your sins.

Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis De - O. Gloria in excelsis De - O.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis De - O. Gloria in excelsis De - O.

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 De - O. Gloria in excelsis De - O.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Father of all, on this silent, holy night you have given to all people the gift of infinite worth, your only-begotten Son, Jesus. Grant that He who was heralded by angels and welcomed by shepherds may be born in our hearts by faith, that we may grow in your grace following Him with all humility; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7* (The light comes to shatter the darkness.) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonder Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

4:00 CHOIR ANTHEM "In the Bleak Midwinter" Joel Ranex

EPISTLE *Titus 2:11-14* (We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

4:00 CHOIR ANTHEM "Christmas Sanctus" Lee Dengler

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20* (The birth of Jesus)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY #380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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

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*

SERMON *“Those Tiny Hands and Feet”* **Luke 2:1-14**

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

BELLS DURING OFFERING *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* Kevin McChesney

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, this day we celebrate the gift of life, born in Bethlehem to be our Savior. Since, as His redeemed children, we have the privilege of prayer, let us now bring our prayers and our petitions before the throne of grace, praising God and saying:

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Pastor: From the very beginning of time, God has given life to the world. He has blessed and sanctified families throughout history, most significantly through the birth of the Christ Child.

People: May God continue to bless all the families represented here; may each relationship be strengthened or restored; may the Almighty Father protect and keep each family, providing for all of their needs through His riches in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Dear Lord, we especially pray for the unborn children all around the world. Bless their mothers with good health, surround them with people who love them and are determined to provide each child with everything needed to support both body and soul.

People: Keep the little ones safe up to and through delivery; let them also be gathered into the family of faith, so that they can join their voices with ours, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest!

Pastor: Even on this blessed day, as we are surrounded by so many of our fellow believers, we are reminded of so many others who are not here. We pray for those who have wandered from the faith, whether through rebellion, ignorance or the deceitfulness of this world's temptations.

People: God grant that they hear the Savior's call, wherever they are. Bring them back into fellowship with us here, that together we can worship the newborn King, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest!

Pastor: Father, you also care for the lonely and the destitute. Guide us, as your children and your servants, to reach out to those who are alone in this otherwise festive time of year.

People: Help us find them and include them, reflecting the love you have shown to us, so that they truly have a reason to join us in praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest!

Pastor: Bless the sick and the shut-ins of our congregation, Lord. Let them feel your loving, healing presence; be their rock and their refuge in every trouble.

People: Move us to support and encourage them, so that they can join us in praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest!

Pastor: On this holy night, we celebrate the greatest gift ever given to the world. As we open our gifts among family and friends, help us to remember the gift laid in a manger, the gift of God's Son, our Savior.

People: Bless us through the gift of Jesus; grant us to live daily in repentant faith, filled with the joy and peace that comes from Christ, and praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest!

Pastor: Receive our prayers and our praise in the name of the Child born of Mary, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

4:00 CLOSING HYMN #363 "Silent Night, Holy Night" *(Words on next page)*

6:00 CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

(Please keep lit candles upright and dip unlit candles into the flame of lighted candles. Please do not let children 10 and under hold lit candles; they may share a candle with a parent.)

6:00 "The First Noel" LBW #56

The first Noel the angel 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.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

This star drew near to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those Wise Men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

6:00 CLOSING HYMN #363 "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.

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!

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.

(Please extinguish candles)

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Bell Director

Choir Director

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Manley Hurst, Jim Adams

Abigail Fellenbaum, Zander Maxwell

Roger Gottschalk

Gina Osell for Matthew Compton

Nancy Hoelke

Kim Woller

Bulletin Sponsors: Pat & Don Zimmermann thankful for all God's blessings!

Joy to the World
the Lord Is Come