

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christmas Eve Outdoor Worship
7:00 PM & 9:00 PM
Thursday, December 24th, 2020

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Tune your car radio to 90.1 FM to hear the service.

Welcome to our Christmas Eve Worship Service. It is good for us to lift our voices together to celebrate the birth of our Lord. We will celebrate Holy Communion during worship tonight. You do not need to be a member to commune. We welcome all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the Lord's Supper to join us. Instructions are in the bulletin. Please read the announcements at the end of this bulletin.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC / WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ INVOCATION & DIALOGUE

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

People: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as the only Son from the Father.**

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

People: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all.**

✠ OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

1 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:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

✠ CHRISTMAS VERSES - FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Leader: On this holy night we celebrate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Our candles bear witness to that light, as do our very lives.

People: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.**

Leader: By the light of God's creating Word, we are led to the brighter light of faith and trust in Him.

People: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: With the coming of God's Son, Jesus our Immanuel, the light shines yet more brightly.

People: **The true light that enlightens everyone was come into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.**

Leader: The light of the Word continues to shine, as it speaks in our lives of Christian love and service, for God has given us His Word!

People: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; We have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father and from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.**

† THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

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!"

Refrain

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!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

THE SECOND READING **Psalm 96**

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
 bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!"

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
 for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with your truth.

THE THIRD READING Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

CAROL RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

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

- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive
him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**
- 4 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 GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

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

SERMON

Reverend Matthew Groenke

✠ SERMON HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW #289

**1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

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

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria 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.**
Refrain

✠ PRAYER

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

People: **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

People: **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

People: **Have mercy on the sick, the dying and all who suffer this day.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

People: **Reveal yourself to us in Word and Sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor:

Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your Word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave
thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for
you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and
cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

People: **Amen**

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS ARE WELCOME to accept the Lord's invitation and join in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Stay at your vehicle; please open your window so Pastor Matthew can see you. He will give you a container with the elements on the plate/tray you brought. Tell Pastor Matthew if you need gluten-free wafer. Each container has two seals, one to seal the wafer, and the other to seal the grape juice. Grasp the container firmly, snap off the plastic tab, and release the top seal. After you have consumed the wafer, carefully pull the second seal to open the juice to drink.

Electric votive candles will be distributed to each worshiper just after they receive the pre-packaged communion elements from Pastor Matthew. Please wait until after communion to turn on your light.

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION *Please join in singing.*

The First Noel

ELW #300

**1 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.
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.**

Joy to the World

ELW #267

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings
flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and
grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

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

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

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

✠ THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his service.

People: **Amen.**

✠ THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray, O God of wonder, in this meal we have tasted your goodness, and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. May the light of Christ shine in all we say and do until we come to the radiant vision of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

✠ LIGHTING OF ELECTRIC VOTIVE CANDLES

✠ BLESSING

Pastor: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**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 heav'nly peace,
Sleep in heav'nly peace.**

**2 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!**

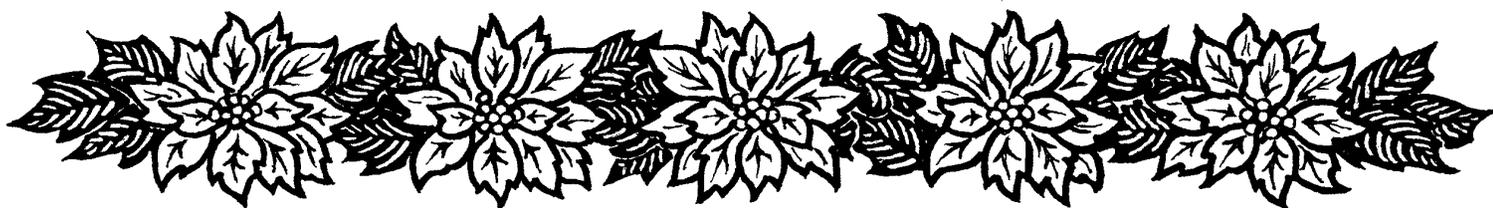
**3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

† BENEDICTION

Pastor: May Christ, the bright and morning star, fill you with light and life this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, Son ☩ and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*You are welcome to keep your votive candles.
If you wish, you may return them to CtK at a later date.*



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*Glory to God with Poinsettias from these families:*

*John & Wendy Gibbons in memory of John's parents & Wendy's father  
and in honor of Wendy's mother*

*Linda Mondry in memory of Ted & Peggy Herberth*

*Ginger & Tom Pituch in honor of granddaughters Leah, Lydia, & Hannah*

*And in solemn memory of COVID-19 victims*

*Jane Zaremba in memory of loved ones*  
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Recorded Christmas Day Worship on CtK Twinsburg channel of YouTube.com

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion - 9:30 AM Sunday, December 27th

Recorded Worship for December 27th on CtK Twinsburg channel of YouTube.com

***Outdoor Service of Lessons and Carols (no communion) - 9:30 AM Sunday, January
3rd, 2021***

***Recorded Epiphany Worship Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 on CtK Twinsburg channel
of YouTube.com***

CHRIST THE KING WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Sunday Outdoor Worship w/Communion

Recorded worship services may be viewed weekly on the CtK Twinsburg channel of

YouTube.com: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0DyPtpgvHWrYdrFgWQso5A>



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

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