

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020



“ 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* (Luke 2:7).

Wherever you are, alone or with family and friends on this sacred evening, may the love of God, made known through the gift of Jesus our Lord, bless and keep you now and forever. And may it be true, that next Christmas we will all be together in person!

Merry Christmas!

Preservice Music

“Away in the Manger”

LeAndra Douds, Harp

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Advent, the season of preparing, is nearly finished. Now is a time of fulfillment and celebration. In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light. We light a candle of hope:

C hope for ourselves, and for God’s beloved world.

P We light a candle of peace:

C peace in our hearts, and on earth.

P We light a candle of joy:

C joy to the world, and within our whole being.

P We light a candle of love:

C the promise of God's love for us, and for all creation.

P And now the hour has come and the season is fulfilled. We light the Christ candle.
Jesus said:

C "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you enlighten us with the new light of Your incarnate Word. May we show in our deeds the light that by faith shines in our hearts; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Christmas Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P 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 (Isaiah 9:2).

C Amen.

P I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ, the Lord (Luke 2:10,11).

C Amen.

P 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.'

C Amen.

Christmas Peace

P May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to Himself, that you may behold the glory of His Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

C **O loving God, you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus. Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and the Christ Child. May the words of Scripture remind us again that the old story is ever so new. May the carols reveal to us again the wonder and mystery of His birth. May the candles symbolize for us your son as the Light of the world. 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Epistle Reading

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-19



In 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.

Christmas Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

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,^[a] 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!”*



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.

P Let us pray. Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

C Amen.

Christmas Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Christmas Message

Christmas Prayer

P In peace let us pray to the Lord. Father, on this holy night Your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew Your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with Your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God

C hear our prayer.



P On this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in [...and in] all the world. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of Your coming kingdom. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P On this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God

C hear our prayer.

P Father, on this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through Him Who is Your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Prayer for Those Who Travel

P Lord God, our Father, You kept Mary and Joseph in safety as they traveled to Bethlehem, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide those who travel during this holiday season. Remind those who drive of the responsibility we have for those traveling with us. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C Amen.

P On this night, the angels left their dwellings to honor the Child. On this night, the stable rejoices, the manger exults and Bethlehem is filled with glory. Tonight, the Lord Jesus is born! May He who has set us free, keep us in His light and truth and love, now and forever. Amen!

Song

"Joy to the World"

Roberto Vela

Postlude

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Poinsettias



AnneMarie Bradley & John Waldron	To the glory of God
Dick & Pat Fitzenreiter	To the glory of God
Allen Clem	In memory of Judy Clem; Wes & Pede Clem
Jeff & Ann Burt	To the glory of God
Emmanuel Findlay	In honor of my deceased relatives and in memory of my parents, brothers and sister
Greg & Cindy Clem and family	In honor of Cindy's parents and Greg's mother
Bernadette LaLanne	To the glory of God
Lelie LaCross & family	In memory of all family members celebrating with our Lord in heaven
Rosalie Jones	To the glory of God

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