

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE



THE MISSION OF THIS CONGREGATION IS TO:

PRAISE God

PROCLAIM the message of Jesus Christ

REACH OUT with this message to people of
all backgrounds and cultures

CREATE A COMMUNITY of Christian
support, love, and forgiveness.

Williams Bay Lutheran Church Worship
December 24, 2024 at 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5:00 PM

PRELUDE

Marianne Peterson

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

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:

Refrain

Oh come, let us adore him, Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
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*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus,
held in the arms of his mother.

**Seeing this wondrous sight,
may our hearts be comforted
and our spirits filled with peace.**

Come! Listen to choirs of angels
announcing good news to all people.

**Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing:
Glory to God in the highest!**

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart,
not as history but as a gift.

**Opening our hearts to this great mystery,
may Christ be born in us today.**

GREETING AND PRAYER

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray. (*A brief silence*) Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.

READING

Titus 2:11-14

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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!

READING

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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.

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.

HYMN

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 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!"

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*

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*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER (TRADITIONAL)

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.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

The First Noel

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*

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

What Child Is This

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!

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!

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-14

From an altar candle the minister may light a large candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. Ushers or assistants light their candles from the minister's candle and then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The light candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

HYMN OF LIGHT

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, heav'nly 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.

BLESSING

May God, who has called you out of darkness be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child.
Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

DEPARTURE HYMN

Joy to the World

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love

Now go forth from this worship service to share the good news of Jesus' birth and to announce God's salvation. **Amen!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959

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