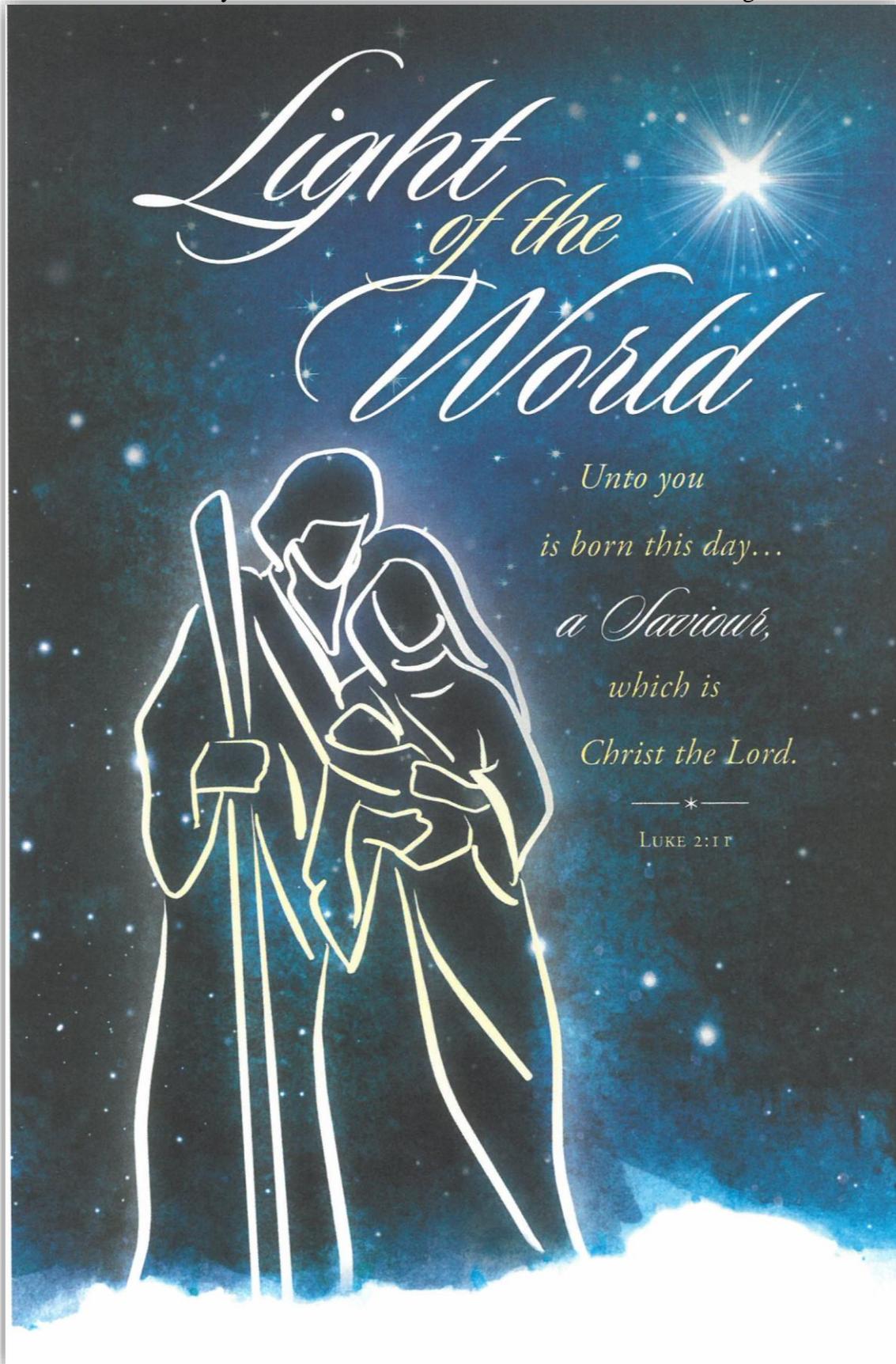


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@wctatel.net)

(#590-0727 – cell; email baldwins@wctatel.net)

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

PREPARE YE THE SEASON OF ADVENT “A Place”

Christmas Eve worship celebrates the Christ Child placed in a manger. Just as Mary and Joseph prepared a place for the baby Jesus to rest his head in a manger, so we prepare a place in our hearts this Christmas Eve for Jesus to be present with us.

Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude
Welcome**

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Holy Night”

Vicki Thompson & Dale Gerdes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

On this holy night, merciful Father, hear our confession, for frequently we hesitate to take your Son.

Instead we take the forbidden fruit, like Adam and Eve, and hide behind the bushes.

We take advantage of others, while mouthing pious words.

We take your blessings for granted, living with thankless hearts.

We take vengeance upon those who hurt us, promising retaliation.

We take life into our own hands, ignoring your holy will.

We take refuge and satisfaction in sin, spurning your commandments.

We take hold of our possessions, refusing to let them go.

We take part in sinful conversations, oblivious as to how they break your heart.

Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Luke writes, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Jesus your Savior took your place in the manger and upon the cross. As the Christ and Lord, Jesus took all of our sin, shame and brokenness. I announce to you the complete and full pardon of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

OPENING SONG

“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!*

*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*

*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

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

CHRISTMAS LITANY & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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

And also with you.

We light the candles on the Advent wreath as we proclaim the good news that God has sent us his Son.

The Savior of the world has come!

God has kept his promise!

The Savior of the world has come!

(All candles on the Advent wreath are lit.)

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

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—

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

For unto you is born today in the city of David—

A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take our human nature upon himself and to be born of a virgin. Grant that we may rejoice in this Christmas gift—“For unto you is born today in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A HOLY NIGHT – FORETOLD & EXPERIENCED

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Away in the Manger”

Inga Nelson

SCRIPTURE READERS & SPECIAL MUSIC

*Brian, Robin, Joseph, Emily, Amy, Kaylene Charlson
Ben, Becky, Joseph, & Madison Martinson
Bob, Allison, Kenlie, & Gage Greenfield*

CHRISTMAS STORY SONG

“Away in the Manger”

Luke 2:1–7

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

CHRISTMAS STORY SONG

“Away in the Manger”

Luke 2:8–14

*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.*

CHRISTMAS STORY SONG

“Away in the Manger”

Luke 2:15–20

*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.*

SERMON

“Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All”

Pastor Bill Peters

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary Did You Know”

Tina Henely

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear Lord Jesus, you came from eternity into time and space—not as a metaphor or myth, fable or tale—but to bear our sin and be our Savior. We sing to you with all the humility and joy we can muster, “Born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.” We praise, bless and adore you as we embrace the hymn of the angels. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you that Luke took such great care to detail the history of your birth—one of the greatest details is the lowliness of your birth. Any other king—like Caesar Augustus—would’ve come with great fanfare and a royal entourage. But you came into our world in profound weakness. “No room in the inn” wasn’t an insult to you; it was your choice, your plan, the way of the gospel. We rejoice with the angels who announced: For unto you is born today in the city of David—

A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Dear Lord Jesus, you didn’t consider equality with God something to be protected or hoarded. Rather, you made yourself nothing, becoming one of us. And with measureless love and indescribable compassion, you died in our place upon the cross. Thank you for these angelic lyrics. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Dear Lord Jesus, we long for the Day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. But on this Christmas Eve, we humble ourselves, in quietness and stillness, gratefulness and peace. We pray in your merciful and mighty name, Jesus.

Amen.

CELEBRATING HIS HOLY PRESENCE

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The First Noel”

Emily Charlson

Inga Nelson

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who gather in worship and praise and believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ are invited to come to the table. Come, share in this meal that unites all who believe in Christ, and be forgiven by the grace of God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

**"Mary Did You Know"
"Breath of Heaven"**

Ruth Sheldon

COMMUNION BLESSING

THE HOLY LIGHT STILL SHINES

LITANY OF LIGHT

Jesus, Lord, at your birth, love's pure light beams radiant from your holy face.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light the glory of heaven.

Open our lives with the brightness of your hope.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light the Father's love.

Guide our lives with the light of your truth.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light God's saving grace.

Kindle in our hearts the brightness of your joy.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light the way of peace.

Fill our lives with light from on high.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As the flame is distributed, please tip the unlighted candle to receive the flame.

Special Music

Trumpet
Singing

Joseph Charlson
Blake, Tina, Atley, and Navey Henely
Andrew, Heidi and Chloe Fedders
Kris, Casey, Olivia and Raegan Singelstad

SONG

"Silent 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.*

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”—

Has shone in our hearts.

To give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God—

In the face of Jesus Christ.

For unto us is born today in the city of David—a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

In the name of the Almighty Father, the infant Son, and in the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SONG

"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, And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, 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, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, 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, And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Christ Child has come!

Thanks be to God.

Ring the Bells

Postlude

(Extinguish candles. Beware of hot wax.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Three Kings”

Joseph Charlson

“It came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Emily Charlson

“What Child is This”

Inga Nelson

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”

Inga Nelson

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman”

Joseph Charlson

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

*Please send your gifts to your Treasurer or
give through Tithe.ly (link on oneinchristlutheranparish.org)*

Postlude



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CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

10:30 am Friday, December 25th

Holy Communion @ Winnebago

“...they will call him, Emmanuel”

Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

TO YOU THIS DAY

Luke sets the stage for Jesus’ birth by placing it within the royal history of the Roman Empire: “In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus” (Luke 2:1). Prior to this chapter, Luke tells us the story is also set in the days of King Herod. World history is often told as a story of powerful rulers and wealthy people. We frequently have the impression that these people are the ones who truly matter. Most of us do not see ourselves in the pages of history, common folks living ordinary lives.

Luke, however, is writing a very different kind of history in the gospel story. While the story is set in the times of particular kings and emperors, these powerful men aren’t the focus of the story. Instead of sending out the royal birth announcement for the King of kings in a gold-embossed birth letter to Herod, Augustus, and other so-called important people, God first shares the news of the newborn Messiah and Savior with shepherds camped out for the night in lonely fields. Lowly Mary and humble Joseph hunker down in the back of a crowded house where the animals eat. Jesus, the royalty of God, is born into a world barely aware—except for a few nobodies who are invited to notice.

Along with the shepherds, you also are invited to notice. “You” is the operative word in the shepherds’ story. “To you is born this day . . . a Savior” (Luke 2:11). In the story, “you” refers to shepherds, the last people one would expect to be the first to receive news of Jesus’ birth. But today, in this divine night, in this sacred story, in this liturgy of the nativity, “you” is *you*. To *you* is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. You are receiving the royal announcement because God brings good news to common folks living ordinary lives. This lovely, lonely night is for you because Christ is God’s love for *you*.