

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Prelude

The Congregation may rise after the bell is rung

Greeting

We once walked in darkness, but tonight we walk in light.

We once lived in sorrow, but tonight we live in joy!

Our burdens have been lifted and laid in a manger of love.

A child has given us hope, mercy, grace, and peace.

We gather this evening with thanks and praise,

to witness the gift of a baby,

Christ Jesus, the promised one, the light of God’s redeeming love.

We rejoice in God’s miraculous gift!

Processional Hymn 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

All Sit.

Anthem “A Christmas Canon” MOORE
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

The children are invited to come forward and sit at the chancel with the pastor as the congregation sings the first verse of “Jesus Loves Me,” hymn number 191.

Children’s Sermon

Prayer

Hymn 211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” VENIE EMMANUEL
Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Tonight is the night we have been waiting for, when waiting is transformed into awe-struck wonder. We celebrate Jesus coming into this world and light all five candles. The **first candle** beckons us to the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. The **second candle** reminds us of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior’s birth. The **third candle** invites us to share the joy of shepherds and angels announcing the savior’s birth. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the Good News of great joy that tells us God’s love is stronger than human sin. The **Christ candle** reminds us that from the moment he took his first breath until the day of his glorious return, Jesus says to each of us, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

[Light all candles on the Advent wreath]

Hymn 211 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” VENIE EMMANUEL
Stanza 4

Prayer

Holy Child, we come to your manger on this Christmas Eve, filled with wonder and awe for your presence among us. As you came to us on that first Christmas Eve, come to us now. Enter our hearts and our worship, that we might recognize the shining light of your love and grace. In your loving name we pray. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and rejoice in the gospel of our Savior’s birth, told in story and song this night. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

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.

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.

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.

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

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

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

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 onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—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 Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

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

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSES AND OFFERINGS

Remain standing for the hymn as you are able.

Hymn 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

All sit.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering

Offertory

“O Holy Night”

Bell Choir

Please stand for the Doxology

Presentation, Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer

All sit.

Confession and Pardon

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious God, you have sent your Son to us to show us the way. Even when we have turned our backs, followed our own paths, you offer us Light. Forgive us when we are so willful and stubborn. Forgive us when we think more about ourselves and our comforts than we think of reaching out to others. Remind us again that Jesus witnessed to us the Light of Love that serves, guides and heals. Thank you for loving us so much that you would give us this most precious gift. And when we again falter and fail, lift us again with your gentle touch. Pour the Light into our lives once more, that finally, we will fully understand the power and depth of your love for us. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; That proves God’s love toward us. The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. Do not be afraid. This is a day for good news of great joy! The Savior is born anew in our midst. Glory to God in the highest! Praise God for all we are seeing and hearing, as love is made known among us. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on earth. You formed us in your image and breathed unto us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our savior, and at his birth angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

**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. Amen.**

Communion Anthem

“Angel’s Carol”

RUTTER

Amy & Denis Lybe and Kimber and Steve Malinowski

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Cup

Everyone, regardless of church membership, is invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion. We will be taking communion by intinction; receive bread from the server and dip it in the cup, receiving both elements together. If you wish you may kneel at the altar rail for prayer before returning to your seat.

Prayer After Receiving

O light divine, by bread and wine you make this holy mystery of your birth real to us. Send us forth into the world to be your light to the nations. Amen.

The congregation joins in repeating Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in your sight, Lord,
my strength and my redeemer.

Sermon “The Moment You’ve All Been Waiting For...” Rev. Paul A. Fleck

Lighting the Christmas Candles

THE MAYETTE FAMILY

As the congregation stands to sing “Silent Night,” the usher will bring the light from the Christ candle to the congregation. Keep the lighted candle straight; tip your unlighted candle to the lighted candle of your neighbor.

Hymn 239

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

Hymn 246

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy**

**No more let sins and sorrows 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**

**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 and wonders of His love**

Sending Forth

Postlude

LAY LEADERS

Liturgist: Kimber Malinowski

Ushers: Gene & Jan Parsons and Art & Laurie Putnam

C H R I S T M A S • E V E



**December 24, 2014
at 7:30 in the evening**

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We especially welcome every visitor this evening. We are very glad you came.

Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.