

Christmas Eve, The Nativity of Our Lord



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00, 8:00, & 10:00pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

PRELUDE

Selections by the Riverside Brass and Cara Fleck, harp

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Please stand.

The four Advent candles are lit representing the themes we have lifted up during the past four Sundays:

Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

*Tonight, the center white candle is also lit,
signifying the presence of Christ, the Light of the world, whose birth we now celebrate.*

Pastor Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Congregation **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor The Word became flesh and lived among us.

Congregation **And we beheld Christ's glory.**

Pastor Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

Congregation **On them has light shined.**

Pastor To us a child is born and a Son is given.

Congregation **Tonight we are illumined by the brightness of his light.**

Pastor Let the Spirit and the church cry out.

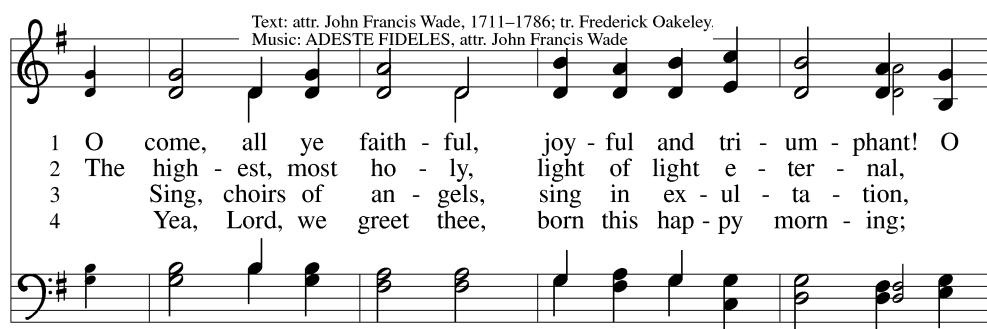
Congregation **Amen! Alleluia!**

GATHERING CAROL

*We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you.
All sing.*

O Come, All Ye Faithful


Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley.
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor

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

Congregation

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor

Let us pray.

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.

Congregation

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

All sing.

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader Word of God. Word of life.
 Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL
All sing.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Reader Word of God. Word of life.
 Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Star Carol" by John Rutter

READING: THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL
Please stand.

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 Savior, 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 favors!"

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.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 Congregation **Thanks be to God.**



CAROL
All sing.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new - born king.

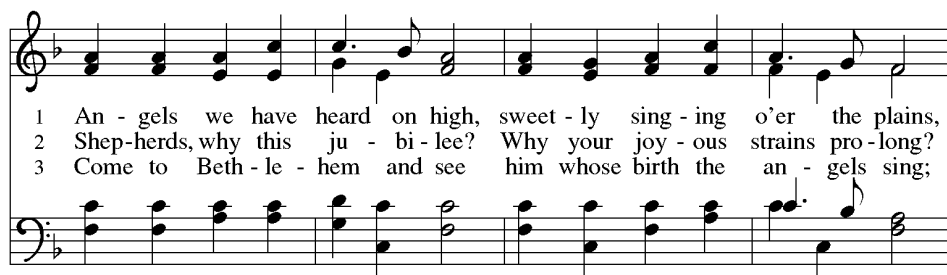
Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Please sit.

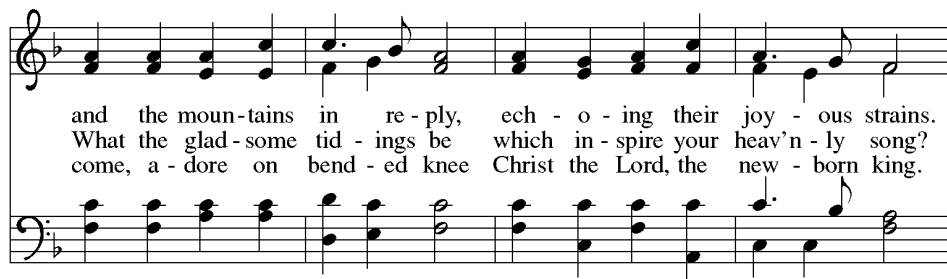
SERMON

Pastor Sandy Kessinger

Angels We Have Heard on High



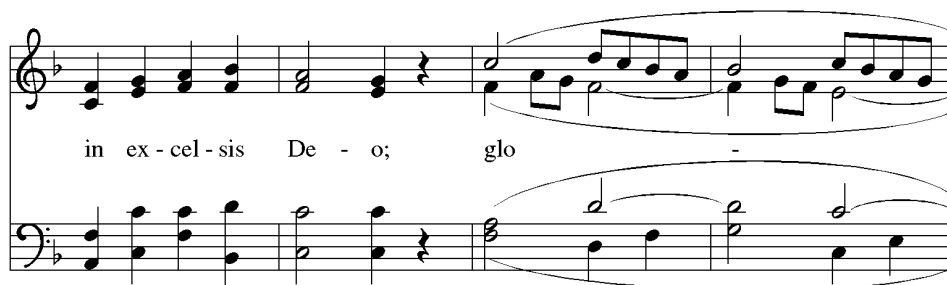
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
Congregation **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns.
After each portion of the prayers:*

Asst. Min. Hear us, O God.
Congregation **Your mercy is great.**

At the end of the prayer:

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Congregation **Amen.**

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates are found at the front of the worship space by the baptismal font and in the back of the church as you leave our worship space. Please give as you are able.

OFFERTORY

*6 and 8 pm: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" from 'Appalachian Carols' by Gwyneth Walker
10 pm: "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Harold Darke*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Pastor The Lord be with you.
Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts,
Congregation **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
Congregation **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
 almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
 In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
 you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
 that, beholding the God made visible,
 we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of pow'r 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Congregation **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. To receive a blessing, please cross your arms. You are an important part of our faith community.

For those taking Holy Communion:

Pastor will give verbal instructions on how Holy Communion will be distributed.



“O Holy Night” - Adolphe Adam
Waka Osifchin, soprano, Matt Osifchin, baritone, Cara Fleck, harp

COMMUNION HYMN
All sing.

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Stand.

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Congregation **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Congregation **For we were once in darkness, but now we live in the light of the Lord.
Let us live as children of the light.**

The Pastor will take light from the Christ candle which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers will light the candle of the first person in each pew. Please pass the light to the person next to you, always holding the lit candle upright for the next person to receive light. The ushers will lower the lights as the candles are lit.

All sing.

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Solo
for first verse,
please sing the
second and third
verses.*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Stand

Pastor May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor May the Word that the angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

Congregation **Amen.**

*Please extinguish your candle and keep it upright to minimize spilling wax.
You may take your candle with you or leave it with an usher at the door.*

SENDING HYMN

Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.

All sing.

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace nor thorns in -
the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min.

Go in peace to share the good news. Christ, the Savior, is born.

Congregation

Glory to God in the highest. Amen! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Riverside Brass

A Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are always welcome in our worship.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeermclean.org

Hearing help available: We have for your use, personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

Christmas Blessings to Everyone!

May the holy light that surrounds our Lord's birthplace illuminate your spirit and warm your heart.

May you welcome Jesus Christ, the heart of Christmas, into your life more fully.

May the love of God move you to love others, especially those most difficult to love.

And may Christ's peace, joy, and hope be yours at Christmas and in the New Year!

Pastor Sandy Kessinger, Pastor Josh Wullenweber and the Staff of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Redeemer celebrates Christ's birth through worship, music, decorations and the dedication of many volunteers.

Redeemer thanks Matt Osifchin and the Redeemer musicians and choirs for their glorious music. Redeemer thanks Marti

Hopler and her helpers for the beautiful flowers, and Darlene McCoy and Joyce Clark and the Quilters for the Christmas decorations that adorn the nave and Crossroads area. Redeemer would also like to thank Betsy Kutscher and the group that created the dazzling Chrismon ornaments and decorated the trees. Redeemer thanks the banner committee for their work. Also a special thanks to Liz and Doug Scheffler for their dedication to our Christmas Eve services.

Many people work to make Christmas special here, thank you to those many hands.

Christmas Day Service, December 25 (one service only) at 10 am

Lessons and Carols, December 31 (one service only) at 10 am

New Year's Eve Service, December 31 at 5 pm

On January 7 we return to three services.

Redeemer Renaissance Preschool & After-School 2024-25 School Year Registration
January 12th - 19th Returning Families (including siblings), January 22nd - 26th Waitlist Priority, and
January 22nd – Open Registration Begins & families may register on a space-available basis.

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