

CHRISTMAS-EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

At Faith Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 24, 2020



Merry Christmas and Welcome to Faith Lutheran!

*At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great gift of our salvation.
More than the celebration of a birth; Christmas marks the mystery
of the incarnation – God sharing our humanity.*

Prelude

Christmas Prologue: When the world was dark...

Prelude Carol - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, o come, Emmanuel and ransom captive
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear

Refrain:

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, o Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things
Far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. **Refrain**

O come, O King of nations, come O Cornerstone
that binds in one: Refresh the hearts that long for you;
Restore the broken, make us new. in one the
hearts of all mankind. **Refrain**

Call to Worship

Come, raise your hands and stand with us beneath the starlit sky,
while the winds of earth play their magic harps a lullaby.
Come, lend your ears and hear with us the song the angels sing
of peace on earth, good will to all, of the cradled child.
Come, lift your eyes and look with us upon the radiant star,
that led the shepherds from the fields and wise men from afar.
Come, bend your knee and kneel with us before the Holy One.
to worship with adoring love God's own begotten Son.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Opening Carol – Angel, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing you flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

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 ***Refrain***

THE WORD OF THE PROPHET 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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulder; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace from the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Carol- It Came Upon A 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.

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years, Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

THE WORD OF THE ANGEL Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

Carol-

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 WORD OF GOD 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 God 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; 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Nichole

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Nichole

Carol-

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**

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**

The Prayers

Bright Holy God,
You come among us.
You fill us with awe and wonder.
You welcome our stories and our prayers...

We pray tonight for peace, peace in places where there is anger and war and fear...
We pray for peace makers and peacekeepers, for rulers, for politicians, for fighters, for
older people and children...for all who are caught up in conflict, in bitterness and in
danger... we pray with integrity and with justice.

God, in your mercy,
Hear Our Prayer.

We pray on this night for travelers... For those who are traveling home for Christmas...
For those who are traveling because they have no place, no shelter they can call their
own...For those whose home is on the road.

God, in your mercy,
Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for the children who will be born tonight and for their families.
We ask for blessing on their lives...

God, in your mercy,
Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for all who are sick, and for those who care for them and pray for them...
We pray for those who have died, for those we miss at our table. Tell them how much
we love them, and miss them, tell them we carry their stories in our lives.

God in your mercy,
Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for ourselves, for our needs, for worries, for our hopes and dreams.

God in your mercy,
Hear Our Prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us,
Heaven come down to earth,
Help us tonight to listen to the angels

And not be afraid of you,
Of your weakness or your glory.
Come, Holy helpless Jesus.
Come into our lives with joy.
Amen.

Offering

*We also encourage those who are able to continue to make their faithful, generous offerings to FAITH.
If you are able those offerings can be mailed to the church.*

Special Music: Mary Did you Know

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Proper Preface

On this night of the year, a voice is speaking – can we hear it?...

Words of Institution

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 and ever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Joy to the Word! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive the Savior.

Distribution

Although we are not physically together, we are still needing nourishment to be the Body of Christ in this world. You are invited to use any bread or crackers you have on hand as well as wine or juice to celebrate Holy Communion in your home. Christ's presence knows no boundaries. The body of Christ broken for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Be fed for the journey is difficult.

Special Music: O Holy Night

Candle Lighting

The pastor lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. In the darkest of years, we acknowledge our need of this light. This light comes to us despite fear, separation, or disappointment. The Light of Christ cannot be stopped. So, let us light up our homes as a symbol of our hope!

Carol 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 you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Carol- 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.

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, wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

