



Trinity Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve – 8:00pm

December 24th, 2020



Welcome

Call to Worship: “Consider the Stars”

*Gathering Responses:

P: Why have we gathered from far and near- online and in person?

C: **To bring our worship and joy, to welcome the new baby boy.**

P: Where shall we find Him?

C: **Joseph and Mary sheltered by a makeshift stall, hold in their arms the Saviour of all!**

P: How shall we greet Him – the Prince of Peace, the Lord of All?

C: **With our praise and thanks, with wonder and awe. Humbly we greet Him, hearts open wide – recognizing without fully understanding; that both our need and God’s grace are great.**

P: We are gathered this night from near and far, in our homes, in the Sanctuary, wherever we find ourselves around the globe, to worship the Lord and celebrate His birth. We let go of fear and embrace faith, as we come in from the dark and draw near to the Light.

C: **We join those who made the first journey to the manger so many years ago.**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song of Truth: “Emmanuel Jesus is Alive!”

Confession of Sins & Forgiveness:

P: Our wreath shines bright as we light four candles – hope, peace, joy, and love (*candles are lit*) This season of Advent has drawn us into God’s Word. We have pondered the mystery of ancient prophecy and the depth of God’s promise given. We have been preparing our hearts by exploring ‘*The Glory of Christmas*’.

C: **We have considered how timely God’s Word is to us today. In Mary, in Joseph, and in the Shepherd, we have been able to find ourselves – our fears and our faith. We have pondered the glory, the ‘weight’ of the angel messengers, “Do not be afraid.” We are honest to admit that In the year 2020 we have strained to hear the angel’s message.**

P: “Do not be afraid” is easier said than done. We remember that Jesus is named, Emmanuel – God with us, and we give thanks for His presence. We light the Christ Candle (white candle) and join in saying,

C: **Happy Birthday dear Jesus!**

P: Our approach to the manger is bittersweet. The baby fills us with joy, the reason He came brings pain. It is for sinners that Jesus came, it is for you and me that this gift is given. God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world, keeping His promise to Adam and Eve. God made a way home.

C: **Beyond the manger wood we see the shadow of a wooden cross. We come humbled and honest, aware of our sins and sorry for them. We do not deserve this gift. We ask God’s forgiveness.**

P: I have incredibly Good News to share, God sent Jesus, vulnerable babe, to live as one of us and to bear all our sins upon Himself, suffering and dying on the cross. Jesus rose from the dead crushing death’s power over us. As a called minister in Christ’s church and by Christ’s authority it is my joy tonight to give to you the greatest gift you will ever receive - your sins are forgiven. Be not be afraid; for Christ is with you.

Special Music: “Make Room”

God's Promise: Micah 5:2-6a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers. ⁶They shall rule the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod with the drawn sword.

A Christmas Story: "Trees & Gears & Crowns, Oh my!"

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Christmas Gospel : Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Children's Carol: "Away in a Manger"

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:8-18

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Special Music: "Mary, Did You Know?"

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:19-20

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Message: "The Glory of Christmas"

Video – Joel, the Director

Christmas Candle Lighting

(based on 1 John 4:7-19 & John 1:5)

- P: *"In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins."*
- C: ***"And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent His Son as the Saviour of the world"***.
- P: *"God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God"*.
- C: ***"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. We love because God first loved us."***
- P: *Jesus Christ is 'The Light that shines in the darkness,*
- C: ***And the darkness did not overcome it.'***

Carol of Light: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Prayer:

- P: Maranatha! The Lord is Come. Let heaven and earth rejoice. We pray,
- C: **Heavenly Father thank you for the wonder and joy of this holy night. Thank you for the 'Glory' of Christmas. No other gift has been more important to the world than the baby Mary bore – the child in the manger, God's own Son. By the power of Your Holy Spirit help us to receive and share this Good News with the openness of Mary, the obedience of Joseph and the joy of the shepherds. Give us faith over fear as you did for each of them, so that our lives may bring praise and glory to Your name and all may come to know Jesus! Amen.**

Christmas Benediction:

Sending Carol: "Joy to the World"

- P: Go in the glow of the manger and serve the Lord.
- C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Christmas resources written by Pastor Maggie Theiss 2020

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